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Brunner chosen for 2006 Rehnquist Award

Judge Edward R. Brunner, Barron County Circuit Court, was named recipient of the 2006 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in July. Brunner will accept the award at a ceremony November 16 in the Great Hall of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

One of the most prestigious judicial honors in the country, the Rehnquist Award was first given in 1996 and is presented annually to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest level of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. Past recipients include New York Chief Judge Judith Kaye, Minnesota Chief Judge Kevin Burke, and California Chief Justice Ronald George. Brunner is the first Wisconsin winner.

NCSC President Mary Campbell McQueen said the award recognizes Brunner's strong leadership on initiatives designed to instill public trust and confidence in the Wisconsin courts and his success in building programs that have become models for the nation. "Judge Brunner exemplifies the qualities that embody the Rehnquist Award – integrity, fairness, and judicial excellence," she said.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson nominated Brunner for the award and called his selection a well-deserved honor. "I am delighted on behalf of the Wisconsin court system that Judge Brunner was selected for this honor, for the projects that he has undertaken have made a profound difference – not only to the people of this state but to people across the nation who have benefited from similar programs based upon the Wisconsin model," Abrahamson said.

Brunner said he is grateful to have been selected. "I share this award with the judges, attorneys, educators, law

enforcement officers, social workers and many others whose creativity and commitment to improving the quality of justice are a constant source of inspiration," he said.

"Together, we have demonstrated that hard work, cooperation, and a willingness to try something new can overcome any obstacle."

Noted for his work on tribal court relations, Brunner also has won accolades for establishing restorative justice practices in the Barron County courts and for leading an effort in the Tenth Judicial District to improve services to self-represented litigants.

Brunner has devoted his judicial career to improving access to, and satisfaction with, the court system. In May 2006, he was presented with the State Bar of Wisconsin's 2005 Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award.

This honor is awarded to judges with long-time service on the bench and who have made a profound difference through their service.

First recipients of Director's Award announced

Eight court system employees, nominated by their supervisors for their unparalleled service in the last six months, were honored with the first-ever Director's Recognition Awards in June. They are:

- ❑ **Phyllis Bittinger**, an assistant deputy clerk in the Supreme Court/Court of Appeals Clerk's Office. Bittinger was recognized for her exceptional proofreading of each Supreme Court opinion prior to its release.
- ❑ **Katherine Bosben**, a business process analyst for CCAP. Bosben was recognized for building a high-quality,

see **Awards** on page 17



Judge Edward R. Brunner

Honoring a remarkable justice

On Sept. 7, 1976, the State of Wisconsin celebrated a milestone: the investiture of the first woman ever to serve on the state Supreme Court. On Sept. 6, 2006, from 4-6 p.m. in the State Capitol Rotunda, a celebration will be held in honor of Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, who, in addition to marking 30 years on the Supreme Court, is celebrating her 10th anniversary as chief justice and 50 years as a lawyer. Co-hosting the event in honor of the chief justice and the Wisconsin judiciary are the deans of the law schools at UW and Marquette, and the executive director and president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Appetizers, desserts and punch will be served, and a short program will be presented. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to Brian Berg at the UW Law School, (608) 262-5918 or brianberg@wisc.edu.



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson during oral argument.

Photo credit: Mark Heitzberg, The Journal Times



Director's column: Recognizing outstanding employees

On June 17, 1905, the State of Wisconsin enacted one of the first civil service laws in the nation. Considered very progressive at the time, the law required competitive examinations and merit-based hiring for state employment. Today, 101 years later, the public policy that this legislation embodied has become so much a part of the way we do business that we don't give it a second thought. Hiring the best person for the job and giving that person the tools he or she needs to succeed is simply the only way to do business – especially when you're in the business of providing an open, accessible, fair and impartial system of justice to the public.

Because our success as an organization rests upon how we serve the public, we depend on our employees to bring top-notch skills and a can-do attitude to the office every day. But every once in a while, we ask even more of them. And to those employees who step up when something extra needs doing, who take every opportunity to learn a new skill or share their knowledge with colleagues, I say this: I want to be certain that our organization does not take your outstanding service for granted.

To recognize employees who go above and beyond the call of duty, I instituted the Director's Recognition Award

this spring. Twice a year, I'll select employees based upon managers' nominations for this special recognition. Those who are selected for this honor will have shown unequalled effort during the past six months in overcoming unusual challenges or obstacles in the completion of a major project or task with substantial benefits to the Wisconsin court system.

In the pages of this newsletter you will meet the first eight winners, selected from among 17 outstanding employees nominated by court system supervisors. I am proud to recognize them and I hope you will join me in thanking them for their unparalleled service. Thank you for all that you do to make our system the best that it can be.

I believe that recognizing and rewarding court system employees based on performance is important in our organization. The Director's Recognition Award is an initial step in establishing an organizational approach that continually recognizes our outstanding employees. In the coming year additional changes within our personnel management will further demonstrate my commitment to this principle. ■



A. John Voelker

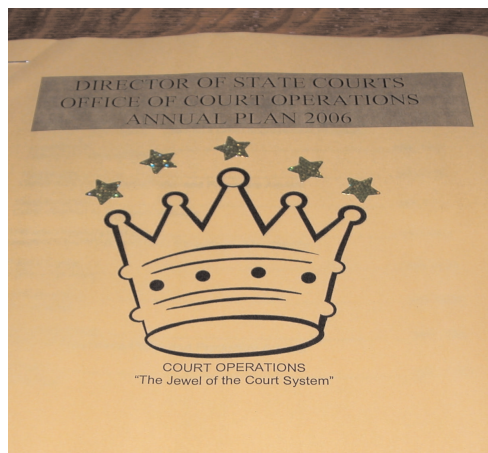
Supreme Court luncheons bring staff, justices together

Every month from September through May, the justices of the Supreme Court gather with a group of employees for a brown bag lunch (and cookies and coffee, a treat from Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson). The goal of the luncheon program, which began six years ago, is to encourage dialogue and inform the Court about the many initiatives taking place in the system.

The lunch meetings with the Office of Lawyer Regulation, the Consolidated Court Automation Programs, the Board of Bar Examiners, and others are generally fairly informal, with the notable exception of luncheons with the



Court Operations staff meet with the Supreme Court.



Sheryl Gervasi's special report.

Office of Court Operations – led by Deputy Director Sheryl Gervasi – which have taken a turn for the raucous.

This year, Gervasi and her staff cooked up handouts for the Court that included “pie” charts showing the office's favorite pies (“humble” was, predictably, a very thin slice) and an office overview entitled, “Court Operations: the Jewel of the Court System.”

After an hour's worth of laughs, the justices had a somewhat improved understanding of the office's current initiatives and had achieved nearly 100 percent compliance with Gervasi's directive that they refer to her as The Queen. ■

Milwaukee hosts 69th NCJFCJ conference

by Beth Bishop Perrigo, deputy district court administrator

Breaking a record for attendance at a National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) conference, an estimated 400 people convened in Milwaukee July 16-19 for the organization's 69th annual conference. It was the first such gathering in Wisconsin, and national organizers were so pleased with the result that they intend to use the model developed in Milwaukee as they organize future conferences across the country. In addition to showcasing Wisconsin's largest city, the conference offered a national forum for Wisconsin judges to exchange information and discuss challenges with their counterparts around the country.

The planning structure that won accolades was put in place shortly after the 2004 announcement that Milwaukee had been selected as the location for the 2006 conference. Then-Chief Judge Michael P. Sullivan appointed a committee to begin performing the duties of the "host judge." I was a member of that committee, along with Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Chief Judge Kitty K. Brennan, Judges Karen E. Christenson, Thomas P. Donegan, Michael J. Dwyer, Christopher R. Foley, Marshall B. Murray, Court Commissioner Lindsey D. Draper, and Director of Judicial Education David Hass.

It turned out that delegating the 'host' duties to a committee was a good idea, for there was substantial work to be done. "The committee identified programming and speakers, contacted dignitaries for the opening ceremonies, set up Ambassador Dinners (in which local judges selected their favorite restaurant and signed up attendees to join them for dinner), and worked directly with the NCJFCJ on the many details necessitated by a meeting of this size," said Dwyer, who provided leadership and coordination to the committee. "Additionally, we really took to heart the opportunity to introduce our colleagues to Milwaukee and show them that it's a great town."

The NCJFCJ lauded Wisconsin for helping drive attendance to record numbers. "What's really remarkable and worth celebrating is the support from the Office of Judicial Education that funded over 100 judges and officers of the court to attend this national training," said Deanna Lyons, NCJFCJ conference planning specialist. "The

collaboration of the host committee and the council was also fabulously successful. The partnership of the council and the Wisconsin host committee is something we plan to use as a model for our future conferences."

The Sunday night President's Reception set the stage for a successful event as attendees mingled in the Windhover Hall of the Calatrava wing of the Milwaukee Art Museum, which provided an exquisite view of Lake Michigan. The reception also offered a wide array of foods and a relaxed atmosphere in which the attendees had the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

At Monday's opening ceremonies, NCJFCJ President Steve Rubin, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Abrahamson, and Brennan welcomed the attendees. Young participants from FOCUS and Running Rebels presented the colors and sang the national anthem. FOCUS offers alternatives to incarceration aimed at older adolescent boys with serious behavioral problems. The Running Rebels is a community organization that focuses on education and recreational activities to provide Milwaukee's youth with positive alternatives to gangs and substance abuse. At the Monday luncheon, several Milwaukee foster parents were recognized, including one family that has had more than 183 foster children.

Monday evening's Ambassador Dinners were an unqualified success with more than 100 attendees participating. A good time was reported by all who took the time for a taste of Milwaukee with their local hosts.

Attendees at the conference heard national authorities on subjects such as "Cultivating Resilience on Both Sides of the Bench." Wisconsin presenters at the conference included Judges John C. Albert, Carl Ashley, Edward R. Brunner, Gary L. Carlson, Michael J. Dwyer, Ramona A. Gonzalez, and Marshall B. Murray; Court Commissioner Lindsey D. Draper; Anna Salter, Ph.D., Wisconsin Department of Corrections; Professor Pamela Oliver, UW-Madison; Dane County Assistant District Atty. Barbara Franks; Kathy Malone, Court and Delinquency Services, Milwaukee County; and Social Worker Vera Pina, LaCausa Treatment Services, Milwaukee. ■



Judge Michael J. Dwyer

Judicial oversight makes difference in domestic violence cases

by Beth Bishop Perrigo, deputy district court administrator

Active oversight by Milwaukee judges of batterers in domestic violence cases makes an impact on future arrests for domestic violence, according to an evaluation conducted by The Urban Institute and released in June.

"The judges in Milwaukee County are to be commended for their continuing hard work on domestic violence issues and the results of this evaluation validate their efforts," said Adele Harrell, The Urban Institute. "Full participation by the judiciary in projects of this nature is vital to their success."

The evaluation results indicate that batterers who are required to appear before a judge as a part of their probation are 47 percent less likely to be arrested for a domestic

violence related crime than those who were on probation prior to the Judicial Oversight Initiative (JOI) project.

The JOI also significantly increased contact between domestic violence victims and the courts, and resulted in a marked increase in communication and joint planning among Milwaukee justice agencies.

The evaluation was conducted as part of a demonstration grant first awarded to Milwaukee County in 1999 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women. The JOI project, one of three in the country, had primary goals of victim safety, offender accountability, and reduced domestic violence recidivism. ■

Pro se efforts emphasize technology

by Ann Zimmerman, statewide pro se coordinator

Technology initiatives in the *pro se* assistance arena are attracting a lot of attention. This was evident from the amount of floor time this topic received at the recent Meeting on Self-Represented Litigants, held in Chippewa Falls on June 29. The meeting brought together – for the first time – members of the District Nine and District Ten committees that are working to improve access to the courts for self-represented litigants.

During the meeting, committee members shared information and ideas, and planned additional regional and statewide collaborations. Virtually every presenter at the meeting somehow touched upon the importance of technology to improving access to justice for self-represented litigants, as well as improving the courts' ability to deal with them as they move through the system.

Why are technology initiatives so popular? Taylor County Circuit Court Judge Gary L. Carlson, chair of the Ninth Judicial District Self-Represented Committee explained, "Technology enables us to create new ways to educate the public on legal topics." He speaks from experience. As we learned at the joint meeting, his committee recently used interactive television to develop and implement a long-distance self-help clinic to assist self-represented litigants through the divorce process.

While it is well-established that self-help clinics staffed by volunteer attorneys are one of the most effective means of providing help to self-represented people, a small county's ability to provide such a clinic is hampered by many factors, including a lack of funding and staffing opportunities. For example, "Taylor County has only 10 private attorneys within its boundaries, only five of which regularly practice in the area of family law," Carlson said.

The limited number of lawyers is but one of the challenges inherent in providing services in a rural area. "Because the Ninth Judicial District is comprised of counties with relatively small populations distributed over a very large geographic area, serving this population presents the courts with unique challenges," said Marathon County Circuit Court Commissioner Sandra J. Marcus. "One of the most difficult challenges to overcome is that, although many attorneys are willing to provide *pro bono* services, they are concerned about conflict of interest issues."

To address the needs, the Ninth District committee decided to collaborate with the State Bar of Wisconsin and Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau to create a "virtual" legal clinic to assist *pro se* litigants seeking divorces or legal separations. The State Bar provides free professional liability coverage for the lawyers who volunteer their services. "The State Bar is proud to be a part of this important and innovative project," said Atty. Jeff Brown, who coordinates the State Bar *pro se* program. "It's a great example of what can be accomplished through the coordinated efforts of the judiciary and private bar," he said. "The availability of insurance coverage for volunteers was always an issue before fall 2004, and now it no longer is."

The technical college contribution also has been a key to

the effort's success. Carlson, of Taylor County, called the agreement that NTC would share its expertise and resources with the Ninth District committee "another major breakthrough." Not only does NTC have a branch in every county in the Ninth District, but it also has sophisticated videoconferencing technology in place and pioneered the use of distance learning centers.

A distance-learning pilot

The Ninth District committee and NTC developed and piloted a program in Taylor and Marathon counties that allows self-represented divorce litigants to attend a presentation in their home community via interactive video technology housed at the technical colleges. The program was designed as a two-part series moderated by volunteer attorneys.

To avoid potential conflicts of interest, the volunteer attorney from Wausau presented to the Taylor County participants and vice versa.

"The availability of technical college campuses, high schools, and other locations with the ability to utilize this technology makes it widely available to litigants in rural communities," said Marcus, the Marathon County commissioner.

The first session provided basic information describing the divorce process, from the paperwork to the court hearings. Participants were given information that will assist them while their divorces are pending and were told what to expect at a final divorce hearing. They received several handouts, including the county-specific guidelines from the state court Web site, an outline of the presentation, and a booklet regarding children and divorce. A short video – also produced by NTC – depicting a mock stipulated divorce hearing was shown during the program. At the end of the first session, participants had the opportunity to sign up for a 20-minute individual session with one of the moderating attorneys where they could ask specific questions regarding divorce.

One lesson quickly learned: "Marketing was essential to ensuring the success of our program" Carlson said. He noted that the first set of scheduled sessions produced not a single enrollee. "We simply did not put enough into advertising," he admitted.

The program was initially limited to people in Marathon and Taylor counties who had already filed petitions for divorce or legal separation without an attorney. The committee found better success in reaching these individuals when it launched a marketing blitz that included posters in the courthouse, quarter-page ads in local newspapers, and media interviews with committee members.

Overall, the pilot program was a success and plans are in the works for more of the same. The committee distributed an evaluation form at the end of the first session and the responses were very favorable. All in all, Carlson said, "it was a great first effort." ■

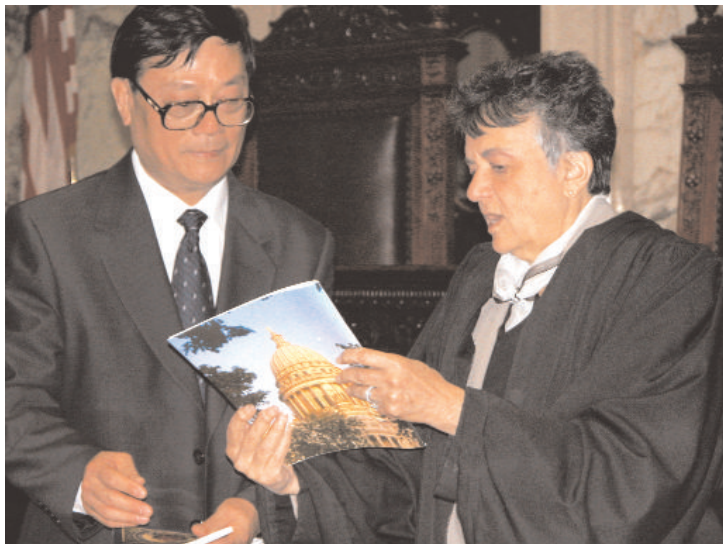
WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Wisconsin hosts Chinese judges

For the fifth year, Madison hosted a group of 20 Chinese judges for a four-week program this summer. The Judicial Skills Development Program, a joint effort of the Shanghai High People's Court and the University of Wisconsin's East Asian Legal Studies Center, brings members of the Shanghai judiciary to Madison after a week-long session with a Dane County judge and English-as-a-second-language instructors in Shanghai.

This year, Judge Diane M. Nicks was selected to give a series of introductory lectures on the U.S. legal system in Shanghai to prepare the judges for the Madison component part of the seminar (*see Nicks' separate column – page 6 – on the experience*).

During their stay in Madison, the Shanghai judges attend lectures at UW Law School and observe proceedings at the Dane County Courthouse. They also engage in discussions with federal and state judges and local attorneys, and visit other Midwestern cities including Chicago and Minneapolis.



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson distributes literature on the history of the state Capitol to the visiting Shanghai judges during a ceremony in the Supreme Court Hearing Room on June 8. At the ceremony, Professor Charles Irish and Justice Teng Yilong signed an agreement to continue to work together on judicial skills seminars and exchanges for judges from Shanghai and Wisconsin.

Judge brings drug court message to health care community

Chief Judge Gerald P. Ptacek, Racine County Circuit Court, spends much of his free time making presentations on the county's drug- and alcohol-treatment court. Generally, his task is to educate and inform. But this summer, he said, he spoke at a venue where "I had such an interesting experience I thought it might be worth sharing."

Ptacek made a presentation at a medical ethics course at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The audience – which Ptacek described as "extremely interested, thoughtful and

encouraging" – was comprised of physicians, nurses, attorneys, social workers, drug counselors, and psychologists.

"What made it so valuable was having contact with others who work in other professions that address the same issue: drug and alcohol abuse and addiction," he said. "It was a tremendous learning experience for me."



Judge Gerald P. Ptacek

Wisconsin judges dominate faculty at NJC

In May, at least seven Wisconsin judges and judicial officials served as faculty at the National Judicial College in Reno.

- ☐ Justice Louis B. Butler Jr., Wisconsin Supreme Court, taught special court jurisdiction;
- ☐ Judge William W. Brash III, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, taught skills related to handling domestic violence cases;
- ☐ Judge Charles F. Kahn Jr., Milwaukee County Circuit Court, taught advanced evidence; and
- ☐ Court of Appeals Staff Atty. Ronald R. Hofer and three tribal court judges – Chief Judge Mark Butterfield, Ho Chunk Nation, Judge David Raasch, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Commissioner Stanley Webster, Oneida Appeals Commission, taught appellate skills for tribal judges.

Chief justice teaches at law school for journalists

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson was a keynote speaker at a program that is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation: a law school for journalists. The program was organized by Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Abrahamson told the group of several dozen journalists from major print and broadcast outlets across the country that journalists and judges share a need for independence, and that the third branch and the fourth estate are also interdependent. "Press freedom cannot exist without strong, independent judges to enforce rights of access," she said, "and an independent judiciary cannot survive without a free press to expose and answer assaults on judicial independence."

The State Bar of Wisconsin Media-Law Relations Committee is now exploring the possibility of launching a Midwest law school for journalists in cooperation with the law schools at UW and Marquette. ■

An unforgettable experience in Shanghai

by Judge Diane M. Nicks
Dane County Circuit Court

I am the fourth Dane County judge to travel to Shanghai to teach at the Shanghai Judicial College, the first phase of the Shanghai Judges Program jointly offered by the UW Law School and the Wisconsin judiciary from June 2-11. Judges who previously participated include Chief Judge Michael Nowakowski, Judge Maryann Sumi and Judge David Flanagan. Beginning June 11, I extended my visit, traveling to Guilin, China from which point I cruised south on the Li River through misty karsts, weathered limestone formations, to the beautiful village of Yangshuo. The trip could only be described as marvelous.

The official tour of duty began with a welcome lunch on June 3 at the Jin Jang Hotel in Shanghai where Prof. John Ohnesorge, law professor and deputy director of the East and Southeast Asian Legal Studies Center,

friend wrote "I was struck by my friend" in sand because this would be forgiven and should disappear with the wind, and then later wrote "I was saved by my friend" in stone because this would always be remembered and should be seen forever. When I asked Judge Pen Cheng's sister if all Chinese people were storytellers, she corrected me, "We are legend tellers." And so they are.

Because lawyers begin their judicial careers right after law school, the judges I am writing about are in their 20s and 30s. Their fluent English and their knowledge of America and Americana is evidence not only of their rigorous education, but also of their individual curiosity. During the formal instruction, fundamental and, therefore, surprising questions were asked ("How can you trust jurors when they know nothing about the law?") Outside of class, one judge wondered whether there would be any "sesquicentennial" events while he was in Madison. Another closed her farewell remarks with the statement that we were "the wind beneath their wings."

While it became clear that caseloads were heavy and work hours long (and frequently bookended by hour-long commutes), I heard no complaints. Rather, the young judges fretted about accomplishing their goals and arriving at correct decisions expeditiously. At the same time, they laughed easily and smiled often, with each other and with us. While I didn't always get the joke, I frequently observed gentle teasing and other humor pass from judge to judge followed by guffaws or cheerful responses.

If you want to see a Chinese judge's face light up, ask whether he or she has a child. As in America, pictures will be produced instantly and stories shared readily. In Shanghai, a young child is often most carefully raised by four interested adults, the parents and the grandparents who live in the family home and provide care while both parents work.

How else would I describe our time together? Eye contact is universal beginning with the opening speech of Vice-President Jin Changrong whose eyes positively twinkled. While courtesy is the rule, formality is not – watching me struggle to bring some slippery morsel to my plate, a judge would frequently jump in, piling enough pieces on my plate for the rest of the meal!

Shanghai is, of course, indescribable. It is bustling, glitzy, polluted, but at the same time clean and safe. Cars, scooters, bicycles and rickshaws share the roads. Sophisticated city dwellers share the streets with street sweepers with brush brooms and teenagers who look like teenagers everywhere. As you might expect in a country of 200 million, people walk more closely than we do in America. In fact, people and vehicles glide gracefully past each other on the streets with inches to spare. Incredibly chic shops with high priced clothing and jewelry command wide streets just block away from the smaller streets that are home to the "hello, hello" booths. Temples squat beneath skyscrapers.

I will forever remember Shanghai as glamour and



Judge Diane M. Nicks in Shanghai.

Gail Ibele, an English-as-a-second-language instructor, and I were greeted cordially by Vice-President Jin of the Shanghai High People's Court, together with the Director and Deputy Director of the Shanghai Judicial College and several Chinese judges who had come to Madison in the

previous years' programs. The inclusion of judges from the earlier programs made the lunch a festive reunion. Seeing the pictures of the two-month old baby girl of Judge Wang Xiang, a first-year judge whom I got to know over dinner in my home in 2002, was particularly special for me. This delightful practice of re-connecting the visiting teachers with judges from earlier years continued throughout the week, reinforcing the bonds formed years earlier. Our friendships and the ongoing professional and cultural exchange were also the subject of many gracious toasts. This heartfelt celebration of friendship characterized the entire visit.

Of course, the program had a serious formal teaching component with classes morning and afternoon and discussions during the evening. However, the brilliant and unique characteristics of the program were the constant rotation of the small numbers of judges who walked to classes with us, ate meals with us and traveled to historic or scenic locations with us. During these interludes we got to know each other, our courts, our families, favorite foods and even nicknames. So, for example, after seeing a book with the word "forgiveness" in its title, a young judge nicknamed "Mosquito" shared with me the story of the two friends, a story in which one

NEW FACES

Doyle selects White for Columbia County vacancy

The day after Atty. Alan J. White was selected to serve in Branch 3 of the Columbia County Circuit Court, his office was – literally and figuratively – swamped. A major storm turned the alley behind his law office into a river that seeped through the slab and flooded the building. As a result, he and his staff began the difficult process of closing down his private practice to the tune of flood-abatement machinery.

“It’s been a little bit hectic,” he said, “but I can’t tell you how lucky I feel.”

Gov. Jim Doyle selected White, who has practiced law at the Helland Law Firm in the Wisconsin Dells for most of his 24-year career, to fill the vacancy created by Judge Richard L. Rehm’s resignation from the Columbia County Circuit



Judge-elect Alan J. White

Court. White will be sworn in on Sept. 13 by Judge James Evenson of Sauk County.

“September 13 is also my 37th wedding anniversary, and the date I was originally sworn into the bar,” White said. “So it’s a very special day and I just feel very fortunate to have been given this opportunity.”

A 1982 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law, White has focused his practice of law on criminal, family, and personal injury. He has twice argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court in guardianship cases and frequently is tapped to serve as a guardian *ad litem* in the five counties where he practices.

“That really is his forte,” Columbia County Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Raimer told the *Wisconsin Dells Events* newspaper. “He’s very thorough. He has always been very well-prepared in court, he’s always been on time, and that’s why he’s been appointed so often.... He does a very conscientious, thorough, complete job.”

White and his wife, Marla, who works for a local optometrist, are the parents of two adult daughters – Amber

Dahnke, who owns a gift shop in New Glarus, and Jori Ruff, who teaches English as a second language in Lake Delton – and grandparents to a 10-month-old boy. An avid sailor, White owns a 22-foot sailboat that he takes out most weekends on Castle Rock Lake. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, and kayaking.

Pocan tapped for Milwaukee County Circuit Court

On June 30, Gov. Jim Doyle announced the appointment of Atty. William S. Pocan to Branch 26 of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. Pocan began serving on July 17 in Milwaukee Children’s Court. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael P. Sullivan, a highly regarded jurist who served for 28 years – including a term as District One chief judge – and was honored with the State Bar Lifetime Achievement Award in June 2005.

A 1984 graduate of the UW Law School, Pocan came from private practice at Jastroch & LaBarge, S.C. He has extensive trial and appellate experience in the area of consumer law, as well as in family and civil law. Pocan served on the State Bar of Wisconsin Consumer Information and Protection Committee and has been a member of the State Bar Public Interest Section for many years. He also serves on the Milwaukee Bar Association Bench/Bar Civil Committee.

In announcing the appointment, Doyle emphasized Pocan’s experience in private practice. “His 22 years of varied trial and appellate practice make him an excellent candidate,” Doyle said. “He is also highly regarded as a leading advocate in consumer protection law, which will add diversity to the Milwaukee bench.”

Pocan has been a frequent presenter at seminars for lawyers. He is also a founding board member of the Milwaukee LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual] Community Center Advocates. He is the brother of state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison.

Pocan plans to seek election to a full-six-year term in April 2007. ■



Judge William S. Pocan

Courts launch training program on new case processing standards

After Chief Judge Dorothy L. Bain became the chief architect of the new time standards for processing cases, she tinkered with her own scheduling practices and discovered that, with simple changes, she could reduce her age-of-pending by 50 percent.

“It’s a matter of working smarter,” she said. “Simply changing calendaring practices can really speed up the court process for litigants.”

Bain and her colleagues on the bench in Marathon County reduced the number of pending criminal cases in the county by 1,000 in a seven-month period between September 2005 and April



Chief Judge Dorothy L. Bain

2006. “So of course now we have more freedom in terms of scheduling,” she said. “Once you start down this road, you see amazing results.”

In addition to saving time and money, standards that are both credible and achievable also provide a good foundation for future evaluation of court system performance. In the past, it has been impossible to analyze with any degree of accuracy how, for example, court performance is affected by variables such as budget cuts.

see **Benchmarks** on page 14

Future of the Judicial Council under study

Strategic Planning Committee seeks input from judges and others

Here's an idea: What if there were a multi-disciplinary body representing all three branches of state government that observed and studied the rules of pleading, practice and procedure in Wisconsin courts, studied the organization, jurisdiction and methods of operation in the courts, received and considered suggestions from any source pertaining to the administration of justice in Wisconsin, and kept advised of decisions of the courts and pending legislation relating to practice and procedure? And, what if this body made recommendations to the Supreme Court, the Legislature, and the governor concerning any changes in the organization, operation and methods of conducting business in the courts that would improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the court system, and result in cost savings?

Well, such a body already exists, and has for the past 77 years. It is the Wisconsin Judicial Council, once known as the Advisory Committee on Rules of Pleading, Practice and Procedure. Its powers, duties, and organizational structure are set out in Section 758.13, Wisconsin Statutes. At present, its 21 members represent all three branches of government, the bar, and the general public.

Facing uncertainty due to drastic budget cuts and loss of staff a decade ago, the Council is now in the process of conducting a strategic planning process to take stock of its present circumstances and chart a course for the future. The result could be such radically diverse options as recommending dissolution on the one hand or restored funding and staffing with revived organizational procedures on the other.

"The Judicial Council has a long, storied, and honorable past in Wisconsin legal history," said Richland County Circuit Court Judge Edward E. Leineweber, a member of the Judicial Council and chair of its Strategic Planning Committee. "But its efforts for some years now have been crippled due to lack of staff. It's time to take stock to see if there is still an important need for the Council to fulfill."

Over the past 77 years, many significant initiatives and reforms have been proposed by the Judicial Council and its predecessor body and later adopted. More recent examples include the 1969 revision of the Criminal Procedure Code, the 1974 Rules of Evidence, the 1976 Civil Procedure Code, and the 1978 Rules of Appellate Procedure. Even now, the Judicial Council is making significant contributions to the modernization and improvement of the rules of court procedure, including the recently adopted changes to certain rules of appellate procedure.

Most of the work of the Judicial Council is performed on a volunteer basis by Council members, and others who serve on ad hoc committees established for particular projects. This current state of affairs constrains the Judicial Council to only undertake relatively small tasks, although its enabling statute contemplates a much larger role and vests the Judicial Council with the power to hold hearings, issue subpoenas and take testimony on matters related to pleading, practice and procedure in Wisconsin courts. The present lack of resources, however, makes fulfilling this larger role impossible.

With this dramatic reduction in the capacity of the Judicial Council to adequately perform its prescribed duties, requests for changes to rules of practice and procedure now routinely come to the Legislature and Supreme Court from many other sources. There is no requirement that such requests be referred to the Judicial Council for its consideration, with the result that ill-advised, conflicting, and even politically charged proposals can be enacted without the broad-based, expert review of the very body established by law to prevent just such occurrences. "We need to decide if the Council should be a clearinghouse for those proposals," said Atty. Beth Hanan, vice-chair of the Judicial Council and a member of its Strategic Planning Committee. "The Legislature created a body with a wonderful cross-section of members, and it is a great but limited resource."

Recently the Judicial Council issued a Request for Proposals to research current patterns and practices concerning the initiation and implementation of rules of practice and procedure in Wisconsin courts and report findings to the Judicial Council. Responses to the RFP will be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee and the full Judicial Council in September. If an acceptable proposal is received, the Council will need to seek funding for the study.

Leineweber is personally convinced that the Judicial Council should continue to exist, but with the financial and staffing resources adequate to fulfill its statutory mandate. "There is a similar body charged with the duties of the Wisconsin Judicial Council in virtually every state and federal jurisdiction I'm aware of," he said. "The need for such a body in Wisconsin was identified



Judge Edward E. Leineweber reports on the Strategic Planning Committee at a 2005 meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Council in the state Capitol.

Photo credit: Kathleen Siller, Legislative Reference Bureau

AIM pilot project takes shape

by Erin Slattengren, policy analyst

On August 10, in Madison, the first development meeting took place for a pilot project designed to provide more information to a judge, prior to sentencing, in an effort to assist in his or her determination of whether an alternative sentence is appropriate for the defendant. The project is called AIM, an acronym that stands for Assess, Inform, and Measure.

Counties that have expressed interest in AIM sent planning and implementation teams to the August meeting. By October, the Alternatives to Incarceration Subcommittee (AIC) anticipates having a final commitment from the pilot counties, and, in January 2007, the project is set to begin.

Over the past several months, the AIC – a subcommittee of the Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee – has dedicated a significant amount of time studying the key factors in determining when, or if, an individual is appropriate to be diverted from a jail or prison sentence. Critical to this determination are the nature and value of the information provided to the court in advance of a sentencing decision.

At the February PPAC meeting, Judge Carl Ashley, PPAC member and the Chair of the AIC and Tony Streveler, Policy Advisor at the Department of Corrections and an AIC member, presented the pilot project concept. The AIC proposed to work with three to five counties to implement and evaluate the AIM model.

In summary, the intent of this project is to provide judges with more information prior to their sentencing decision so they can decide if an alternative(s) method is appropriate. More specifically:

- ❑ Enhance the quality and scope of information provided to the court, including: risk assessment (an individual's risk to commit further crime in the community); needs assessment (assessing criminogenic needs; that is, needs that are directly related to the individual's criminal behavior); assessment of the person's responsiveness (taking into account the individual's motivation to change, learning style, gender, and cultural needs); and an assessment of available community-based treatment programs that address the assessed needs and reduce the person's risk to the community.
- ❑ Implement a "feedback loop" that is designed to provide information continually validates the accuracy of the assessment process and provides outcome data to the court on the success/failure rates of persons involved in the project.



Judge Carl Ashley

Objectives of the project include:

Target Population, Referral and Assessment Components

- ❑ To establish a process to effectively provide the court, prior to sentencing, with reliable and valid assessment information about an offender's risk to the community, the offender's assessed criminogenic and responsivity needs, and the availability of appropriate community-based treatment programs to address the treatment needs and risk.

Decision or Case Disposition Component

- ❑ To evaluate the value and usefulness of the assessment

see AIM on page 18

OBITUARIES

Atty. James L. Fullin Madison

Atty. James L. Fullin, known to many in the Wisconsin judiciary for his tireless work as executive secretary to the Wisconsin Judicial Council, died on March 29 of Leukemia. He was 58.

Fullin is survived by his wife, Kathy, a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter. A memorial service was held in his honor in June.

Judge William J. Haese Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Judge William J. Haese, who for 22 years ran his Milwaukee County court with military efficiency and penalized lawyers for being late, died May 19 from complications of diabetes. He was 80.

Haese retired from judging in 2002 and looked forward at that time to a return to his roots as a litigator, saying he missed "taking sides" in cases. Prior to becoming a judge in 1980, Haese had worked in private practice for 27 years.

While he did not have an opportunity to re-establish a law practice, Haese did become a reserve judge and served in that capacity until shortly before his death.

In an interview with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Haese's daughter, Ruth McGuire, was quoted as saying her

father's insistence on punctuality and following the rules extended into his family life. "That was the way he raised us at home, but in a very loving way - respect for authority, honor, and loyalty," she said. "Being on time was part of being responsible and showing respect to others."

Haese was an avid hunter ("If you could get a license for it, he'd shoot it," his daughter recalled) and a Marquette basketball fan. He also was a friend to former Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus, a high school classmate whom he encouraged to run for office.

Surviving Haese are his wife, Julia, daughters Ruth McGuire, Mary Wilson, and Margaret Belknap, son Bill, and numerous grandchildren.

Judge P. Charles Jones Dane County Circuit Court

Judge P. Charles Jones, a beloved and highly respected member of the Wisconsin judiciary from 1971-99, died June 11 of kidney failure. He was 70.

see Obituaries on page 18



Judge William J. Haese

LEADERSHIP

'There's a need for redemption in this process'

By all accounts, the violence that spread across Outagamie, Oconto, and Langlade counties in May 1995 claimed many more than the four victims who lay dead in its wake. It is not news that homicide and suicide shatter families and spark fear, anger, and grief in communities, but this case exacted a particularly high toll - whether because of the number of dead, the revelation of gang activity and drug dealing in quiet, middle class communities, or the brutality of the crimes.

The story was this: a 17-year-old named Derek Barnstable, a delinquent with a bad family life, organized a few friends into a gang and then ordered them to kill another young man with whom he had a dispute. After the killing, the friends entered into a suicide pact, which they carried out in a city park.

The toll of the crime was apparent to Judge Dennis C. Luebke, who sentenced the defendant to a lengthy prison term 11 years ago, and who was called upon in June to decide a motion for sentence modification for the young man. Although Luebke denied the motion, he made two observations in the recent hearing: first, that the defendant had made changes in himself that were "positive and constructive," and second, that the case "cries out for restorative justice, as do most homicide cases."

Restorative justice is an umbrella term for programs that try to do two things: (1) help victims to heal their emotional

wounds and (2) rehabilitate offenders by having them participate directly in fixing the damage caused by their crimes. In recent years, these programs have grown in popularity and number across the state. Under the direction of former Justice Janine P. Geske, Marquette Law School established the Restorative Justice Initiative, a center that is devoted to restorative justice teaching.

Appleton had its own restorative justice program until budget cuts shut it down a few years ago. Referrals into the program were so frequent that the Judgment of Conviction forms were modified to include a check box to indicate whether the victim and offender were interested in participating.

Faced with the lack of a local option and the dire need for restorative justice for the victims and offender in this case, Luebke called

Marquette. Now, Geske and her team are working on the case (it is one of about a dozen they have currently open) and are confident that victim-offender conferencing will be of use to all involved.

Luebke is thankful that the program accepted the referral, and plans to send more cases to Marquette as the need arises. "There's a need for redemption in this process," he said. "The victim's mom had the courage to calmly face Derek in the courtroom and ask, 'Why?' She deserves an answer." ■



Judge Dennis C. Luebke

VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

Sheboygan pro bono program a continued success

For the last six years, litigants in Sheboygan County have been able to receive free legal advice thanks to the volunteer attorneys who are willing to spend time to listen to their questions.

When Sheboygan County's legal assistance was cut in 2000, Atty. Mary Lynn Donohue spearheaded a *pro bono* program that uses volunteers to continue to ensure there is a place *pro se* litigants can go to have their questions answered.

After receiving feedback on the legal needs of clients from Safe Harbor, Consumer Credit Counseling Agency and others, the project needed sponsorship. "Having community partners would give more credibility and give a good foundation [for the project]," Donohue said. The Sheboygan County Bar Association, Salvation Army, and the Legal Aid Clinic stepped up to the plate.

Volunteers are recruited from the Sheboygan County Bar Association. The project has had approximately 44 attorney volunteers give their time to the project. The Salvation Army provides the room where they meet with litigants twice a month for two to three hours. No budget is needed to keep the project going, thanks to the generous donations of the sponsors.

Attorneys use their discretion to determine what to do with each case brought to them at the meetings. Many litigants are given referrals. Some attorneys will give advice. Some will open a file and look into a case.

The *pro bono* program has served over 600 litigants since its inception. Over the last three months, the disputes they present have varied widely. A few examples are:

- hit and run without insurance
- eviction cases
- small claims
- immigration
- not receiving social security payments
- custody of 12-year-old
- child support issues
- unhappy with dental work and doesn't want to make payments

The litigants are always thankful for the assistance and many have told the *pro bono* attorneys they wouldn't know where else to turn. ■

VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS

Teen courts gain support

A national non-profit organization is in the works for teen courts across the United States. The benefits of the new organization will be plentiful, including technical support to local programs, training, professional development, listservs, and financial support through grants.

In 1993, there were only 50 teen court programs nationwide. Today there are more than 1,125 programs in operation, with new programs being implemented frequently. These programs have emerged as the most replicated intervention and diversion programs since the establishment of the first U.S. Juvenile Court in 1899.

A recent federally funded national data collection – conducted by the American Youth Policy Forum – revealed a record 115,000 youth offenders have been arbitrated in teen court programs in the last year. This data collection project also revealed a record 110,000 youth volunteers in the teen courts. The project did not gauge the number of adult volunteers. However, it is estimated that the number of adults volunteering is more than 15,000. The report can be viewed at www.aypf.org/publications/index.htm.

There are currently 20 states that have organized state youth court associations and networking groups. The 20 states include Florida, Texas, Utah, South Carolina, California, West Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Arizona, Washington, New Mexico, South Dakota, Alaska, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maryland and Tennessee. In February, each of those states sent three to four representatives to meet in New Orleans to discuss plans for the establishment of a national non-profit organization that would represent and support local teen courts.

It was unanimously decided that all of the youth courts in operation would vote on the name of the newly forming organization. Ballots were sent to all of the youth courts and the results are expected to be posted at www.youthcourt.net by September 30. This initiative is managed and funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, Family and Youth Services Bureau and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The group met again in June and will meet for a third time this fall. Wisconsin is heavily involved in the process of organizing the national program and is responsible for working on the by-laws, mission statement, training, developing a brochure, and holding any funding that comes in to support the effort. A location for the national headquarters has not yet been determined.

Organizers are currently hoping to identify two corporate sponsors to support the new organization. ■

For more information on this national effort, contact Nancy Anne Livingston at (715) 479-3749 or nalivi@co.vilas.wi.us.

Shanghai *continued from page 6*

lights. The view from the Peace Hotel, across the Pudong River, is better than anything Walt Disney could imagine. The architecture is futuristic and fantastic, with balls, needles, spaceships, and towers. It is lit with yellow, blue, gold, and orange lights. Sets of colored search lights rotate across the buildings while neon-lit boats float down the river. On the Peace Hotel side of the river, trees sparkle with white lights along the walkway, cars zoom, and art deco style hotels glow gold. You have to see it to believe it.

I have not told the story of the karsts, the river and the mists in the Southwest, Professor Xiao's art class and studio or the consumption of my first 100 year old egg and Guilin

noodles. Nor have I attempted to describe the beauty of the Humble Administrator's Garden (which has a "Keep and Listen Room" so named because the room's poet counseled that the dried lotus leaves should be kept so that one could listen to the rain falling on them), Tiger Hill, Tong Li or the temples and water villages. I know I'm out of space. I hope that what I've written gives the reader some sense of my most precious memories, those of my friends and fellow judges serving in the courts of an incredible city: Shanghai. ■

Nicks has served on the bench in Dane County since 2000.

Youth court month

September is national youth court month and with that in mind we would like to congratulate Barron and Jefferson Counties for their recent recognition:

Barron County teen court wins award

The Barron County Restorative Teen Court recently won second place along with a \$100 prize in the Rice Lake Lions Club Youth Service Project Awards. The award recognized the more than 100 volunteer service hours contributed to the community by the volunteers of the Barron County teen court program.

Study proves teen court is successful

Those associated with the Jefferson County teen court have long believed that the program – started in 1998 – has a marked impact on recidivism. Now, they have the data to prove it. The UW-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs performed a research study that indicated the program produces net benefits of at least \$75,400 annually to Jefferson County and has a proven track record of reducing recidivism. ■

RETIREMENTS

Clark wraps up 30-year career with courts

In 1969, with dreams of following in the footsteps of her father, a high school math and science teacher, Cornelia G. Clark left her native St. Louis to enroll at UW-Madison as an education major. Though her educational and career plans changed, she found in Madison a permanent home and soon began a career with the courts that would span four decades.



Cornelia G. Clark

Clark was first hired as a receptionist to Ed Wilkie in the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts. Following court reorganization in 1978, this became the Director of State Courts Office. She moved to the position of judicial assignment assistant in 1978 and then, on Aug. 1, 1980, was appointed as deputy clerk of the Supreme Court and then newly

created Court of Appeals. In 2000, the Supreme Court selected her to succeed Marilyn Graves as clerk.

"I have found the work here to be so, so interesting," she said. "Even though we're pushing papers here, the papers are all different and there's always a puzzle to solve so it's never gotten dull for me."

In retirement, Clark looks forward to spending more time with her companion, Jeff Kitelinger, and his young grandchildren. She also plans to quit smoking, spend more time riding her bike and gardening, and volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. But at the very top of the list is a simpler pleasure: turn off the alarm clock and enjoy winter mornings from the comfort of her warm living room with her cats, Zeus and Zorro.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to learn and grow, and to participate in the work of this office," she said. "The amount of work that people here accomplish is astonishing and I've been privileged to be part of that."

Draper will continue to work with teens

Court Commissioner Lindsey D. Draper, who has served on the bench in Milwaukee County – often in Milwaukee Children's Court – since 1993, retired at the end of July.

In an interview with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, which featured Draper in its "Take Five" column, Draper said that seeing families rebuild themselves has been the most rewarding part of his work. "I often quote a poster that was at Ethan Allen (school for delinquent boys) a number of years ago," he told reporter Mary Zahn. "[It read] 'I do not care that you have fallen. What matters is that you get up.'"

Draper said that message "is so important in the child welfare area when parents who have messed up and fallen from grace finally get their kids back."

A 1975 graduate of Marquette Law School who began his career in the Milwaukee District Attorney's Office, Draper worked in the Public Defender's Office prior to becoming a court commissioner. Throughout his career in the law he has been active in State Bar activities. He currently is chair of the State Bar Law-Related Education Committee, where he advocates for the mock trial

program, the Justice Teaching Institute for high school teachers, and other outreach initiatives.

In retirement, Draper told the *Journal Sentinel*, he hopes to continue to work for the benefit of children and families, albeit in a somewhat different role. He wants to spend time in schools, reading to kids, and continue to help train juvenile justice workers.

Popular longtime judge steps down mid-term

After 28 years on the bench in Milwaukee County, during which time he presided in more than 500 jury trials, Judge Michael P. Sullivan stepped down this spring with two years left in his term. Gov. Jim Doyle appointed William S. Pocan to succeed him (*see separate story*) in Branch 26.

Though he wanted to retire while he was young enough and healthy enough to pursue other interests, Sullivan said he would miss the job of judging – and in particular handling jury trials. "People question jury verdicts, but I'd say more than 99 percent of the time, they're right on the money," he said. "I really enjoyed working with juries."

Even better than jury trials, in Sullivan's book, is family court. Unsurprisingly, he never had trouble securing this favorite assignment.

"You do justice in a way that really matters in people's lives," he said. "You deal with a lot of nice people at their worst, but you really do help them. The child custody decisions are tough but the right decision is usually pretty clear."

Sullivan said the toughest task in divorce matters is valuing small, closely held corporations. "One side will come in and say it's not worth anything, and the other tells you it's worth a fortune," he said. "At times, I'd appoint my own expert witness and order the parties to pay for it. They didn't like that, but it helped them to work things out."

Encouraging parties to work out differences ahead of trial became Sullivan's specialty over the years. "I was never a judge who tried to force settlement on litigants, but they would always know I was ready to try the case," he said. Together with (now-retired) Judge Michael J. Skwierawski, Sullivan worked with the Milwaukee Bar to establish a local rule that requires parties to set and meet deadlines for naming witnesses, completing discovery, and, where appropriate, engaging in pretrial mediation.

"The theory was that all issues would be identified and everybody would know everything about the other side's case by the time of the pretrial hearing," Sullivan said. "I also eliminated case-stacking, so that they knew when the date came, I was expecting to try that case."

He said the system has achieved the goal of certainty and has reduced the number of last-minute settlements, but



Judge Michael P. Sullivan



Court Commissioner
Lindsey D. Draper

Task force to tackle *pro se* small claims forms

by Ann Zimmerman, statewide *pro se* coordinator

With the work of the statewide *Pro Se* Family Law Task Force nearing completion, a new task force is gearing up to begin working on small claims forms. The task force will review the content of, and add instructions to, the existing mandatory small claims forms for the purpose of making the forms more *pro se* user friendly. The *Pro Se* Small Claims Forms Task Force hopes to unveil the new statewide forms in approximately one year.

As with the statewide family law forms, the small claims forms will be available online and in hard copy, and will be developed with the assistance of the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP). The Records Management Committee will review the forms that are developed.

In spite of many efforts over the past several years at local levels, the challenges of self-representation continue. The recent report of the Supreme Court's Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), *Critical Issues: Planning Priorities for the Wisconsin Court System* notes that, "For a long time, we have been challenged by what to do with people who cannot afford to hire an attorney or who want to handle their cases themselves. The challenge will



Judge Gary L. Carlson



James Smith



Judge Edward F. Vlack III



Atty. Ann Zimmerman

not go away and evidence indicates a trend toward even greater numbers of litigants choosing or being forced to represent themselves."

Accordingly, PPAC identified assistance to self-represented litigants one of four issues to be given top priority by the Supreme Court over the next two years.

Underscoring the pressing need for statewide assistance for *pro se* litigants, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson in February appointed me to serve as her temporary executive assistant to work on statewide *pro se* issues, including taking the lead to form the *pro se* small claims forms task force.

The nine-member task force includes: Court Operations Forms Manager Terri Borrud; Taylor County Circuit Court Judge Gary

L. Carlson; Dane County Circuit Court Manager Vicki Gilbertson; Dane County Small Claims Court Commissioner Scott McAndrew; CCAP Liaison Angi Semrau; Milwaukee County Senior Administrator James Smith; St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Edward F. Vlack III; Court Operations Policy Analyst Sara Ward; and Statewide *Pro Se* Coordinator Ann Zimmerman. ■

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 12*

the other anticipated benefit – freeing up judges from the Civil Division to help out in criminal court – has been more elusive. "We cannot do this without bailiffs, and we don't have bailiffs in civil," he said.

Sullivan is intimately familiar with the budget constraints and security issues that weigh upon the Milwaukee County courts because he served for two years as District One chief judge. His collegial approach served him well. "It's a very difficult job, it's like being CEO of a major corporation," he said. "You have to look at many valuable programs and decide what to cut, and someone's always going to be unhappy. I decided I would sit down with people in their own offices, and attend their meetings, and really focus on reaching out. I think it's a salute to the Milwaukee County judges that this kind of approach can work well here."

Sullivan's long tenure in the courthouse gave him a perspective that few others have. He began his career in the law in 1970 in the City Attorney's Office at a time when the U.S. Supreme Court was issuing a number of landmark decisions expanding the rights of criminal defendants. One Milwaukee judge who was faced with an increasingly demanding docket was particularly impressed with the young attorney who so frequently appeared before him. Judge Louis Ceci (who would later become a Wisconsin

Supreme Court justice) found a way to appoint Sullivan to handle traffic and parking warrant cases. Thus, Sullivan became Milwaukee County's very first court commissioner.

In 1977, on the advice of his friend David Hansher (who presides in Branch 42 of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court), Sullivan ran for a seat on the county court that was open as a result of Judge Elliot N. Walstead's retirement. Sullivan was unopposed in that race and never had an opponent in any of his subsequent elections.

In retirement, Sullivan plans to serve as a reserve judge and to do some mediation work in divorce cases. He and his wife, Carol (a longtime elementary teacher who also just retired) also plan to travel, garden, and cook (Carol grew up in a "food" family; her birth name, Sendik, is synonymous with high-quality produce in Milwaukee). They also will enjoy visiting their son, Daniel, who works for The Gap corporation in San Francisco and their daughter, Elaine, who is working on a Ph.D. in Egyptian archeology at Johns Hopkins University.

Though they have plans to visit warmer climes in the winter, they will remain in the house in Brown Deer that they built 30 years ago and in which they raised their two children. "We love this community and we have a lot of friends here," Sullivan said. "We're really looking forward to gardening and playing golf and just enjoying life." ■

WJCCA members attend conference

by *Connie M. Haefs, president Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association*

Eight members of the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks Association had the opportunity to attend the 69th Annual Conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The conference was held July 16-19 in Milwaukee.

The juvenile clerks in attendance were Dan Barlich, Milwaukee County; Ericka Nelson, St. Croix County; Gail Videkovich, Racine County; Jody Bartels, Grant County; Kay Morlen, Washington County; Kelly Haag, Waukesha County; Vicki Gilbertson, Dane County, and Connie Haefs, Brown County.

This year's conference explored the work of juvenile and family courts through a number of tracks including: family violence, permanency planning for children, juvenile law, family law, and tribal courts, as well as other topics related to juvenile justice.

The federal grant for the Children's Court Improvement Program made it possible for these clerks to attend the conference. ■

Summary of legislation available

The court system's legislative liaison, Nancy Rottier, has prepared a summary of 2005-06 enacted legislation. The 12-page document is a compilation of more than 100 acts passed during this legislative session that have an impact on the courts. The acts are arranged by subject matter and include the effective date of the act. The summary also includes instructions on how to locate copies of the acts and the unofficial text of the revised statutes.

The summary has been e-mailed to all members of the judiciary and has also been posted with the Legislative Bulletins on CourtNet (<http://courtnet.wicourts.gov/>). ■

Judicial Council

continued from page 8

by the Legislature as early as 1913 when it created a special commission headed by Chief Justice John Winslow to study the reorganization of Wisconsin courts, and which ultimately resulted in the creation of the predecessor body to the Judicial Council.

"If anything, the need for a body like the Judicial Council is greater today," he said. "Videoconferencing and other technologies are rapidly becoming part of everyday court proceedings. Interest groups press their agendas for changes to court rules. Various committees and others within the court system and elsewhere in government seek changes in rules of practice and procedure that can have a dramatic impact on limited judicial resources," he added. "Wisconsin needs the Judicial Council, but the Judicial Council needs adequate resources to do its job." ■

Comments, criticisms, ideas, and expressions of support may be directed to Leineweber at (608) 647-2626.

Benchmarks *continued from page 7*

The Committee of Chief Judges adopted the new case processing time standards (formerly known as benchmarks) after Bain and fellow Chief Judge James Evenson, along with District Court Administrators Kerry Connelly and Gail Richardson, presented a report that recommended the new, uniform approach. This summer, the first training sessions were offered for judges, judicial assistants, and clerks.

Training is a key component of the plan, because the new system is the first change in case processing time standards since the benchmarks were first adopted in 1985. Over the years, individual judicial districts adopted changes to the benchmarks, resulting in a system in which acceptable time limits for processing certain case types could vary substantially among counties.

"There appears to be little reason for these standards to differ among districts," Bain said. "Uniformity makes sense, especially now that we have CCAP to provide us with case processing information."

While many of the time standards vary little – if at all – from those formulated 20 years ago, there are a couple of key changes:

- Ninety-five percent of misdemeanor, criminal traffic, and contested TR/FO should be completed in 180 days. This increase recognizes the current volume of cases, discovery issue, and the need for pretrial hearings as

well as the difficulty of scheduling trials in criminal traffic matters due to the state crime lab's heavy workload. 100 percent of uncontested TR/FO cases be concluded within that time.

- Ninety-five percent of juvenile delinquency, JIPS, CHIPS, and TPRs in which the time limits have been waived should be concluded within 90 days; 95 percent of juvenile ordinance matters should be wrapped up in 30 days.

The goals are set at less than 100 percent because of the need for a "release valve," Bain said. "There are cases that, due to various unusual factors, cannot be closed within the recommended time and we wanted to acknowledge that and account for that," she said.

Now that the standards have been adopted and the initial training session has been offered, each judicial district is encouraged to formulate a plan for educating its judges and court staff on the new system. "If these are to be meaningful and useful, we need to do more than just distribute them," Bain said. "We need to educate judges and court staff on how to modify practices that might be resulting in unnecessary delays. When we begin to take these standards into account in our scheduling, we find that the savings in time and cost can be remarkable." ■

PEOPLE

“‘Villain’ justice tells lawyers how to present their cases” headlined a story in a May edition of the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. The ‘villain,’ Justice **N. Patrick Crooks**, told the lawyers to whom he was speaking that he was still awaiting



Justice N. Patrick Crooks

delivery of his trophy from the Milwaukee talk radio pundit who assigned him the moniker ‘Villain of the Year’ for 2005.

Crooks earned the designation for a few case decisions that the radio host disagreed with. It turned out to be a perfect segue into a discussion of judicial independence. “I will tell you from my experience on both the trial bench and as a Supreme

Court justice that there is a need for attorneys to stand up and explain to those they come in contact with what [judicial independence] is all about,” Crooks was quoted as saying. “Oftentimes, people don’t understand that judges don’t make decisions by thinking about what’s popular with the voters....”

When some public officials in Milwaukee County disagreed with a jury verdict in a high-profile case, Board Chair **Lee Holloway** announced plans to initiate an audit of jury demographics in a year’s worth of jury trials. According to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Holloway said an audit might expose problems and recommend remedies so “we can start restoring the community’s faith in Milwaukee’s courts.”

Chief Judge **Kitty K. Brennan** answered Holloway with a guest editorial headlined, “Jury service: A right and a duty,” in which she agreed that examining the system to ensure that juries are representative is a good idea, but cautioned against wholesale changes in response to one case. Brennan noted that “there are some immediate and inexpensive things citizens can do to ensure fair and representative juries” including: return the questionnaire, report for jury duty, and notify the Department of Transportation of address changes.

“Signs of success: officials encouraged after first six months of drug court,” was the headline on the June 19 edition of *The Northwestern* (Oshkosh). The newspaper spent a day with Judge **Scott C. Woldt** in Winnebago County Drug Court and noted that the court has the potential to reduce recidivism and save money. The judge agreed, but put a human face on the cost savings, pointing out, for example, that one participant recently gave birth to a baby who was healthy and drug-free.



A photographer for *The Northwestern* newspaper in Oshkosh caught Judge Scott C. Woldt celebrating the success of a drug court participant. “When you’re actually there watching them change,” Woldt was quoted as saying, “it really is cool.”

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** visited five more counties this summer as part of her 72-county tour of the state’s courthouses. While the Chief has visited each of the state’s counties many times, this is her first formal tour. She made stops in Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, and Vilas counties in July. In each location, the Chief meets with local judges, county board officials, lawyers, the sheriff, the media, and others, to discuss initiatives and concerns related to the justice system. Since she launched the tour last February, Abrahamson has paid visits in 16 counties. She intends to complete her trek at the end of 2008.

While the Chief invites press coverage of her visits in hopes of shining a spotlight on important justice-related initiatives, the media sometimes prefer to focus on her engaging stories. That was the case in Rhinelander, where *The Lakeland Times* ran its story on the Chief’s visit under the banner headline, “Chief Justice tells a fish story.” The newspaper recounted Abrahamson’s experience at the World Musky Hunt in the Minocqua area a few years ago. She showed up for the event in spite of the fact that she had never fished before, and began her fishing expedition by



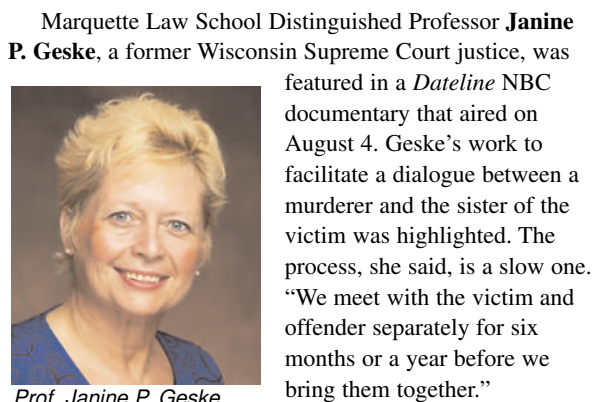
Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson

pulling the price tags off the gear she had just purchased. But once on the water, she promptly reeled in the biggest fish around – a 34” (or 36”, depending on whom you ask) muskie. The prize catch hung in her Capitol office until renovations to the building forced her to bring it home. Her trophy, however, remains proudly displayed on her desk.

In an article headlined, “Sentencing project would re-evaluate criminals,” *The Freeman* (Waukesha), reported on a presentation to the Waukesha Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on the new ‘Assess, Inform and Measure’ project – an initiative of the Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC). The project – dubbed ‘AIM’ – is looking to identify counties interested in participating in a pilot effort to focus on expanding the information that the sentencing judge receives about an offender’s history and risk to reoffend, as well as reoffense rates for certain crimes.

While the Waukesha group did not make an immediate commitment, Chief Judge **Kathryn Foster**, a Waukesha County judge who served as the chief judges’ liaison to PPAC, was quoted as saying the initiative has merit. “I think the real pull for me in this is the whole component of probation, and what’s successful and what isn’t,” she said.

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Prof. Janine P. Geske

Marquette Law School Distinguished Professor **Janine P. Geske**, a former Wisconsin Supreme Court justice, was featured in a *Dateline* NBC documentary that aired on August 4. Geske's work to facilitate a dialogue between a murderer and the sister of the victim was highlighted. The process, she said, is a slow one. "We meet with the victim and offender separately for six months or a year before we bring them together."

The victim in the case that was highlighted had been a foster father; the shooter was a friend of the victim's foster son. The documentary shows the individual meetings as well as the facilitated session.

"She's very tough, very controlled. She never let up on him once," Geske said. "He, on the other hand, is a model offender: very, very remorseful. So the contrast is really interesting."

Geske established and continues to lead the Marquette Law School Restorative Justice Initiative, which serves as a resource for victims, communities, and restorative justice providers.

Holly Ernst, daughter of **Bonnie Henderson** and Judge **Frederick Henderson**, Rusk County Circuit Court, won the title of Mrs. Minnesota in June. Ernst will compete in Tucson next September against the other state winners for the title of Mrs. America. Henderson reported that his daughter began participating in – and winning – pageants in high school. "She uses the pageants to advance worthy

causes," he said. "She's passionate about children who are missing and has been a longtime spokesperson for the **Jacob Wetterling** Foundation. A few months ago, she was placed on the Wetterling Board."

Named "Judge of the Year" by the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association, Municipal Judge **James Gramling** will retire in 2007 after 21 years on the bench. Gramling told the *Shepherd Express* (Milwaukee) he is proud of the way his court has been able to take the time to work through issues with people, but that he would have liked to expand services to low-income litigants. "There needs to be an easier way for low-income people to get on payment plans and get their warrants and suspensions released and finally resolve cases," Gramling said. "Very often the people we're dealing with – the people who have continued contact with the court – are low income."

The Hazelden News Service in Minnesota ran two recent stories on drug courts. One of them focused on the efforts in Barron and Eau Claire counties. "The idea of drug court was initially met with some resistance—especially from law enforcement who often view it as 'soft on crime,'" Judge **Edward R. Brunner** was quoted as saying. "But we took it to the public. We went around to every service club, showed videos, and talked about why it makes sense – how it saves lives and can get participants to be productive in their communities."

"Clearly the chief" was the headline on a feature in *The Journal Times* (Racine) on Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson**, who in 2006 is celebrating 10 years as chief justice and 30 years on the Supreme Court. The feature ran in many of the state's daily newspapers and led with an anecdote from former Gov. **Pat Lucey**, who appointed Abrahamson to the bench in 1976. Lucey recalled that, in 1979, when Abrahamson was up for election, she asked for his endorsement. When he did not provide it right away, she pressed him: "Well," he recalled her asking, "are you going to announce that you made a mistake in appointing me?"

The story went on to note that, these days, "few people can risk dodging questions from Abrahamson," whom another interviewee – former Justice **Janine P. Geske** – called "the smartest and most hard-working person I've ever met."

"Interpretation problems result in mistrial" headlined a story in the August 2 edition of the *La Crosse Tribune*. The article explained that Judge **Ramona A. Gonzalez**, a native Spanish speaker, noted inconsistencies in the translation as the defendant – a Mexican man accused of sexual assault – was cross examined. She granted a defense motion for a mistrial after concluding that the defendant was not adequately understanding the prosecutor's questions. Despite the mistrial, the parties and the judge indicated that the problem stemmed not from inadequacy on the translator's part but instead from the language that the defendant was using. ■



Holly Ernst, daughter of Judge Frederick Henderson, Rusk County Circuit Court, stands in the middle of the runners-up to accept the title of 'Mrs. Minnesota.' She will compete in the national pageant in September. Says Henderson: "She gets her looks from her mother."

AWARDS *continued from page 1*

The June 2006 Director's Recognition Award winners gather around one of the Capitol Square cows. From left to right, in back of the cow, the honorees are: Dave Korenic, Phyllis Bittinger, Mary McMillan, Katherine Bosben, Timothy Duggan, and Andrea Olson. In front are Sheri Carter and Susan Stephens.

interactive Web site to assist litigants who are representing themselves in family court matters.

- ❑ **Sheri Carter**, a program assistant in the Office of Lawyer Regulation. Carter was recognized for taking on additional responsibilities in helping to communicate the director's decisions on appeals when the office was short-staffed.
- ❑ **Timothy Duggan**, a project manager for CCAP. Duggan was recognized for his contribution to the design and implementation of new methods for developing software.
- ❑ **Dave Korenic**, purchasing and facilities officer. Korenic was recognized for his invaluable contributions throughout the Tenney Building lease renewal process and during the ongoing renovation of the Tenney Building office spaces.
- ❑ **Mary McMillan**, a program assistant in the Office of Lawyer Regulation. McMillan was recognized for the assistance she provided to the office upon the retirement of a long-term program assistant and for taking a lead role in training the new program assistant.
- ❑ **Andrea Olson**, a project manager for CCAP. Olson was recognized for leading the design and implementation of two CCAP projects, the Digital Audio Recording systems within the CCAP case management applications and the *Pro Se* Family Web site.
- ❑ **Susan Stephens**, a court records clerk in the Supreme Court/Court of Appeals Clerk's Office. Stephens was recognized for her dedication and diligence in ensuring that the Clerk's Office was able to continue to provide its usual high standard of service to the appellate courts and the public throughout a move to temporary office space.

Municipal Judges Association names honorees

The Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association this summer announced the first recipients of two new awards. The association selected Judge James A. Gramling Jr. of Milwaukee Municipal Court and Judge Ronald J. Wambach of Franklin Municipal Court to honor as its first-ever 'Judge of the Year' and 'Lifetime Jurist'. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Louis B. Butler – who spent 10 years on the bench in Milwaukee Municipal Court – presented the awards at the association's annual meeting in La Crosse.

Both judges are long-serving and highly respected. Wambach, who received the Lifetime Jurist Award, retired from the bench in April and now serves as a reserve judge (and continues his private law practice). He was first elected to the Franklin Municipal Court in 1972 at age 26. Atty. Frederick F. Klimetz was elected in April to succeed him.

Gramling, who was named Judge of the Year, has served in Milwaukee Municipal Court since 1986 and intends to retire in 2007. Prior to taking the bench, Gramling was managing attorney at the Milwaukee office of Legal Action of Wisconsin. He is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education programs, led the effort to launch Milwaukee's teen court, and works with high school civics teachers from around the state at the annual Justice Teaching Institute.

"Judges Gramling and Wambach epitomize what a judge should be," Butler said. "They are well-versed in the law, they treat litigants with dignity and respect, and both volunteer their time to educate and mentor new colleagues. We are indeed fortunate to have judges of this caliber serving in the 'people's courts' of this state." ■



Atty. Karla J. Baumgartner, who manages the municipal judge education program, presents a special citation to Reserve Judge Ronald J. Wambach to thank him for his years of service as a judge, a member of the Municipal Judge Benchbook Committee, a member of the faculty at judicial education seminars, and secretary of the Municipal Judges Association.



Municipal Judges James A. Gramling Jr. (left) and Ronald J. Wambach (right) celebrate with Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Louis B. Butler Jr. after winning the Municipal Judges Association's first-ever awards for Judge of the Year and Lifetime Jurist.

AIM *continued from page 9*

information provided to the court and make changes, as needed or necessary, to ensure accuracy and effectiveness of the assessment process.

Community Intervention and Follow-up Component

- ❑ To document and track community-based treatment and supervision interventions and measure outcomes related to recidivism or return to confinement.

Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting Component

- ❑ To provide baseline recidivism data to each pilot county based on historical cases that were placed on probation and were ultimately reconvicted of a new crime within three years. Scope of the data will span from 1980–2003.
- ❑ To develop a simple data collection system and repository of data from the DOC, information the assessment document, court dispositions, judge's

impressions, and community-based treatment and supervision interventions to measure effectiveness of the process and offender outcomes.

- ❑ To establish a protocol and means for collecting, analyzing and regularly reporting aggregate data back to the county criminal justice system on the effectiveness and outcomes of the project

On April 28, Ashley and Streveler presented the AIM concept to the Committee of Chief Judges and asked the chiefs to consider counties in their districts that fit the pilot criteria and that might be interested in discussing this project further. Following this meeting, several counties expressed interest in learning more about AIM and possibly participating in the pilot or in the design of the project.

For further information about AIM, contact Erin Slattengren at erin.slattengren@wicourts.gov or (608) 266-8861.

OBITUARIES *continued from page 9*

Jones joined the bench as a probate judge after winning in an upset election. He had made a name for himself in the community as director of the Dane County Legal Services agency, the precursor to the State Public Defender's Office, and his experience working with the poor shaped his judicial philosophy.

In 1999, when he participated in the Wisconsin court system Oral History Project, Jones emphasized that the most important trait of a circuit court judge is the ability to listen. "One would have to be the ability to make the litigants feel like they have received their day in court," he said. "Now, in a mental health case, you're dealing with someone who may be mentally ill, and you have to make them understand that this process is an adversarial process and they have the same rights as other persons have. You get into the major civil cases, you have to make the litigants who come before you feel like they've had their day in court, they've gotten their case heard by a jury or a judge, or in a criminal case that the defendant has

been treated fairly and even-handedly. So, that aspect of the judge, I think, is a singular trait that carries over regardless of what branch you sit in, and it's one that I have always tried to make sure is in the forefront of my presiding over cases."

Jones had faced a series of tragedies in recent years. A retirement home that he and his wife, Ronni, had built in Iowa County burned to the ground, and then Ronni - who for many years managed the municipal judge education program within the Office of Judicial Education - was diagnosed with cancer and died shortly thereafter.

At a memorial service, Gov. Jim Doyle joined a number of judges and lawyers who described a man who was quiet, bright, and hard-working. "There are some people that come along that really set the tone for a whole community," Doyle said, "and they do it in incredibly quiet and powerful ways, and Chuck Jones was just such a person. He set the tone for this wonderful community we live in, and he was just a towering presence, and he did it in such a quiet and decent way."

Chief Judge Michael N. Nowakowski said the jury

assembly room in the new Dane County Courthouse would be named in Jones' honor. The plaque, he said, will read simply, "Chuck's Place."

**Judge Karl F. Peplau
Eau Claire County Circuit Court**

Judge Karl F. Peplau, who served on the bench in Eau Claire County for 12 years in the 1970s and 80s, and as a reserve judge until 1994, died July 6 of complications from pneumonia. He was 93, and a week before his death was still swimming laps at the YMCA pool and going to work every day at the law firm of Herrick & Hart.

Peplau's humor and common sense made him both popular and well respected among his colleagues. A written homage to Peplau that hangs beneath his portrait in the Eau Claire County Courthouse tells this story:

Daily, he announced to a full courtroom that, 'This is your court.' Litigants or defendants were told 'You have a fine lawyer,' and 'I know you can be a fine citizen,' or 'You are a good person at heart.' Criminal defendants were sent from his courtroom hearing 'Hold your head up as you walk out now.' Attorneys who appeared before him were always 'distinguished' or 'honorable.' Witnesses were always described for the record by Peplau as that 'fine, upstanding citizen from ...' and if they were from Augusta [where Peplau practiced law for 32 years], he also complimented their parents or grandparents.

Judge Paul J. Lenz spoke to the *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram* about Peplau's influence on his career. "He was the first judge I practiced before," he said. "He was a genuine, delightful person." Lenz told the newspaper that he wears Peplau's robe on the bench. Reserve Judge Thomas H. Barland, who knew Peplau for 50 years, told the newspaper, "He had a very folksy approach to things. He was a very warm person. He always gave high praise to whoever he worked with." ■



Judge P. Charles Jones



Judge Karl F. Peplau

Photo credit: Eau Claire Leader-Telegram

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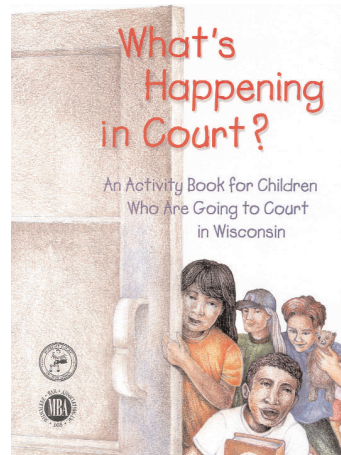
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Children's activity book is available

An activity book designed for children ages 6-9 who have contact with the courts is now available from the Director of State Courts Office. *What's Happening in Court?* was first produced in Wisconsin in 2001 and was immediately in high demand. This is the first time since 2003 that copies have been available.

The booklet is meant to be a teaching tool to introduce children to court processes in which they are, or could be, involved, either as observers or participants in a case. It includes information on the roles of the people the child might see in court, courtroom decorum, proceedings in child in need of protection and/or services (CHIPS) cases, mental health hearings, family court, guardianships, adoptions, and more.

The California Office of the General Counsel



originally produced the booklet in 1999 and gave their permission to adapt it. It was tailored for Wisconsin by circuit court Judges Daniel T. Dillon, Rock County; Benjamin D. Proctor, Eau Claire County; and Stuart A. Schwartz, Dane County. Other editors were Brita Rekve, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services; Assistant Corporation Counsel Timothy J. Sullivan, Eau Claire County; and Court Information Officer Amanda K. Todd.

The booklet is free and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum order is 100 copies. ■

To order, contact Colleen Flesher at (608) 266-1298 or colleen.flesher@wicourts.gov. To view the full booklet online, visit www.wicourts.gov/about/resources/activitybook.htm.

Nowakowski is 'chief of chiefs'

Wisconsin's Committee of Chief Judges unanimously elected Chief Judge Michael N. Nowakowski, Dane County Circuit Court, as 'chief of the chiefs' at its August meeting. In this capacity, Nowakowski will serve as chair of the group. He replaces Chief Judge Joseph M. Troy of Outagamie County Circuit Court, who continues to serve as a judge but completed his service on the committee.

The Committee of Chief Judges is comprised of Wisconsin's 10 chief judges. These judges are selected by the Supreme Court to handle administrative matters for the court system. Working as a team with a deputy chief judge and a professional court administrator, they manage the flow of cases, supervise personnel, develop budgets, and meet bimonthly as a committee to work on issues of statewide importance.

"I believe the work of the chief judges is incredibly valuable to the entire system, and so I am honored to lead this body and grateful to my

colleagues for having selected me," Nowakowski said. "This is the only statewide group of judges that meets on a monthly basis, and so we play a vital role in sharing information, developing ideas, and addressing problems. The array of initiatives and improvements to court operations that have emerged through the work of the chief judges is truly impressive."



Chief Judge Michael N. Nowakowski

Nowakowski is chief judge of the Fifth Judicial Administrative District, which encompasses Dane, Green, Lafayette, and Rock counties. He has been a Dane County Circuit Court judge since 1985, and will continue to handle a caseload in that county. ■