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**Summer/
Fall
2017**

Statewide eFiling rollout ahead of schedule

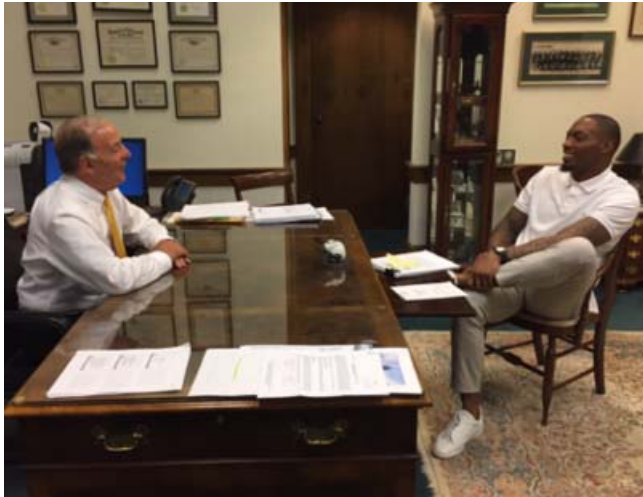
Fully embracing our state motto, the Wisconsin court system is expeditiously moving “Forward” with mandatory eFiling, increasing access and bringing more convenience and efficiency to litigants, lawyers, court staff, and judges throughout the state. The first phase of statewide mandatory eFiling will be complete almost two months ahead of the projected end of the year completion date.

As of Oct. 5, 71 counties had implemented mandatory eFiling for civil, small claims, family, paternity, criminal, traffic, and ordinance case types. Milwaukee, the state's largest county, implemented mandatory eFiling on Sept. 1. The implementation in Milwaukee went very smoothly, said court system Chief Information Officer Jean

[see eFiling on page 27](#)



Derrick O'Donnell of Consolidated Court Automation Programs assists Cheryl Floryance with the implementation of eFiling at the Milwaukee County Courthouse on Sept. 1. Floryance is the deputy division administrator in the criminal/traffic division of the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Courts Office.



Brown County Circuit Court Judge Donald Zuidmulder meets with Green Bay Packer “Ha-Ha” Clinton-Dix, who partook in a college internship under Zuidmulder this summer. Clinton-Dix earned credit toward a degree in criminal justice at the University of Alabama.

Green Bay Packer Clinton-Dix interns in Brown County

When asked about his leadership role on the Green Bay Packers after a practice on Aug. 4, Pro Bowl Safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix humbly told reporters: “I just come here every day to work.”

At the time, Clinton-Dix was being interviewed in a locker room, and he was referring to his job as a football player. (He was subsequently selected to serve as the team's defensive captain in the pre-season opener against the Philadelphia Eagles on Aug. 10).

But just a few weeks earlier, “coming to work” for Clinton-Dix meant showing up at the Brown County Courthouse for a college internship under the oversight of circuit court Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder.

Clinton-Dix logged 90 hours between late May and early

[see Packers on page 28](#)

Appellate judges unchallenged in Spring Election; nine new circuit judges take office



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler

Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler won a second 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick moved from Rock County Circuit Court to the District IV Court of Appeals bench as a result of the Spring Election.

Fitzpatrick fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul B. Higginbotham. Voters also returned two incumbent Court of

Appeals judges to the bench for new six-year terms – Judge William W. Brash III, District I; and Judge Brian K. Hagedorn, District II. All of the appellate court judges were unchallenged on the April 4 ballot.

Nine new circuit court judges, including six who won competitive races, were elected to six-year terms. Five incumbent

[see Election on page 19](#)



Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Top court administrator builds on judicial experience

By Hon. Randy R. Koschnick, Director of State Courts



Judge Randy R. Koschnick

Having served 18 years as a circuit court judge, I'm not exactly new to the Wisconsin court system. I've been fortunate to have developed good friendships and strong working relationships with many of my court colleagues over the years.

However, for those of you who don't know me, or would like to know a little more about me, I thought *The Third Branch* newsletter would be a good place to introduce, or re-introduce, myself.

Before becoming director of state courts on Aug. 1, (*see story, page 10*) I served as a Jefferson County Circuit Court judge. I was first elected to that bench in 1999 and was re-elected in 2005 and 2011.

Perhaps more significantly, from a court administration standpoint, I served five years as chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District – right up until I became director. Serving on the Committee of Chief Judges and working on administrative issues with a district court administrator added to my perspective on the court system.

The judiciary is not only a crucial branch of state government authorized by the state Constitution to decide legal matters, but the courts are structured in some ways like a business.

You've probably heard the analogy before that when it comes to administrative issues the Supreme Court functions similar to a board of directors, with the chief justice serving as board president. In this analogy, I would be similar to a chief executive officer working on behalf of the Court, as well as on behalf of judges and court staff throughout the state.

My goal as director is to make sure that we are always moving toward the most efficient and effective court system possible. Obviously, being an administrator is different than being a judge. But the broader goals of each position are well aligned. Our job is to ensure that we have a court system that people can rely on to uphold rights and settle legal disputes according to the law and facts of the case.

Instead of listening to attorneys make their cases in court and analyzing the legal issues, I now listen and respond to the ideas and concerns of the Supreme Court, chief justice, judges, department heads and staff about how to improve our work. Obviously, the courts are more than a business and perform a crucial role in our government. But it also must be sure to provide a value and a good return on investment for the people of Wisconsin.

Before becoming a judge, I worked 14 years as an assistant state public defender in La Crosse, Monroe, Waukesha, and Jefferson counties in Wisconsin, and two years as an intern in the Hennepin County (Minnesota) Attorney's Office, where I helped prosecute consumer protection cases and serious criminal cases. You could say I've worked on "both sides" of the bench, and "both sides" of criminal cases in trial courts.

I think this broad experience and perspective on the justice system will serve me well as director of state courts.

As with any new job, I'm still learning. But it is exhilarating work.

I have attended a variety of committee meetings, including the Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on which I serve. I'm also a member of the Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) Steering Committee, the Making the Record Committee and the Wisconsin Judicial Council.

My first week on the job, I attended the annual meeting of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), where I learned much about some of the critical issues and opportunities facing court systems all over the country.

As a result of attending this conference, I have been assigned a mentor. Cory Steel, the state court administrator from Nebraska, has agreed to answer my questions and provide guidance when I need it. I expect to connect with him regularly and to learn from my peers across the country. I've also been traveling the state to meet with judges and court staff.

Of course, I face all the new challenges anyone would in changing jobs, such as learning new names, making sure I've filled out the right paperwork, finding the best route to work, knowing where to park and how to run the phone system.

I'm glad to report that with the support of many people, these things are working themselves out, and I am engaged and enjoying my role as director of state courts. ■



On Aug. 16, Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick was a guest on WFAW- AM Radio's Morning Magazine show, hosted by Michael Clish. During the hour-long show, Koschnick discussed a variety of court-related topics from the perspective of a former circuit court judge, as well as his Aug. 1 transition from Jefferson County Circuit Court judge to director of state courts. Topics included problem-solving courts, court funding, and the Justice on Wheels outreach program, among others.

New judges appointed in Rock, Dane, Outagamie, Milwaukee, Eau Claire counties

Gov. Scott Walker has appointed five new judges to the circuit courts.

Judge Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch was appointed effective Aug. 1 to fill the Rock County Circuit Court vacancy created by the election of Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick to the District IV Court of Appeals. Kuglitsch previously served as corporation counsel for Rock, Shawano and Vilas counties.

Menominee and Shawano Circuit Court Judge James R. Habeck wrote in support of Kuglitsch's appointment: "Kuglitsch understands the legislative process and recognizes his role in enforcing public policy. His calm demeanor fits the ideal judiciary candidate and his personal ethical standards are certainly in line with the conduct expected of Wisconsin's judges."

Kuglitsch is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee and Southern Illinois University School of Law.



Judge Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch

The Dane County Circuit Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John W. Markson was filled by Judge Timothy C. Samuelson on Sept. 1.

Samuelson is a former assistant attorney general, and has served as the director of the Medical Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit and deputy director of the Special Litigation and Appeals Unit for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. He previously worked in private practice. Samuelson graduated



Judge Timothy C. Samuelson

from Valparaiso University and UW Law School.

"Director Samuelson is a hard-working, highly intelligent and capable attorney. He has outstanding writing and legal analysis skills and work ethic. He respects and is committed to the rule of law," Attorney General Brad Schimel said. "In short, he has all of the attributes of someone who will be an excellent jurist."

Former Outagamie County District Attorney Carrie A. Schneider was named to replace Judge Michael W. Gage, who retired July 9.

"She is widely respected and admired for her hard work and consistent success," retired Supreme Court Justice David T.

Prosser wrote in support of Schneider. "She is recognized



Judge Carrie A. Schneider

for her competence, substance, and leadership. And she remains a very popular official because she is so obviously committed to the public interest."

Schneider has served as district attorney, assistant district attorney, and deputy district attorney in Outagamie County. She holds a bachelors degree from Marquette University and a law degree from UW Law School. Her appointment began Aug. 28.

Judge Joseph R. Wall was appointed to return to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court bench on July 17 to fill the Branch 20 vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Dennis P. Moroney. Wall had previously served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court bench from 2001 to 2007.

Wall served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Wisconsin from 1986 to 2001, and again from 2007 until his appointment to the bench. He served on the Financial Crimes Unit, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, and the Human Trafficking Task Force.

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, wrote in support of Wall: "He mastered any and all subjects, researched and examined the law, and was by far one of the best legal writers and trial lawyers in the federal trial and appellate courts. (Wall) will bring a diversity of experience and additional judicial strength to help us in meeting the needs in any Division of our Courts to which he is assigned."

Wall holds a bachelor's degree from Marquette University and a law degree from Marquette University School of Law.

Judge Shaughnessy P. Murphy was appointed to fill the Eau Claire County Circuit Court Branch 5 vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul J. Lenz on June 10.

"Shaughnessy Murphy possesses the common sense Eau Claire values which will serve the citizens of Eau Claire County well," Chippewa County Circuit Court Judge Steven H. Gibbs wrote in support of the appointment. "He grew up in Eau Claire, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and is in tune with the pulse of the Eau Claire community. He possesses a strong commitment to constitutional principles."

Murphy is also a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law. He previously worked in private practice and as a senior leadership aide in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Murphy and his wife live in Eau Claire County with their two sons. ■



Judge Joseph R. Wall



Judge Shaughnessy P. Murphy

RETIREMENTS

Judge Paul Higginbotham B. Higginbotham District IV Court of Appeals



Judge Paul B. Higginbotham

After serving 14 years on the District IV Court of Appeals and nine years on the Dane County Circuit Court bench, Judge Paul B. Higginbotham retired on July 31 at the end of his term.

Higginbotham said he enjoyed making decisions on his own as a trial judge, and working with others as an appellate judge. Higginbotham recalled two memorable cases he wrote on – one as a trial judge and one as an appellate judge.

The first involved a plan to expand the school voucher program to allow Milwaukee students to attend private religious schools. The order, issued in

1997, was one of the earliest in the country to address the issue. His ruling about the constitutionality of the legislation was upheld by the Court of Appeals, but eventually overturned by the state Supreme Court.

In 2013, Higginbotham wrote for the Court of Appeals in a decision involving the complicated rehabilitation of Ambac, one of the world's largest insurers of financial guarantees. The 88-page decision addressed a plethora of issues raised by multiple parties.

Higginbotham was first elected to the circuit court in 1994, becoming the first African-American judge elected to the Dane County Circuit Court. He was appointed to the District IV Court of Appeals in 2003, and became the first African-American judge to serve on the state's appellate courts. He had previously served as city of Madison municipal court judge, executive director for the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission, minority affairs coordinator for the office of the Dane County Executive, and a staff attorney for Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council.

Higginbotham said he will miss the collegiality of working with judicial colleagues.

Higginbotham advises new judges to take their time and make sure their record is clean.

"If the record is well preserved when it goes to appeal, it will be affirmed," he said. He also said he believes litigants will better accept the outcome of their case if they feel like their side has been heard fairly.

Higginbotham called himself "semi-retired," as his plans include developing his own business handling arbitration and mediation, as well as consulting with law firms on making a proper record and briefs for appeals. He also plans to spend more time with his children and focus on his health.

Judge Douglas T. Fox Price County Circuit Court

"Don't get too full of yourself," Price County Circuit Court Judge Douglas T. Fox advises new judges taking the bench. "Your newly acquired ability to tell jokes that everyone finds to be uproariously funny is perhaps due to reasons other than pure talent."

But a good sense of humor did serve Fox well during his 33 years on the bench. He recalled one case where a young man claimed "contemporary insanity" as his defense for speeding.

"It seems that he had caped out the head of a trophy buck which he shot during the November deer season and had set it in his garage, intending to take it to a taxidermist for mounting," Fox said. "Time got away from him, however, and it wasn't until a stretch of mild spring weather, when the odor of the ripening head reminded him of his plan, that he undertook to take it in for mounting. It was his haste to get it to the taxidermist before it was too far gone to save that resulted in his citation."

Fox, who will retire on Oct. 6, was first elected to the bench in 1984, and re-elected 5 times. He had previously worked in private practice. Over the years, Fox said he has noticed a decline in jury trials.

"In the 1980s it was the norm to try at least one jury case per week," he said. "Now we often go months between jury trials. I understand, from speaking with lawyers and other judges, that there is a similar trend both statewide and nationally."

Fox has served as a member of the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Post-Judgment Family Law Reform, Judicial Conference Ad Hoc Committee on Protective Placement Reform, and as secretary for the Judicial Conference Probate and Family Law Section.

Fox said he will miss "all the people who made my job easy," including the judicial assistants and court reporters he has worked with over the years, as well as the staff of the clerk of courts office, register in probate, and district attorney's office. In his retirement, he said he hopes to catch up on projects around the house and spend winters in warmer climates.



Judge Douglas T. Fox

Judge Jerome L. Fox Manitowoc County Circuit Court

One case in particular grabbed headlines for nearly as long as Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge Jerome L. Fox was on the bench, from 2005 to July 31, 2017.

Fox presided over what has become one of Wisconsin's most notorious court cases, *State v. Brendan R. Dassey*. Dassey and his uncle, Steven A. Avery, were convicted in the 2005 murder of photographer Teresa Halbach. The prosecutions became the focus of the 2015 Netflix hit series "Making a Murderer."

Dassey was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide, second-degree sexual assault, and mutilation of a corpse, all as party to a crime. In a separate case, Avery was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Fox sentenced Dassey, then a teenager, to life in prison.

Supreme Court hears cases in Jefferson during *Justice on Wheels* outreach visit



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack discusses the importance of outreach during the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels visit in Branch 2 of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

About 200 people, including 60 high school students, attended oral argument held before the Wisconsin Supreme Court at the Jefferson County Courthouse during a *Justice on Wheels*' visit Sept. 20.

Jefferson is the 28th community visited by the court as part of the outreach program, which began in 1993.



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler presents Jefferson fifth grader Maddie Welter with an award for the winning essay, "Hunting and Fishing Rights in Wisconsin."

county was responsible for keeping the heat and lights on at the clerk of court's office. At the time, that meant paying for firewood and candles.

Roggensack thanked Jefferson County officials for supporting the courts and hosting the Supreme Court in Branch 2. On any other day, Jefferson Court Circuit Court Judge William F. Hue presides.

"As we look around this beautiful courtroom and consider the significant investments that Jefferson County has made in our justice system, such as its state-of-the-art courtrooms and its strong support of the drug/alcohol rehabilitative court, we are very grateful for all the support that Jefferson County has provided," Roggensack said.

Jefferson High School Social Studies teacher Dean Buchholz, whose students observed argument in *State v. Brietzman*, said students were engaged and interested in how the Court

would ultimately rule.

"Thank you for the organization of the *Justice on Wheels* program. We had an opportunity to debrief during classes today, and it is obvious that students learned substantively about the court and legal processes," Buchholz wrote.

Carrying on a longstanding *Justice on Wheels* tradition, Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler presented an award to fifth-grade student Madalyn Welter for Welter's essay on "Hunting and Fishing Rights in Wisconsin."

Welter is a student in Samantha Skretta's class at East Elementary School in Jefferson.

The Court also held a Q & A session with Jefferson County Bar Association members during a luncheon catered by Jefferson County Clerk of Circuit Court Carla Robinson. ■



Jefferson High School students and others who gathered for Justice on Wheels in Jefferson listen to Atty. Danielle Thompson introduce one of the cases. Thompson is president of the Jefferson County Bar Association.



Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley fields a question about what type of legal experience may be helpful to a justice during a Q&A session with members of the Jefferson County Bar Association. The bar association hosted a luncheon as part of the Court's Justice on Wheels visit to Jefferson.

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 4*

The case came back to Fox in 2010 when Dassey's attorneys filed a motion for a retrial, which was denied. After an appeal in federal court, Dassey was later ordered released, a request that is still pending in federal court.



Judge Jerome L. Fox

Fox was first elected to the Branch 3 bench in 2005. He had previously worked in private practice and as an attorney for the Legislative Reference Bureau. He has served as a member of the Judicial Council, State Bar Board of Governors, Judicial Education Committee, and the Council on Criminal Justice.

Fox said he is proud to have had the ability to serve the people on the bench, and have the opportunity to work with an informed and great staff. He said

working with the people in the courthouse, including the lawyers and staff, is what he will miss most.

"When you go to work for 50 years, it's difficult to envision life after work," Fox said. In his retirement, Fox said he hopes to do more traveling, hunting, reading, hiking, and having fun with his grandchildren.

Judge Michael W. Gage Outagamie County Circuit Court

After 32 years on the Outagamie County Circuit Court bench, Judge Michael W. Gage retired on July 9.

Gage was first elected to the Branch 5 bench in 1985, and re-elected five times. He had previously served as district attorney for Outagamie County and worked in private practice.

"The biggest challenge over time is probably the one everyone recognizes everyday," Gage said of his judicial career. "That is the endeavor to find the balance between just trusting your instincts about what is right, and on the other hand, taking the time to fully hear and consider the case as carefully as is required."

Gage has served as the judicial liaison for the county's criminal justice coordinating council, and helped establish a drug treatment court program in the county in 2009, despite a lack of funding. Gage volunteered his time to help run the drug treatment court, which also made use of other available community resources.



Judge Michael W. Gage

In 2008, Gage was recognized for his drug court work with an award from Empowerment, Solidarity, Truth, Hope, Equality and Reform (ESTHER), an interfaith organization in the Fox Valley. Outagamie has since opened a mental health and a veterans treatment court.

"If you don't have options, you can't craft a disposition that has good possibilities of changing behaviors and

protecting the community," Gage told the *Appleton Post-Crescent*. "And it really became obvious that chemical dependency is not as much a matter of criminality as it is a matter of health and safety. And it became obvious that we had to devise responses in court that would focus on

treatment, and we learned we could do that and still protect the public even better in the long run."

Gage offers two pieces of advice for incoming judges: "First: don't take yourself too seriously. Second: value and nurture your family, friends and staff relationships."

Gage said he will miss his staff and colleagues after he retires, but looks forward to traveling, spending time with his children and grandchildren, and doing some reserve work.

Judge Philip M. Kirk Waupaca County Circuit Court

Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge Philip M. Kirk retired from the bench on May 29 as the most senior trial court judge in the state. Kirk was first elected to the bench in 1981. He is a former presiding judge for Waupaca County Circuit Court, and a former chief judge for the Eighth Judicial District. In 2008, he was named the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Judge of the Year. He received a commendation from the state Department of Workforce Development for outstanding service as chair of the Chief Judges' Subcommittee on Child Support in 2002. He is also a former member of the Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, Personnel Review Board, and Civil Jury Instruction Committee. He previously served as an assistant district attorney for Waupaca County.

"I got in the business because I wanted to make decisions," he said.

One of his earliest cases, a month-long security fraud criminal trial he heard around the end of his first term or start of his second, helped him form a good foundation for hearing complicated cases.

He said in the last 12-15 years, with more civil cases being settled in mediation, being a judge has been less interesting. He said he has missed the experience of trying cases, from bench trials to jury trials, over the past several years, and believes the lack of breadth of cases judges hear now deprives them of experience.

Kirk said it was the civil cases he enjoyed hearing the most, especially when they were argued by good lawyers. Good lawyers would not only make it seem as though the trial took care of itself, they would often provide him with a little civil law education, Kirk said.

Two years after taking the bench, Kirk said he was sent to attend the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada by then-Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran. The dean of the college, Judge Ernest Watts, had been a trial judge in Walworth County, and conducted one of the classes of 125-150 judges from around the country.

Watts asked for a show of hands of how many of them call themselves a "court." Watts commented that they should not call themselves the court, as the court is an institution of



Judge Philip M. Kirk

Supreme Court appoints new chief judges from Waukesha, Winnebago counties

The Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed circuit court judges from Waukesha and Winnebago counties as the new chief judges of their respective judicial administrative districts, effective Aug. 1. The Court also re-appointed judges from Milwaukee, Rock, Grant, and St. Croix counties to continue as chief judges of their respective districts.

Also effective Aug. 1, Chief Judge Gregory J. Potter, Wood County Circuit Court, was selected by fellow chief judges to chair the Committee of Chief Judges. Potter is chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Administrative District, which includes Adams, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Sauk, Waushara and Wood counties. He replaces former chair Chief Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County, who served a year as committee chair and will continue as chief judge of the Tenth Judicial Administrative District in Northwest Wisconsin.

Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court, is the newly appointed chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District. She replaced former Chief Judge Randy R. Koschnick, Jefferson County Circuit Court, who became director of state courts Aug. 1.

Dorow was appointed to the Waukesha County bench in 2011 and elected in 2012. She was previously an assistant district attorney for Waukesha County and worked 12 years as an attorney in private practice. Dorow is a graduate of Marquette University and Regent University Law School. District Three consists of Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties.

Chief Judge Barbara Hart Key, Winnebago County Circuit Court, is the new chief judge of the Fourth Judicial Administrative District. She replaced Chief Judge Robert J. Wirtz, Fond du Lac County Circuit Court, who served the maximum three consecutive two-year terms as a chief judge.

Key was first elected to the Winnebago County bench in 1998 and has been re-elected three times. She previously served as a circuit court commissioner in Winnebago County, as an assistant district attorney in Winnebago and Wood counties and as an attorney in private practice. Key is a graduate of UW-Madison and the UW Law School.



Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow



Chief Judge Barbara Hart Key

District Four consists of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Winnebago counties.

Wirtz continues to serve on the Fond du Lac County bench, to which he was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2005 and 2011.

The Supreme Court previously announced the appointment of Judge Jason A. Rossell as chief judge of the Second Judicial Administrative District. Rossell replaced retiring Chief Judge Allan "Pat" Torhorst, Racine County Circuit Court, on May 8. The Second District includes Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties.

Circuit court judges who were re-appointed as chief judges include:

District One: Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court (District One consists of Milwaukee County)

District Five: Chief Judge James P. Daley, Rock County Circuit Court (District Five consists of Dane, Green, Lafayette and Rock counties)

District Seven: Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey, Grant County Circuit Court (District Seven consists of Buffalo, Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Trempealeau and Vernon counties)

District Ten: Chief Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court (District Ten consists of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, and Washburn counties)

Circuit court judges who continue in their two-year terms as chief administrative judges include:

District Six: Chief Judge Gregory J. Potter, Wood County Circuit Court (District six consists of Adams, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Sauk, Waushara, and Wood counties)

District Eight: Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court (District Eight consists of Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie and Waupaca counties)

District Nine: Chief Judge Gregory B. Huber, Marathon County Circuit Court (District Nine consists of Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Shawano, Taylor and Vilas counties)

The Committee of Chief Judges is composed of one chief judge from each of [the state's 10 judicial administrative districts](#). Working with the district court administrator, the chief judge is responsible for the administration of judicial business in circuit and municipal courts within the district. As needed, the chief judges convene subcommittees to consider administrative issues, address problems and find solutions to improve operation of the trial courts.

More information about the Committee of Chief Judges, including a list of current chief judges and deputy chief judges, can be found [here](#). ■

Opera emerges from reporter's court coverage

Thanks to the talents of a former newspaper reporter, courtroom dramas that played out in one Wisconsin county a decade ago are being heard all over again in a new venue – the opera hall.

Jason Zencka, who covered the Portage County Circuit Court for the *Stevens Point Journal* in 2008, wrote the libretto, or text, of the aptly named chamber opera, “Voir Dire.”

The opera debuted April 23, with six sold-out performances by the Fort Worth Opera of Texas. The opera features 14 vignettes drawn from Zencka’s observations as a reporter covering the courts.

The performance drew mostly positive reviews, characterized by critics as anywhere from sad and dark to humorous.

“Based on Zencka’s own experience as a court reporter, it’s like channel surfing among crime shows, from tragic to comic to zany absurdity...” Scott Cantrell wrote on www.dallasnews.com.

Performances were also reviewed in the [Dallas \(Morning\) News](#), and the *Walls Street Journal*, which in part, referred to “Voir Dire” as “startlingly immediate and journalistic, as gripping as a great feature story...”

Olin Chism, who reviewed the play for the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), wrote: “... For the most part it’s set in a courtroom presided over by a versatile judge who hears both criminal and civil cases and seems to be tormented over questions of truth and justice and the difficulty of finding answers.”

“Some of the vignettes are serious (matricide is the charge), some are comic (a custody squabble over the

ownership of a macaw) some seriocomic (a “professor of religion” who keeps insisting that he’s guilty of child pornography and a judge who keeps refusing to accept that plea),” Chism wrote.

Becoming a librettist is an unusual path for a former journalist, but not totally surprising to people who knew Zencka as a reporter in Stevens Point.

“If there was anyone who could do it, it would be him,” said Portage County Circuit Court Judge Thomas T. Flugaur, who recalls Zencka as an engaged and accurate newspaper reporter.

“He loved covering the courts, and when there was a two- or three-day trial, he’d know what was going on... He learned the story behind every one of them,” Flugaur said.

Zencka, now a highschool English teacher in Minneapolis, met “Voir Dire’s” composer, Matthew Peterson, while both attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Peterson developed some of the work as part of a Fulbright Grant to write a chamber opera while in residence at Gotland School of Music Composition in Sweden.

Zencka said covering the courts was a formative experience.

“I grew a lot as a writer and as a human being sitting in the back row of various Portage County courtrooms, so it was surreal to be brought back there (kind of) during the performance,” Zencka wrote in a note to *The Third Branch*.

In all, the chamber opera took almost nine years to develop as ideas changed, and the former classmates moved about over the years. ■

OBITUARIES

Judge Robert J. Parins 14th Judicial Circuit Brown County Brown County Circuit Court

Former Brown County Circuit Court Judge Robert J. Parins died May 26 at the age of 98. Parins is widely recognized across the country for his contributions to the Green Bay Packers football organization. He became the club’s first full-time president in 1982, 16 years after being elected to the team’s board of directors.

Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy said in a statement issued by the team that Parins was an excellent leader who created the foundation for the team’s successful organizational structure. “He had exceptional foresight to establish the board’s committees, build Lambeau Field’s first suites and begin the Packers Foundation, which is a tremendous legacy of his,” Murphy said.

Parins’ legal legacy is also well-established in Wisconsin. He was a highly respected lawyer before taking the bench, and he was recognized as the premier circuit judge of his



Judge Robert J. Parins

time, said Brown County Circuit Court Judge Donald Zuidmulder.

“He was a tremendous teacher. What I learned from him is that, ‘I may not always be right, but I’m never in doubt.’ You still have to make a decision,” Zuidmulder said.

Parins was first elected to the 14th Judicial Circuit, which served Brown, Door and Kewaunee counties in 1968. He served on the Wisconsin Judicial College and National College of State Trial Judges in Reno, Nevada. He retired from the bench in 1982 to serve as Packers president. In 1989, he returned to the bench on a reserve judge basis.

Parins is a graduate of UW-Madison and UW Law School. In 1998, he was inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame, after having served 28 years on the board of directors.

Parins is survived by his wife of 76 years, Elizabeth; five children; 11 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren.

Judge William L. Reinecke Grant County Circuit Court

Former Grant County Circuit Court Judge William L. Reinecke passed away on June 27 at the age of 86.

Reinecke served as a judge for Grant County from 1968 until 1978, when the court system reorganized. He continued to serve as a circuit court judge until his

Honor Flight takes retired judge to D.C.

On May 21, retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Robert W. Landry took part in the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Landry went with more than a dozen other WWII veterans to tour the nation's war memorials.

Landry, who served in the Navy and was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, was accompanied by his son, Tom, on the trip from Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport.

"It was a wonderful experience, both for him and myself," said Tom, adding that the veterans were widely heralded on their travels.

In one instance on the National Mall, a group of high school girls, who coincidentally happened upon the veterans, asked to pose for a photo with Landry and another veteran. The veterans were also recognized upon their arrival at the airport, Tom said. "When we got to the concourse there were no fewer than 200 people, just cheering."

The trip included an in-flight "mail call" in which friends and acquaintances wrote and recounted Landry's accomplishments, not only in the military, but also at home and in his professional life.

Landry's friend and Reserve Judge Victor Manian wrote, in part, for the mail call:



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Robert W. Landry poses with a group of high school girls he met by chance during a recent Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. The girls asked to pose with him, said Landry's son, Tom Landry, who made the trip with his dad.

"You set the high standards for the greatest generation in America. You were a Naval Officer during WWII. When you returned home after your service, you were elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly. As a lawyer you were elected to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court where you served, without challenge, for more than 40 years. You were the chairman of the felony

division in the criminal branch. You served in the civil branch of the court as well..."

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

"As Chief Judge, I bring you greetings and the very best wishes from the 47 circuit court judges, our reserve judges, commissioners and staff," White wrote to Landry. "Some of our judges appeared before you when they were prosecutors or practicing lawyers. Some of our judges served on the bench with you either before your retirement or as a reserve. Most of us, however, know you from the well-traveled highly respected legacy you established as a jurist in Wisconsin."

Landry served as a Milwaukee County judge or Circuit Court judge from 1958 to 1993. After he retired, he continued to serve as a reserve judge. He had previously served as a civil court judge in Milwaukee County and as representative in the Wisconsin Assembly from 1951 to 1953. ■

Cupid's arrow strikes; judges marry

Even with a focus on judicial security, judges are not completely safe from the strike of Cupid's arrow. The arrow has struck Judge Jennifer L. Weston, Jefferson County Circuit Court, and Judge Craig R. Day, Grant County Circuit Court. They were married July 1 at their Grant County farmette in a ceremony officiated by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Glenn H. Yamahiro. A summer celebration of music, wine and beer ensued as the sun set over the Mississippi River valley.

Both judges came to the bench in 2009. They met through judicial functions and discovered a mutual passion for, among many other commonalities, morning coffee, the outdoors, good conversation, physical labor, pickled beets, and cocktail hour. Their Honors grew to also appreciate the opportunity to debrief each other on the joys and vagaries of the trial bench. Their professional and personal affinities eventually grew to the point where a more regular and permanent connection seemed the only tolerable course of action, the judges concurred. ■



Judge Jennifer L. Weston, Jefferson County Circuit Court, and Judge Craig R. Day, Grant County Circuit Court, have both officiated weddings as part of their judicial duties. However, this time around they were on the receiving end, when Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Glenn H. Yamahiro oversaw their wedding ceremony on July 1 in Grant County.

Photo credit: Eric Brooks

NEW FACES

**Judge Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts**

Former Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Randy R. Koschnick became director of state courts on Aug. 1, filling the post that had been held on an interim basis by J. Denis Moran since June 4, 2015.

Koschnick served on the Jefferson County bench since 1999 and as chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District since 2012. He previously served as deputy chief judge of the district, which includes Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties.

Before joining the bench, Koschnick had worked as an assistant State Public Defender in Jefferson County from 1985 to 1999. He is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point and Hamline University School of Law.

Moran's departure marks the second time he left the director's post, which he also filled from 1978 until his retirement in 2003. Moran filled the position on an interim basis after the departure of former Director of State Courts A. John Voelker, who became deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds in July 2014.

The director of state courts is the top non-judicial officer of the court system and serves at the pleasure of the Supreme Court under the direction of the chief justice. Working with department heads, advisory committees, and chief judges of the state's 10 judicial administrative districts,



Judge Randy R. Koschnick

the director has responsibility for personnel, budgeting, and information technology, among other duties, and provides advice to the Supreme Court on a wide range of matters affecting the judiciary.

**Dean Stensberg
Deputy Director for
Management
Services**

Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick appointed Dean Stensberg deputy director for management services, effective Aug. 1.

Stensberg previously served as executive assistant to Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

Before joining the court system, Stensberg served as chairman of the Wisconsin Parole Commission. He previously served as executive assistant and director of policy and public affairs for former state Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. Before that, he served as executive assistant to former state Department of Corrections Secretary Michael J. Sullivan, and as special assistant to former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson. Stensberg began his public service career as a legislative assistant to the Caucus Chair in the Wisconsin Assembly.

The Office of Management Services provides administrative support and general business services to the state court system in areas such as budget, fiscal, human resources, payroll and benefits, leave accounting, procurement, risk management, space allocation and facility management. ■



Dean Stensberg



New judges hold their certificates of completion for the 2017 annual Wisconsin Judicial College seminar. Judges learned about administrative duties, court procedures and a variety of topics during the seminar, held Aug. 28-Sept. 1 in Sturgeon Bay. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Judicial College's founding, which was celebrated with a recognition ceremony. Look for a feature about the anniversary and history of the college in an upcoming edition of The Third Branch.

AWARDS

**Judge Mueller named
ABOTA Judge of the Year**

Racine County Circuit Court Judge Emily S. Mueller was named the Wisconsin chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates' (ABOTA) "Judge of the Year" at the group's annual meeting May 19.

"Judge Mueller was chosen for her fair, impartial, highly competent service to the citizens of Wisconsin on the bench for the last 25 years," said ABOTA Wisconsin Chapter President Atty. Michael P. Crooks.

The Wisconsin Chapter of ABOTA is a group of 80 lawyers comprised of 40 defense litigators and 40 plaintiff litigators. It is dedicated to preserving and



Judge Emily Mueller

advancing ethical and cordial trial practice throughout the state of Wisconsin.

"It is always great when people who are part of an organization that values the kinds of things you value think you have done your job," Mueller told *The (Racine) Journal Times*. "ABOTA is an organization of some of the finest trial lawyers in the state, and it is a real honor to be recognized by lawyers that I greatly respect."

Previous recipients of the "Judge of the Year" award include Dane County Circuit Court Judge John W. Markson, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Richard J. Sankovitz, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Dale T. Pasell, Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge James R. Kieffer, Sauk County Circuit Court Judge James Evenson, and St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Scott R. Needham. ■



Photo credit: State Bar of Wisconsin

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Frederick C. Rosa was recognized with the State Bar of Wisconsin's "Judge of the Year" award at the group's annual convention in Wisconsin Dells on June 15. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly presented the award on behalf of the Bar. Rosa was recognized for his hard work, leadership and extraordinary service to the people of Milwaukee County.



Photo credit: State Bar of Wisconsin

Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly enjoys a laugh as he tries on Brown County Circuit Court Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder's Super Bowl XLV ring during a photo shoot at the State Bar of Wisconsin's annual meeting and conference in Wisconsin Dells. Kelly presented Zuidmulder with the Bar's "Lifetime Jurist" Award at the conference in June. Zuidmulder received the ring because he served on the Green Bay Packers Board of Directors in 2011 when the Packers won the Super Bowl.

'Best Briefs' competition seeks nominees

The State Bar of Wisconsin's Appellate Practice Section is accepting nominations for its second installment of the "Best Briefs" competition.

Any principal party brief filed in a case that was or will be resolved between April 1, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2017 is eligible.

Nominations can be made anonymously (in part to encourage submissions from judges and their clerks, and to encourage self-nominations).

Briefs can be nominated at any time — even if it's only just been filed. The Appellate Practice Section will do the

work of separating out the briefs that meet the timing criteria after nominations close.

As part of the first competition, three retired jurists (retired Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske and retired Court of Appeals Judges Margaret Vergeront and Thomas Cane) recognized three briefs as exemplars of great appellate advocacy.

A link to more information can be found on the State Bar of Wisconsin's website pages on the Appellate Practice Section. ■

WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley visits Pakistan

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley visited Pakistan in May 2017 at the invitation of the Punjab Judicial Academy. Bradley, together with Her Honour Judge (Elizabeth Susan) Williscroft of the England and Wales family court, represented a two-member delegation of the International Association of Women Judges. Bradley serves on the Board of Managerial Trustees of the organization, which has 5000 members world-wide.

During her visit, Bradley met with the Lahore High Court (Punjab Province) Chief Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah. Bradley was asked to share experiences and make recommendations for enhancing the administration of the judicial system.

High case-load and chronic backlog are challenges that face the Pakistan judiciary, which holds court six days a week, often in challenging conditions. Bradley was able to sit at the bench with the presiding judge as she observed parts of two murder cases and a variety of criminal and family court cases.

Additionally, Bradley was asked to focus on the challenges faced by women judges, who comprise a distinct minority within the Pakistani court system. Security issues, as well as the emerging role of women in the judiciary, pose



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley met with the Lahore High Court (Punjab Province) Chief Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah (immediately to her right) and other judges while visiting Pakistan on behalf of the International Association of Women Judges.

particular professional and family challenges for women judges.

While in Lahore, the province's capital city, Bradley spoke to groups of district and session judges and met with administrative leaders of the judiciary. As part of the visit, she attended an international round-table discussion focused on developing best practices models for future training needs of judges. Together with Williscroft, Bradley presented a report to the chief justice of her observations and recommendations. ■

Kuwait Prosecutors visit includes Milwaukee Circuit Court

The Office of Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) under the U.S. Department of Justice hosted the attorney general and prosecutors from Kuwait on a study tour in Milwaukee from May 15 to May 18.

The delegation was led by Eastern District of Wisconsin, Assistant U. S. Attorney, Megan Paulson who had just returned to the United States after serving on a detail through OPDAT in Kuwait.

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, hosted the group on May 16, joined by fellow Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Jeffrey A. Wagner, John Siefert and Carolina M. Stark; District Court Administrator Holly Szablewski, Clerk of Court John Barrett and Deputy Clerk James Smith.

White briefed the delegation about her background, her role in the courts, and she introduced court participants.

"We engaged in spirited discussions (assisted by translators) and were honored to share in great detail and address their questions about one of the cornerstones of our democracy – the use of the jury of peers to decide the facts of a case and apply the law (which does not exist in Kuwait)," White said.

Kuwait Attorney General Mubarak Al-Refaie outlined the nature of a prosecutor's work in Kuwait. The study tour enabled the

Kuwaiti prosecutors to examine the similarities and differences between the two justice systems.

The group also talked about the prerequisites for being a judge in the U.S. and the types of cases that the court manages. The study tour included visits with the FBI, Federal Probation, Oak Creek Police Department and Marquette University Law School. The overall focus was on learning about best practices from the United States with regard to terrorism and related financial crimes and addressing Kuwait's interest in implementing parts of the U.S. Criminal Code into their own legal system. ■



Pictured Left to Right: Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Ahmad Al Saedrah; Sulaiman Al Fozan; Lulua Al Ghanim; Judge Jeffrey A. Wagner, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Kuwaiti Attorney General Mubarak Al Refaie; Nasser Al Bader; Judge Carolina M. Stark, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court John Barrett; Judge John Siefert, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court James Smith; and District Court Administrator Holly Szablewski.

Supreme Court commissioner, justice work with teachers at summer institute

Justice Daniel Kelly and Supreme Court Commissioner Julie Rich took some time over the summer to meet with a group of about 20 high school teachers participating in UW-Madison's Summer Institute for teachers of advanced placement government students.

Kelly and Rich discussed with teachers the development of the law and issues related to *State v. Yoder*, a Wisconsin case that pitted the state's interest in educating children against the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom.

In 1971, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held that a state law requiring children to attend school full time was unconstitutional because it infringed on the freedom of the Amish to practice their religion. As a result, Amish parents could remove their children from public schools after the 8th grade as an exercise of their right to religious freedom. The decision was ultimately affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, 406 US 205, 32 L Ed 15, 92 S Ct 1526.

Kelly and Rich also discussed separation of powers, appellate process and legal history in early England, Wisconsin and the United States.

Students are now required to study *State v. Yoder* as part of the advanced placement government curriculum, said Tom Kuhn, a Mundelein (Illinois) High School teacher who helped organize the Supreme Court visit.

The session in the Supreme Court Hearing Room provided participating teachers with a lot of good material for their courses, said David Canon, a professor of Political Science at UW-Madison and facilitator of the summer institute, which is presented by the UW-Madison School of Education. ■



Justice Daniel Kelly and Supreme Court Commissioner Julie Rich discuss the law and issues related to the 1971 Wisconsin Supreme Court case, *State v. Yoder* with a group of teachers in the Hearing Room at the Capitol on June 20.

New guidebook available to help GALs with family law cases involving domestic abuse

By Amber Peterson, Office of Court Operations

Family law cases can often be complex and difficult. This complexity only increases if the case involves domestic abuse. Because domestic abuse can create grave risks for victims and their children, it is important for judges and others involved in family law cases to have as much information as possible to make well-informed decisions regarding custody and placement. Guardians ad litem play a crucial role in providing this information to the court.

A new resource, titled *Domestic Abuse Guidebook for Wisconsin Guardians ad Litem: Addressing Custody, Placement, and Safety Issues*, is designed to aid guardians ad litem in handling family cases where there is domestic abuse.

A guardian ad litem is an attorney, licensed to practice law in Wisconsin. The guardian ad litem's role is to represent the best interests of the children as determined by the guardian ad litem through an investigation. Under Wis. Stat. § 767.407(4), guardians ad litem are required to investigate whether there is domestic abuse and must report the results of the investigation to the court.

This guidebook provides a comprehensive, four-step framework to help guardians ad litem determine whether

Domestic Abuse Guidebook for Wisconsin Guardians Ad Litem

Addressing Custody, Placement,
and Safety Issues



Created by
Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
and
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

March 2017

This project was supported by STOP Grant Award No. 1187 awarded to the Wisconsin Department of State Courts Office by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The agency, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or the Office on Violence Against Women.

there is domestic abuse and to analyze the implications of the abuse in order to improve the quality of information provided to judges and court commissioners.

The guidebook was drafted by a multi-disciplinary subcommittee of the Wisconsin Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse, consisting of representatives from the Office of Court Operations, the Department of Children and Families, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, as well as family law attorneys, guardians ad litem, domestic violence advocates, and mental health service providers. Additionally, the Director of State Court Office's STOP Grant Advisory Committee approved the guidebook.

The resource can be found on the Wisconsin court system's website at https://www.wicourts.gov/publications/guides/docs/galguide_book.pdf. Additionally, print copies are available and can be obtained by calling the Office of Court Operations at 608-266-3121. ■

For more information about the guidebook or the STOP grant, contact Amber Peterson in the Office of Court Operations at (608) 267-7764 or amber.peterson@wicourts.gov.

Courts host Law Day activities for students

Court and county officials around the state held Law Day activities for students. Here's a list of activities submitted to *The Third Branch*:

Manitowoc County

Manitowoc County hosted the mock trials of B.B. Wolf v. Three Little Pigs for second graders of the Manitowoc County School District April 26-28. The trials have been held for the past 17 years at the Manitowoc County Courthouse. This year, more than 750 children participated in the trials.

Prior to the trial, the judge shows the children the different parts of the courtroom as well as the participants in the courtroom. In addition, children are briefly introduced to the procedures and proper decorum required in the courtroom.

During the trial, the students are asked to determine, after hearing all of the evidence, whether or not the Wolf is guilty or not guilty of the three crimes he is accused of. The wolf is portrayed by local actor, R.J. Skrepenski and the three little pigs are portrayed by actresses Cary Moyer, Sue Korte-Koeppe and Dawn Steckmesser. These individuals donate their time to the County not only to have fun, but to help promote the importance of the legal system and process.

The trials couldn't happen each year without the support and active involvement of the Manitowoc County Bar Association, local attorneys, courthouse employees and numerous volunteers.

Buffalo County

On May 9, Buffalo County court officials also held a mock jury trial featuring the same suspect who was on trial in Manitowoc County: State of Wisconsin vs. the BIG BAD WOLF. The students played the roles of the victim, defendant, district attorney, defense attorney, circuit judge, clerk of court, officer, and witnesses. Other students served in the very important role of juror. The Big Bad Wolf was found not guilty in all jury trials.

Clerk of Circuit Court Roselle Schlosser and deputy clerks invited all area fourth- and fifth-grade students to participate. Students were welcomed with comments on local government and how it impacts everyone. They also reviewed the importance of our rights and the need to

preserve them.

Other county officials also got involved, including, Deputy Sheriff, Nic Scholl, who explained what is required to be in a squad car and answered many questions on serving as a Deputy for Buffalo County. County highway department employee Eric Mann gave students a close look at a Highway Truck and how it works. Information was shared on how our roads are maintained and the efforts that are made to keep them safe for everyone.

An addition to the Law Day Program was "LAW DAY TRIVIA." Students were divided into teams and given two life lines; one for fellow students and one for a teacher. They were asked questions about the law and general questions about the State of Wisconsin, and state and county officials.

The fourth grade students were invited to enter a poster contest and the fifth grade students were invited to enter an essay contest.

Kenosha County

On May 1, the Kenosha County Courthouse was host to 130 7th and 8th Grade students from multiple area schools who voluntarily participated in an essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Post 293. Highlights of their morning included a K-9 demonstration, a tour of the courthouse, and culminating with a question and answer session with Judge Jodi L. Meier and Judge Mary K. Wagner. Winners of the essay contest attended a Law Day presentation in Madison later that week, said Kenosha County Clerk of Court Rebecca Matoska-Mentink.

Dane County

The Dane County Bar Association hosted Supreme Court tours at the State Capitol, which included a visit from Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack. Free legal consultations were available at the Dane County Law Library, and Dane County Circuit Court Judge Valerie Bailey-Rihn made remarks as part of a gathering to celebrate Law Day at the courthouse. The bar association also offered continuing legal education programs on due process, voting rights, and the 14th Amendment. ■



On May 1, Sen. David Craig, R-Big Bend, right, participated in the Judicial Ride-Along program by observing Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael O. Bohren. During the visit, Bohren presided over pretrial and status conferences in family court cases, a final pretrial for a jury trial in a CHIPS case and a guardianship proceeding involving the same minor. The Judicial Ride-Along Program is designed to give legislators a better understanding of the court system and to improve communication between the branches of government.

Wisconsin EBDM efforts highlighted at Washington D.C. symposium

Between May 31 and June 1, the National Institute of Corrections brought together 98 invited participants to Washington D.C. to attend *The National Symposium on Front End Interventions*.

The attendees included 24 people from Wisconsin working on the Statewide Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) grant along with representatives of other states implementing EBDM, senior executive level staff of

numerous national criminal justice organizations including: The National Criminal Justice Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of Pre Trial Service Agencies, Justice Policy Institute, Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, The Urban Institute, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Center for Effective Public Policy and the National Governor's Association.

The conference featured a number of presentations highlighting innovative work being done in policing,

prosecution and adjudication of cases with a special focus on work being done at the pre-charging and charging stages of the criminal justice system. Wisconsin and Milwaukee, in particular, were prominent contributors to the agenda.

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Nick Sayner, Executive Director of Justice Point, Inc.; and Thomas Reed, Regional Attorney Manager of the Milwaukee Trial Office of the State Public Defender, made a

presentation titled Model of Practice: The Milwaukee Early Intervention Program.

This session addressed the way in which potential cases are screened and routed through a decision-making process. Other Wisconsin presenters included Janesville Chief of Police David Moore, who spoke of an advanced approach to individuals with

mental illness; Eau Claire County District Attorney Gary King, who spoke about prosecutorial discretion, and Beth Robinson, EBDM coordinator, Outagamie County, who addressed standards for judicial intervention. ■



A team from Wisconsin presents at the May 2017 National Symposium on Front End Interventions by Thomas Reed, State Public Defender Regional Attorney Manager, Milwaukee Trial Office in consultation with Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.



Lincoln Elementary School in Wauwatosa invited Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, and Milwaukee County Sheriff Cpt. Douglas Holton, Jr., to talk to the class on June 5 about how the Constitution and Bill of Rights relate to their work. When Holton was unable to attend due to a sudden job-related obligation, teacher Julie Martin used the occasion as a teaching moment about the effects of compelling governmental need. White said the discussion was more advanced than the students' age group and grade would have ever suggested.

NEWS AND NOTES

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Kashoua “Kristy” Yang is the second Hmong-American judge in the country, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. According to the article, Yang, who practiced law in Oak Creek, first came to the United States 30 years ago at the age of six as a refugee from Laos. Yang grew up in Sheboygan with her parents and 10 siblings, and worked her way through college as a single mother, the article continues.

Yang defeated Atty. Scott Wales for the Branch 47 seat being vacated by Judge John Seifert, who did not seek re-election. According to the *Journal Sentinel*, the only other Hmong-American judge in the country is California’s Merced County Superior Court Judge Paul Lo.



Judge Kashoua “Kristy” Yang



Judge Martin J. DeVries

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge Martin J. DeVries was featured in a special Father’s Day cover story in *InSpire Magazine*. The magazine focused on DeVries’ role as a father to his 7 children with his wife, Karen.

“You picked a fine example of a Dad for this Father’s Day story,” Karen told the publication. “Martin is very patient, caring and kind. He’s always willing to spend time with the kids on their level.”

DeVries told the magazine his role as a father has influenced his role as a judge.

“You learn how to treat people and to analyze what’s being told to you,” he was quoted as saying. “You can also see what’s important in life. Everyone in your court is someone’s child and is important to someone. You have to treat them fairly and look out for their best interest.”

The article also featured quotes from all seven DeVries children praising their dad.



Judge Robert F. Dehring Jr.

The *Jefferson Daily Union* was on hand April 5 for the investiture of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Robert F. Dehring Jr. Attendees included fellow Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge William F. Hue; former Judge and current Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick; Jefferson County Circuit Judge Jennifer L. Weston; Rock County Circuit Court Judge Barbara W. McCrory; Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court; and District III Court of Appeals Judge Thomas M. Hruz.

Dorow recalled how helpful Dehring was in his previous role as court commissioner in Waukesha County. “When I came to the family bench

almost three years ago, Bob had much more experience than I did and I would sit down with him and ask, ‘What do you think about this?’ And it was very, very helpful,” Dorow was quoted as saying.

The Dane County Drug Court Diversion Program hosted a graduate panel on May 25 as part of National Drug Court Month. The panel included three successful graduates of the program, who spoke to current drug court participants.

The diversion drug court program is credited with saving 9,973 days of incarceration, and \$1.2 million in 2015, according to a press release from Journey Mental Health Center, which conducts initial screenings of potential program participants.

On May 24, Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm; and First Assistant State Public Defender Tom Reed appeared on “Mike Gousha: [On the Issues](#)” at Marquette University Law School.

The panel discussed Milwaukee County’s use of an evidence-based risk tool to help guide bail decisions. Last year, as part of that effort, Milwaukee County became one of a small number of jurisdictions in the country using a new tool to help judges decide which defendants should be detained on cash bail prior to trial and which defendants should be released. White discussed the Milwaukee courts use of the Laura and John Arnold Public Safety Assessment (PSA) Tool. Coverage of the topic was also picked up the next day on WUWM, [Milwaukee Public Radio](#).

The PSA is designed to provide judges with research-based, predictive information about the risk that a defendant released before trial will engage in violence, commit a new crime, or fail to return to court.

The June 2017 edition of *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine features an article about bail written by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers.

Entitled, “[Milwaukee Moves Away From Money Bail System](#),” the article explores what bail is, how it has been used, and how it should be used, based on law and evidence-based pre-trial release systems.

Wisconsin Lawyer summarizes the article in a sidebar: “Wisconsin courts tend to set bail (that is a monetary condition of release) at a level that is tied to the seriousness of the charge and to concerns regarding public safety, rather than the likelihood a defendant will



Chief Judge Maxine A. White



Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers

Justices, state court judges meet with tribal judges to exchange ideas, build understanding

By Ann Olson, Office of Court Operations

On April 11, the justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court met with representatives of the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association in Madison. The gathering was organized by Justice Michael J. Gableman following visits he made to tribal courts across the state during the preceding year. In addition to the justices, more than 20 tribal judges attended the meeting, as did representatives from the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, the State-Tribal Justice Forum, the Office of Judicial Education, and UW-Madison.

Chief Judge Eugene White-Fish of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court, who is also president of the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, expressed his appreciation to Gableman for arranging the meeting.

“The Supreme Court Justices showed an active interest in understanding the different structures of the state’s sovereign tribal courts and the needs of tribal members living throughout Wisconsin,” said White-Fish.

“Following visits to all of the tribal courts in the state, Justice Gableman recognized the need for a larger gathering. He worked diligently to bring it to fruition and has laid the groundwork for ongoing discussion,” White-Fish added.

Attendees heard presentations on a broad range of topics, including judicial training opportunities, court security, discretionary transfer of cases between circuit and tribal courts, access to justice issues, and enforcement of court orders.

Some of the tribal judges provided examples of partnership efforts they had undertaken with circuit court judges in their counties. One example of this was a recent flag exchange ceremony between Sawyer County Circuit Court and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (LCO) Tribal Court (*see The Third Branch, winter/spring 2017*).

In addition to displaying both the state of Wisconsin and the LCO flags in their courtrooms as a symbol of cooperation and trust, Sawyer County Circuit Court Judge



Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and members of the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association held a joint meeting in Madison in April to discuss topics of mutual interest and to learn more about each others' justice system.

John Yackel, and Judge James Schlender, Jr., of the LCO Tribal Court, have instituted creative approaches to improving interaction between their court systems.

For example, clerks of court from both tribal and circuit courts shadowed one another to learn how cases move through each system.

Additional topics of discussion included access to justice issues and challenges faced by self-represented litigants in both circuit court and tribal court settings.

Judge James Gramling, retired Milwaukee Municipal Court judge and President of the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission, presented a summary of the commission’s work and highlighted the importance of civil legal aid to members of tribal communities, particularly as tribal members often rely upon lay advocates or represent themselves in court proceedings if they cannot afford legal representation. He noted that proposed reductions in federal funding could drastically reduce the ability of legal aid organizations to provide assistance across the state, and urged attendees to advocate for continued support of federal funding for these services.

As new judges take the bench, there is an ongoing need for training and education regarding the tribal law, including cases for which jurisdiction may be transferred from circuit court to tribal court. Circuit court judges are encouraged to invite tribal judges to explore opportunities for interaction between circuit and tribal court officers.

“Our meeting with the tribal judges focused on how state court judges and tribal judges can work together to better serve the people of Wisconsin. We look forward to further collaboration with tribal judges on matters of mutual interest,” Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said.

Following the positive, collegial exchange of ideas at the April 11 gathering, further opportunities for education and training are currently under development.

“We are encouraged that this exchange of ideas will continue in a positive and productive manner,” White-Fish said. ■



Among the judges who attended a joint meeting of tribal judges and justices of the Supreme Court in April (left to right): Ho-Chunk Nation Associate Justice Samantha C. Skenandore; Oneida Judiciary Court of Appeals Judge Diane House; Ho-Chunk Nation Associate Judge JoAnn Jones; and Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler.

Milwaukee court officials connect with tribal counterparts in Milwaukee

In March, a group of Milwaukee court officials and staff, headed by Chief Judge Maxine A. White, gathered at the Milwaukee County Courthouse with counterparts from the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court to learn more about each other's justice systems.

The idea for a "meet and greet" was established at the January 2017 quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Tribal Judge Association, when White accepted an invitation from Forest County Potawatomi Community Tribal Court Chief Judge Eugene White-Fish to bring the groups together.

During the January meeting, over food and fellowship, White-Fish led the introductions, during which each person shared personal and professional information about themselves and their roles in the justice system.

"Thanks to Chief Judge White-Fish and our hosts we learned more about the rich tapestry of tribal courts in Wisconsin and our tribes' rich history and culture," White said.

The March site visit of the tribal court representatives to the Milwaukee courts included an overview of the circuit court, opportunities for job-shadowing in selected areas of interest, and a group luncheon meeting with a Q & A session. Tribal court representatives observed a number of open court proceedings, including Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC).

"During a portion of their visit to Milwaukee Courts, it was an honor to interact and share our ADTC best practices and policies with Chief Judge White-Fish and certain members of his team," said Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael J. Gableman



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley meets with Chief Judge Eugene White-Fish of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court and other tribal court officials at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

spoke about the common missions of our state and tribal courts and shared information about his role as the Wisconsin Supreme Court's liaison to Wisconsin's Tribal Courts. By the end of

the evening White and White-Fish confirmed a plan to initiate formal mutual court programs of "shadowing" – focusing on observing best practices in each other's jurisdictions, especially in areas of court innovation.

Tribal court representatives and Milwaukee judicial officials will meet again to continue sharing information and ideas. ■



Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, left, met recently with Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court officials, including Chief Judge Eugene White-Fish, Wellness Court Coordinator Valerie Loduha, and Associate Judge Christian Daniels.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack swears in a group of new state Department of Natural Resources wardens in the Assembly Chambers at the state Capitol on May 26, as family, friends and colleagues look on.

Election *continued from front page*

circuit court judges defeated challengers, and 35 incumbents were returned to office unchallenged.

All new terms of office for elected judges began Aug. 1. Complete election results can be found on the [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#) website. Newly elected judges include:



Judge Melissa R. Mogen

Burnett County

Judge Melissa R. Mogen was elected to fill the vacancy created by Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth L. Kutz's retirement in November 2016. Mogen was appointed by Walker to start her term July 10, after the election. Mogen has served as a small claims commissioner and a family court mediator for Burnett County. She has also worked in private practice and in the Michigan Attorney General's Office. She has a law degree

from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

Dane County

Judge Jill J. Karofsky was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court Branch 12. She fills the vacancy of Judge Clayton Kawski, who was appointed in 2016 and chose not to run for a 6-year term. Karofsky was the executive director of crime victim services for the state Department of Justice. She previously served as an assistant state attorney general, adjunct professor at the UW Law School, director of education and human resources for the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and assistant district attorney and deputy district attorney for Dane County. She earned her bachelors degree from Duke University, her masters degree from UW-Madison, and her law degree from UW Law School.



Judge Jill J. Karofsky

Jefferson County

Judge Bennett J. Brantmeier was elected to the Jefferson County Circuit Court Branch 4 bench, to replace Judge Randy R. Koschnick, who is now the director of state courts. Brantmeier is a graduate of UW-Oshkosh and UW Law School. He previously served as city attorney for Jefferson and worked in private practice.



Judge Bennett J. Brantmeier



Judge Robert P. Dewane

Manitowoc County

Judge Robert P. Dewane joined the Manitowoc County Circuit Court following the retirement of Judge Jerome L. Fox on July 31. Dewane previously served as an assistant district attorney for Manitowoc County.

Milwaukee County

Judge Kashoua "Kristy" Yang won the Branch 47 seat on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, after Judge John Siefert retired at the end of his term. Yang is a

graduate of Lakeland College and UW Law School. She previously worked in private practice and as an attorney for nonprofit legal services in southeastern Wisconsin.

Judge Michelle Ackerman Havas ran unopposed for the Branch 10 vacancy created by Judge Timothy G. Dugan's appointment to the District I Court of Appeals. Gov. Scott Walker appointed her to take the Branch 10 bench in April, after the election.

Havas is a former assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County and private practice attorney, and also served as District II Court of Appeals judicial intern, a probation and parole agent for the Department of Corrections, and as a legal secretary for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

Havas was previously appointed to the Branch 45 bench in 2015, but was defeated by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jean M. Kies the following spring. Havas graduated from Concordia University and UW Law School.



Judge Kashoua "Kristy" Yang



Judge Michelle Ackerman Havas

Trempealeau County

Judge Rian W. Radke was elected to the Trempealeau County Circuit Court, defeating Judge Charles V. Feltes, who was appointed in 2016. Radtke has served as the Trempealeau County corporation counsel and worked in private practice. He is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire and William Mitchell College of Law.

Vernon County

Judge Darcy J. Rood was elected to fill the Vernon County Circuit Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael J. Rosborough. Rood has



Judge Rian W. Radke

see [Election on page 23](#)

Study committee proposals advance

By Nancy Rottier, Legislative Liaison

Several recommendations developed by three different Legislative Council study committees are making progress through the Legislature.

Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services

Three bills developed by the Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services have received favorable action. The study committee, formed in 2016 at the request of the Supreme Court, was directed to review the need for legal services by indigent civil litigants and to identify sources of revenue other than income and sales taxes to provide civil legal services. Here are the three proposals the study committee put forward:

- Assembly Bill 115 would authorize and encourage the state Departments of Administration, Health Services, Children and Families, Workforce Development, and Justice to allocate federal block grant money they administer for providing civil legal aid to qualified individuals. The bill passed the state Assembly on a voice vote in May and is under consideration by a Senate committee.

- Assembly Bill 116 also explores ways in which existing state agencies can better work together to benefit indigent civil litigants. The bill would create an Interagency Legal Aid Coordinating Council comprised of the following members: the secretaries (or designees) of the Departments of Administration, Health Services, and Children and Families; the attorney general (or designee); the state public defender (or designee); the executive directors of Wisconsin Judicare, Inc. and Legal Action of Wisconsin; a member of the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission and two public members appointed by the governor. The council members would be required to evaluate how serving the civil legal needs of the public would further their respective missions and how federal grant money might be used for this purpose. AB 116 also passed the state Assembly on a voice vote and was sent to the same state Senate committee as AB 115.

- Assembly Bill 117 would allow district attorneys, deputy district attorneys and assistant district attorneys to provide pro bono legal services in civil matters, provided the services are not in conflict with the interests of the person's county. AB 117 received the unanimous endorsement of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary in June and is likely to be scheduled for action by the state Assembly this fall.

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

The Legislative Council's Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations, which is a standing committee that meets every two years when the Legislature is not in session, developed three bills that are currently under consideration:

- Assembly Bill 112 would allow the Department of Justice to provide grant funds for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program (TAD) to tribes as well as to counties. The Assembly Committee on Corrections unanimously endorsed this bill in May.

- Assembly Bill 113 would amend the safe haven law that allows a parent to anonymously relinquish custody of a child during the first 72 hours of its life. The bill makes various changes to the information that is collected and shared at the time child custody is relinquished in order to explain the importance to an Indian child of maintaining a social and cultural connection to his or her tribe. The bill also requires the physical custody of an Indian child which was relinquished under the safe haven law to be restored to a biological parent upon request when the child is less than 11 days old. This bill is still under consideration by the Assembly Committee on Children and Families.

- Assembly Bill 114 would add tribal judges, tribal prosecutors, and tribal law enforcement officers to the definitions of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers under the battery statute that makes it unlawful to intentionally cause bodily harm or threaten to cause bodily harm to those justice system officers.

Study Committee on Reducing Recidivism and Removing Impediments to Ex-Offender Employment

The Study Committee on Reducing Recidivism and Removing Impediments to Ex-Offender Employment did not develop any bills for introduction to the full Legislature. However, it did make a number of recommendations for further action. Some of those recommendations are included in the pending 2017-19 state budget, including increased funding for two Department of Corrections programs: Windows to Work (W2W) and Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS). There is also funding in the budget to support several educational programs for ex-offenders provided by Milwaukee Area Technical College. The state budget is currently in its final stages of consideration by the Legislature and should go into effect before the end of September. ■

Court commissioner bill, other proposals affecting the courts introduced

With the coming of fall and completion of work on the state budget and Foxconn bills, the Legislature's attention is turning to the hundreds of individual bills that have been introduced since January.

- Assembly Bill 178 and Senate Bill 128, introduced at the court system's request and endorsed by the Committee of Chief Judges, would add a new power for court commissioners in civil cases: issuing search warrants in first offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) cases. When the statutes were changed by 2015 Wisconsin Act 183 to authorize a court to issue a search warrant, upon probable

cause, for a blood draw in first offense OWI cases, there was no corresponding statutory change to allow court commissioners to act in those cases. These bills fill the gap in those powers. AB 178 received the unanimous support of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary in June, and SB 128 was unanimously supported in September by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. No opposition has been voiced on the record.

- Two different proposals to expand and change the expungement process are making their way through the

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 6*

the public and the judge serves the court. Watts said a good judge understands the difference, which produces a positive synergy between a well-grounded judge and the institution. Kirk said this advice stuck with him through the years, and he wished to pass it on to new judges.

Off the bench, Kirk has shared his experience with the youth of the state, volunteering for 37 years as a speaker for Badger Boys State, a week-long seminar for high school students to learn about state and local governments.

Kirk said having the opportunity to watch the judicial process develop and resolve in a way that benefits society has been the most rewarding. In his retirement, Kirk said he hopes to become a decent golfer, spend winters at his condo in Florida, and do some mediation work.

Judge Paul J. Lenz Eau Claire County Circuit Court

“Take the work seriously but do not take yourself too seriously,” Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge Paul J. Lenz advises new judges. “Remember that white smoke did not come out of the chimney when you were selected or elected.”

After 23 years on the bench, Lenz retired on June 10. Lenz said while the criminal cases he heard over the years were often the most interesting, he also enjoyed hearing real estate property line dispute cases that involved examining old aerial photographs and other evidence that helped recreate the past.

Lenz said there are two cases out of the many he has heard over the years that stand out to him. The first involved a tourist from Colorado who traveled through Eau Claire and found a Remington bronze figure at a local antique store that resembled one that had been stolen from his home in Colorado 17 years earlier. A particular defect in the casting, along with insurance paperwork helped him determine that the tourist was the true owner of the figure and neither a thief nor a good faith purchaser can obtain title to property provided the true owner uses reasonable diligence to recover the property.

A second case involved a woman who appeared in court on a drug paraphernalia charge.

“She was incensed. She had reported a burglary and that her favorite bong was stolen. She was surprised when the police came to her house, and seeing the other bongs which had not been stolen, seized them as evidence

of possession of drug paraphernalia. She just didn’t get it.” Lenz said he felt fortunate to be part of a multidisciplinary team that created the first criminal mental health court in the state. He said the court, which was established in 2008, has increased public safety by reducing recidivism from the defendants who participate. Lenz also served as a member of the Judicial Education Committee.

The greatest challenge Lenz said he faced as a judge was deciding close cases on the law.

“Thus, I had a motto which appeared on my bench facing

me where only I could read it: ‘Do your best to be free from doubt, but when in doubt rule in favor of the weak because the powerful can always appeal.’”

Lenz said he would miss the loyal and hard-working court staff, particularly his judicial assistant and court reporter. In his retirement he plans to spend time at his home in Palm Springs, California, as well as write, read, travel, and “enjoy the last chapter as much as the first two.”

Judge John W. Markson Dane County Circuit Court

“Remember the judges you like when you practiced, and why you liked them,” Dane County Circuit Court Judge John W. Markson advises new judges. “Their preparation, respect, fidelity to the rule of law. Try to emulate them,” he continued.

Markson, who retired on June 2, said the biggest change he noticed during his 10 years on the Branch 1 bench, was the increase in treatment courts across the state.

“When I started they were the exception, now they have become the rule,” he said. “So many counties have them, and they are setting standards. They are now widely accepted, and have changed for the better the way we deal with substance abuse and criminality.”

Markson said he considers the time he has spent working with the treatment courts – six years with the OWI court and four years with the drug court – the most rewarding.

“You follow these people and bear witness to their struggle with addiction,” he said. “But the rewards are so great, families are reunited. The general experience is memorable.”

He said one individual commented that he assumed the judge was just there to “lock him up,” but later realized he was there to help him. “Being treated like a normal person was a surprise,” Markson said another participant commented after completing the program.

The 2011 Act 10 protests in the state Capitol also provided some memorable moments in Markson’s courtroom. After several hundred citations were issued to the protestors, Markson said his branch handled about 30, at times calling several of them at once. He said despite his courtroom being standing room only, the proceedings were always respectful and orderly. Markson said he ended up dismissing all the citations on First Amendment grounds, a decision that was later affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

Markson was first appointed to the bench in 2007 by then-Gov. Jim Doyle, and elected in 2008 and 2014. He had previously served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William G. Gallows and worked in private practice. He is a member of the American College of Trial Court Judges and American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and served as an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College. In 2016 he was named the Wisconsin Chapter of ABOTA’s Judge of the Year.

Markson said he will miss the people he has had the



Judge Paul J. Lenz



Judge John W. Markson

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 16*

make his or her court appearances. This often results in low-risk people being detained at great expense and release of high-risk individuals.”

Kremers also discusses steps taken in Milwaukee County in recent years to help ensure that bail decisions are made based on the risk that a defendant will commit a new crime or fail to appear instead of the seriousness of the charge.

“... Enhancing public safety requires us to manage release and detention based on risk. So the question is not whether courts take risks but whether they take the right risks and measure and manage risk appropriately. The justice system’s goal is to balance defendant’s rights with the need to protect the community, maintain the integrity of the judicial process, and ensure court appearance. In our society, liberty is the norm and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception.” *United States v. Salerno*, [481 U.S. 739](#) (1987).

“We believe Milwaukee is much closer to the ideal with less risk to public safety, less harm to individuals, and less cost to the taxpayers.”

Vilas County Circuit Court Judge Neal “Chip” Nielsen noted with the election of Judge Troy L. Nielsen to the Waupaca County Circuit Court, he believed the surname “Nielsen” was now the most common among Wisconsin circuit court judges, with three Niensens serving on the trial court bench, including Racine County Circuit Court Judge Mark F. Nielsen. Further investigation determined that the last name “Anderson” still holds that honor, with four trial court judges on the bench: Rusk County Circuit Court Judge Steven P. Anderson, Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P. Anderson, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Peter C. Anderson, and Polk County Circuit Court Judge Jeffery L. Anderson. ■

2017 law school admissions



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler discusses one of the Supreme Court Hearing Room murals representing the sources of Wisconsin law on the wall during a UW Law School admissions ceremony May 31.



Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices listen to a movant during the swearing-in ceremony of 175 Marquette Law School students on May 22.

Election *continued from page 19**Judge Darcy R. Rood*

a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a law degree from the University of Baltimore. She previously worked in private practice in Maryland and Wisconsin, and as an assistant attorney general in Maryland and as chief counsel for the city of Baltimore Department of Human Services.

Waupaca County

Judge Troy L. Nielsen was appointed by Walker to start his term early on the Waupaca County Branch 1 bench. Nielsen replaced Judge Philip M. Kirk who retired on May 29. Nielsen has an undergraduate degree from UW-Parkside and a law degree from Hamline University Law School. He previously served as an assistant public defender. ■

*Judge Troy L. Nielsen***RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 21*

opportunity to interact with, the courthouse staff, the attorneys, and his colleagues, who he enjoyed working on district policies with, talking about work, and receiving judicial advice. He said he will also miss being involved in helping others to solve their problems, often at difficult times in their lives, and the opportunity to help them develop trust in the system and establish structure in their lives.

In his retirement, Markson said he plans to spend the summer months in Quebec, and fall and spring in Wisconsin, where he hopes to be involved in reserve, mediation and arbitration work.

**Judge Dennis P. Moroney
Milwaukee County Circuit Court**

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Dennis P. Moroney, who retired May 12 after 24 years on the bench, said he's been called "the last of the characters." He said he chooses to take this as a compliment.

According to his estimates, Moroney has handled approximately 50,000 cases, including misdemeanors, felonies, and civil cases. This also includes about 50 murder cases in one year while he was in the homicide rotation, two triple-murders, and three or four double jury cases. One of the double jury cases was for former Alderman Michael McGee Jr., who was accused of conspiring to have a man beaten and of running a vote-buying operation. He said these cases were particularly interesting due to their complexities.

Moroney was first appointed to the Branch 20 bench in 1993. He previously worked in private practice. He has served as a member of the Civil Jury Instruction Committee and Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee; president of the Emerald Society of Wisconsin, St. Thomas More Society of Wisconsin, and the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association; director of St. Joseph's Foundation; participant in the Court at School Program, and graduate of the National Judicial College.

Moroney said when he left a court rotation he left the calendar with fewer cases than when he came on so cases would be completed in a timely fashion. He said on the civil rotations, it could be challenging to keep up with the changes in the laws, particularly common law. He also said the number of criminal cases increased significantly during his time on the bench.

"When I graduated law school in 1973, 80 percent of the

cases were civil," he said. "Now 80 percent are criminal." He said he believed this increase was due to the changes in legislation that made more crimes felonies. He said the decision to put someone in prison is never an easy one, but it was important to keep in mind that the person's conduct is what puts them in prison, not the judge.

*Judge Dennis P. Moroney*

Moroney said he will miss the people he has worked with, especially his wonderful staff, after he retires. And he said while it will be an adjustment to no longer have the day-to-day dealings with all the people in the courthouse, his days will be kept busy babysitting his young granddaughters during the week.

Moroney said he wished to thank the staff of the Office of Judicial Education, and hoped to be part of future programs as a reserve judge.

"They don't get enough consideration and they do a wonderful job," he said.

**Judge John P. Roemer
Juneau County Circuit Court**

Juneau County Circuit Court Judge John P. Roemer retired on Aug. 10, after 13 years on the Branch 1 bench.

Roemer presided over a trial that made headlines in 2008, due to the bizarre nature of the crime. Roemer sentenced Alan Bushey, leader of the "Order of the Divine Will" religious sect to two years in prison for keeping the corpse of an elderly follower in the bathroom of another follower, Tammy Lewis, so he could continue to collect her Social Security payments. Roemer was quoted by NBC15 at the time of sentencing as saying the crime had a devastating impact on two young children, who lived in the

*Judge John P. Roemer*

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 23*

house.

Roemer was first elected in 2004. He had previously served as an assistant district attorney for Juneau County and an assistant state public defender, worked in private practice and served as a lieutenant colonel for the U.S. Army Reserves. He is a former member of the Uniform Bond Committee. In 2009, Roemer was part of a team from Wisconsin that traveled to Buffalo, New York to observe a veterans court, which later led to establishing the first veterans court in Wisconsin.

"I graciously wish to thank the citizens of the state of Wisconsin and the county of Juneau for giving me this precious opportunity to serve as their circuit court judge," Roemer said in a letter to the governor announcing his retirement. "It is a responsibility that, at times, I can barely fathom."

Judge Michael J. Rosborough Vernon County Circuit Court

Vernon County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Rosborough keeps a framed photo of "The Honorable Brenna Rosborough" on his bench and refers to it for patience "when tempted to bite the head off of some lawyer."

Rosborough said Brenna was among the first courthouse service dogs, and he brought her to work with him at the courthouse despite the Vernon County Board expressing their wishes to the contrary.

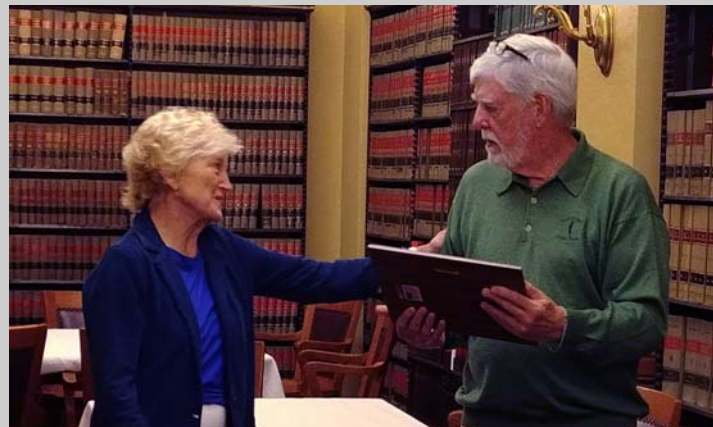
Rosborough, who retired in July at the end of his term, was first appointed in 1986. He is a former chief judge and deputy chief judge of the Seventh Judicial Administrative District. He has served as a member of the Criminal Benchbook Committee; CCAP Steering Committee; Family Violence Department Committee; Judicial Conference Legislative Committee; National Conference of State Trial Judges; Electronic Signature Committee; Subcommittee on Juror Selection and Treatment; and National Conference of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He is a former chair of the PPAC Planning Subcommittee, associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, and judicial representative to the Attorney General's Task Force on Children in Need.



Judge Michael J.
Rosborough

Rosborough advises new judges to get involved in committees and judicial organizations as soon as possible, as he believes it will help them better serve the public and promote the business of being a judge. He said it has been a challenge as a judge to realize that judges "can't save them all," whether it be children in the CHIPS system or youth in the criminal justice system.

Rosborough said he is most proud of his work, along with



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack presents a plaque and expresses her appreciation to former Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran.

Moran thanked for work

Former Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran was thanked and recognized for his second round of service to the court system at the end of July. Moran served as interim director from June 4, 2015 until July 31, 2017, when he was replaced by Judge Randy Koschnick (see page 10).

Moran previously served as director from Oct. 1, 1978 until his retirement on May 31, 2003.

Moran was the court system's first administrator to hold the title of Director of State Courts following the court reorganization of 1978. The second was A. John Voelker, who left the court system in July 2014 to become deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds.

In 2002, Moran was honored with the National Association for Court Management's Award of Merit. The award is given for "leadership and excellence in the advancement of the ideals and principles of modern judicial management and professional court management." ■

that of the county and others to restore and remodel the historic Vernon County Courthouse in the mid-1990s.

"The Vernon County Courthouse was built in the late 1880s and should still be here and in service another hundred years from now, assuming we don't go to virtual courtrooms and replace judges with algorithms," he said.

Rosborough said he will miss the courthouse staff, his colleagues in the county and around the state, as well as the people in the county, who he said have gone out of their way to thank him for his service over the years since he announced his plans to retire.

Rosborough said he plans to spend time traveling the state and country with his wife, Ellen, in their teardrop camper.

"I'm also looking forward to naps after lunch."

Judge John Siefert Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John Siefert announced that he would not be seeking another term on the Branch 47 bench after his current term expired July 31.

Instead, Siefert said he would begin exploring a campaign

[see Retirements on page 25](#)

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 24*

for Milwaukee County Sheriff in August 2018. He said he has enjoyed having the opportunity to serve the public as a judge immensely, and has especially enjoyed hearing cases where he has been able to make a positive difference in a defendant's life and help steer them in the right direction.



Judge John Siefert

Siefert said having the ability to help people is what he will miss the most after he leaves the bench.

"A judge has to be neutral but can give a clear explanation on court procedures and the consequences of pleas, they can be helpful while still being neutral between parties," he said.

Siefert was first elected in 1999. He had previously served as a municipal judge for Milwaukee, Milwaukee County treasurer, and a Milwaukee police officer. Siefert said he found it a challenge when he became a

judge to overcome the perception that a former police officer would be biased in criminal cases. But he said he is proud of the compassion he has shown in individual cases over the years.

Siefert advises new judges to avoid public controversies, especially ones that involve complex issues that are not readily explainable in short answers.

"Legal issues require nuanced answers," he explained. "The media wants short and simple answers."

Siefert said he promised his wife a cruise vacation immediately after his retirement and they plan to visit Norway.

Judge Alan J. White Columbia County Circuit Court

"It is difficult to talk about pride when you are talking about being on the circuit court because you have this tremendous amount of power over people's lives that come before you," Columbia County Circuit Court Judge Alan J. White said. White retired Sept. 13 after 11 years on the Branch 3 bench.

White is proud of the success his county's OWI court has had, and has been able to witness the positive impact it has had on offenders' lives.

"Many people commented it was the first time they actually felt the legal system was interested in helping them," he said.

White was first elected in 2006, after working in private practice. Over the years he has presided over many cases, but three of them stand out in his mind.

The first, often referred to as the "Oneida Street murder," involved a group of adults and children who had traveled around the country together and eventually settled in Portage, renting a home on Oneida Street. In 2007 a body was found buried in



Judge Alan J. White

the backyard and an 11-year-old boy was found severely abused in a closet. The body belonged to the mother of the child, and three adults were sentenced for the murder and abuse. The case would gain national attention for the severity of the abuse inflicted on the child. White said the child is now doing well.

The second case involved a surrogacy arrangement between friends, who eventually had a falling out. The case would go on to be overturned 7-0 by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court decided it was a contract case and not a best interest of the child case, which was the analysis I used," White said.

The third case was a 30-year-old cold case murder that resulted in a conviction. One of the things that stood out the most for White was how well the case was put together by then-Assistant Attorney General David Wambach.

White said he plans to spend more time with his family in retirement. He said he will greatly miss the people in the courthouse, who made it fun to come to work every day.

Jackie Crabb Legal Assistant, Supreme Court Commissioner's Office

After 26 years working as a legal assistant for the Supreme Court Commissioner's Office, Jackie Crabb retired on June 22. Before starting work with the commissioners, she worked in a private practice law firm for seven years. Crabb said her plans for retirement are to spend more time with her two kids and to travel with her husband when he goes on business trips. She and her husband have plans to go to South Africa and the Galapagos in the next year.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack poses with Legal Assistant Jackie Crabb in the Supreme Court Commissioner's Office at Crabb's retirement party.

Dona Everingham Office of Judicial Education

Dona Everingham, conference coordinator for the Office of Judicial Education, retired on June 15. She started with the Office of Judicial Education in November 1993, and started service in the state system in September 1978.

"I have worked very closely with Tammy (Hennick), with our jobs woven



see [Retirements on page 26](#) Dona Everingham

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 25*

together over the years that most people considered us one person/one job,” Everingham said. “Even though the office is small the three of us – Karla, Tammy, and I – worked well together to get the job done. The conference being the most complicated to keep everything organized. But, it’s been the utmost privilege to work with the judges. They have been the kindest, most considerate group of people to work for and with.”

In her retirement, Everingham said she will be working more with her church as a Deacon and secretary. She also plans to spend more time in her gardens, with family, and to do some traveling.

Everingham will be deeply missed by both her coworkers and the many judges who have always looked forward to seeing Everingham and Hennick at the various training seminars for the past 23 years, said Judicial Education Director Karla Baumgartner.

“Dona was definitely the ‘heart’ of judicial education and went above and beyond her job descriptions to assist judges in, not only obtaining their judicial education credits, but also in helping in any way she could to make their life on the bench easier. There was never a question that Dona couldn’t answer. I personally will miss her not just as a valuable employee but also as a dear friend,” Baumgartner said.

Lori Irmen **Executive Secretary,** **Director of State Courts Office**

After nearly 26 years with the court system, Executive Secretary Lori Irmen retired from the Director of State Courts Office on July 13.

Irmen started with the courts in November 1991 as a program assistant for the Office of Court Operations. In 2001, she started splitting her time between the Office of Court Operations and the Director of State Courts Office as the executive secretary to the Director of State Courts, who at the time was J. Denis Moran. She shared that position with Jane Hough, who retired in January 2005, when Irmen took over the position full-time for then-Director of State Courts A. John Voelker. She remained in that post when Moran returned to serve as the director in 2015.

“In retirement, I plan to continue working as a part-time court clerk for the city of Edgerton and will be spending more time managing the car wash that my husband Barry and I own in Stoughton,” Irmen said. “I also am looking forward to spending more time with my mother, as well as doing some travel and relaxing at our seasonal camper in the Dells.”

Dave Korenic **Purchasing and Facilities Officer**

“After 27 years working out of the very same office I began in back on June 11, 1990, I have decided now is a good time to break away from my desk, get up, and move around,” Purchasing and Facilities Officer Dave Korenic said. Korenic retired July 10.

“What kept me going so long in this position was both the interesting variety of goods and services I procured and the employees I had the pleasure to work with,” he said. “In



Executive Secretary Lori Irmen receives a plaque from former Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran, while her husband, Barry, looks on. Irmen served as executive secretary for Moran during both of his runs as director, and for former Director of State Courts A. John Voelker.

addition, I have had a great experience working with so many of our employees from all of the court system offices including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals districts, District Court Administrator offices, State Law Library and the Tenney Building administrative offices.”

Korenic oversaw several moving projects, including the renovation of six floors of the Tenney Building in 2005, the relocation of the Supreme Court and Director of State Courts Office during the 2000 Capitol renovation, and several Court of Appeals office relocations and renovations. He also provided support to the State Law Library through three moves.

“It has always been a priority one of mine to provide prompt service for both procurement and facility-related requests,” Korenic said. “This meant understanding exactly what needed to be done and monitoring each purchasing transaction or facility-related request closely to assure prompt and accurate completion. I

hope our employees feel I have done a good job meeting their business needs over the years.”

Korenic said his retirement plans include providing additional support to his 91-year-old father, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, completing many long-delayed projects around the house, exercising daily, traveling, hiking, and honing his beer-making skills. ■



Former Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran presents Dave Korenic with a plaque honoring Korenic’s service to the courts.



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Kashoua "Kristy" Yang reviews eFiling program changes and features with CCAP's Ellen Peters during implementation at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

eFiling *continued from front page*

Bousquet. Additionally, 57 counties have rolled out voluntary eFiling for probate and informal probate cases as well. Brown and Monroe rolled out mandatory eFiling in October, with just Burnett County remaining.

Bousquet attributes the overwhelming success of the eFiling rollout to the widespread acceptance of electronic filing as a better way of doing business than traditional filing and storage of bulky paper documents.

Eliminating the time and expense of packaging and delivering documents to the courthouse, eFiling gives users back precious minutes and flexibility by providing a convenient way to file and access documents from anywhere at any time.



CCAP staff who worked on eFiling implementation at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, from left to right, front row: Derrick O'Donnell, Judy Lewandowski, Renee Krajewski and Joanne Leighty; Middle row, Tom Muhlhausen, Ellen Peters, Emily Forest, and Tom Kelly; back row, Peter Severson, Grant Nicolet, Jessica Sash, and Chris Molnar.

"We have had tremendous support from everyone involved in the expansion of mandatory eFiling. As we go from courthouse to courthouse, and county to county, people are seeing the benefits take hold, even sooner than we expected.

This has helped us build momentum and get ahead of schedule," said Bousquet, who oversees the Consolidated Court Automation Programs' (CCAP) staff responsible for development, training, implementation and support of the eFiling system. "The CCAP team, court staff and the judiciary have all done a great job of making eFiling a reality in Wisconsin courts. The flexibility and willingness of court staff to adapt to new ways of doing things have been remarkable."

Additional case types will be added to mandatory eFiling in phases, and development work is already underway for the guardianship, mental commitment, judgment and lien case types. Each case type will be voluntary for a period of time and then transition to mandatory. Probate case types will be mandatory on March 1, 2018.

The transition to mandatory eFiling is expected to be fully complete for all case types by the end of 2019.

CCAP is implementing mandatory eFiling on a county-by-county basis, with help from contractors hired to assist with the increased workload. Expenditures are projected at about \$2 million a year from 2017 through 2019, using revenue generated from the \$20 eFiling fee, catching up with expenditures in 2018. ■



Milwaukee County Clerk of Court staff with CCAP's Grant Nicolet (left), Milwaukee County Court Commissioner Maria Dorsey (center, standing), Deputy Court Clerk Eileen Lauer (right), and Deputy Court Clerk Erica Bautista (seated).

Wisconsin eFiling by the numbers:

- Created more than 50,000 eCourts accounts for eFilers
- Processed more than 150,000 new case filings in the first year
- Processed more than 1,000,000 court documents in the first year
- Delivered more than 30 major software releases to provide filers, judges and court staff with enhancements and new functionality
- Resolved more than 16,000 contacts from filers for technical assistance and support
- Provided more than 800 hands-on training classes for attorneys statewide
- Spent more than 1,000 staff days onsite in counties training and implementing eFiling

Packers *continued from front page*

July, earning three credits toward a criminal justice degree at the University of Alabama, where Clinton-Dix played college football, Zuidmulder said. Clinton-Dix also took a couple of classes in Alabama during the spring, according to the Green Bay Packers.

Clinton-Dix observed or participated in a wide range of educational experiences, including treatment court sessions, meeting with prosecutors, riding along with deputies, and touring the county jail.

"He completed all assignments and was a delight to work with. We had good conversations about criminal justice, and how you can make a difference in peoples' lives," Zuidmulder said.

News of the internship and Clinton-Dix's academic ambitions have been widely reported. Reporter Jason Wilde, who covers the Packers for ESPN Wisconsin, wrote in June:

"Clinton-Dix promised two people when he left Alabama early (as a first-round draft pick after his junior year) that

he'd finish his studies: His mother, Nicole, and his coach, Nick Saban, who encourages all of his NFL-bound players to go back to school."

So what's the Zuidmulder connection?

Zuidmulder met Clinton-Dix's grandfather by chance during a ride from the airport in Orlando (Clinton-Dix's hometown) while Clinton-Dix was still playing for the Crimson Tide. Zuidmulder stayed in touch and became friends with the family.

During the internship, Zuidmulder said he set aside the fact Clinton-Dix was a Packer and referred to him by his real given first name, Ha'Sean, instead of his widely known nick name, "Ha Ha."

Clinton-Dix is currently in a four-year deal with the Packers worth more than \$8.3 million, according to WTMJ-TV Milwaukee, which also covered news of the internship.

The internship was unpaid. ■

OBITUARIES *continued from page 8*

retirement, when he served as a reserve judge.

Reinecke served in the U.S. Naval Reserves during the Korean War, and received his undergraduate degree from Loras College in Iowa and his law degree from UW Law School.

He is survived by his wife, seven children, three step-children, 30 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

**Helen H. Ptacek
Green Lake County Clerk of Court**

Former Green Lake County Clerk of Court Helen H. Ptacek passed away on March 10, at the age of 95.

Ptacek served as clerk of court for Green Lake County for 12 years, and was a past president of the Clerk of Courts Association. She also was the co-owner and operator of

Ptacek's Red Owl Grocery in Green Lake, and a teacher's aide at Ripon Middle School.

She is survived by her children, James (Elvira) Ptacek, Gerald (Lisa) Ptacek, and Betsy (Lou Dobrydnia) Ptacek; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Ptacek was preceded in death by her husband of 73 years, Francis J. Ptacek, in 2016.

"She lived a full, productive life," her son, retired Racine County Circuit Court Judge Gerald P. Ptacek, told *The Third Branch*.

"My Dad died last March and was also 95. They had been married for 73 years and were high school and college sweethearts before they married. At 60 years, I commented to my Dad that they had been married a very long time. He responded: 'You're tellin' me!'" ■

Legislative update *continued from page 20*

Legislature, with floor action expected on one or both of them this fall. Both proposals would move the court's expungement decision away from the defendant's sentencing date and would incorporate a petition and order process for expungement.

• Senate Bill 53 and Assembly Bill 93, identical bills introduced by Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Brookfield) and Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) were developed as part of an eight-bill package the authors call the "Victim Prevention Package." Besides changing the time of the expungement decision, the bills would require a defendant to wait for one year after completing his or her sentence to petition the court, would require a \$100 filing fee and would be prospective only. The other proposal, Assembly Bill 331, is co-authored by Rep. Dave Steffen (R-Green Bay) and Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison). The major differences are that AB 331 would allow a defendant to petition for expungement at any time after successfully completing a sentence (including if the case has already been closed), would specify that a crime that is expunged is not considered a conviction for employment purposes, and would require the Department of Justice to redact an expunged record from any Crime Information Bureau request for information.

• Assembly Bill 481 would create a grant program for family treatment courts and juvenile treatment courts and was recently introduced with strong bipartisan co-sponsorship. The bill would require the Department of Children and Families to develop a grant program similar to the TAD program but aimed at parents with substance abuse or mental health problems whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. This proposal was originally developed by the 2014 Legislative Council Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversion. Last session, the proposal passed the state Assembly on a 98-0 vote but was never acted on by the state Senate. Milwaukee County has been operating a family drug treatment court since May 2011, and other counties are currently exploring opening a similar court. A public hearing is planned for early October.

Information on these proposals and other legislation the court system is following is available on CourtNet on the page for the Legislative Committee of the Judicial Conference. ■

For more information, contact Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier at 608-267-9733 or nancy.rottier@wicourts.gov.

Judges, court staff present at State Bar media workshop

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The Third Branch is a quarterly publication of the Director of State Courts Office, providing news of interest to the Wisconsin court system.

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Judges and court staff were among the experts who shared their knowledge with more than 100 news reporters and lawyers at a State Bar of Wisconsin legal workshop in Madison on Sept. 8.

The Bar invited reporters from across the state to learn more about media law, the legal system, and techniques for covering the courts and complex legal issues, such as immigration and redistricting. The workshop was free.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley sat on a panel entitled, "Owning the Problem: Mass and Disparate Incarceration in Wisconsin."

The panel discussed changes in the law in recent decades that have resulted in lengthier terms of confinement for the same crimes.

Ashley shared his perspective on factors that may be contributing to disproportionate treatment in the justice system based on race, and the long term implications of a criminal record on employment and other opportunities.

Judge Richard J. Sankovitz, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, and Court Operations Special Projects Manager Tommy Gubbin served on a panel that addressed evidence-based decision making (EBDM).

To help people understand what EBDM is all about, Sankovitz said the acronym could also stand for "Experience-Based Decision

Making." Other panelists suggested a completely different explanation of finding out what works and sticking with it, or replicating it.

Gubbin said Wisconsin's accomplishments in the area of EBDM have been recognized with continued support from the National Institute of Corrections, which sponsors an EBDM Initiative.

Judge Brian W. Blanchard, District IV Court of Appeals, and Jean Bousquet, chief information officer for the court system presented a session on "How to Cover the Courts and Access Court Records."

In addition to explaining the importance of covering the courts, Blanchard discussed local court rules, court security, juror confidence, and the importance of developing a trial court record.

Bousquet demonstrated the court system's new Beta site for Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA), and she discussed what information is available on that website, as well as on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals website. ■



Jean Bousquet



Judge Brian W. Blanchard



Tommy Gubbin, Court Operations special projects coordinator, left, discussed Evidence-Based Decision Making as part of a panel at the State Bar's news reporter's legal workshop on Sept. 8. Other panelists included, left to right: Anna Ruzinski, Menomonee Falls Police Chief; David O'Leary, Rock County District Attorney and chair, Department of Justice Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Evidence-Based Decision Making Subcommittee; Thomas Reed, Regional Attorney Manager, Wisconsin State Public Defender's Milwaukee Trial Office and adjunct professor Marquette University Law School; and moderator Gil Halsted, retired reporter, Wisconsin Public Radio.



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley, left, listens as Cecelia Klingele, associate professor, U.W. Law School makes a point. Also pictured are Mike Nichols, president, Wisconsin Policy Research Institute; and Michael O'Hear, professor, Marquette University Law School. and State Bar Past-President Fran Deisinger, who served as moderator.