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Waukesha marks 25th Justice on Wheels visit



Anne Chen, a fifth grader at Dixon Elementary School in Brookfield, reads her contest-winning essay during opening ceremonies at the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels program held Oct. 7 at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court heard oral arguments for the first time in Waukesha County on Oct. 7, marking the 25th county visited as part of the Justice on Wheels outreach program since 1993.

The Court held an opening ceremony, during which Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson welcomed special guests, including judges, legislators, county board members and other local government leaders.

Abrahamson also presented certificates to the top three contestants in the Supreme Court essay contest, including first place winner Anne Chen of Dixon Elementary School in Brookfield. Chen read aloud her entry to the Court and audience of about 125

see **Waukesha** on page 11

Education tops agenda at 50th conference

About 350 judges, court staff and faculty attended the 50th Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton Nov. 19-21.

The conference provided judges with educational opportunities, including presentations and discussions, on topics such as brain research, immigration, family law, approaches to judicial decision-making, and the role of judges in drug courts, among other topics.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson delivered the State of the Judiciary Address, entitled "Our Mission." The speech examined the legal evolution and principles embodied in the court system's mission: "The mission of the Wisconsin Court System is to protect individuals' rights, privileges and liberties, to maintain the rule of law, and to provide a forum for the resolution of disputes that is fair, accessible, independent and effective."

Abrahamson traced how the principles of due process and equal protection from the Magna Carta 800 years ago were carried forward to Wisconsin law through documents such as

see **Conference** on page 15



Jean Bousquet, chief information officer for the court system, takes a moment at the Judicial Conference to show Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court, some of the resources available through the Consolidated Court Automation Programs.

Four new circuit court judges appointed

Gov. Scott Walker named four new judges to fill vacancies in Dane, Jackson, Outagamie and Waukesha counties.

Walker announced Josann M. Reynolds will fill the vacancy on the Dane County Circuit Court Branch 2 bench created by the retirement of Judge Maryann Sumi (see *The Third Branch*, spring 2014).

Reynolds has a bachelor's degree from UW-Oshkosh and received her law degree from the UW Law School. She previously worked in private practice. Reynolds also owned and operated Port Douglas Dive and Tours in Australia, where she lived for 10 years.

In a press release from the governor's office, former Dane

County Circuit Court Judge Daniel R. Moeser described Reynolds as intelligent, compassionate, and dedicated to the law. Reynolds will provide the temperament, perspective, and experience necessary to be an excellent judge, Moeser said.

Anna L. Becker was appointed to the Jackson County Circuit Court bench. Becker previously served as district attorney and as a



see **New judges** on page 16

Judge Josann M. Reynolds



RETIREMENT

**Judge Donald J. Hassin Jr.
Waukesha County Circuit Court**

After serving 20 years on the Waukesha County Circuit Court's Branch 9 bench, Judge Donald J. Hassin retired on Sept. 30.



Judge Donald J. Hassin

Hassin was first appointed to the bench in 1994. He had previously served as a court commissioner and assistant district attorney for the county, and worked in private practice. He has served on the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee and Judicial Education Committee. He is a former presiding judge for the criminal/traffic and civil divisions.

Hassin received his bachelor's

degree from the U.S. Military Academy and his law degree from Marquette University Law School. He served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1971-78. He served in the Wisconsin National Guard from 1978-98, when he retired with the rank of colonel.

Hassin followed in his father's military career footsteps and the Hassins have now seen a third generation continue the tradition with Judge Hassin's two children pursuing military careers. His daughter Kelsey graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2010, and serves as a captain. She served with the 1st Armored Division in Afghanistan. His son Jared graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2013, and made headlines in 2010 as a standout fullback for Army's Black Knights football team.

Donald Hassin Sr. served as a platoon leader in the 29th Infantry Division, which landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day

see **Retirements** on page 21

Retiring clerks honored for years of service

By Pam Radtke, President, Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association

Wisconsin will be losing more than 158 years of combined experience in offices of clerk of courts throughout the state this year, as nine clerks of circuit court retire at the end of their terms on Jan. 2. These clerks accumulated more than 250 years of dedicated service to their respective counties during their careers, and their contributions will be missed by the Wisconsin court system and Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association.

- Calumet County – Barb VanAkkeren has been clerk of court for 22 years with a total of 26 years serving Calumet County.
- Door County - Nancy Robillard has been in the office for 18 years as clerk.
- Douglas County – Joan Osty has been the clerk for 21 years.
- Green Lake County – Susan Krueger has been clerk for 21 years with a total of 36 years serving Green Lake County.
- Marinette County - Linda Dumke-Marquardt has been clerk for 26 years with total of over 35 years serving Marinette County.
- Outagamie County - Lonnie Wolf has been clerk 10 years with a total of over 29 years serving Outagamie County.
- Rock County – Eldred Mielke has been in office 18 years as the clerk.

- Sheboygan County – Nan Todd has been clerk for 14 years with a total of 36 years serving Sheboygan County.
- Taylor County – Margaret Gebauer has been clerk for eight years with a total of 33 years serving Taylor County.

Many of the clerks contributed to the Wisconsin Clerks of

Circuit Court Association serving on committees, as officers and by attending conferences. The retiring clerks all acknowledged the importance of networking between the members of the association and the value to all of the members.

The clerks were honored for their accomplishments and contributions to the association at the fall clerk of court conference held in Wisconsin Rapids on Oct. 8-10. They received a certificate from the association along with a flag flown over the Capitol from their respective state legislators.

As the future retirees finish their last couple months of service, they look forward to traveling, spending more time with their grandchildren and families, gardening, volunteering, and as a couple said, "doing what ever they want to do."

The court system joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association in congratulating the retirees and thanking them for their years of service to the Wisconsin court system. ■



From left to right: Retired Clerk of Courts Barb VanAkkeren, Calumet County; Nancy Robillard, Door County; Susan Krueger, Green Lake County; Linda Dumke, Marinette County; Lonnie Wolf, Outagamie County; Eldred Mielke, Rock County; and Margaret Gebauer, Taylor County. (Not pictured: Joan Osty, Douglas County & Nan Todd, Sheboygan, County.)

LEADERSHIP

'Roundtables' help judges support each other

By Chief Judge Richard S. Brown, Wisconsin Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard S. Brown and State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Assistance Program Director Linda Albert co-presented with a judge and court administrator from New York state at the annual National Conference of Lawyer Programs in Nashville on Oct. 9.

The subject of the presentation was *Judicial Roundtables - Building Community Among Judges*. Judicial Roundtables grew out of a hospital-based program at the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare to give medical clinicians an opportunity to discuss the emotionally challenging aspects of their work with each other.

The roundtables became so popular that they were replicated by other medical facilities. Paul Curtin of the New York Court Administration office and Judge John Rowley, Chair of the New York State Judicial Wellness Committee, decided to see if these roundtables would be beneficial for judges.

About two dozen roundtables were held all over New York state and, as a result, Curtin and Rowley were able to learn what made the roundtables thrive and what did not. They developed a model for use by others. But they wanted to see two more states implement roundtables and share experiences to determine if the roundtables produced the same results or variable results.

Rowley, who also served as co-chair of the American Bar

Association's (ABA) Commission on Legal Assistance Programs (CoLAP) with Brown, brought up the idea with Brown.

Recalling the helplessness and distress that he and many other judges felt after learning their friend and colleague, the late Judge Dennis J. Barry, Racine County Circuit Court, had killed himself in 2011, Brown agreed to try implementing a pilot program in Wisconsin.

Albert enthusiastically became involved in the effort, and the Wisconsin project was soon underway. Tennessee and Michigan later joined the effort. The goal was to have judges talk among themselves about things they don't normally talk to each other about in order to promote mental health and wellness.

The Oct. 9 presentation detailed Wisconsin's experience, which included two roundtables conducted between the time that Wisconsin agreed to take part and the conference presentation. Brown and Albert explained that the first roundtable was held during a day-long district administrative and educational meeting. The format was not conducive because the time was short and the judges were in business mode.

When asked, for example, "How does this impact you as a person?" or "What kinds of feelings did you experience when this happened?" the judges wanted to focus on

see **Leadership** on page 9



Chief Judge Richard S. Brown

OBITUARIES

**Judge Thomas P. Doherty
Milwaukee County Circuit Court**

Judge Thomas P. Doherty passed away on Aug. 21. He was 83.

Doherty was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 27 bench in 1980. He had previously served as a deputy district attorney for Milwaukee County and as a trial attorney for the Milwaukee County Defender Project. He was a graduate of Marquette University High School and Marquette University, and received his law degree from Marquette Law School.

In 1989, Doherty presided over a high-profile case that made national headlines. He convicted New York Yankees Outfielder Luis Polonia for having sex with a minor in a Milwaukee hotel. After postponing sentencing until after the baseball season ended, Doherty sentenced Polonia to 60 days in jail and ordered him to make a \$10,000 contribution to Milwaukee's Sinai Samaritan Medical Center's sexual assault treatment center.

Doherty was named deputy chief judge for the First



Judge Thomas P. Doherty

Judicial District in 1995. He was a member of the ABA National Conference of State Trial Judges, the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, and the Judicial Council. He also served as a delegate for the American Judges Association, where he served as chair of the Court Organization and Administration Committee and vice chair of the Public Information and Relations Committee.

After announcing his plans to retire in the summer of 2001, Doherty told *The Third Branch* of his plans, "I thought I'd do nothing until I got bored. If I never get bored, I'll keep doing nothing." After his retirement, he worked in mediation practice.

Doherty is survived by his two children, Mary and Tim. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Elizabeth.

**Judge Robert W. Radcliffe
Jackson County Circuit Court**

Former Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert W. Radcliffe passed away on Sept. 8 at the age of 80.

Radcliffe served on the Jackson County Circuit Court bench for 18 years, after first being elected in 1984. After his retirement in 2002, he continued to serve as a reserve judge. He had previously served as district attorney for Jackson County for 12 years, and worked in private practice.

see **Obituaries** on page 10

Fall
2014

AWARDS

Judge Christenson recognized for Drug Court work

Retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Karen E. Christenson was honored by the State Bar of Wisconsin as a Legal Innovator for 2014. Christenson was recognized for her work in establishing the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court in 2011. She also served as the treatment court's first presiding judge. The treatment court includes a team of legal professionals, drug treatment counselors, service coordinators, and child welfare professionals to help parents with substance abuse problems in the judicial system to end the drug abuse cycle and be reunited with their children when possible.



Judge Karen E. Christenson

Christenson retired from the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in August after 16 years on the bench. She has served on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Juvenile Jury Instruction Committee, and is a former presiding judge of the juvenile division.

Christenson, along with the other four honorees, were featured in the cover story of November's *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine.

Judge Kuhnmuensch receives Founders Award

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuensch was recently honored by the Association for Women Lawyers with its Founder's Award. The award is presented to a member of the legal community who has significantly contributed to the advancement of women in the legal profession and whose career demonstrates dedication to the highest levels of professional ethics and excellence. Kuhnmuensch



Judge Mary Triggiano

was joined by her colleagues, family and friends at the awards ceremony held on Sept. 16 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

Kuhnmuensch has served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court since 1998. She is a former presiding judge of the family division and domestic violence court. She has previously received the 2005 Mentor Award and 2011 Community Service Award from the association. In 2011 she was named a Leader in Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.



District I Court of Appeals Judge Kitty K. Brennan and Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuensch at the Association for Women Lawyer award ceremony.

Triggiano named Justinian Society's 'Jurist of the Year'

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary Triggiano was recently honored by the Wisconsin chapter of the Justinian Society of Lawyers with its Jurist of the Year

Award. The award is presented to a judge or lawyer who has demonstrated a career of high accomplishment and exceptional contributions to the law. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John DiMotto, a past president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, presented Triggiano with the award at the group's annual Columbus Day celebration on Oct. 17. Triggiano was joined by several of her Milwaukee County Circuit Court colleagues, as well as family and friends.

The Wisconsin chapter is an affiliate of the National Italian American Bar Association and represents Italian American lawyers and judges

see **Awards** on page 7

Court budget request includes support for counties, eFiling, treatment courts

The Wisconsin court system submitted its 2015-17 state budget request to the governor's budget office on Oct. 1.

The request advances a commitment to the people of Wisconsin to ensure that the Wisconsin courts have the resources necessary to meet the constitutional obligations of the judiciary, said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson.

The budget would provide an additional \$8.6 million annually to the county payment programs to restore the level of state funding to the circuit courts that existed 15 years ago, the time of the last increase to the payment programs. Counties have increased their share of court funding over the years, and state funding has not kept up.

The budget request also would help continue the court system's focus on smart, innovative approaches to enhancing

public safety, reducing recidivism and addressing underlying issues, such as drug and alcohol abuse, that may be a contributing factor toward criminal behavior in some cases.

This includes state funding for a statewide problem-solving courts coordinator to continue the work being done by a temporary grant-funded position that will end in June 2015. The statewide coordinator provides assistance not only to the court system as a whole, but to the counties and judges using treatment courts, state agencies, and the statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. In addition to Supreme Court support, the Legislative Council's Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts voted to recommend that permanent state funding be provided for this statewide

see **Budget** on page 17

Staff changes include retirement, departures, new arrival, and returning faces

In recent months, the court system has said hello to a new district court administrator, goodbye to several staff members, welcome back to a few people returning in positions new to them, and congratulations to a couple of people making moves.

Budget Director **Deborah Brescoll** will be retiring effective Jan. 9, 2015.

Brescoll started with the court system on March 21, 2002. She was hired by former Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran as the court system's budget and policy officer. She came to the court system from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. Brescoll has led the court system through seven biennial budgets and worked with judges and staff throughout the court system on innumerable policy and budget issues. This included working with Planning and Policy Advisory Committee's (PPAC) Subcommittee on Court Financing to develop a blueprint for the state taking on the responsibility for more costs of the circuit courts.

In 2008, Brescoll received an honorable mention for the Virginia Hart Award for her work creating a landmark court system budget for the 2007-09 biennium. The award, named after the first woman to serve on a Wisconsin governor's cabinet, recognizes "unsung heroines" in Wisconsin state government.



Deborah Brescoll

Brescoll said she would like to spend time catching up on book club books, learning how to play the piano and plant perennial gardens, traveling and volunteering.

Michelle Jensen Goodwin, former director of the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP), left the court system in September to become executive director of the Children's Trust Fund (also known as the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board).



Michelle Jensen Goodwin

Jensen Goodwin first joined the court system in 1997 as the CCIP coordinator. She served until 2001, when she went to work for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services as child welfare policy specialist. She returned to the court system in 2003 to serve as the CCIP director, where she administered a federal grant designed to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare and court systems.

During her time as director, she worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Children's Bureau, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, and the circuit courts to implement various programs and initiatives. Some examples include developing the Child Welfare Law Orientation judicial education program, initiating the CCIP E-Learning Project, partnering

with the UW-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty to improve data analysis, securing Wisconsin as a Casey Family Programs Judicial Engagement site, and creating the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare.

Donald Harper has been named the new district court administrator for the Eighth Judicial District, replacing John Powell, who moved back to Oregon.

Originally from southeast Michigan, Harper holds a B.A. from Michigan State University and an M.P.A. from Western Michigan University.

He is a Certified Court Manager (CCM) through the NCSC's Institute of Court Management, and previously worked in Michigan's 54A and 55th District Courts, as a court operations specialist in the Arizona's Administrative Office of the Courts, and as a management analyst in Michigan's State Court Administrative Office.

Kerry Connelly has returned to the court system to serve as the state-wide problem solving coordinator in the Office of Court Operations. Connelly serves in the position on a limited-term basis to fill the vacancy created by Michelle Cern, who left to become statewide drug court coordinator for the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Connelly had served as District Court Administrator for the Second Judicial District for 21 years, before stepping down in 2009. He briefly returned to serve as court administrator for the district last year after Andrew Graubard resigned.

Former Dodge County Circuit Court Judge **Andrew P. Bissonnette** has been appointed as executive assistant to Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. Bissonnette served on the Dodge County bench from 1989 until he retired in 2013. After his retirement, he continued to serve as a reserve judge and a court commissioner for the county.

Bissonnette fills the position left vacant by the departure of the former executive assistant, Theresa Owens, who is now District Two Court Administrator.

In September, **Bridget Bauman** was named CCIP Director. Bauman is heading the new department within the Director of State Courts Office to oversee and improve the handling of cases within the court system involving child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, and



Donald Harper



Kerry Connelly



Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette

Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court graduations mark turning point

By Judge Ellen R. Brostrom, Milwaukee County Circuit Court

On Oct. 10, the Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court graduated eight successful participants. In addition, the drug treatment court team presented an award of appreciation to Arthur Byas, drug treatment court graduate and current peer mentor. The celebration was packed with successful graduates, current participants, family, friends, sponsors, supporters and the entire team.

Here are the highlights: Of the eight graduates, five never tested positive for drugs or alcohol during their entire tenure in the program. This is quite unusual in the experience of the Milwaukee County drug treatment court. Most graduates experience at least one return to use during the program, and often they experience several before they are able to establish a solid sobriety and converted lifestyle.

One of the graduates who never tested positive had previously been given the opportunity to participate in the Dane County drug treatment court on earlier charges. She did not successfully complete that program. This time around, she was ready. She was fully engaged in her recovery and she had the one key ingredient in place: the desire to get and stay clean.

Similarly, another participant had suffered decades of addiction, had been in and out of jail and prison, and he was "sick and tired of being sick and tired." As he poetically and powerfully stated at graduation, "I thought I was livin', but really I was dyin'. That ain't life; it's death! Today, I'm free. I no longer choose to hurt me."

A third graduate with a perfect performance had been clean six months before entering the drug treatment court. Her lawyer advised her against joining the program, believing it was too rigorous and that she could likely resolve her cases in a simpler fashion. She wasn't buying it. She knew that six months clean time was nothing in the face of 14 years of addiction. She knew she needed the structure and accountability of the drug treatment court. At graduation, she expressed her appreciation for her 19 months of sobriety.

The other two graduates with clean tests went through the program with a quiet determination. Their families and friends will be there to continue to support them as they move forward.

By contrast, the other three graduates had significant struggles with relapse and were at the edge of the time limit for the program. The Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court has a time limit of 18 months, with a possible two month extension. All three of these graduates would have



Arthur Byas, peer mentor, is congratulated by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Ellen R. Brostrom during graduation.

failed had they missed a single test or tested positive for any substance as they rounded the corner toward graduation. All three kept their focus, and their testimonies at graduation were remarkable. One noted the power of his faith in his recovery. Another noted that she had become a transformed person inside and out. The third attested to how difficult he had found the structure and requirements of the program, and how grateful he was for his new life.

Of the eight graduates, six have children. Of those six, five care for minors who currently depend on them, for a total of 10 minor children. One had a healthy, drug-free baby during the course of the program. The ripple effects of their sobriety, and their ability to be there for their children rather than being in prison or on the streets or dead, cannot be overestimated.

Finally, Byas ties together the success of all of these graduates. Indeed, each of the graduates spoke and wrote about the role Byas played in their success and recovery. A soft-spoken, kind, and highly insightful man, Byas graduated from the drug treatment court in March 2012. He now serves as a peer mentor for the program. He leads Wellness Recover Action Plan (WRAP) groups. He mentors participants one-on-one. He also leads the Phase V group, which provides a social forum for former drug treatment court participants to stay in touch and continue to focus on their sobriety. At the graduation, the team surprised Byas with a plaque honoring him and his work. It was fitting, given the many graduates who have benefitted from his guidance and counsel.

The Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court, like many drug treatment courts around the state and the nation, struggles to deal with opiate medication and heroin addiction. The graduation of each of these eight individuals is a victory for our whole community. ■

Assistance grant would boost EBDM efforts

By Tommy Gubbin, Office of Court Operations

On Aug. 26 the Wisconsin Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) Phase IV Planning Team selected six counties to include in the application to advance to Phase V of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) EBDM Initiative.

The selected counties were: Chippewa, Marathon, Outagamie, La Crosse, Rock and Waukesha. If they are selected for Phase V, NIC will provide extensive technical assistance to these six counties and a state level team to expand EBDM in Wisconsin.

“Thanks to the efforts of each county that applied, as well as our comprehensive team approach, Wisconsin as a whole is well-positioned to benefit from this grant of technical assistance,” said Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, who serves on the statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

Selecting these counties was the culmination of work that began in March when the statewide CJCC sent a letter of interest to NIC indicating their interest in being considered for Phase IV of the EBDM Initiative. In April, Wisconsin was one of five states selected for Phase IV, along with Virginia, Indiana, Colorado and Oregon. This phase included a series of activities designed to help Wisconsin prepare itself to competitively apply for Phase V.

A planning team was assembled, chaired by the Director of State Courts and staffed by the Office of Court Operations. The team also included more than a dozen state and local leaders from a wide spectrum of criminal justice system agencies.

The six counties were selected following a series of meetings and outreach activities aimed at providing the planning team with information about county readiness and capacity to engage in EBDM.

A survey was issued to every county and tribe, and in

addition to information from the survey, the planning team also looked at:

- evidence of county collaboration;
- engagement and commitment to EBDM, including attendance at the NIC EBDM Summit in January 2014 and other Evidence Based Practices (EBP) trainings;
- whether a county had existing specialty courts or diversion programs;
- impact on prison admissions and releases;
- geographic location;
- local resource capacity;
- demographics;
- whether a county had a qualified, full-time coordinator working for a well-rounded and functional CJCC;
- whether there was county commitment to using assessments; and
- whether there was a history of doing well and collaborating with grant-funded and other external partners.

The application process was a true collaboration, as the planning team drew on the resources and expertise of all of the state CJCC subcommittees - Outreach and Communication, Problem-Solving Courts, Evidence-Based Practices (EBP), and Data Sharing.

The Outreach and Communication subcommittee summarized EBP-related awareness building and explained how work from Phase V could be effectively shared with justice system partners and the public.

The Data Sharing subcommittee analyzed and summarized state data capacity. Finally, the Problem-Solving Courts and Evidence-Based Practices subcommittees had a series of joint meetings to review statewide policies and practices that

see *EBDM* on page 14

AWARDS *continued from page 5*

throughout the state. According to the society, Triggiano was recognized for her outstanding qualifications as a judge and her unending commitment to justice.

Triggiano has served on the Branch 13 bench for 10 years. She has served on the National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Milwaukee Community Justice Council, Joint Legislative Council Special Committee on Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Child Welfare Partnership Council.

Vocke named to Law Foundation

Former Vilas County Circuit Court Judge Timothy L. Vocke, now a reserve judge, has been named a fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation.

“Over my career, I’ve been involved in various activities of the State Bar such as bar representative to the Judicial Council, a presenter at various seminars and a member of the Wisconsin Lawyer Assistance Program Committee, as well as a volunteer to assist attorneys, judges and family members in crisis,” Vocke said in a press release. “But, I didn’t see this coming until I was nominated.”

Vocke served on the Vilas County bench from 1979 to 1983. He previously worked as the district attorney and as an assistant district attorney in Vilas County, and worked in

private practice. He also works as a mediator for a Wisconsin-based consulting group.

The Wisconsin Law Foundation is an educational public service organization that funds and supports programs that educate the public on the law.

Court reporter receives national certifications

Michelle Gudex, a court reporter for Sheboygan County, has achieved the nationally recognized certifications of Certified Broadcast Captioner and Certified CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) Provider by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

“Earning these professional certifications offered by NCRA recognizes a reporter’s highly specialized skills as well as their commitment and dedication to the court reporting profession,” NCRA CEO and Executive Director Jim Cudahy.

Gudex has served as a court reporter for Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge James J. Bolgert for more than 10 years. She also holds three other nationally recognized court reporter professional certifications. ■

Law Library reveals redesigned website

By Carol Hassler, Wisconsin State Law Library

This fall the Wisconsin State Law Library redesigned its website, wilawlibrary.gov. The website offers new features and flexible pages that can adapt to both mobile devices and desktop displays.

Mobile use of wilawlibrary.gov has tripled in the last four years with over a quarter of website visitors arriving on a mobile device like a smartphone or tablet. The new website resizes depending on the screen size to do away with the need to scroll horizontally or zoom in and out to move around the website. Buttons for popular services are bigger to better accommodate users with touch-screen devices.

The reorganized home page provides faster access to

popular pages and library services. The main search box offers over 400 legal topic suggestions that match keywords as you type. While still on the home page, click on the term in the pop-up menu to jump directly to the relevant Legal Topic page on the Law Library website.

Also from the home page, users can quickly get to the library's most popular services to ask a question, request copies, or renew library materials. Visitors can use the cluster of research links in the lower left to search the catalog, legal research databases, and state and local laws.

While the overall design of the website has changed, returning visitors can look under the same menu items in the navigation bar to find the pages they need.

With the October launch, the library added one new prominent research page on finding Wisconsin court records

(www.wilawlibrary.gov/search/courtrecords.html).

This page guides users through the major online and print resources for locating Wisconsin court opinions and provides a list of research starting points for those investigating historical court records.

Friendly to new users and familiar to returning visitors, the redesigned wilawlibrary.gov is your first destination for any research project.

The redesign is already drawing rave reviews.

The *Wisconsin Law Journal* noted in a review: "It has a fresher feel, but maintains all the great information legal researchers have relied on for years," the article reads, before it goes on to highlight the new features. ■



Keepsake book returns to chief justice



UW-Law student James Biggs poses with a signed copy of Carl Sagan's *The Dragon of Eden*, with the book's original owner Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson.

A first-year UW Law student came across an unexpected treasure when searching through the used books at the UW Library's book sale. James Biggs said he was looking for some summer reading when he picked up a copy of Carl Sagan's "The Dragon of Eden."

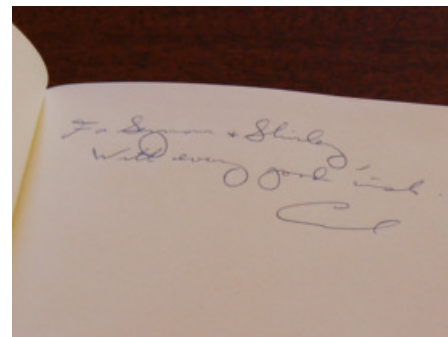
When he brought the book home, he noticed an inscription reading "For Seymour and Shirley. With every good wish, Carl."

Biggs said he first assumed "Carl" was a coincidence, and not necessarily the book's author. But after researching through some Sagan biographies, he learned Chief Justice

Shirley S. Abrahamson's husband, Dr. Seymour Abrahamson, had a friendship with Sagan. He also discovered that the handwriting of the inscription matched Sagan's.

Briggs contacted the chief justice offering to return the book, in case it had been mistakenly donated to the library and ended up in with the used book sale items. On Oct. 29, the book was reunited with its original owner when Biggs

brought the book to the chief justice's chambers in the state Capitol. Abrahamson returned the favor by giving Biggs a tour of the Supreme Court hearing room and the conference room. ■



Carl Sagan signed a copy of *The Dragon of Eden*, found at a used book sale "For Seymour and Shirley. With every good wish, Carl."

Issues explored at three-state tribal forum

By Bonnie MacRitchie, Office of Court Operations

On Sept. 15 and 16 the Wisconsin State-Tribal Justice Forum sponsored a two-day conference with state and tribal judges from Michigan and Minnesota to explore issues of mutual concern regarding the relationship between state and tribal courts.

The Tribal Forum Conference was held at the Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, Minn. The conference was attended by 26 state and tribal court judges from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, and two Supreme Court justices.

District Nine Chief Judge Neal A. Nielsen, Vilas County Circuit Court, was among presenters. In addition to the judges, the conference was attended by court administrators and policy analysts, clerks of court, and tribal law attorneys.

The impetus for this conference came from the *A Bridge to Cooperation* conference held in July 2011. Wisconsin hosted the 2011 conference for Wisconsin and Michigan state and tribal judges and clerks in Green Bay. The conference was a great success and many connections were made. The success of this gathering inspired strong interest in another collaborative conference including Minnesota state and tribal representatives.

"I believe I can speak for all judges from Minnesota who took part in the tri-state forum in September. The opportunity to learn about our respective inter-jurisdictional relationships in a respectful and welcoming setting provided us much incentive to continue and improve our efforts here in Minnesota. We thank each of you for your generous and thoughtful contributions," said Lower Sioux Indian Community Associate Judge Andrew Small.

The 2014 conference explored issues of full faith and credit, or comity; the discretionary transfer of cases from state courts to tribal courts; state codification and implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and the development of tribal and joint state-tribal specialty courts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

"The Wisconsin tribal state forum was absolutely instrumental in inspiring, educating and assisting us in our success in implementing the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act. Their vision to now include Minnesota in



Monroe County Circuit Court Judge Mark L. Goodman and Ho-Chunk Nation Associate Judge Amanda WhiteEagle present at the Tribal Forum Conference in Prior Lake, Minn.

our discussions should be recognized and applauded," said Judge Tim Connors of the Washtenaw County Trial Court in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"The tri-state forum was an excellent opportunity to learn from our sister states about what their forums are accomplishing and to obtain ideas for our newly re-established Michigan Forum that will be meeting at the end of October," said Maribeth Preston, management analyst, Michigan State Court Administrative Office.

The conference was made possible by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and conference coordination was provided by Fox Valley Technical College.

The Wisconsin State-Tribal Justice Forum is a group of state and tribal court judges that also includes representatives from the state legislature and the State Bar of Wisconsin's Indian Law Section and a policy analyst from the Director of State Courts. It was formed in 2005 and given a general charge to promote and sustain communication, education and cooperation among tribal and state court systems. ■

LEADERSHIP *continued from page 3*

problems within the system.

So, for the next roundtable, the format was changed. New questions proved to elicit good discussion among the judges on a personal level. And it was at a remote location away from the courthouse, with no business meetings looming.

But most striking of all was a 10-minute talk at the beginning by Barry's son, who had been shocked by what his father did. He said no one saw it coming. Only after the fact did he learn that his dad, as well regarded and popular as he was, was in the throes of depression with no one to talk to and feeling the stigma of perceived weakness should he reach out.

He wished the roundtables had been around when his father was alive. The judges in attendance were moved and they started opening up about the isolation of the job, the feeling that we have to wear our robe 24 hours a day, seven

days a week, the belief that after awhile, you lose your first name. Every participant came away with positive feedback for the roundtables and wanted to do it again and replicate the ideas statewide – an idea Brown and Albert hope to accomplish.

While judges may be problem solvers in black robes, we are also human beings with psychological needs of our own. Given the position that judges occupy in our society and the stigma around disclosure to others, it is important to have each other. Nobody is perfect and the roundtables are a good way to discuss the stresses of life in the courtroom and out, beyond the weight of public expectation. Of course, there's no way of knowing, but it is a question to ponder: If Barry had had a support system, including more colleagues to talk to, would he be with us now? ■

New firearm surrender requirements in effect

By Amber Peterson, Office of Court Operations

Effective Nov. 1, Wisconsin courts are required to hold follow-up firearm surrender hearings in any case where the court grants a domestic abuse, child abuse, individual at risk, or harassment injunction, finds that the respondent owns or possesses firearms, and orders surrender of those firearms. The new requirements are the result of 2013 WI Act 321, also known as the Stopping Abuse Fatalities through Enforcement (SAFE) Act.

The purpose of the new legislation is to ensure that respondents comply with the court's order to surrender firearms in injunction cases. The majority of the new firearm surrender requirements are contained in Wis. Stat. § 813.1285, which is newly created section of Chapter 813. Highlights of the requirements contained in the legislation include:

- Three new forms to be served on the respondent, in addition to the temporary restraining order (TRO);
- Respondent must complete a new form, *Respondent's Statement of Possession of Firearms (CV-800)* and bring it to the injunction hearing;
- If the court grants an injunction and determines that the respondent owns or possesses firearms, the court must order the respondent to surrender his/her firearms within 48 hours and to appear at a firearm surrender hearing to be held within one week of the injunction hearing;
- If applicable, the court must stay the injunction and extend the TRO to allow the respondent to possess firearms for the purpose of surrender; and
- If the respondent wishes to surrender his/her firearms to a third party, the third party and the respondent must be present in court.

To help counties prepare for the Nov. 1 effective date, the Director of State Courts Office offered five regional trainings throughout the state from May through October. The training was funded by the STOP Violence Against Women grant and the target audience included judges, court

commissioners, clerks of court and staff, law enforcement, and advocates. The faculty was comprised of Commissioner David Keck, Winnebago County Circuit Court; Rochelle Skorlinski, evidence and records coordinator for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office; Danielle Long, criminal justice program analyst for the Department of Justice; and Amber Peterson, circuit court policy and procedures advisor for the Office of Court Operations. In total, more than 280 individuals attended the trainings.

Based on feedback provided at the trainings, many believe that the new firearm surrender requirements will help protect victims of domestic violence and improve the court's handling of injunction cases. Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County Circuit Court, commented that "abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm. This legislation will save lives."

Similarly, Keck said, "the SAFE Act empowers the courts and law enforcement to take a proactive approach to removing firearms from offenders at the time they are statistically most likely to use them. It will have an immediate and lasting positive effect on the community as it is implemented statewide."

To assist counties with implementation of the firearm surrender requirements, there are two new procedures posted on CourtNet: (1) Firearm Surrender Procedures for Judges and Court Commissioners; and (2) Firearm Surrender Hearing Procedures for Clerks. The procedures can be found on CourtNet under the "Civil / Small Claims" heading. ■

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

OBITUARIES *continued from page 3*

Radcliffe received his undergraduate degree from UW-La Crosse before serving as a Lieutenant Junior Grade (JG) in the U.S. Navy from 1954-58, part of that time as a jet pilot on the USS Hornet. He received his law degree from UW Law School.

While on the bench, Radcliffe served as deputy chief judge and later as chief judge for District Seven. While serving as chief judge, he was elected by the other nine chief judges to serve as the "chief of the chiefs" and head the Committee of Chief Judges. He was a former member of the Chief Judges Subcommittee on Jury Issues, the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), the Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee, and an establishing member of the Chief Judges' Subcommittee on Juror



Judge Robert W. Radcliffe

Selection and Treatment. He also worked with the Jackson County Health and Human Services Department to create the Jackson County Underage Alcohol Violation Program in 1993.

In 2007, the *La Crosse Tribune* spoke with Radcliffe for an article they wrote on reserve judges.

"I enjoy being involved with the judicial system again and keeping myself up to date on the changes in the law as it affects the court system," he told the paper. "I'd much rather be driving my tractor or working in my garden or hunting, but I enjoy filling in."

He is survived by his wife, Judy; four children; and eight grandchildren. ■

Eau Claire drug court celebrates 10th year

The Eau Claire County drug treatment court program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ceremony at the courthouse that drew a crowd of about 75 people on Nov. 12.

About 80 people have been graduated from the program since its inception, drug treatment court supervisor Melissa Ives told WEAU-TV, which covered the event.

Drug court can be demanding due to its rigorous standards and drug monitoring requirements, but there's a high success rate for those to do graduate, Ives said.

"Some folks quite frankly would rather sit in jail than go through the drug court program, simply because you're talking about a lot of treatment, a lot of accountability as far



The Eau Claire County Drug Treatment Court program celebrated its 10th anniversary during a ceremony attended by about 75 people at the courthouse on Nov. 12. Members of the drug court team, from right to left: Tessa Sarauer, Dana Smetana, Mike Steuer, Kathy Benson, Kristi Gruebele, Nikki Kulibert, Judge Michael A. Schmuacher, Judge Lisa K. Stark, who presided over the drug court before being elected to the Court of Appeals, Pat Isenberger, and Colleen Kastel.

as frequent and random drug testing, you're just talking a lot about requirements in general, the need to meet with the case manager, to meet with the Department of Corrections agent. There's a lot of work involved in being in a drug court," Ives told WEAU.

Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Schumacher, who presides over the drug court, said that drug treatment court is a system that addresses the way participants think and puts their focus on achieving life goals.

"If we can change the way people think, we can change the way they feel, and if you can change the way they feel, then you can change the way they behave. What we found is

that treatment and other things like drug court do a much better job of stopping the behavior," Schumacher said. ■

Waukesha from front page

people who gathered for the ceremony, which was widely covered by the Milwaukee area media.

Attorneys selected by the Waukesha County Bar Association helped improve understanding of the Court's role and decision making process as they introduced each case to the audience. Chen and several high school students were interviewed by news reporters, discussing what they had learned during oral argument and the Court's visit.

Justice on Wheels gives people in other parts of the state an opportunity to see the Supreme Court at work outside the state Capitol in Madison, where oral arguments are usually heard each month from September through May. This year's visit was made possible by the Waukesha County Circuit Court and Waukesha County government, including the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department.

In addition to having visited Waukesha, the justices have conducted proceedings in the following counties: Brown,



Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Linda M. Van De Water helped extend the outreach boundaries of the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels program by bringing with her to opening ceremonies a judge and attorney visiting from Belgium. She introduced to the Court Frans De Roy, of Antwerp, who was visiting Waukesha while attending an American Bar Association conference in Chicago.

Eau Claire, Marathon, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Douglas, Rock, Kenosha, Sauk, Dodge, Oneida, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Fond du Lac, Walworth, Waushara, St. Croix, Winnebago, Iowa, Washington, Columbia, Green and Sheboygan. ■

NEWS AND NOTES

Justice Ann Walsh
BradleyChief Judge James P.
Daley

Chief Judge **James P. Daley**, Rock County Circuit Court and chief judge of the Fifth Judicial District, announced he will run for the Supreme Court seat held by Justice **Ann Walsh Bradley**, the *Janesville Gazette* reported.

Daley announced his intentions during a press conference Oct. 27 at Lower Courthouse Park in Janesville. Daley was appointed to the bench in 1989, elected in 1990 and re-elected three times since. The Fifth Judicial District encompasses Dane, Green and Rock counties.

Bradley's campaign told the newspaper that she anticipates making a formal announcement to run for reelection in the near future. Bradley was the first woman elected to the Supreme Court without first being appointed in 1995. She was reelected to the Supreme Court in 2005. Bradley previously served as a circuit court judge in Marathon County, having been appointed to that bench in 1985, elected in 1986 and reelected in 1992.

The spring election will be held April 7, 2015. If three or more candidates seek the office, a primary election will be held Feb. 17.

Justice Michael J.
Gableman

Supreme Court Justice **Michael J. Gableman** spoke at his alma mater Ripon College on Sept. 17, Constitution Day, as part of an event sponsored by the college's Center for Politics and the People.

The center seeks to promote constructive political debate by informing students, the community and citizens concerned with good governance in politics and public policy.

The event was held in the Great Hall at the Harwood Memorial Union, on the Ripon College campus.

Madison College has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund Realtime training for court reporters, according to a release from the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). The college will use the money to implement redesigned curriculum in the court reporting program.

"With the award, we will be able to fully implement our vision and ensure Madison's court reporting program continues to grow," Lisa Carey, an instructor at Madison

College's School of Business and Applied Arts, is quoted as saying. "Some of the funds will help purchase new equipment, support technology updates, develop additional curriculum, establish community partnerships, and market the court reporting profession."

•••

"Courts asking for \$21M increase for next budget," headlined an October *Wisconsin Law Journal* article. The article reported on the court system's 2015-17 biennial budget, which asks for the increase to reimburse counties for circuit court costs, among other things.

"Counties have increased their share of court funding over the years at a time when they are struggling to keep within their levy limits and hold down property taxes," the article quotes Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** as writing in a

letter dated Oct. 1.

David Callendar, a lobbyist for the Wisconsin Counties Association, told the *Law Journal* that the cuts faced by counties over the years could begin taking a toll.

"There's a limited amount of discretion in the court budget," he told the *Law Journal*. "They can't do anything with the judges' salaries. They can hold positions open, but the biggest discretionary target in the courts program is those circuit court support payments."

The budget also includes eight new staff positions to implement eFiling across the state in an effort to make it mandatory in all counties by December 2018.

•••

The Milwaukee County mental health court was recently featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The pilot program, which launched in February, has had five participants. The program allows qualifying offenders whose crimes stem from their mental illness to avoid jail time if they agree to and meet certain conditions, including monitoring and treatment. They must also allow access to their medical records to determine if they are taking required medications.

The pilot was made possible by a state law that established a mental health board and the Community Justice Council's evidence-based decision-making initiative. Chief Judge **Jeffrey A. Kremers**, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, presides over the court, where he speaks to participants informally, rather than from behind the bench.

"If someone doesn't succeed in this program, I feel like I've failed," Kremers is quoted as saying to one of the participants.

Chief Justice Shirley S.
AbrahamsonChief Judge Jeffrey A.
Kremers

Sheboygan judges, lawyers gather in honor of Orange Book Club founder

On Sept. 24, Sheboygan judges and attorneys gathered at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center to honor Atty. Alex Hopp, who 40 years earlier formed the Orange Book Club, a legal club for attorneys to discuss new court decisions.

"He was a leader in the community," Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge James J. Bolgert, who now heads the club, told the *Sheboygan Press*. "He was a student of the law and very disciplined."

According to the paper, the club, which gets its name from the bright orange covers of Callaghan's Official Wisconsin Reports, still meets about once a month over lunch.

"The purpose is to socialize a little bit and to stay current in the law, and then have a few laughs," Bolgert went on to say. "We enjoy each other's company. It's maybe 80 percent educational and 20 percent social."

Hopp, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, was unable to attend the event, but his son, Andy Hopp, was there to speak on behalf of his father.

"Dad was all about preparation and he wanted everyone to be prepared for the latest court decision," Andy is quoted as saying. "He wasn't always the smartest guy in the room, but he was the best-prepared." ■



Photo credit: Gary C. Klein/Sheboygan Press Media



Photo credit: Gary C. Klein/Sheboygan Press Media

Above: members of the Orange Book Club, which includes Sheboygan County judges and attorneys, outside the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, where they met to honor the club's founder, Atty. Alex Hopp.

Left: Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge James J. Bolgert presents Hopp's son, Andy Hopp, with an award for founding the legal club 40 years ago.

Elder Law Clinic held at MATC

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Executive Assistant to the Chief Justice Andrew Bissonnette visited Madison Area Technical College's (MATC) Truax campus during a free educational legal clinic for the elderly on Nov. 1. The clinic was presented by MATC's Paralegal Program in cooperation with WPS, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Dane County Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

The clinic featured workshops on health insurance, advance directives and estate planning and provided resources on a variety of issues, such as social security, trusts, long-term care insurance, among other topics.

About 70 people attended. Abrahamson addressed the group briefly about access to justice and elder abuse prevention. She also toured the college's new E-Courtroom and E-Jury room – state of the art facilities used for training law enforcement officers, court reporters and paralegals. ■



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, third from left, toured Madison Area Technical College's (MATC's) new E-Courtroom training facility on Nov. 1. Also pictured (left to right), are instructor, Atty. Bill Bedker; Associate Dean of Business and Applied Arts Kathy Sorenson; Paralegals Scott Whaley, Janell Oudenhoven, and Krista Balgeman; MATC President Dr. Jack Daniels, and MATC Provost Terry Webb.

Second District hosts cultural proficiency training for treatment courts

By Theresa Owens, District Two Court Administrator

During September, the National Drug Court Institute hosted a conference in the Second Judicial District for members of the six treatment court teams in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties.

The district-wide training held at Wingspread in Racine focused on the issue of underrepresentation of minorities in these courts. As part of the program, each court developed a strategy and action steps to address cultural competency.

Darryl Turpin, Guy Wheeler, and Diana Padilla led sessions on cultural proficiency in treatment courts. The presenters emphasized culturally proficient programs that:

- Conduct research,
- Develop new service delivery approaches based on cultural context,
- Publish and disseminate results of demonstration efforts,
- Employ culturally competent specialists, and
- Advocate for systems and social change.

Turpin noted that over one-third of the U.S. population is from a minority group. He emphasized the importance of incorporating cultural awareness into the treatment court programs because every interaction involves a perception of culture.

Wheeler emphasized the significance of incorporating spiritual-based components into treatment programs to improve engagement and outcomes. He noted that minority groups experience lower rates of program participation and higher rates of non-completion of treatment and recidivism.

Padilla said understanding and appreciating a client's cultural background helps expand treatment opportunities and customize treatment plans to the participant. Deputy Chief Judge Anthony G. Milisauskas, Kenosha County



Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Anthony G. Milisauskas addresses the audience during a conference in Racine that focused on the issue of underrepresentation of minorities in treatment courts. Also pictured is presenter Guy Wheeler.

Circuit Court, who heads Kenosha County's Drug Court, emphasized that "Treatment Courts need to incorporate cultural awareness into our programs to serve our local communities more efficiently and increase our graduation rates."

Terrance Walton, chief of standards for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, presented on

issues involving relapse prevention planning and behavior modification. Walton cited research showing relapse rates of 40 percent to 60 percent at the one year mark for drug addicted offenders in treatment. However, clients who remain in treatment longer generally have better outcomes. Relapse prevention and responses help address early warning signs by identifying and mitigating relapse risk factors.

Racine County Circuit

Court Judge Gerald P. Ptacek, who leads the Racine County's Alcohol and Drug Treatment Court, commented on the ongoing goals of the training.

"This conference provided excellent information and has helped each team develop an action plan to address the issues of underrepresentation and lower success rates of blacks, Hispanics and women in our treatment courts. In six months each team will report on the progress it has made in implementing its plan. We hope to be able to measure and report improvement in the future," Ptacek said.

The materials from the conference are available on the website for The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread at <http://event.johnsonfdn.org/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x1075521d1&varPage=info>. ■

EBDM *continued from page 7*

could impact expanding EBDM in Wisconsin.

The Phase IV Planning Team also selected the Phase V State Level EBDM Policy Team. The membership of the current state CJCC Evidence Based Practices Subcommittee was expanded to serve as the State Team. These additions include a judge; legislative leaders from both parties; the Department of Corrections Reentry Director; representation from pre-trial services, victim advocacy, behavioral health, and offender advocacy groups; a local CJCC coordinator; and local law enforcement. Stakeholders from Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and the six Phase V counties were also included. On Sept. 30 the state CJCC unanimously approved a motion to accept and support the recommended state and local teams.

To assist with the application process in November, NIC sponsored EBDM Capacity Building Training. Each of the

Phase IV states sent a team of six to nine members of the justice system to receive intensive training in providing technical assistance to counties implementing EBDM.

In addition to judges and Court Operations staff, Wisconsin's Capacity Building Team also included staff from the Department of Justice and Department of Corrections, a district attorney and a public defender representative, local CJCC coordinators, and local law enforcement. Together with the Phase V teams formed at the state and local levels, the work of the Capacity Building Team will supplement and enhance the advancement of EBDM across Wisconsin, and would make Wisconsin a national model of how to improve criminal justice systems.

NIC is expected to announce the two selected states before the end of the year. ■

Kenosha team attends school summit

A Kenosha team represented Wisconsin at the 2014 National Leadership Summit on School Discipline and Climate in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 6-7. The summit promoted the use of school discipline practices that foster safe, supportive, and productive learning environments. The team included Susan Valeri, director of Special Education and Student Support from the Kenosha Unified School District; Ron Rogers, director of the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services; and Brenda Jennings, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Student Services, Prevention and Wellness Team.

The multidisciplinary team was led by Judge Mary K. Wagner, Kenosha County Circuit Court. Wagner emphasized that family and school climate matter for educational success.

“We intend to work together with families, schools and



Left to right: Rob Mayo, consultant for American Institute for Research; Karen Francis, Ph.D., American Institute for Research staff; Ron Rogers, director Kenosha County Division of Family Services; Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Mary K. Wagner; Susan Valeri, director of special education and student support, Kenosha Unified School District; Brenda Jennings, Consultant, ATODA/ Suicide Prevention Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

human services to make education a priority and a possibility for all children. In order to succeed in school, students need to be in school,” Wagner said.

The summit provided the opportunity for the multidisciplinary teams to deepen partnerships and develop concrete steps to further advance school discipline and juvenile justice reform in their communities. The team started working together before the summit discussing cross-system collaboration and community engagement, and identifying available data, policies, funding, and local practices. DPI’s Jennings had worked with the Kenosha Unified School District on the Safe and Supportive Schools Project to focus on “improving conditions for learning” for all students.

“This important work continued with the Kenosha team at the summits, where they discussed political will, policies and funding, cross-systems collaboration, and

an action plan,” Jennings said. During the summit, teams discussed best practices that have resulted in improved school climate, reformed discipline practices, and reduced juvenile justice system entry. ■

Conference *continued from front page*

the Northwest Ordinance and state constitution. The principle of judicial independence referenced in the mission statement can be traced to the Declaration of Independence, the Chief Justice said.

Focusing on the word “effective” in the mission statement, Abrahamson highlighted five court system programs:

- treatment courts;
- evidence-based decision making (EBDM);
- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD);
- the Children’s Court Improvement Program (CCIP); and
- Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).

Abrahamson also asked judges as community leaders to help promote understanding among legislators and the public of the important role courts play, how the courts are funded, and why it is important for courts to have sufficient budget resources to live up to constitutional obligations.

Abrahamson highlighted the importance of five key budget items in the court system’s state budget request, including:

- an additional \$8.6 million annually to the counties to help pay for court services;
- one-time start-up funding for statewide eFiling;
- increased compensation for judges;
- a statewide problem-solving court coordinator; and
- funding to improve the court interpreter program.

The conference also provided judges with an opportunity to serve on various judicial conference committees, which provide guidance to judges and the court system. ■



Judicial district luncheons held during the Judicial conference provided an opportunity to explore issues in a less formal setting. Here, Judge Barbara Hart Key, Winnebago County Circuit Court, discusses Winnebago County’s 24/7 Sobriety Program during a District Four luncheon held Nov. 19. Winnebago County Sheriff John Matz and Lt. Lara Vendola-Messer, standing, presented on the program. Seated next to Key is District Court Administrator John Bellows.



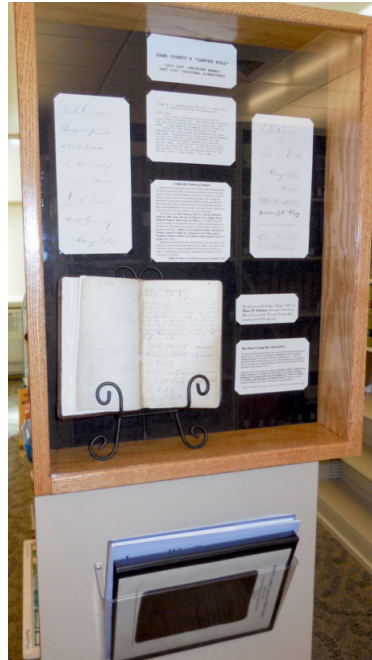
Judge Mary Triggiano, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, co-presented the session Childhood Trauma: Essential Information for Judges during the Judicial Conference. Tim Grove, chief clinical officer of SaintA in Milwaukee, co-presented the session, which addressed the long-term effects of acute stress on children.

Legal Resource Center displays ‘Lawyer Roll’

By Lisa Winkler, Wisconsin State Law Library

On Sept. 26, a remarkable Dane County artifact found a home at the [Dane County Legal Resource Center](#). The leatherbound “Lawyer Roll” ledger contains the signatures of hundreds of attorneys admitted to practice in the Dane County Circuit Court from 1850 to 1957. The late Dane County Circuit Court Judge Wilmarth L. Jackman’s note, sent with the ledger when he gave it to the late Judge Paul C. Gartzke, District IV Court of Appeals, explains how it came to be in his possession when the clerk of court intended to discard it in the 1960s.

Fully restored by the Gartzke family and donated to the Dane County Bar Association’s History and Memorials Committee, the book features such prominent Madisonians as Robert LaFollette, A. P. Atwood, Henry and Levi Vilas, and Silas Pinney. These names now grace parks, streets, schools, and libraries as a memorial to their commendable civic service. Next to the ledger is a special recognition of the very first entry: Thomas W. Sutherland, who served as attorney general of the Wisconsin Territory before moving west during the fervor of the California Gold Rush. ■



A Lawyer Roll, including the names of lawyers admitted to practice in Dane County from 1850 to 1957 is on display at the Dane County Legal Resource Center. The glass-front case is mounted on the end of a library bookcase in one of the most heavily used, and therefore most visible, areas of the Resource Center. Anyone with an interest in history, the practice of law, or in the history of the practice of law is encouraged to stop by the library and see the new installation. A high resolution color copy of the entire ledger and index with cross-references to Lawyers Who Shaped Dane County (2012) waits for visitors to leaf through its pages and admire the elegant script of days gone by.

New judges *continued from front page*



Judge Anna L. Becker

family court commissioner in Jackson County. She also had worked in private practice and for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

“The selection of Anna Becker would be in the very best interests of the citizens of Jackson County,” former Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert Radcliffe wrote in a letter recommending Becker’s appointment. “She has earned our support in favor of her appointment as circuit judge.”

Becker has a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and received her law degree from Hamline University School of Law. She and her husband, Robert, have two sons. Becker fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Thomas E. Lister (*see The Third Branch, spring 2014*).



Judge Vincent R. Biskupic

Retired Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Dee R. Dyer’s Branch 6 seat (*see The Third Branch, summer 2014*) will

be filled by Vincent R. Biskupic. A graduate of Marquette University and DePaul Law School, Biskupic served as a law clerk for Federal District Judge Robert W. Warren and as a prosecutor in Winnebago and Outagamie counties. He

served as Outagamie County district attorney for nine years. He has spent the past 11 years working in private practice.

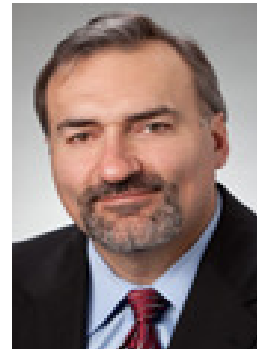
Outagamie County District Atty. Carrie Schneider said Biskupic “has demonstrated exceptional work ethic, utmost professionalism, and unwavering commitment to his profession and the community he serves,” according to a press release from the governor’s office.

Biskupic and his wife, Laura, have four children and live in Appleton.

Walker appointed Michael J. Aprahamian to fill the Waukesha County Circuit Court Branch 9 seat vacated by the retirement of Judge Donald J. Hassin Jr. (*see Retirements on page 2*).

“I have the highest degree of confidence in Mr. Aprahamian’s character, professional judgment, and legal skills,” Marquette University Law Professor Daniel Blinka is quoted as saying in the governor’s press release. “[His work] reveal[s] a lawyer who cares deeply about preparation, diligence, and elevated professionalism. His interest will be in getting the decision right, which is the essence of justice.”

Aprahamian received his law degree from Yale Law School and his undergraduate degree from UW-Madison. He has spent the past 21 years working in private practice. Aprahamian previously served as a law clerk for U.S. Court of Appeals Seventh Circuit Judge Richard D. Cudahy. Aprahamian and his wife, Michelle, have three children and live in Brookfield. ■



Judge Michael J. Aprahamian

Dedicated space for pro se litigants opens at Milwaukee Justice Center

By Justin Metzger, Milwaukee Justice Center

On July 7 the Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC) officially reopened its doors on the ground floor of the Milwaukee County Courthouse, revealing, for the first time, a permanent, purpose-built space for helping *pro se* litigants in Milwaukee County.

“This is a fabulous asset to the people of Milwaukee County,” said Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court. “I’m very appreciative of the work of everyone involved.”

The physical history of the MJC is long and varied. It started as a single desk handled by attorney, and ultimate MJC visionary, Ernesto Romero.

“Back in the mid 1990s, Wisconsin’s Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson challenged lawyers with her vision of having the private bar and judiciary creatively address the needs of the unrepresented,” said Romero. “As a former Legal Aid Society

attorney, I knew that all I needed was two chairs and a table and some courthouse signs,” Romero added.

From there, it grew to four bank-teller-style windows, to eight tables in a newly cleared office space behind the windows. And that is where the fun, and demolition, began. With a temporary relocation to a space on the fifth floor of the courthouse able to serve up to six clients at a time with overflow into the corridors if needed, Room G-9 was torn down to the studs. Sledgehammers, jackhammers, and asbestos abatement teams were followed by carpenters, painters, flooring specialists, and electricians. Finally, after eight months of work, it was done.

Old, worn-out carpets were replaced with durable rubber flooring. More interior windows were used, and exterior windows were exposed to make more use of the natural light that enters the ground-floor space. Twelve modular cubicles were installed, and two more on-demand spots were added to increase the MJC’s service capacity to a maximum

of 14 people. When the MJC’s neighbors, the Milwaukee Legal Resource Center (law library) and Milwaukee County Civil Records Center (compacted as a result of record digitization) arrived, our space became a one-stop shop for litigant services.

“I like the remodel,” Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court John Barrett said. “Customers will get help in a dignified space which affords some privacy when dealing with personal, legal matters. Unrepresented litigants are

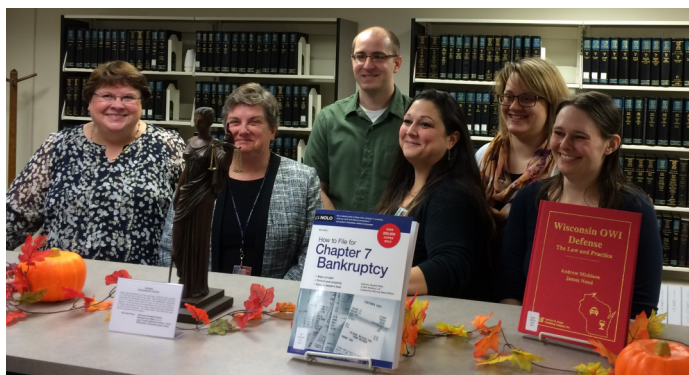
already going through difficult times, so it’s my hope that the frustrations of court processes will be diminished when individuals can go to one place for help,” Barrett said.

During the rededication ceremony held on Sept. 15, Kremers dubbed the project an “amazing collaboration” between the county, the Milwaukee Bar Association (MBA), and the Marquette University Law School.

MBA Foundation President Francis Deisinger reminded attendees that the MBA helped found two pillars of Milwaukee’s legal community – the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, and what would become Marquette’s Law School. He then said he hoped the MJC would be considered as a third pillar.

Since the MJC was formalized in 2009, it has helped more than 43,000 litigants with the contributions of more than 1,500 volunteer interns, law students, paralegals, and attorneys. This amounts to more than \$3 million in value donated to the Milwaukee community. Now, with the capacity to help more than ever, the MJC expects that service to continue to increase at an accelerating pace.

“I believe equal access to justice must extend to all people, including the vulnerable and poor who would be unable, without such centers, to assert, protect, or defend their rights. Continuation of this clinic is essential to ensuring access to our courts,” Romero said. ■



Staff of the Milwaukee County Legal Resources Center was on hand for a Sept. 15 ceremony celebrating the opening of its newly renovated space in the Milwaukee County Courthouse. The Milwaukee Justice Center and Records Center also were renovated as part of the project.

Budget *continued from page 4*

coordinator position.

The budget request also includes \$2.1 million start-up funding for two years to implement eFiling throughout the circuit courts. As of Oct. 24, Wisconsin circuit courts provide attorneys and *pro se* litigants with the ability to electronically file and receive court documents for certain case types. This budget item would expand eFiling to all circuit courts for all types of cases, and would provide judges, clerks of court, attorneys and litigants a more efficient, affordable and convenient system.

The budget request also seeks increased compensation for judges to bring their salaries more in line with other

Midwest states. Additionally, the budget request calls for the creation of a Wisconsin Judicial Compensation Commission to independently assess and recommend judicial salaries to be set by the state.

Two other requests are designed to improve court interpreter services, including a two-year pilot project in three counties that would establish a centralized interpreter station offering centralized scheduling and video and telephone conferencing interpreter services.

Gov. Scott Walker is expected to determine which court system requests to include in his 2015-17 budget proposal to be introduced in late January or early February 2015. ■

Fall
2014

Columbia County security preparations include 'active shooter' exercise

By Susan Raimer, Columbia County Clerk of Circuit Court

Little by little, the Columbia County Administration Building, which is home to the Columbia County Circuit Court, has become a safer place to work. Over the past few years, entrances have been secured, requiring identification tags, panic buttons have been installed, access to certain areas of the building has been limited, screening has been activated part time at the front entrance, and retired officers have been assigned to security detail.

These have all been physical improvements for the safety and security of the employees and citizens who use the facility. But what happens if an active shooter is in the building, or a nearby emergency event alters the operation of the courts or other

departments? How will employees respond? Security discussions and trainings have become commonplace, and court staff, law enforcement, and county supervisors have attended the annual state-wide court security training.

The Courthouse Security Committee, with the approval of the county board, has initiated annual hands-on trainings for employees and law enforcement to practice the procedures that have been outlined in the County's Emergency Plan.

The latest of these hands-on training sessions was held Oct. 17. The Administration Building and the nearby County Annex were closed to the public during the session.



Sheriff Dennis Richards, Emergency Manager Pat Beghin, and other training participants discussing the outcome of one of the scenarios.

At that time, law enforcement, emergency management, and county staff met for a briefing session, where it was made known that three different scenarios would be enacted. Each would involve an incident that would require reaction from

the participants, and each would involve an active shooter or disturbance.

In one scenario, an individual approached Columbia County Circuit Court Judge W. Andrew Voigt in the main hallway, and without warning, pulled out a gun and shot him. As his judicial assistant in a quivering voice stuttered over the intercom, "I think Judge Voigt was shot in the hallway," a new awareness of the unexpected was felt by county staff. The judicial assistant explained during an interview with

the *Daily Register*, "I was shaking" ... the gunshot made it more "real." The session ended with everyone assembling for discussion and reaction to the exercises. Personnel learned that there are always options when a situation arises, that some choices were good and others needed improvement.

The Security Committee met shortly after the training exercise and reviewed the positives and negatives. They are eagerly looking forward to the next trainings in 2015, realizing that practice might not make perfect in a real life situation, but it's definitely a step in the right direction. ■

Staff *continued from page 5*



Bridget Bauman

adoption. Previously CCIP was part of the Office of Court Operations.

Bauman has spent the past 10 years as a Policy Analyst for CCIP. She has also previously worked as an Assistant Public Defender representing children and juveniles. Bauman takes over the role previously held by Michelle Jensen Goodwin.

Lisa Winkler is the new Outreach Services Librarian for the Wisconsin State Law Library.

Winkler served as the librarian in the Dane County Courthouse branch of the State Law Library for nine years.

At the county courthouse branch, Winkler not only managed the library and judicial collections, serving the public on a daily basis, but she was an active participant in courthouse programs, including being a major contributor to Law Day celebrations and the expansion of assistance programs for self-represented litigants. ■



Atty. Ruth Westmont (left), and Dane County Circuit Court Judge Juan B. Colas present Law Librarian Lisa Winkler with a plaque at her farewell party. Winkler left the Dane County branch for position at the State Law Library.

Photo credit: The Daily Register

UW Law School Pro holds Bono Reception

By Lisa Winkler, Wisconsin State Law Library

On Oct. 21, State Law Librarian Julie Tessmer and Outreach Services Librarian Lisa Winkler attended the UW Law School's annual Pro Bono Reception. This event celebrates the [UW Law School's Pro Bono Program](#), created in 2007 as a pilot project. Since then the Pro Bono Program has taken root, fulfilling its mission of creating ways for students and faculty to deliver pro bono services to underrepresented community members. Working in private and nonprofit law firms, legal aid groups, in-house programs and other organization, students help people with pressing legal matters who need assistance but are unable to afford or otherwise procure it. Students who perform a certain number of hours receive special recognition at graduation, join the [Pro Bono Society](#), gain invaluable practical experience, and learn the importance of pro bono service.

Dane County legal professionals, faculty, and inspired students assembled in Lubar Commons to welcome several esteemed speakers including Dean Margaret Raymond, U.S. District Court Judge Barbara B. Crabb, and Atty. Victor Forberger. Distinguished attendees included Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Dane County Circuit Court Judge Juan B. Colás. Clinical Professor Marsha Mansfield then presented Karen McKenzie, a paralegal at Winner, Wixson & Pernitz and J.D. candidate at Marquette Law School, with an award for her indispensable role in establishing the [Veterans Law Center](#). Pro Bono Program Director Laura Smythe gave remarks about the objectives and viability of the program.

More information about the event is available online at: www.law.wisc.edu/gallery/ftc5m. ■

NEWS AND NOTES *continues from page 12*

The article looks at the varying degrees of success the participants have had with the program so far.

•••

The Sheboygan Press recently spoke with a participant in Sheboygan County's Pretrial Intoxicated Intervention Program about her experiences with the program.

"Never once did I feel like a rotten criminal," the participant, identified only as "Jenna," told the paper. "The genuine care they had for my life and my day-to-day progress was definitely profound and appreciated. They're totally dedicated to helping you understand what it takes to get back up after you fall down."

Jenna entered the program after two drunken driving arrests within a few weeks. She underwent monitoring and daily breath tests, and attended therapy, driver safety courses, and a victim-impact panel as part of the program. Successful completion of the program is taken into account by all five Sheboygan County Circuit Court judges during sentencing, according to the article.

"The hope is, of course, to not just put them in jail for awhile but to do something that not only punishes them but makes them less dangerous to the public but hopefully helps them personally," Sheboygan County Circuit Court Judge **James J. Bolgert** is quoted as saying.

The program is offered through



Justice David T. Prosser discussed the Supreme Court with a crowd of more than 50 students from D.C. Everest Senior High School during a break in oral arguments in the Supreme Court Hearing Room on Oct. 1. Justices take the time to meet with students on a rotating basis on most oral argument days as part of the Court with Class outreach program.

the Wisconsin Community Services Program, and is funded by client fees, the Department of Transportation, and the county.

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The Wisconsin Law Journal and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* recently provided news coverage of a report released by the Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) in September. The report was prepared by consultants from the Colorado Supreme Court Office of Attorney

Regulation Counsel and the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

According to the *Law Journal*, OLR Director **Keith Sellen** said the report was the result of Wisconsin Supreme Court decisions released in the spring that raised issues with OLR.

"It was an appropriate time for a consultation," Sellen stated in a memo accompanying the release. "It has been 14 years since the current lawyer regulation system was established; changes have occurred in lawyer regulation throughout the country; and the Supreme Court has expressed concerns about the system in recent disciplinary decisions."

A review of the lawyer regulation system in 1999 created the OLR. Another review in 2012 was commissioned by the Board of Administrative Oversight. The board is responsible for monitoring the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the OLR system.

The full report can be found on the court system's website at: www.wicourts.gov/courts/offices/docs/gleasonlarkininitiative_s.pdf.

see News and Notes on page 20



Judge James J. Bolgert

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 19*

Judge Rhonda L. Lanford

Dane County Circuit Court Judge **Rhonda L. Lanford** writes about her childhood, her career, and being openly gay in *Our Lives* magazine's November/December cover story. She talks about growing up poor in Iron River, having a mother who was known around town for sticking up for her children - "If only the movement against bullying would have had my mother at the helm, things might have progressed a little more

quickly," she writes - and a feeling of being "different."

After years of fighting her feelings and trying to be "normal," Lanford writes that she came out in 1986. She began surrounding herself with people who accepted her, and found her home in Madison, when she moved there in 1992.

•••

The *Wisconsin Law Journal* contacted all 71 county courthouses in the state to assess their current technological capabilities. The report states that 60 of the counties have public Wi-Fi access.

Having access to Wi-Fi in the courtroom can even the playing field for defense attorneys, according to Atty. **Sarah Zylstra**, Dane County Bar president.

"It sort of keeps people honest, if you will, in real time," she told the paper, since prosecutors often have internet

access at their tables.

Courthouses without access leave attorneys having to rely on trying to find information on their phones or from staff at their office during court breaks.

The Dane County Courthouse has public Wi-Fi access on two floors. According to the article, the

Dane County Bar Association wanted Wi-Fi access to be part of the plan when the current courthouse was built in 2006, but funding was available only for two floors.

"They have the capability... to access documents and things that can be very, very useful to members of the defense bar," Dane County Clerk of Court **Carlo Esqueda** told the *Law Journal*.

•••

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** and Justice **Ann Walsh Bradley** have been named ambassadors to the iCivics program. Founded in 2009 as "Our Courts," iCivics has provided free interactive and engaging educational resources on government to over four million children across the country.

In their new roles, Abrahamson and Bradley will continue to promote the program through fundraising support and visibility efforts. Both had previously served as state



Elizabeth Bradley, left, a third-year law student at UW Law School, poses with her mother, Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, at the Association of Women Lawyers (AWL) annual meeting in Milwaukee on Sept. 16. Elizabeth was awarded an AWL Foundation Scholarship during a ceremony at the meeting. She was recognized for her work on law student projects and previous contributions toward a variety of legal causes.

see **News and Notes** on page 22



Barron County Circuit Court Judge James C. Babler and his daughter, Emma, attended the UW Badgers' Homecoming football game on Oct. 23 in Madison. Emma carried on a tradition in which third-year law students wear a top hat and throw a cane over the goal post during a half-time feature. Legend has it that if you successfully toss the cane over the goal post and catch it on the other side, you will win your first case after graduation. Emma tossed the same cane her father tossed (and caught!) 36 years ago during the homecoming game.



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler discusses an agenda item with fellow members of the Wisconsin Judicial Council during a meeting Sept. 19 at the state Capitol. Clockwise from Ziegler are council chair Atty. Thomas Bertz; Council Staff Atty. April Southwick; Atty. Amy Wochos, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Atty. Devon M. Lee, State Public Defender's Office; Rep. Jim Ott (R-Mequon); Judge Jeffrey A. Wagner, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Judge Gerald P. Ptacek, Racine County Circuit Court; Judge Brian W. Blanchard, District IV Court of Appeals; Atty. Ben Pliskie, Blommer Peterman S.C.; Atty. William Gleisner III; and Atty. Jill Kastner, Legal Action. The Judicial Council voted to approve amendments to a comprehensive bill on criminal procedures that was introduced in the legislature last session. The bill will be sent to the Legislative Reference Bureau to be redrafted, then introduced in its revised form during the upcoming legislative session.

RETIREMENT *continued from page 2*

in 1944. The elder Hassin continued to serve until 1971, when he retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of colonel.

Judge Fred W. Kawalski Langlade County Circuit Court

Langlade County Circuit Court Judge Fred W. Kawalski said he always worked to ensure decisions he made were fair to all parties, and that may have been the most challenging part of his job. Kawalski retired on Nov. 28, with a sense of pride that, for the most part, he made the right decisions.

Kawalski said he is also proud of the county's truancy court he helped establish. In a creative approach to trying to help curb repeat truancy, offenders had their electronic devices taken away for up to 60 days.

Kawalski was first elected to the county's only bench in 2005, after the death of Judge James P. Jansen. Then-Gov. Jim Doyle appointed Kawalski to the bench early to begin his term that June. Kawalski was reelected in 2011. He had previously served as corporation counsel for Forest County for 25 years and spent 15 years serving as the family court commissioner in Langlade County. He is a graduate of Illinois State University and Loyola Law School.

For his successor, Kawalski offers this advice: "Call it as you see it, without distractions or motivations. Then move on."

Kawalski said he has noticed a proliferation of self-represented clients in the courthouse over the years, and the court system is working to find ways to respond.

He said he would like to do his part to help during his retirement. He had volunteered to come to the court house once a week to meet with self-represented litigants to help them fill out forms and offer his assistance, without representing them.

Kawalski said he also plans to do other volunteer work, as well as spend some time relaxing.

Judge Dale T. Pasell La Crosse County Circuit Court

La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Dale T. Pasell said his decision to retire is like a double-edged sword. While he will miss the challenges the job provides, he is also looking to let go of some of those challenges by retiring.

Among those challenges, he includes trying to be

thoroughly prepared for all the cases when entering the courthouse, being patient, and listening so that everyone who appears before him felt like they had their day in court. Since he was first elected in 1999, Pasell said he has tried to do the kind of job expected of an elected official.

"The most memorable moment was the first time I walked in to the courtroom as a judge, and everyone stands up," he said. "You're really in a different role then."

Pasell served in the state public defenders office for 20 years prior to taking the bench. After receiving his bachelor's and law degree from UW-Madison, he worked for a year as an assistant district attorney in Green County. He has served on the Wisconsin Judicial College, National Judicial College, and Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Oversight Committee. In May he was named the American Board of Trial Advocates' (ABOTA) "Judge of the Year."

In 2007, Pasell was selected to attend a training program, *The Advanced Science & Technology Resource Program*, offered by the U.S. Department of Justice. The program certified judges who attended to design judicial education programs in their own states for understanding complex scientific evidence.

Pasell believes the advances in the use of and reliance on technology has been the biggest change he has experienced in his judicial career.

"When I started, computers were just accessories on our desks, for most judges," he said. "It's impossible to function without them now."

Pasell has also participated in trainings on family court issues. In 2010, he was among the faculty of the Avoiding Tragedy: Keeping Kids and Victims Safe in Family Interactions training offered the Director of State Courts office and funded by the Children's Court Improvement Program and the Violence Against Women Act STOP Grant. In La Crosse County, he has been involved in the unified family court program that uses mediated child protection conferences in abuse and neglect cases. He has also been active in the La Crosse County drug court, and says he remembers all of the graduations because of how important they are.

Pasell said he plans to be a more active grandparent in his retirement. He also would like to travel and learn a foreign language.

And to new judges coming in, he offers this advice: "Everyone has to find their own way. It's hard work, there's work behind the scenes. Be ready to work hard." ■



Judge Fred W. Kawalski



Judge Dale T. Pasell

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Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson poses with Pro Bono Publico Award recipient and Marquette University Law School student Britteny M. LaFond. LaFond received the award at the Milwaukee Bar Association's 11th annual State of the Court Luncheon on Oct. 22.

coordinators for the program.

Chief Judge **Neal A. Nielsen**, Vilas County Circuit Court, got his 15 minutes of fame in October when he appeared in an episode of ABC's news show 20/20 about a murder for hire case he had presided over. The case was heard in Marathon County, and Nielsen was assigned after several requests for substitution were made by the defense attorney.



Chief Judge Neal A. Nielsen

Jessica Strom was convicted of attempting to hire someone to kill her fiancé, Atty. John Schellpfeffer. Nielsen appears briefly during footage of the court proceedings. The episode can be found at:

abc.go.com/shows/2020/listing/2014-10/09-2020-1010-woman-offer-cash-sex-in-murderforhire-plot-to-kill-fiance

Green County Circuit Court Judge **James R. Beer** will have two articles published in *Wisconsin Archeologist* next year. Beer, who has been collecting birdstones and other rare artifacts for over 50 years, submitted



Judge James R. Beer

the articles on two new acquisitions to his collection, along with photos. For more information on Beer's collection, see *The Third Branch*, fall 2013.

The final cost for the Milwaukee County Courthouse fire came in at \$19.1 million, according to an article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The July 2013 fire shut down the courthouse for several days. According to the article, as of September, all but \$1 million has been paid by the Local Government Property Insurance Fund. The repairs to the building are expected to be completed this fall. ■



Waupaca County Court Reporter Jannell Mineau helps Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge Philip M. Kirk participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Aug. 21.

Photo credit: Angela Landsverk/Waupaca County Post