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Professional development, educational opportunities abound at conference

About 345 Wisconsin judges and court staff took advantage of the many professional, learning and networking opportunities available to them during the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference, held Nov. 16-18 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack opened the conference with the annual State of the Judiciary Address, stressing the need for increased judicial compensation.

"The people of Wisconsin will benefit if we are able to attract and to retain highly skilled and knowledgeable judges. A major obstacle to satisfying this objective is judicial pay," Roggensack said.

Wisconsin was ranked 41 of 50 states in trial court judge salaries as of July 1, according to a study by the National

[see Judicial Conference on page 3](#)



Sheri Piontek, a court reporter for Brown County Circuit Court and president of the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association, provides Realtime reporting of Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack's State of the Judiciary address. Professional reporter Peggy Christianson looks on.

EBDM efforts gain additional NIC support

By Tommy Gubbin, Office of Court Operations

Wisconsin's collaborative approach to improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system through evidence-based practices is being rewarded with continued support from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC).

On Sept. 15, NIC announced that a state team, and local teams from eight counties, will receive "Phase VI" technical support through 2017 to help refine and implement plans developed in earlier phases of the [Evidence-Based Decision Making \(EBDM\) Initiative](#).

NIC Director Jim Cosby wrote in a letter to the state EBDM team that support will be provided for the state and the following counties: Chippewa, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Rock and Waukesha. The state EBDM team is a formal subcommittee of the statewide [Criminal Justice](#)

[see EBDM on page 9](#)



The 2016 Wisconsin State Capitol Ornament features a replica of the Supreme Court Hearing Room's most prominent features – the judicial bench and the mural overhead, "The Signing of the Constitution." [See article, page 7.](#)

Koschnick named next director of state courts

Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack announced Nov. 3 that the Supreme Court named Chief Judge Randy R. Koschnick, Jefferson County Circuit Court, director of state courts, effective Aug. 1, 2017.


Koschnick will fill the post now held on an interim basis by J. Denis Moran, who previously served as director from 1978 until his retirement in 2003.

"We are pleased that Judge Koschnick accepted this position. His experience on the bench and as chief judge of a judicial administrative district will be a valuable asset to

the Supreme Court and the entire court system," Roggensack said.

Koschnick has served as chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District since 2012 and previously served as the district's deputy chief judge. The Third Judicial Administrative District encompasses Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties.

Koschnick was elected to the Jefferson County bench in 1999 and re-elected in 2005 and 2011. Before that, he served as an assistant state public

[see Director on page 3](#)  Chief Judge Randy R. Koschnick



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Dugan appointed to Court of Appeals

Gov. Scott Walker announced the appointment of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Timothy G. Dugan to the District I Court of Appeals as of Dec. 11.



Judge Timothy G. Dugan

Dugan will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Court of Appeals Judge Patricia S. Curley (see Retirements on page 15).

“They say 70 is the new 60,” Dugan told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* on his decision to take the position when other judges his age may be thinking about retirement plans.

Dugan has served on the Branch 10 bench since he was first appointed in 1992. He previously worked as a prosecutor for the villages of Shorewood and Menomonee

Falls, and in private practice.

“Dugan stands out from the field because of how hard he works,” fellow Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Richard J. Sankovitz said in support of the appointment. “He has rolled up his sleeves in the most complex kinds of criminal and civil litigation that confronts the state courts.”

Dugan is a graduate of Westminster College and Marquette University Law School. He has served as the chair of the Civil Benchbook Committee, on the board of directors of the Milwaukee Bar Association, as associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association, and as past president of the Milwaukee Trial Judges Association. He is a former member of the Judicial Election and Ethics Committee and the Supreme Court’s Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC). ■

VanDeHey appointed as a chief judge

On Sept. 8, the Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Judge Robert P. VanDeHey, Grant County Circuit Court, chief judge of the Seventh Judicial Administrative District.

VanDeHey had served as deputy chief judge of the district since 2013. He replaces Chief Judge James J. Duvall, who continues to serve Buffalo and Pepin County Circuit Courts. The Seventh District also encompasses Crawford, Iowa, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pierce, Richland, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties.

VanDeHey was first appointed to the Grant County bench in 1998. Prior to that, he worked as an attorney in private practice. VanDeHey is a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Council and chair of the Probate Benchbook Committee. He has served in a variety of court-related positions, including as a member of the Juvenile Jury Instruction Committee and as a faculty member of both the Juvenile Law Institute and

Judicial Conference. Earlier this year, VanDeHey was selected as “Judge of the Year” by the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Duvall, who presides over Buffalo and Pepin County Circuit Courts, served as chief judge from August 2013 to Sept. 1, 2016. He will be focusing more time on implementing evidence-based practices, alternatives to incarceration, and pretrial and diversion efforts, Duvall said.

VanDeHey’s appointment will continue until July 31, 2017 or until further order of the Court. ■



Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey

Supreme Court visit draws hundreds to Bayfield County Courthouse

The Wisconsin Supreme Court turned the historic Bayfield County Courthouse in Washburn into its home away from home during a *Justice on Wheels* outreach visit Oct. 26.

More than 350 people, including teachers, students, tribal leaders, attorneys and local government officials took advantage of the opportunity to observe oral argument heard in three cases.

During opening remarks, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack thanked local officials, including Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P. Anderson, for arranging the

visit and for making available the historic courtroom, which was filled to capacity for each case.

Marvin Defoe, a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, performed a traditional

see [Wheels](#) on page 4



Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P. Anderson welcomes the Wisconsin Supreme Court and visitors to the Bayfield County Courthouse Oct. 26. The Court held oral argument in three cases during its *Justice on Wheels* visit to Washburn.

Judicial Conference *continued from front page*



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack presents the State of the Judiciary at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

Center for State Courts. Roggensack said improving compensation for Wisconsin judges has been a priority since she became chief justice. In 2015, she formed a Judicial Compensation Committee to address the issue.

Roggensack said she has asked Gov. Scott Walker to include an increase in the executive budget that would bring Wisconsin back to a 21st ranking – a position Wisconsin held among states in 2000. She encouraged judges statewide to connect directly with their legislators and business leaders to emphasize the importance and value of adequate judicial compensation.

Many judges are doing additional work, despite not being compensated, Roggensack said. For example, many have taken on the challenge of running treatment court programs in their counties.

Roggensack also highlighted progress in several areas of the court system during the last year, including the rollout of mandatory eFiling for civil, family, paternity, and small claims cases now in 23 counties (*see story on page 7*). Other case types are also being added to the mix, Roggensack said.

Roggensack also discussed approval of Supreme Court Rule Petition 16-05, which establishes a three-year pilot project for a commercial court docket as of July 1, 2017. The commercial court docket will be piloted in Waukesha

County and the Eighth Judicial District, which includes Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie and Waupaca counties.

“Business court dockets are employed in many states. It is our hope that such a docket will result in efficient resolutions of complex business-related controversies,” Roggensack said.

Other areas of significant progress include the Children’s Court Improvement Program (CCIP) and treatment courts – both areas where collaboration with other agencies and branches of government is improving the effectiveness of the justice system, Roggensack said.

Roggensack publicly welcomed Chief Judge Randy R. Koschnick to his new role as Director of State Courts as of Aug. 1, 2017. She also thanked previously retired J. Denis Moran for serving that role since June 2015.

Conference attendees were able to choose from a variety of

educational sessions on topics, including: summary judgments; sealing court records; suppression; maintenance and child support; juvenile offenders; adult guardianship; trauma and recovery; Guardian ad Litem issues; eFiling; character evidence; treatment courts; and landlord-tenant law.



Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran thanks court staff during his remarks at the Judicial Conference.

The law library, Consolidated Court Automation Programs and other groups had booths at the conference to offer assistance to conference attendees. ■

Director *continued from front page*

defender from 1985 to 1999. Koschnick is a graduate of UW-Stevens Point and Hamline University School of Law.

The director of state courts is the top non-judicial officer of the court system and serves at the pleasure of the Supreme Court under the direction of the chief justice. Working with department heads, advisory committees, and chief judges of the state’s 10 judicial administrative districts, the director has responsibility for personnel, budgeting, and information technology, among other duties, and provides

advice to the Supreme Court on a wide range of matters affecting the judiciary.

Moran began serving as interim director on June 4, 2015 and continues in that role. He is one of only two people to have held the post since it was created in 1978. Former Director of State Courts A. John Voelker left the court system in July 2014 to become deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds. ■

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Wheels *continued from page 2*

welcoming ceremony for the Court, and Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler presented awards to fifth-grade essay contest winners before oral argument got underway.

During a reception hosted by the local bar on Oct. 25, Anderson presented the chief justice with a framed portrait of Bayfield County legal pioneer Elizabeth Hawkes. In turn, the chief justice presented the portrait to the State Bar of Wisconsin to display at its Madison headquarters.

The chance to see oral argument drew students and teachers from Washburn, Bayfield, and South Shore high schools, as well as home-schooled students. Other groups came from UW-Superior Pre-Law Society, Northland College, Bayfield County Teen Court and Northern Lights Christian Center. Members of the local bar, Red Cliff Tribe and local government officials were also well represented.

Before each argument, local attorneys previewed the cases to improve understanding of some of the issues involved in the cases and how the Court decides a case.

Media coverage included live-streaming of arguments by Wisconsin Eye Public Affairs network, news coverage by Duluth-Superior television news station WDIO, and the *Ashland Daily Press* newspaper.

Counties visited as part of the *Justice on Wheels* program since 1993 include: Brown, 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, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Grant, and now Bayfield. ■



Atty. Tish Keahna Kruzan gives some background on a case to the audience at the Bayfield County Courthouse before an oral argument on Oct. 26.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack presents a themed portrait of the late Elizabeth Hawkes to State Bar of Wisconsin treasurer John Danner during a reception ceremony Oct. 25 in Bayfield. The portrait was a gift from the Ashland-Bayfield County Bar Association to the State Bar. Hawkes, a Bayfield County native, is among the state's women legal pioneers.



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler presents Caleb Schoonmaker from Washburn Elementary School the first place plaque for the Justice on Wheels essay contest.



While in the Bayfield County area, Justices Shirley S. Abrahamson and Ann Walsh Bradley stopped at Northland College in Ashland to make a presentation to a group of about 75 people on Oct. 25. Pictured with the justices, from left to right, are students: Marina Hein, Megan McBride, Marissa Neitzke, Michaela Fisher. Also pictured on the right of the justices is Stacy Craig, coordinator of applied learning at Northland College.



Washburn Elementary fifth-grader Trista Richardson is interviewed by WDIO-TV reporter Heidi Enninga at the Bayfield County Courthouse. Richardson won second place for her essay as part of the Justice on Wheels program.

AWARD**Flores honored by Law Foundation**

Retired Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Ness Flores was honored with the Wisconsin Law Foundation's 2016 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award at the Fellows of the Law Foundation Annual Recognition Dinner on Oct. 18 in Milwaukee.

Flores, who first came to Wisconsin as a migrant worker in his youth, was born in Texas, and spoke only Spanish until the age of 7. Flores told the Wisconsin State Bar's *Inside Track* that his family would travel between Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan, looking for work at canning factories, picking cherries and apples. In 1955, his family settled in Sheboygan.

"I think dad and mom felt we children would have a better chance at success here, away from the segregation and problems of Texas," Flores told *Inside Track*.

Flores became the first in his family to go to college, attending UW-Madison. After graduating, he went on to receive his law degree from Baylor Law School in Texas. He returned to Wisconsin to practice at a firm in Waukesha. He was nominated by the mayor to serve on the Waukesha Police and Fire Commission.

"That was the start of my career in public service," Flores was quoted as saying. That career went on to include

serving as a public defender in Milwaukee County for indigent Spanish-speaking people, establishing a civil legal service program for migrant farm workers (which is now part of Legal Action of Wisconsin), and helping draft the Wisconsin Migrant Labor Act while serving on the Governor's Committee on Migrant Labor.

Flores was appointed to the Waukesha County Circuit Court in 1978, by then-Gov. Martin Schreiber, and served until 1983. After leaving the bench, he served as the chair of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and as a project director for Legal Action of Wisconsin.

The Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award is presented to a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin who has a long-standing record of service both to the legal profession and to the public. The Law Foundation's award committee chair, Kevin Lonergan, described Flores as "a distinguished lawyer who has earned the respect of the legal community in Wisconsin and is a deserving recipient of the award." ■



Judge Ness Flores

Justice Bradley elected to IAWJ postJustice Ann Walsh
Bradley

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley was recently elected to the Board of Managerial Trustees of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). She previously served on IAWJ's Board of Directors.

Based in Washington D.C., IAWJ is a non-profit organization whose members represent all levels of the judiciary worldwide and share a commitment to equal justice under the rule of law. Currently

the IAWJ has approximately 5,000 members in 82 countries worldwide. The IAWJ's Board of Managerial Trustees works on issues of finance, resource development and management, in addition to developing the organization's policies, procedures and budgets.

Bradley is the vice-chair of the board of directors of the International Judicial Academy and has served as an international lecturer for the academy, the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative, and the U.S. Department of State. She has been recognized by both the Chief Justice of Morocco and the Chief Justice of the Philippines for her judicial education efforts within their respective countries. ■

NEW FACES**Tom Schappa
District Eight Court Administrator**

Tom Schappa has joined the court system as the district court administrator (DCA) for the Eighth Judicial Administrative District. Schappa had previously served in court operations for the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. During his time with the U.S. Courts, he was involved in the administration of, and ongoing improvements to, the electronic filing system, and policy research and analysis. Schappa also previously served as an operations supervisor and a law clerk in the Minnesota judiciary's Second Judicial District.

He received his law degree from Hamline University



Tom Schappa

School of Law and holds a B.A.S. from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Prior to attending law school, Schappa worked as a project manager, a teacher, and a curriculum coordinator. He fills the DCA position previously held by fellow DCA Don Harper, who now serves as DCA for the Tenth Judicial Administrative District.

Schappa and his wife, Shelby, have one son, Logan, who is attending UW-Oshkosh. ■

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WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Paraguay judicial official visits justices

On Nov. 3, Dr. Ramon Bueno Jara, retired magistrate and vice-president of the Council of Magistrates in the Republic of Paraguay, dropped in on the Wisconsin Supreme Court during an oral argument. Bueno Jara is former judge in Ciudad del Este and former judge of the first degree in the Civilian and Commercial Law in Asuncion.

Bueno Jara was visiting the Capitol with Peter Tase, president and founder of the Paraguay Economic Forum. The visit was part of a program designed to promote cooperation between the United States and Paraguay.

After argument Bueno Jara and Tase met with Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, and Justice Michael J. Gableman.

The Council of Magistrates is responsible for proposing candidates to serve on the Paraguay Supreme Court of Justice, Appeals Tribunals, courts, as well as the designation of the government attorneys. ■



Dr. Ramon Bueno Jara, retired magistrate and vice-president of the Council of Magistrates in the Republic of Paraguay visits with Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, Justice Michael J. Gableman, and Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson in the Supreme Court Conference Room during Bueno Jara's visit to the Wisconsin State Capitol on Nov. 3.



Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, and Milwaukee County criminal justice officials hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Corrections and National Probation Agency of Georgia during a visit in September. The group came to Milwaukee to observe and learn from the county's pretrial process and programs, from booking through release supervision. Front row, left to right: District Court Administrator Holly Szablewski, Tamar Jabanishvili, Anni Mirtskhulava, Maka Labauri, Gvantsa Sauri, Nino Tkeshelashvili, White, and Nino Erkmadze. Back row, left to right: Zaza Grigolia, Bakar Jikia, Ioseb Tsiklavri, and Corrections and Probation Advisory to the U.S. Embassy, Tbilisi, Georgia Anthony Streveler

Legislator rides along with Ozaukee judge

Rep. Robert Brooks (R-Saukville) participated in the Judicial Ride-Along program in August. Ozaukee County Circuit Court Judge Paul V. Malloy hosted Brooks as part of the program, which gives legislators an insider's look at the judicial branch.

"A judicial ride-along presents a really good opportunity for a legislator to see how the laws they enact are put into practice by the courts," Malloy said. "They can see first-hand how the courts are confronting the

problems of the day, including for example opiate addictions, intoxicated driving cases and domestic violence."

The Director of State Courts Office has offered the Judicial Ride-Along program since 1993. The program allows a legislator to spend a day on the bench with a circuit court judge to observe court proceedings first-hand.

"I think it's very helpful to give people in an elective office an opportunity to have exposure to the court system from the judge's bench," Brooks said. ■



Judge Paul V. Malloy



Rep. Robert Brooks

Mandatory eFiling rolled out in 23 counties

The implementation of mandatory eFiling is in full swing in Wisconsin's circuit courts, and court users are reaping the benefits in counties where the changeover has occurred.

Since June 1, 23 counties have implemented mandatory eFiling for civil, family, paternity, and small claims cases: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Dunn, Florence, Green, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Oneida, Ozaukee, Pierce, Racine, Rusk, Vernon, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Wood.

Additional counties are scheduled for mandatory eFiling in the upcoming months and by the end of March 2017, most counties will participate in voluntary eFiling. For a comprehensive list of counties planning implementations in the coming months, visit the circuit court eFiling section of the Wisconsin court system's website. Maps are featured on this section and show the progress of eFiling implementation on a county-by-county and case type basis throughout the state.

eFiling of criminal cases will be mandatory March 1, 2017 for all counties in which mandatory eFiling has already been implemented. As the remaining counties are implemented throughout 2017, criminal eFiling will become mandatory at the same time. Until March 1, counties that implement mandatory eFiling may choose to offer voluntary criminal eFiling.

The following 16 counties are participating in voluntary criminal eFiling: Adams, Ashland, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Dodge, Dunn, Florence, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Ozaukee, Pierce, Vernon, Waukesha, and Waupaca. The clerks and district attorneys in these counties report that the transition to criminal eFiling has gone fairly smooth.

CCAP staff are onsite to provide hands-on training for court staff and filers the week prior to and the week of implementation in each county. Formal classroom training is provided to new electronic filers. These training sessions have been attended by attorneys, support staff and local government filers interested in learning about the eFiling system from the experts. CCAP staff work one-on-one with court staff and judges to ensure they can easily transition to a paper-on-demand environment. Once implementation has concluded, CCAP and local circuit

court staff partner to provide ongoing support for electronic filers.

At the same time CCAP staff focus on expanding eFiling to additional counties, major enhancements to the system have been released or are underway. Recent updates have increased functionality and flexibility for many users. Filers can now submit documents like motions and orders and stipulations and orders as a single PDF for court official signature, and non-party filers now have the ability to file proposed orders. The opt-in process has been streamlined to allow attorneys to opt in for multiple parties on a case at the same time and upload additional documents when opting into a case. The process of withdrawing from a case has been enhanced to provide the attorney with a link to the signed withdrawal order.

There are a number of exciting features currently under development. Upcoming updates for attorneys will include a newly engineered "file prep" and "document access" for legal support staff, the addition of forms necessary to initiate the appeals process, and the expansion of the eFiling fee

[see eFiling on page 23](#)



Retired Judge John R. Storck, temporarily working as a game show host, challenges contestants Deputy Chief Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick, Rock County Circuit Court, and Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey, Grant County Circuit Court, on their knowledge of eFiling. The game show was presented during a "rapid fire" session at the Judicial Conference.

Hearing Room featured on Capitol ornament

The Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing Room has been selected as the design feature of the 2016 State Capitol Ornament, which was unveiled at a Capitol press conference Nov. 1. Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack joined Department of Administration Deputy Secretary Cate Zeuske and Wisconsin Historical Foundation Executive Director David Wilder in presenting the ornament in the Assembly Parlor.

The ornament, presented by the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, is a replica design of the most prominent features of the Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing Room, including "The Signing of the Constitution," the carved mahogany judicial bench, and pilasters of Italian Breche Coraline marble.

"The Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing Room is one of the most beautiful courtrooms in the country and among the most impressive rooms in the Capitol," Roggensack said.

"This year's ornament will be a brilliant addition to any holiday décor and it will have a special impact because proceeds will continue to support the State Capitol Restoration Fund. We are excited to keep this tradition going," Wilder said.

Since 2004, the proceeds from ornament sales have supported over \$70,000 in restoration projects around the Capitol building. Previous ornament sales have helped to fund the visitor's bird's-eye view from the glass perch inside the dome of the State Capitol.

"The Wisconsin State Capitol Holiday Ornament has a special place in many homes around the state, as well as in our statehouse," said Zeuske, honorary volunteer chairperson for the Capitol Ornament Committee.

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Historical Society's [website](#). ■

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Orientation session is first step in court interpreter certification process

By Carmel Capati, Court Interpreter Program Manager

The Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program (CIP) began taking shape in 2000, as part of the Director of State Courts Office's commitment to ensuring equal access to the court system for everyone, regardless of language abilities.

In addition to providing education and training for interpreters, judges, court staff and others, the CIP oversees certification for court interpreters.

A mandatory first step towards obtaining certification is for a candidate to attend a two-day orientation training held over a weekend. Fifty-eight orientation sessions have been held at locations throughout the state since the first session was held in 2002. Approximately 1,925 people representing more than 60 different languages have attended the workshops, recently drawing news coverage.

During 2016, orientation sessions were held in Madison, Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Rapids. Over the years, orientation sessions have also been held in Appleton, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Stevens Point, and Wausau.

These orientation trainings have been successful thanks to a broad cross-section of judges, court staff, lawyers, and certified interpreters, who help teach at the training sessions.

During orientation, interpreter candidates learn about the court system, the Code of Ethics for Interpreters, modes of interpreting, criminal and civil terminology, and business practices. In addition, certified court interpreters serve as faculty who lead participants through small group activities designed to enhance their interpreting skills.

While being bilingual is a requirement of all participants to attend orientation, that knowledge alone is insufficient to become a court interpreter. Court interpreting is difficult and requires individuals to understand legal concepts, terminology, and processes, as well as to possess interpreting and language skills to ensure accuracy and completeness.

The range of experience and education typically varies widely among attendees at orientation. Some individuals come to the training with years of experience, while others may have never interpreted before or even stepped inside an American courtroom.

After successful completion of orientation, candidates interested in pursuing certification must take written and oral exams, participate in courtroom observation and meet other requirements.

Being a certified court interpreter means an individual has attained the highest credential for court interpreting conferred by our state. The Director of State Courts Office is the only entity that grants credentials to spoken language court interpreters in Wisconsin.



Dane County Circuit Court Judge Stephen E. Ehlke presents on criminal law terminology during a court interpreter orientation session held earlier this year in Madison.

The first orientation trainings offered by the CIP were made possible by funding provided from the Department of Children and Families' Refugee Services Section, which has consistently assisted with recruitment of candidates in rare languages and provided yearly scholarships to speakers of certain "refugee" languages to attend this two-day orientation. Without this interagency support, the CIP would not be able to attract candidates in these less-common languages.

While Spanish represents about 80 percent of the courts' language usage followed by Hmong and American Sign Language, more rare languages have been increasingly needed around the state. In 2015, other top languages used by the courts were Arabic, Russian, and Burmese.

In addition to the scholarship grants, the CIP has relied upon the generosity of judges (active and reserve), court commissioners (past and present), and attorneys who have volunteered their time to present lectures to attendees on legal terminology.

The following individuals have presented one or more times at the CIP's orientations over the years, making court interpreter training possible:

Atty. Timothy Adler; Reserve Judge Angela Bartell; Atty. Eugene Bartman; Atty. Lawrence Bensky; Atty. Daniel Blinka; Judge William W. Brash III, District I Court of Appeals; Judge Nicholas J. Brazeau, Wood County Circuit Court; Reserve Judge Karen E. Christenson; Judge Juan B. Colas, Dane County Circuit Court; Atty. Lindsey D. Draper; Judge Stephen E. Ehlke, Dane County Circuit Court; Judge Jill N. Falstad, Marathon County Circuit Court; Reserve Judge David Flanagan; Reserve Judge Frederic W. Fleishauer; Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County Circuit Court; Atty. Ralph J. Guerin; Comm. Jason J. Hanson, Dane County Circuit Court; Deputy Chief Judge Barbara Hart Key, Winnebago County Circuit Court; Judge Nancy J. Krueger, Outagamie County Circuit Court; Judge Elliott M. Levine, La Crosse County Circuit Court; Comm. Sandy Marcus, Marathon County Circuit Court; Municipal Judge Todd Meurer, Towns of Madison/Middleton/Verona; Judge Michael K. Moran, Marathon County Circuit Court; Municipal Judge Derek Mosley, Milwaukee; Reserve Judge Benjamin D. Proctor; Judge Ralph M. Ramirez, Waukesha County Circuit Court; Judge Richard J. Sankovitz, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Comm. Marjorie Schuett, Dane County Circuit Court; Judge Michael A. Schumacher, Eau Claire County Circuit Court; Atty. Dana Smetana; Deputy Chief Judge Lisa K. Stark, District III Court of Appeals; Judge Paul R. Van Grunsvan, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Reserve Judge Mark A. Warpinski; and Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court. ■

EBDM *continued from front page*

[Coordinating Council](#) (CJCC), which oversees statewide EBDM efforts. Local EBDM teams are part of similar coordinating councils that have now formed in [50 Wisconsin counties and two tribes](#).

The NIC Initiative focuses on working with justice systems to incorporate proven strategies for building collaboration, implementing change, and reducing recidivism in the criminal justice system at the state and local level.

Evidence-based decision making will help improve the criminal justice system, said Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, who serves on the subcommittee.

“If we are serious about reducing the number of victims of crime in our communities, holding offenders accountable and making the best use of the limited resources entrusted to us, we must be willing to ask ourselves why. Why do we do what we do? Why do we believe it is working? What does the latest research tell us about what works in reducing harm to everyone in our community? The Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative challenges us to answer these questions with data, because we know that we make our best decisions when we combine professional judgment and experience with analytics,” Kremers said.

Wisconsin was just one of six states with jurisdictions selected to participate in the EBDM Initiative, which began in 2008. Milwaukee and Eau Claire counties established pilot programs, which now serve as national models. Based on the success and lessons learned by the planning and implementation in these earlier phases, NIC invited participating states in Phase IV to explore the capacity and interest in expanding EBDM to additional jurisdictions and to the statewide level. In early 2015, Wisconsin was one of four states invited to continue in the initiative, including the addition of Chippewa, La Crosse, Marathon, Outagamie, Rock and Waukesha counties.

Work on Phase V began at a June 2015 kickoff workshop where members from the state and local teams gathered to understand the characteristics of highly effective collaborative teams, how to build partnerships across the criminal justice system, how to develop a shared vision for an effective justice system, as well as begin system mapping, and create action plans to carry their work forward. The state and local teams then had monthly meetings with on-site technical assistance provided by NIC, focusing on the areas covered in the workshop. By the end of 2015, based on their systems mapping, research-informed

criteria, team member support, and local resources, teams then developed change targets for their justice systems.

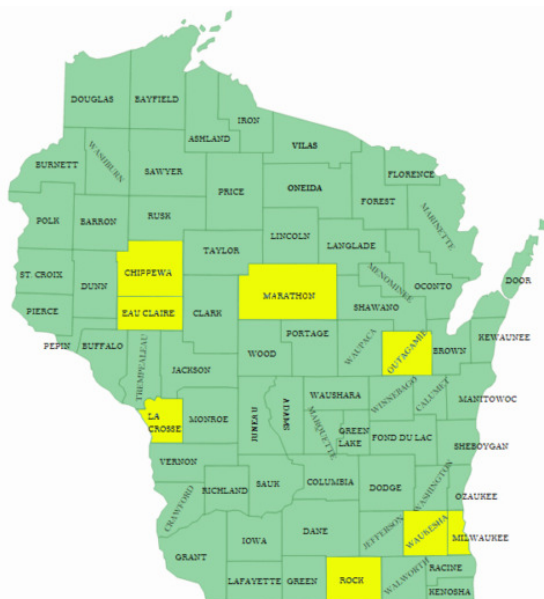
Each state and local team had between four and six change targets, varying in scope. These targets included: training standards for telecommunications operators; creating or expanding pretrial and diversion programs; using risk assessments to inform decisions; re-entry planning for local jails; methods for providing uniformity in plea negotiations; tools for ensuring consistency in rewards and sanctions for pretrial programs, treatment courts, and community supervision; bail reform; model practices for training and policies; examining the use of confinement to address failure to pay financial obligations; diverting those with behavioral and mental health issues from the justice

system; increasing efficiencies in case processing; increasing the role of victims and advocates; and ensuring that all programming provided, either in the community or in custody, is evidence-based. In January, teams began engaging in activities designed to result in implementation plans, which were then included as part of the Phase VI application.

Outside of the monthly site visits providing technical assistance for the teams to develop their targets and plans, NIC also provided other opportunities for advancing EBDM work. In March, NIC hosted a week-long pretrial academy that was attended by members from all state and local

EBDM sites nationally, including 26 individuals from Wisconsin. In May, NIC held a series of webinars that provided resources and guidance on change targets identified by EBDM teams across the country. Finally, in June, NIC hosted a one-and-a-half day workshop in Wisconsin Rapids for Wisconsin’s state and local teams that addressed pretrial and community strategy issues, and also allowed teams to exchange information regarding their change targets.

The goals of the next phase include expanding collaboration and the scope of those involved in EBDM, implementing specific action plans, strengthening state and local partnerships, and proactively engaging community stakeholders in advancing EBDM. The exact levels of technical assistance that will be provided to Wisconsin’s teams are dependent on available funding levels, as in past phases. In addition, NIC may also be extending continued technical assistance to Indiana and Virginia, and their local jurisdictions.



A state team and teams from eight Wisconsin counties are participating in “Phase VI” of the National Institute of Corrections Evidence-Based Decision Making Initiative.

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Fourteen more counties to receive TAD funding

In September, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) awarded Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) grants to an additional 14 counties, increasing the total amount to be distributed to more than \$6 million in 2017. TAD funding now provides support for 46 counties and two tribes in Wisconsin.

TAD programs allow local jurisdictions to offer diversion and treatment court programming to non-violent offenders who have drug or alcohol addictions. Programming typically involves drug and alcohol abuse treatment, case management, and other risk reduction services. The programs are considered a safe alternative to institutional confinement and reduce the demand for jail and prison space.

DOJ is responsible for administering the grants, and works in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, Director of State Courts Office, and the Public Defender's Office to review

applications and award the grants.

The counties and tribes receiving TAD funding during 2017 include: Adams County, Ashland/Bayfield County, Barron County, Brown County, Buffalo/Pepin County, Burnett/Washburn County, Chippewa County, Columbia County, Dane County, Dodge County, Dunn County, Eau Claire County, Grant County, Green County, Green Lake County, Iowa County, Jefferson County, Kenosha County, La Crosse County, Lac du Flambeau Tribe, Manitowoc County, Marinette County, Marquette County, Menominee Tribe, Milwaukee County, Outagamie County, Ozaukee County, Pierce County, Polk County, Portage County, Racine County, Richland County, Rock County, Rusk County, Sauk County, Sheboygan County, St. Croix County, Taylor County, Trempealeau County, Walworth County, Washington County, Waukesha County, Waushara County, Winnebago County, and Wood County. ■

Law Library named for retired Justice Prosser

On Oct. 19, about 130 people gathered to celebrate the naming of the [Wisconsin State Law Library](#) in Madison in honor of retired Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.

The crowd included current and former Supreme Court Justices, two former Wisconsin governors, and a host of other dignitaries and associates who worked with Prosser during his 40 years in public service. During his career, Prosser served in all three branches of state government.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said the naming of the law library in Prosser's honor is well deserved, not only for Prosser's



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack and former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson unveil a plaque of retired Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser, Jr. during a ceremony at the law library Oct. 19.



Doug Middleton, a state Department of Corrections employee, installs a new sign at the David T. Prosser Jr. State Law Library in Madison. The sign was made by Badger State Industries prison industry program.

years of public service, but also for his dedication to the law library.

"Some have called law libraries 'the lawyer's laboratory.' It is a lawyer's laboratory because lawyers and judges and others do investigative work here – just as a chemist may do

investigative work in her laboratory. No justice has been more dedicated to the research that happens in the law library than Justice Prosser," Roggensack said.

Former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson, who appointed Prosser to the Supreme Court in 1998, gave the keynote address, at times roasting or toasting Prosser.

Prosser retired from the Court on July 31. Prior to joining the Court, Prosser was a commissioner on the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission from 1997 to 1998. He served in the state Assembly from 1979 through 1996, including two years as Speaker and six years as Minority Leader. Before that, he had served as Outagamie County district attorney.

Early in his career, Prosser worked in Washington, D.C., first as an attorney-advisor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Criminal Justice, then as administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Harold Froehlich of Wisconsin, who was a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate impeachment inquiry. ■



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack swears in Justice Daniel Kelly during a formal ceremony in the Wisconsin State Capitol Assembly chambers on Oct. 22. Kelly's wife, daughter, and fellow justices look on. Kelly was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Scott Walker to fill the vacancy created by Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.'s retirement.

OLR's Estes called on to help honor her aunt

Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) Deputy Director Elizabeth Estes traveled to Rhode Island to speak at the dedication of the North Kingstown Post Office, which was renamed on Sept. 25 in honor of Estes's accomplished great-aunt, the late Rep. Melvoid J. Benson.

Benson died June 11 at the age of 86, but not without leaving a mark of her accomplishments on North Kingstown and the state of Rhode Island.

The wife of a naval officer, Benson moved with her husband from Tennessee to Rhode Island in 1965, and worked as a teacher for 25 years in North Kingstown. In 1990, she became one of the first African-American women to be elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly. She served as a Rhode Island state representative for seven terms, until 2004. During her tenure, she worked to create jobs, plan a business park, and expand voting rights. She later served on the North Kingstown School Committee for eight years.

Benson also served on the board of directors for Rhode Island Family Services, the NAACP, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, as well as many other community organizations. In 2015, she was presented with the North Kingstown Democratic Town Committee Lifetime Achievement Award.

Days before her passing, U.S. Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) spoke to Benson to inform her that the bill to rename the post office in her honor was sitting on President Barack Obama's desk, awaiting his signature. U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced a companion bill in the Senate. The bill also passed through the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which is chaired by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.). The bipartisan Act of Congress was signed into law on June 13.

Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo spoke at the dedication.

"I know it wasn't always easy for her, being a woman and being an African-American in politics in Rhode Island," Raimondo was quoted by NBC10 news at the ceremony. "And I took a special encouragement from that. And she always had the time to encourage me, for which I am grateful."

Whitehouse, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI) also spoke at the ceremony. Members of the Rhode Island State Police Department served as honor guard. The Rhode Island Blood Center was on site to provide information for bone marrow testing for blood matches, in honor of Benson's son, Estes Benson, who died of leukemia in 1996.

Estes, who has worked at OLR since 2002, spoke about her great-aunt's dedication to education and public service.

"I know that Aunt Mel was very proud of, and she took very seriously, her constituents' faith in her ability and her work to represent this town at the local and the state levels," Estes said.

Benson was the sister of Estes's grandfather, the late Atty. James F. Estes. She said her great-aunt was inspired by James, who represented the Fayette County Civic and Welfare League in Memphis. James received a letter from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in December 1960 pledging a donation and commending the work of the grassroots voting rights campaign.

"We have gained new courage and determination from your unfaltering perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds. May you continue in the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive," King wrote.

The post office is the first in Rhode Island to be named in honor of an African-American. ■



Office of Lawyer Regulation Deputy Director Elizabeth Estes (second from left), watches David Mastroianni of the U.S. Postal System unveil the plaque dedicating the North Kingstown Post Office to her aunt, Melvoid J. Benson. U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI) (both on far right) introduced companion legislation to rename the post office.

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Jurors recognized throughout September

Counties throughout the state marked Juror Appreciation Month with a variety of activities and events to thank jurors and to bring attention to the importance of jury service.

In **Waukesha County**, banners were hung in the lobby of the Waukesha County Courthouse and staff wore “We Appreciate Jurors” pins throughout the month. Jurors who appeared for jury service were given a token of appreciation, being allowed to choose from cozies, magnetic chip bag clips, and a small flashlight. Each item features the image of Wisconsin’s Lady Justice and the slogan: Jurors Serve Justice; Justice Serves Us All.

In **Door County**, Clerk of Circuit Court Connie M. DeFere and Circuit Court Judge D. Todd Ehlers appeared as guests on a radio talk show Sept. 16 on WDOR-FM in Sturgeon Bay. In addition to discussing laws relating to jury service and statistics, they discussed a variety of issues, including what is expected of employers and jurors, the term for a juror, how much jurors are paid, the cost of a trial, and jury scams.

In **Walworth County**, jurors received a thank you note (as they do all year long) upon completion of jury service,

and a thank you letter was published in local newspapers, thanking jurors for their service and explaining why jury service is important.

In **Barron County**, Circuit Court Judge Maureen D. Boyle, wrote a newspaper column thanking jurors and highlighting their role. Her column begins:

“On December 15, 1791, our founding fathers guaranteed by the Sixth

Amendment to the Constitution, an absolute right of all citizens of the United States, if accused of any crime, to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district within which the crime was committed. This right has been extended statutorily by the Wisconsin Legislature to citizens involved in nearly any civil dispute; proceedings to terminate parental rights or to determine whether children are in need of protection; and even traffic cases...”

Boyle also wrote that the Barron County Circuit Court recently enabled texting and e-mail notification service to help keep jurors informed. The technology may reduce the potential inconvenience of jury service by notifying people of schedule changes. ■



Potential Milwaukee juror chronicles experience

After receiving a summons from the Milwaukee County Circuit Court to report for jury duty, writer Jeramey Jannene decided to chronicle his experience for the publication *Urban Milwaukee*.

“While some might greet this ‘Official Court Business Jury Summons’ with dread, my natural curiosity and sense of civic duty took over,” Jannene wrote in an article published Nov. 4. “So I decided to keep a running journal of everything I encountered. This is my time as juror number 1048348.”

Jannene arrived at the courthouse just before 9 a.m., having to go through the metal detectors in the basement before making his way up the staircase to the first floor. He noted that more than 100 potential jurors were packed into a theater-style room before Milwaukee County Jury Service Manager Lori Schumann, who officially got the day started for jurors.

Jurors were shown an orientation video and were thanked by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judges Cynthia Davis and Michael Hanrahan and Milwaukee County Clerk of Court John Barrett for taking time to perform their civic duty.

Jannene wrote that Barrett said now-Reserve Judge Charles F. Kahn Jr. once had two jurors that met in his courtroom who ended up getting married.

“Who needs match.com?” Jannene asked in his article.

Jannene said conditions were cramped in the jury assembly area, and Internet access was slow.

“I’ve been here for less than an hour, but I’m totally on-board with building a new courthouse complex.”

But he was thankful for other amenities available to the jurors, like the vending machines, bathrooms, public computers, a microwave oven and refrigerator.

After waiting around all morning and not being among the first group of jurors called, Jannene said they were given a two-hour lunch break, where he was able to go back to his office and get some work done. He said he hoped to visit the Milwaukee Public Museum over the following day’s lunch break, since his juror sticker allowed him free admission.

Most of the time after lunch, Jannene and his fellow potential jurors spent quietly waiting. At 2:14 p.m., he said his name was finally called, along with 29 others, to the sixth floor courtroom of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Pedro Colón.

“We’ve caught a criminal case,” he writes. “The voir dire process takes place so that the judge, the state’s attorney serving as the prosecutor and the defense attorney can get to know us.”

Ultimately, Jannene said he was not selected to serve on that or any other jury that day, and he and the others still waiting were dismissed early, at 4:30 p.m. While he describes the day as “pretty anti-climatic,” he does not consider it a waste of his time.

“The notion that jury duty is some great inconvenience seems laughable,” he wrote. “Yes, being on an actual jury would take more time, but you’re guaranteed to be done by 5 p.m. every day and given regular breaks. If that’s the cost of democracy, it’s a small price to pay.” ■

OBITUARIES

Judge Steven D. Ebert Dane County Circuit Court

Former Dane County Circuit Court Judge Steven D. Ebert died in a motorcycle accident on Sept. 18. He was 69 years old.

Ebert served on the Branch 4 bench from 1997 until 2009. He was a member of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), and the Alternatives to Incarceration Committee. After his retirement, he continued to serve as a reserve judge.



Judge Steven D. Ebert

Ebert was a graduate of UW-Madison and Drake University Law School. He served as an electronics technician in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Alaska.

Prior to taking the bench, he served as an assistant state attorney general and a municipal judge for the city of Stoughton. He was appointed to the Dane County Circuit Court bench by then-Gov. Tommy Thompson in 1997.

"I loved him," former Dane County Circuit Court Judge William Foust, who was appointed to the Dane County Circuit Court the same day as Ebert, told the *Wisconsin State Journal*. "It's a tremendous loss, and such a shock. He was a gem."

"He was a real down-to-earth kind of guy, someone who could see the basic fairness in a case," former Dane County

Circuit Court Judge David T. Flanagan told the paper. Flanagan worked at the Department of Justice with Ebert, before the two served as judges together. "He could cut through the complications – understood them, but cut through them – to the basic fairness."

Ebert is survived by his wife, Barbara; three children; and three grandchildren.

Roxanne L. Nelson Capitol Restoration Project Liaison

Roxanne L. Nelson, who worked as a project liaison on behalf of the courts during the restoration of the Capitol Building, passed away on Oct. 26. She was 69.

Nelson worked with the Supreme Court staff during the renovation of the East Wing, which began in 1999 and was completed in 2001, to balance the conservation and restoration of the original design integrity with the need to modernize the space to meet significant updates in technology, and address future needs of court staff.

"Anyone who has built or remodeled a home knows that meeting many diverse and sometimes conflicting needs while sticking to a carefully constructed timetable can be difficult and frustrating," then-Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson said in 2001 after the renovation was completed. "The smallest details, if overlooked, can throw off countless elements of a project. Roxanne Nelson specializes in those small details," Abrahamson said at the time.

Nelson, who worked for the state of Wisconsin for over 25 years, is survived by her spouse, Dr. Ross Royster; two children; and three grandchildren. ■

New Indian child welfare regulations pending

By Justin Wolff, Children's Court Improvement Program

As of Dec. 12, new regulations go into effect for cases subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). These new requirements have been promulgated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the first comprehensive update to ICWA since enactment in 1978. The intent of the new regulations is to provide legally-binding guidance to ensure implementation of ICWA by circuit courts and child welfare agencies.

The new regulations address a variety of topics, including, among others: initial notice, unrepresented parents and custodians, transfer of cases to tribal court, emergency removal, placement preferences, and voluntary proceedings.

The Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) and the Department of Children and Families are currently working in close collaboration to identify and make all necessary modifications to Wisconsin practice, including updates to circuit court forms, resource materials, court and agency policy, and state statute.

As these implementation efforts move forward, it is also anticipated that training opportunities on ICWA and the recent changes will be made available regionally. In the interim, CCIP has developed a comparison chart between the current requirements in Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) and the changes made in the new ICWA

regulations. That document is available [here](#).

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has developed on-demand training modules on the new regulations, which can be found [here](#).

The entire ICWA regulations may be found [here](#).

ICWA was developed in response to the disproportionately high number of Indian children removed from their homes and culture by both public and private entities. The overarching goal of the original legislation was to "protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families" (25 U.S.C. § 1902).

In 2009, Wisconsin recognized the importance of accurately and consistently applying ICWA by enacting state legislation to address removal of Indian children. The resulting WICWA codified many of the provisions found in ICWA while also clarifying and strengthening the requirements. In fact, Wisconsin has served as a model for many of the new regulatory updates. ■

For more information, contact Justin Wolff, policy analyst for the Children's Court Improvement Program, at justin.wolff@wicourts.gov or (608) 264-6905.

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Appellate brief competition winners honored

The winners of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Outstanding Brief Competition were announced at a ceremony in Madison on Oct. 28. Chief



Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack makes opening remarks during an award ceremony for the State Bar of Wisconsin's appellate brief-writing contest. Also pictured are retired Court of Appeals Judge Margaret Vergeront, who helped judge the competition, and District III Court of Appeals Judge Thomas M. Hruz, a past chair of the State Bar's Appellate Practice Section.

Justice Patience Drake Roggensack spoke at the ceremony about the importance of good brief writing. The contest is intended to highlight the best brief writers and to promote better writing.

For a brief to be eligible, the case had to have been resolved, and the remittitur issued during 2015 or 2016. Entries were judged on clarity of writing, depth of analysis, and persuasiveness. Identifying information was removed for the purpose of judging

the contest.

Section board members narrowed the field based on initial screening criteria, and the winners were selected by a panel of retired judges, including former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janine P. Geske, and former Court of Appeals judges Margaret J. Vergeront and Thomas Cane.

The winning briefs were:

- *Soderlund v. Zibolski*, a state respondent's brief filed in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals by state Department of Justice Atty. Thomas Bellavia;
- *State v. Coleman*, an appellant's brief filed by the defense in an ineffective-assistance-of-counsel case, in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. The brief was filed by UW Remington Center Atty. John Pray and it was co-authored by two student attorneys who are now graduated members of the bar, Jaclyn Schwartz and John Sears;
- *Acuity v. Chartis Specialty Insurance Company*, an appellant's brief filed by four private attorneys in an insurance case in the Wisconsin Supreme Court: Joseph Sarmiento and Michael Cohen of Miessner Tierney, and Lance Grady and Daniel Miller, both with Grady Hayes & Neary; and
- *Pigeon v. Smith*, a response brief of the prisoner in a habeas corpus case filed in the Seventh Circuit, after the district court granted the writ. It was written by Federal Defender Services Atty. Joseph Bugni.

The State Bar plans to hold the competition annually. ■

NEWS AND NOTES

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Christopher R. Foley's** Branch 14 courtroom was filled with news cameras, classmates and family members Aug. 29 to celebrate the adoption of 10-year-old **Abby Novotny**. Reporters from ABC News and WISN-TV covered the event, and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ran the story on the front page of its Aug. 31 edition. While the story of a special needs child being adopted by her foster mother is heartwarming on its own, what made Novotny's story especially newsworthy was the presence of all her teachers and classmates in the courtroom to help her celebrate.



Judge Christopher R. Foley

Almost every student and teacher from St. Coletta Day School missed the first day of school to attend the adoption ceremony. They witnessed Novotny sit in Foley's bench chair and bang the gavel to make her adoption official.

"It was incredible," **Anne Novotny**, Abby's adoptive mother, told ABC News. "...Everywhere Abby looked there were kids, teachers, siblings, aunts and uncles. She could hardly stop smiling."

ABC News' coverage of the ceremony can be found [here](#).

This isn't the first time an adoption in Foley's courtroom has caught the media's attention. In November of 2015, the *Journal Sentinel* reported on the adoption of **Napoleon "Polo" Scott**, who found his adoptive family after Foley made a public plea on the teen's behalf.

"He desperately needs a safe and loving family, and I am hoping someone will read this and open their heart and their home to him," Foley wrote of Scott in an open letter to the *Journal Sentinel* in 2014. After he had terminated the child's parents' parental rights, he and his sister were placed in a foster home. A family adopted the sister but not Scott, who was put under the care of Milwaukee child welfare treatment facilities. Foley feared that the boy's window to be adopted was closing, prompting his public plea.

The letter was read by **Don Carlos Scott, Jr.**, who has spent over 20 years working with at-risk youth. He met Polo and they hit it off. Polo officially became a member of the Scott family on Milwaukee Adoption Day in 2015.

"Adoptions are my thing. If I retire and die the 'adoption judge,' I think I will have fulfilled God's plan for me," Foley wrote in his letter.

Since Aug. 1, Dane County has offered a text message reminder option for individuals appearing in court, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported. After leaving their initial appearance, they can sign up to have reminders sent about

see [News and Notes](#) on page 16

RETIREMENTS

Judge Roderick A. "Rory" Cameron Chippewa County Circuit Court

"While judges are the most powerful person in the courtroom, the litigants are the most important," Chippewa County Circuit Court Judge

Roderick A. "Rory" Cameron said. "What we judges do often has a significant and permanent effect on their lives."

During his 33 years as a judge, Cameron has had a significant impact on many lives. He recalled a case where he removed a girl from her father's home and placed her in a group home, despite her objections. He said he received a letter from her several months later thanking him for his decision, saying she had turned her life around and was going to live with her mother.

He also received a thank you letter from a social worker in 1993. The social worker appreciated how Cameron handled the case of a mother who had decided to terminate her parental rights. The social worker thanked him for being polite and respectful towards the woman who had made the difficult decision to give her child up for adoption.

"I did my best to be fair and to explain my decisions," Cameron said. "I tried to be polite to everyone in the courtroom, recognizing that most of them did not want to be there."

Cameron also recalled a double homicide case he was assigned in Rusk County shortly after taking the bench. Seventeen-year-old Carl Slagowski was charged with murdering both his parents.

"He had asked the human services department to be removed from the home, but they told him they couldn't do so," Cameron said of the defendant. "The trial evidence detailed some of the severe abuse he and his many siblings suffered. The jurors knew about this because it was general knowledge in the county. He was convicted of two counts of manslaughter."

Before being appointed to the bench in 1983, Cameron served as a city attorney for the city of Stanley, an assistant district attorney for Chippewa County, and worked in private practice. He has served on the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) Special Functions Subcommittee, the PPAC Decorum Committee, and the Chippewa County Drug Court. He said in addition to the people he works with, he will miss working on the treatment court.

"The court system always deals with change, whether it's from legislative action, social changes, technology improvements, or an increase in drug and alcohol addiction," Cameron said. "Addressing the huge increase in meth and other drugs is the biggest change. Treatment courts help, but it will take more than treatment courts to solve this problem."

After he retires on Dec. 9, Cameron said he plans to spend time with his grandchildren, travel, work for the ongoing Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, and catch up on his reading.



Judge Roderick A. "Rory" Cameron

Judge Patricia S. Curley District I Court of Appeals

District I Court of Appeals Judge Patricia S. Curley said during her 38 years in the judicial branch, she enjoyed her nine years in family court the most.

"You never knew what was going to walk in the door. You saw the whole gamut of human emotions," she said, pointing out that something like a divorce case could bring in someone who was happy to be there, someone who didn't want to be there, or someone who was very upset to be there. She particularly recalled one divorce case where the woman knew where she had been married, but wasn't sure when the wedding had occurred. The where was Las Vegas, the when was blurry because she had no recollection of what she had done while in Las Vegas.

Curley was first appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court bench in 1978 by then-Gov. Martin Schreiber. At the time, her father, Judge Robert M. Curley, was also serving on the Milwaukee County bench. Curley said she believes they were the first father and daughter to serve together as judges in the country. The two served together until 1983, when the elder Curley, who had also served in the Wisconsin State Assembly, retired.

In 1996, Patricia Curley successfully ran for a seat on the District I Court of Appeals. She said throughout her career on the trial and appellate bench she has taken time to look at the facts, apply the law, and make impartial decisions.

Curley said she believes one of the biggest challenges judges face is making sure they are on top of the law and knowing the most recent case law.

"When you're writing, you want to make sure you're competent, you have the most recent interpretation of the law in your opinion."

Curley has served as a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a founding member of the L.J. Foley Inns of Courts, and a former member of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission. Prior to taking the bench, she served as an assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County.

Curley said she would miss her colleagues and staff once she retires on Dec. 10. She said one of the things she missed about being a trial judge after moving to the Court of Appeals was all the people she had the opportunity to interact with.

"That was an added bonus of being a trial judge," she said. "People were walking in the door constantly. At the Court of Appeals, I was no longer 'in the know.'"

Judge John S. Jude Racine County Circuit Court

Racine County Circuit Court Judge John S. Jude retired on July 31, at the end of his second term. He was first elected to the Branch 4 bench in 2004, after winning a five-way primary and the general election. Jude was re-elected in 2010. Prior to running for the Racine County Circuit Court,



Judge Patricia S. Curley

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 14*

future court appearances. The new system is an attempt to reduce the rates of failures to appear.

“Text message reminders have emerged as a best practice for reminding people of their court dates,” Dane County Clerk of Court **Carlo Esqueda** told the paper. “We just don’t want to see a bench warrant issued, somebody picked up and put in jail just because somebody forgot to show up.”

According to the paper, since the system is new, there is no data that could conclusively determine if the text messages are reducing the rate of failure to appear. However, the number of bench warrants for felony, misdemeanor and criminal traffic cases has dropped from 1,326 in 2015 to 945 in 2016.

“Going forward, I will take it as a positive sign for the efficiency of text message reminders if I see this number decrease in coming years,” Esqueda was quoted as saying.

Sauk and Ozaukee counties also use a text messaging reminder system, according to the article. Ozaukee County Clerk of Court **Mary Lou Mueller** told the paper that she has noticed individuals who receive the reminder appear in court more consistently than those who do not.

The *Wisconsin State Journal* reported in August on the Madison municipal restorative justice program that has been operating since September 2015. The program is offered to offenders between the ages of 12 and 16 who receive municipal ordinance violation tickets.

From the time the program launched through this past June, 80 percent of the teenagers referred to the program participated. According to the article, 106 participants have successfully completed the program in that time frame.



Green County Circuit Court Judge **Thomas J. Vale** and Court Reporter **Denise Severson**, participated in Monroe’s Cheese Days Parade on Sept. 18 as part of a weekend long celebration of the county’s dairy industry. Severson and her husband, **Randy**, are dairy farmers near Monroe. Vale walked the Severson’s Brown Swiss heifer calf in the parade. Vale is pictured (in lederhosen) with five-month-old **Holly** the heifer; along with Vale’s sister, **Laney Sliver**; and Severson.



The late Judge **Robert W. Radcliffe**’s widow, **Judy Radcliffe** (left); Jackson County Circuit Court Judge **Anna L. Becker** (right); and Becker’s husband, **Bob** (center); pose behind the memorial bench dedicated to Radcliffe. The inscription on the bench reads, “I expect the dignity of the court, not my dignity, the dignity of the court, to be upheld.” – Honorable **Robert W. Radcliffe**, Circuit Judge.”

“It’s harder to go through that process than it is to go to court and do community service and pay a fine,” Dane County Juvenile Justice Service Manager **Andre Johnson** told the *State Journal*. “The fact that 80 percent choose to participate is something we’re very happy with.”

The program underwent an outside evaluation in October, Johnson said, with other areas in the state expressing interest in replicating the program.

Jackson County held an open house on Sept. 29 to show off the new \$3.7 million courthouse addition, according to the *La Crosse Tribune*. The new addition includes a second courtroom, judicial office and conference rooms. The one-judge county hopes to fill the courtroom by getting legislative approval to add a second judge next year. The expansion also included security updates, and will allow for inmates to be transported from the jail without having to travel through the same hallway used by court staff, WEAU-TV reported.

A memorial bench honoring the late Jackson County Circuit Court Judge **Robert W. Radcliffe** was also dedicated at the open house. Radcliffe served on the Jackson County Circuit Court bench for 18 years. While on the bench, he served as a deputy chief judge and chief judge for the Seventh Judicial District. He served as a reserve judge after his retirement in 2002. He passed away on Sept. 8, 2014.

Brown County Clerk of Court **John A. Vander Leest** is sharing a story with a happy ending that also stresses the importance of victims updating their contact information.

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 15*

he worked in private practice for 27 years and served as a juvenile court commissioner.

Jude graduated from Marquette Law School and received his undergraduate degree from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. Before entering law school, he worked as a probation officer and as a program development specialist for the Center for Urban Concerns in Racine.



Judge John S. Jude

Jude served as a member of the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health.

"Too many of the juveniles I see in the court system struggle with undiagnosed or untreated mental health challenges," Jude wrote for a spotlight series on the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread's website. "By the time young people get to me, it is

much more difficult to lead them away from their current path. If we train our police officers and community members to recognize signs of mental health issues, these young people will have a better chance at receiving the treatment they really need."

Jude told *The (Racine) Journal Times* that he planned to spend more time with his seven grandchildren in his retirement.

"It's time to move on. It's time to do the things that grandparents do," he told the paper. "I love the work. I love being a judge. I'm going to miss the work, I'm not tired out, so to speak."

Judge Kenneth L. Kutz Burnett County Circuit Court

"The job has its challenges, but I very much enjoyed it," Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth L. Kutz said. "But the time has come to put my family first."

Kutz retired on Nov. 26. He said in a perfect world, he would have liked to stay on the bench longer, but now he said he wants to spend his time with his wife, who has been diagnosed with cancer three times since 1999.

Kutz was first appointed in 2008. He had previously served as district attorney and assistant district attorney for Burnett County, and worked in private practice. He has served as a member of the Board of Bar Examiners, chair of the District Ten OWI Guidelines Committee, and board vice president of the Restorative Justice of Northwest Wisconsin.

Kutz said one of the challenges he has faced during his time on the bench is the lack of resources available to a smaller county. He said it's difficult to see the needs of the people that appear before them, and know that the treatment resources are not available. He said this is something he thinks larger counties may at times take for



Judge Kenneth L. Kutz

granted.

He said he has noticed an increased acknowledgement of the role substance abuse plays in criminal cases over the last five to 10 years. He said the judicial branch is starting to look at why certain people come back through the judicial system over again, and the issue is starting to be addressed.

Kutz said working on the county's drug court has been a wonderful experience, and drug court graduations, along with adoption proceedings, have been the highlight of his judicial career.

Kutz also commended the courthouse staff he has worked with over the past 8 years.

"I have been blessed with top-notch personnel," he said. "Everyone is always willing to help one another."

Kutz offers up three pieces of advice for new judges taking the bench.

"Be patient and polite to everyone who appears before you. Listen. I have noticed more people who represent themselves showing up clueless. They will have a better opinion of the outcome if they think someone listened to them. And finally, be fair to both sides."

Judge Gerald P. Ptacek Racine County Circuit Court

Over the past 28 years, Racine County Circuit Court Judge Gerald P. Ptacek has had the opportunity to preside over several high profile cases. One of those cases involved a dog track and casino, a Chicago congressman, convicted Chicago crime figures, and Oprah Winfrey.

In 2005, Ptacek approved the settlement between parties planning to develop a casino at a dog track. The class action civil suit was brought by investors against the company that was created to develop the casino project. In 2001, a jury found that principles in the company had concealed their association to convicted criminals in Chicago. The casino proposal never won government approval and was withdrawn. Ptacek said while Winfrey never testified in the case, she was referenced for her involvement in the planned casino.

Another case that stands out to Ptacek was a homicide case he heard early on in his career. In 1991, Ptacek presided over the murder trial of Joachim Dressler. The gruesome details of the murder and dismemberment of James Madden drew national media attention. The case was tried in Portage County due to publicity surrounding the case in Racine. But Ptacek said it was not only the horrific crime which makes the case so memorable, but the timing of it as well. Ptacek had to order the trial be temporarily suspended that July when 11 dismembered bodies were found in the Milwaukee apartment of Jeffrey Dahmer. Once it was determined that Madden's death was not linked to Dahmer, the trial continued and Dressler was eventually found guilty.

Ptacek said the more challenging a case, the more interesting he found it. He said he appreciated the opportunity to help kids through the family and juvenile



Judge Gerald P. Ptacek

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 17*

courts. He also enjoyed the administrative work, especially during his time as a chief judge for the Second Judicial District.

First appointed in 1988, Ptacek won election to the Branch 1 bench five times, most recently in 2013. His last day on the bench will be Jan. 3, 2017. Prior to taking the bench, he served as a district attorney and assistant district attorney in Racine County, and worked in private practice. Before receiving his law degree from Marquette University Law School, he worked as a math teacher. He has served on the Judicial Conference, Judicial Council, Office of Lawyer Regulation Review Committee, Statewide Video Conferencing Committee, and the CCAP Steering Committee.

Ptacek said he takes pride in the courtroom atmosphere he created, and worked to give everyone the opportunity to be heard.

"They felt they had a chance to be heard, and the decisions were explained to them," he said of those who entered his courtroom.

He advises new judges to be aware of their demeanor and how others perceive them.

"Take breaks," he added, and stressed the importance of giving everyone involved in a case some opportunity to relax.

He said he would miss working with people, including litigants, court staff and attorneys.

Of his retirement plans, Ptacek said he would "do what I want to do rather than what I have to do." One of the things he wants to do is travel, including a trip to Europe and heading south in the winter.

Judge Amy R. Smith Dane County Circuit Court

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Amy R. Smith retired at the end of her term on July 31. Smith was first appointed to the Branch 4 bench in 2009 by then-Gov. Jim Doyle. She won election the following year.

"It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Dane County for the past six plus years, and to have had the honor of serving as Dane County Chief Juvenile Judge and Deputy Chief Judge of our Judicial District," Smith said when announcing her decision not to run for another term. "It has been a pleasure to have worked on behalf of the citizens of our county and the state of Wisconsin in my 25 plus years of public service."

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Smith served as the deputy secretary of the Department of Corrections, a division administrator for the Department of Natural Resources, an assistant attorney general, and an assistant district attorney for Dane County.

She is a former deputy chief judge for the Fifth Judicial Administrative District, and a former member of the Office of Lawyer Regulation District 9 Committee.

Smith told the *Wisconsin State Journal* she did not have

any immediate plans for her retirement, but hoped to serve as a reserve judge.

Judge John R. Storck Dodge County Circuit Court

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge John R. Storck said he believes that how a judge presents a decision can often be just as important as the decision itself. As an example, he recalls a 2006 case he heard regarding 133 wind turbines being installed in Dodge County. He said while he personally agreed that the proposed location was the wrong place for the turbines, he had to affirm the decision of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to place the turbines there. Storck was able to explain his decision in a way that convinced the Horicon Marsh Systems Advocates, who filed the petition for review in Dodge County, that the law was on the wind turbine company's side.

"I was naturally disappointed," Joe Braeden, president of the Horicon Marsh Systems Advocates told the *Beaver Dam Daily Citizen* after Storck's

ruling. "The judge acted like he really didn't want to make that decision but that was the law. It's like his hands were tied and he did what he had to do. He was fair."

Storck retired on Oct. 7. He was first appointed to the bench in 1994. He is a former deputy chief judge and chief judge for the Sixth Judicial Administrative District, and a former associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College.

Storck said he enjoyed working with the Judicial College and the Office of Judicial Education. He said teaching and presenting to others, whether it was other judges, high school students, or sixth graders, allowed him to learn more about various subjects as well.

"Being a judge gives you a great opportunity everyday to learn about the law," Storck said. "I will miss the intellectual stimulation and the daily opportunity to make a difference in people's lives."

Storck advises new judges taking the bench to get involved at the state level in committees and groups to get a perspective on what's happening statewide and to get an appreciation of the overall court system. He said it is also a great way to explore ideas on how to improve the court system.

"Just because things have been done one way doesn't mean there isn't a better way," he said.

Storck has been instrumental in finding better ways of doing things in the court system during his time on the bench. He worked to develop an effective system for case processing and eFiling in Dodge County, and was an advocate for mandatory eFiling across the state. Dodge County was the first county to move to paperless filing in the state. He helped establish an iPad system for warrants, and technology in the court for video presentations in his



Judge John R. Storck



Judge Amy R. Smith

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 16*

When **Sharon LaReau**, an accounting technician with the clerk of courts office, discovered a victim had a large restitution payment due to her, she expressed her concern that if the check was issued and went uncashed for a year, the money would be returned to the county general fund, per state law.

The office staff spent several months searching for the victim through internet search sites, social media, and CCAP records. With the help of a Brown County sheriff's deputy, they were finally able to present the check for \$13,300 to the woman.

"This is a feel good story we can all be proud of," Vander Leest said in a press release.

Sauk County plans to expand its current treatment court program thanks to an increase in funding from the state, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported. The county hopes to expand its current drug court program, which began in 2015, to include an alcohol treatment court.

While the current program addresses criminal violations that stem from addicts trying to support their addiction, alcohol dependency can also impact criminal activity.

"A lot of violence is directed by people whose inhibitions have been lowered by the use of alcohol," Sauk County District Attorney **Kevin Calkins** told the paper.

A Treatment and Diversion (TAD) grant awarded to Sauk County will provide funding for additional staff, drug testing, transportation assistance, and alcohol monitoring, according to the article. Sauk is one of several counties receiving TAD grant funding. (See article, page 10).

Grant and Iowa counties will be among 50 grant recipients in the country to receive funding for drug court costs, according to news website madison.com.

The three year federal grant is being offered by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Milwaukee is the only other county in the state to receive this grant, according to the article.

The \$325,000 per year will help fund inpatient and residential treatment, as well as transportation costs. The grant will be awarded to Unified Community Services, which provides services for the Grant County drug court, which started in 2014, and drunk driving court, which started in 2009, and the Iowa County drug court, which started in 2015.

"I think it's going to help our program quite a lot," **Kristin Schier**, who coordinates the Grant County drug treatment and drunk driving courts, was quoted as saying. "The reason for the struggle with some of our participants is a lack of treatment that's been available to them. With the grant, we'll be able to send them to residential and intensive outpatient treatment more than what we've been able to offer them in the past."



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack addresses members of the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association in the Supreme Court Hearing Room on Oct. 21, during the group's annual visit to the Capitol. Members of the group also met with legislators and court staff.

In October *The Badger Herald* reported on the shortage of interpreters faced by the court system. **Carmel Capati**, manager of the Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program told *The Badger Herald* interpreters are needed for over 60 languages spoken in Wisconsin to assist in getting cases through the court system.

"It's a tough job because it's a specialty profession that requires someone to be obviously bilingual but also have interpreter skills needed to do the job," Capati was quoted as saying.

Spanish is the most in-demand language, but interpreters are also needed for less common languages, like Arabic. Capati told the paper there is also a demand for interpreters for Burmese refugees in the state, but there are over 30 languages spoken in Burma, creating an even greater challenge to finding interpreters.

Capati said the interpreter program has been looking to technology to address the shortage, including having interpreters from other states appear via video and phone. She said outreach has extended to career fairs and university language departments, in the hopes of recruiting new interpreters.

"It is difficult because in a court proceeding if someone cannot understand what is going on or can't express themselves, then the proceeding can't go forward and we have to wait till we can find someone," Capati told the paper. "I would strongly encourage people to apply."

La Crosse police officers and judges were the focus of news coverage due to a policy that required officers to remove their firearms prior to testifying as witnesses, according to the *La Crosse Tribune*. The story was also covered by WXOW, WBKT and WISC.

La Crosse Police Chief **Ron Tischer** called the policy a threat to courtroom safety, while La Crosse County Circuit

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Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez



Judge Scott W. Horne

Court Judge **Ramona A. Gonzalez** told the newspaper the policy was designed to ensure the jury view the officers as “witnesses without distraction,” and protects jurors who have suffered a traumatic firearm experience, according to the newspaper. Gonzales also noted that officers are not permitted to carry firearms in federal courtrooms.

“I believe there is a general agreement that officers are permitted to carry firearms, the exception being in front of a jury,” La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge **Scott W. Horne** told the *Tribune*. “The concern has been expressed regarding an intimidating atmosphere and that may be the most common circumstance in which weapons may not be permitted. For many years, they have been denied entirely.”

The issue arose when a La Crosse police officer had to testify at the trial of a man who was charged with, among other crimes, police battery. While Gonzales ordered

extra security for the courtroom during the trial, Tischer criticized the judge’s decision to not allow the officer who had been threatened to protect himself.

According to Supreme Court rules, circuit court judges and court commissioners can decide on a case-by-case basis to allow officers to carry weapons in their courtroom.

Retired Justice **David T. Prosser, Jr.** gave a talk on his love for Japanese abstract prints at his alma mater, DePauw University, on Sept. 20. The talk was in conjunction with the university’s exhibit “Abstract Traditions: Japanese Modern Prints” from the DePauw University Permanent Art Collection, which runs through Dec. 9. Prosser was also a supporter of the exhibit.

“During his talk, Prosser hopes to convey to you the wonders and excitement of becoming an avid collector,” a description of the talk held at the University Gallery read.

Artists included in the exhibit are **Iwami Reiks, Onchi Koshiro, Sekino Junichiro, and Yamaguchi Gen.**



Judge John Siefert

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **John Siefert** is considering challenging **David A. Clarke, Jr.** for the Milwaukee County Sheriff position, according to an article published by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Siefert was quoted as saying he is 90 percent sure he will not seek re-election for the Branch 47 bench when his current term ends next year.

Siefert is not new to law enforcement, having previously served as a Milwaukee police officer for 13 years before serving as a Milwaukee municipal court judge. He was first elected to the circuit court in 1999.

A decision to create a drug court in Columbia County could be a matter of life or death, Columbia County Circuit Court Judge **Todd J. Hepler** told the county board, according to the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

Hepler was urging the board to approve a resolution to accept a state grant to start a drug treatment court, as well as continue to fund the county’s OWI treatment court. The board passed the resolution, with only one member voting against, according to the paper.

Supervisor **Jim Foley** expressed his concern that the county would be financially responsible should the grant money no longer be available in the future. Hepler argued that treatment courts ultimately save money.

The grant money will help fund the three-phase program, as well as pay for a treatment court coordinator. Hepler told the paper he hopes to start the drug treatment court in mid-2017.



Chief Judge Maxine A. White

Chief Judge **Maxine A. White**, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was featured in a WTMJ-TV news story in October. White talked about growing up in the Deep South, her parents’ support, and the changes she has seen in the country.

One of eleven children, White told the Milwaukee news station she picked cotton in Mississippi until she graduated from high school, and supported herself in college by harvesting pecans and

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Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack takes a break during a dinner event to present Retired Justice David T. Prosser with a plaque in recognition of his years of service on the Supreme Court.



Judge Todd J. Hepler

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 20*

picking cotton.

White was the first in her family to go to college, and credits her parents for instilling confidence and keeping her focused on higher goals, despite the difficult economic and racial conditions of her youth.

"They encouraged us to work hard, work smart, have a nice life and help everyone else that we could," White told the news station.

White said she is thankful to have had unconditional parental support. And despite prevalent racial tension, she said she has noticed a change since her youth in segregated south.

"Because of the color of my skin, I was denied access to many of the things we take for granted today, so we've come a such long way in America."

She encouraged those who are outraged by recent events to channel that outrage in the right way.

"Find ambassadors of goodwill, who are like-minded people, who want to do what's right for everybody, and channel that energy that way," White said.

The Capital Times ran a feature on Justice **Shirley S.**

Abrahamson to mark her 40th year on the Supreme Court. The article covered Abrahamson's early life growing up in New York City, her family life, and her judicial career.

"Among U.S. jurists, Shirley Abrahamson is the very best, the most courageous and sage, the least self-regarding," U.S.

Supreme Court Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** was quoted as saying. "Her speeches and

commentary inspire others to follow in her way. She never forgets the people law exists (or should exist) to serve. For her 40 years on Wisconsin's Supreme Court, she merits a rousing Brava."

Also quoted in the article were former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices **William Callow**, **Janine Geske**, **Jon Wilcox**, and **Louis Butler**; current Justices **Ann Walsh Bradley**, **Annette Kingsland Ziegler**, and **Daniel Kelly**; U.S. District Court Judge **Barbara Crabb**, and former U.S. Sen. **Russ Feingold**, (D-Wisconsin).

Abrahamson, who was the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, was the only woman in her graduating class at Indiana University Law School, according to the article.

The article went on to speak about her reverence for the institution of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the job she has devoted almost half her life to.

"When I came I found a robe in the office and I wore it



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley speaks to a packed Supreme Court Hearing Room as part of the Court with Class program on Nov. 3 after oral argument. The Court with Class program invites students from across the state to witness the Supreme Court in action to gain a better understanding of the judicial system.

literally until it was in shreds. In a historic court there is history and I'm a part of that history," Abrahamson told *The Capital Times*. "It doesn't belong to me, it belongs to people... that person (wearing the robe) represents them."

Portage County voters decided against a referendum on their November General Election ballot, designed to assess taxpayers' opinions on spending \$78.5 million on a new jail and courthouse, the *Stevens Point Journal* reported. The proposed new three-story, 270,000 square foot facility would replace the existing jail and courthouse.

Six of the 25 Portage County board members had opposed putting the referendum on the ballot. Board member **Dan Dobratz** said he was not opposed to getting the voters' opinion on the new facility, but supported waiting until they had more information.

"I'm not afraid to make a decision, especially a tough decision," Dobratz was quoted as telling the county board. "I'm just voting against it tonight because it's incomplete."

According to the *Stevens Point Journal*, the referendum received little support, with almost 22,000 people voting against it, and almost 13,000 supporting it.

In November, the Milwaukee County Board approved a resolution that would build a new \$184 million criminal courts building on the site of the Safety Building, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

A team of consultants determined it would cost up to \$150 million to bring the Safety Building, which opened in 1930, up to building codes and address problems such as asbestos, pests and mechanical, electrical and plumbing issues that result in poor air and water quality. The building also fails to meet minimum safety requirements established by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, according to the article.

"It is not a safe space for our staff, and for the public," Milwaukee County Supervisor **David Sartori** told the paper.

The new building would house all of the criminal courts, some of which are currently in the historic county courthouse. The county courthouse would continue to house the civil, probate, and family court, according to the article.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Dec. 5 that Gov.

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Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 21*

Scott Walker is considering whether the state may help pay for construction of a juvenile corrections center in Milwaukee County, but the county would have to pay to operate it.

Milwaukee County officials have been seeking alternatives to sending dangerous juvenile offenders more than 200 miles away to Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls, secure facilities located together north of Wausau.

Those facilities have been under criminal investigation for nearly two years for abuse and child neglect, and judges and county officials have been seeking alternatives, the newspaper reported.

Counties get state aid to help pay the costs of juvenile corrections – about \$292 a day per offender at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake – but how they manage that money is up to them.

The details of a plan are still being worked on, and Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and Walker said it was too soon to say what such a plant may cost.

“Where we would like to get to is absolutely not sending anyone to Lincoln Hills,” Abele told the newspaper.

State funding for the juvenile center also would need the support of Republicans in the Legislature.

A pilot bail assessment program in Dane County aims to reduce the jail population, while addressing the

racial disparities, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported. The grant for the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) is provided by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, and will cover the cost of two county clerk positions to handle pre-trial assessments, according to the article.

The pretrial assessment considers factors like prior



Reserve Judge James J. Bolgert received his certificate of completion for the Divorce and Family Mediation Training Program in October. Perri Mayes, the program instructor, is the director and clinical instructor for the Mediation Clinic at UW Law School. The program also meets the state's requirements for mediation training on the dynamics of domestic violence on victims and children.



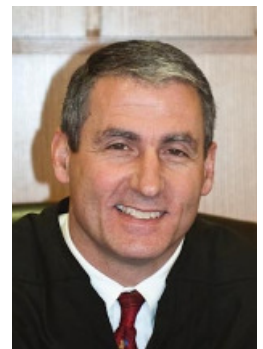
The Barron County Justice Center recently installed dementia friendly signage, thanks to the efforts of Barron County Circuit Court Judge James C. Babler, Clerk of Circuit Court Sharon Millermon and Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, who led the charge to make the building more dementia friendly. The new signage is easy to read at eye level, with large fonts and high contrast. Directional arrows are also used to indicate where specific facilities are located.

convictions, criminal violence, age, and past failure to appear. The assessment does not take into account race, gender, education, socioeconomic background, or neighborhood. The assessment then creates a matrix for court commissioners to use when determining bail, according to the article.

The county board approved the grant unanimously.

While the 21-month pilot program runs, Harvard University will gather data for a study on the use of the PSA.

“The study will see if the PSA aids the magistrate in making the best decision,” Dane County Circuit Court Judge **Nicholas J. McNamara** told the paper. ■



Judge Nicholas J. McNamara

EBDM *continued from page 9*

Judicial members of the statewide EBDM team include: Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Judge Carl Ashley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; and Judge Elliott M. Levine, La Crosse County Circuit Court. Court staff on the state team include Tommy Gubbin, Office of Court Operations, and First Judicial District Court Administrator Holly Szablewski.

Local CJCC's have been the basis for justice system reform in Wisconsin. Based on their individual successes and their importance in supporting efforts like EBDM, Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), and grant funding, their numbers have increased rapidly in the past

decade. Specific projects address treatment courts (drug, OWI, mental health, veterans, family, healing to wellness), diversion programs (pre-arrest, pre-charge, post-charge, deferred prosecution), jail monitoring, community treatment, mental health issues/commitments, and other locally identified issues. For more detailed information regarding what each county is working on here is a [link](#) sortable by county or program type. ■

For more information about evidence-based practices in the Wisconsin court system, contact Tommy Gubbin, (608) 261-0684 or tommy.gubbin@wicourts.gov.

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county. He has also been an advocate for digital audio recording for court reporting.

"When I first started in 1994, computers were just rolling out," Storck said. "Now we're making a complete transition."

Storck said he plans to take six to nine months off. During that time he hopes to travel, visit his four grandchildren, develop a family history, and work on projects around the house. His future plans also include getting back into shape through downhill and water skiing, and visiting all the country's national parks.

Theresa M. Gagas Portage County Register in Probate

Portage County Register in Probate Theresa M. Gagas retired July 8, after 46 years working for the county. Thirty-one of those years were as register in probate.

"It really didn't seem like it was that long," Gagas told the *Portage County Gazette*. "I loved the work. It didn't seem like work. I felt happy to work with others. I enjoyed being with attorneys. They're a good group. They work for the people."

Gagas started working for the county on June 1, 1970. Over the years, she has worked with Judges Robert C. Jenkins, John

V. Finn, Robert J. Shannon, Fred W. Fleishauer, Thomas B. Eagon, and Thomas T. Flugaur.

"She is literally an institution, with 31 years as register in probate," Flugaur told the *Gazette*. "She was so valuable as a public servant, always willing to help not only attorneys, but also the public. She was just so willing to give of herself."

Barry Slagle Milwaukee County Circuit Court Commissioner

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Commissioner Barry Slagle retired on Sept. 2. Slagle was a judicial court commissioner for 15 years. Prior to working as a court commissioner, he served as a state public defender for more than 20 years. His last rotation as a court commissioner was presiding over juvenile cases at the children's court.

"He was and still is a tireless advocate for sex trafficked children," fellow Milwaukee County Court Commissioner Maria Dorset said. "He was very involved in developing policies and practices regarding exploited minors in Milwaukee County. He was a wonderful mentor to many of us as we became court commissioners." ■

eFiling *continued from page 7*

waiver for court-appointed attorneys on all case types. Judges and court staff can look forward to electronic signature enhancements, including the ability to sign scanned documents and route documents for multiple signatures. Judges will also have the ability to drop cases from view on eBench, upload scanned notes to cases and group documents from multiple cases for easy view and access.

Several new case types will be enabled for eFiling in 2017, starting with probate, which is currently being piloted in Ozaukee and Ashland counties. This pilot has been going well and both counties have provided good feedback to CCAP in terms of needed modifications. Once these are complete, additional counties will begin to offer voluntary probate eFiling.

"I am very pleased with the progress of mandatory eFiling so far," said Jean Bousquet, Chief Information Officer. "The staff in all of the participating counties and at CCAP has done a great job making this monumental transition as smooth as possible. It has been a great team effort and everyone involved has stepped up to make

an impact."

Mary Lou Mueller, Ozaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court, Register in Probate and Clerk of Juvenile Court, said the benefits of mandatory eFiling are staggering for all court users, improving access, efficiency, transparency and accountability.

"There have been dramatic work-flow and case-management improvements, which have decreased the opportunity for human error in the clerk's office. I am looking forward to the full compliment of 'e-file-able' for all case types in Wisconsin."

CCAP provides technical support for eFiling via phone, email, or chat. This support is available between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. Filers can access a variety of resources to help ease the transition from paper to electronic filing. These include user guides and video tutorials, and FAQs. Notes and updates about eFiling can be found on CCAP's eFiling update page. Filers can stay up-to-date with eFiling implementation and system changes by subscribing to email notifications or by following @CCAP_Wisconsin on Twitter. ■