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**Fall/
Winter
2019-20**

Justice on Wheels reconnects Montello with ‘home town boy who made good’

The 2019 edition of the Supreme Court’s *Justice on Wheels* program not only “took the show on the road” to Marquette County, it reacquainted a community with one of its most important – yet nearly forgotten – historical figures.

The late Justice George R. Currie, who served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1951 to 1968, was born in nearby Princeton but grew up in Montello.

He was a “hometown boy who made good,” but somehow his childhood connection with Montello faded, said local historian and Marquette County Board member Kathleen McGwin.



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler delivers remarks during the opening ceremony of Justice on Wheels at the Marquette County Courthouse in Montello on Oct. 14.

see [Wheels](#) on page 16

Davis, Donald, White join Court of Appeals

Gov. Tony Evers has made a number of appointments to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and circuit courts since Aug. 1:

Judge Jeffrey O. Davis District II Court of Appeals

On Sept. 4, Gov. Tony Evers announced the appointment of Judge Jeffrey O. Davis to the District II Court of Appeals. Davis fills the vacancy created by Justice Brian K. Hagedorn’s election to the Supreme Court.

Before his appointment to the bench, Davis was in private practice from 1987 to 2019 and represented a number of large businesses in the Milwaukee area, and served as an adjunct professor of insurance law at Marquette University Law School. He’s a board member of Milwaukee Bar Foundation; served as Milwaukee Regional Coordinator of State Bar of Wisconsin High School Mock Trial (1995-2009), and Chair/Treasurer/Member of State Bar of Wisconsin Appellate Practice Section (2000-2005).

Davis has been an advocate for a number of community



Judge Jeffrey O. Davis



Judge M. Joseph Donald



Chief Judge Maxine A. White

organizations and serves as a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Miami University and a law degree from Ohio State University – Moritz College of Law.

see [New Judges](#) on page 19

Treatment court growth driven by strategy

By Katy Burke, Office of Court Operations and Kacie Terranova, Office of Research and Justice Statistics

The number of specialty courts across Wisconsin has grown remarkably since the first treatment court opened in 1996. Also called “problem-solving” courts, these courts work across several disciplines in partnership with other institutions to address underlying issues related to participants’ criminal behavior.

Ninety specialty courts were operating across Wisconsin through early 2019, with seven new treatment courts under development through 2020.

The increase is due, in part, to national awareness of the potential benefits, state support for implementation, training and technical assistance, and an increase in state and federal grant dollars. The 2019-2021 state budget added \$1.5 million to Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) funding for new or expanded treatment court programs. This increases the total TAD funding by approximately \$14.4 million over

see [Specialty Courts](#) on page 3



Judge Gonzalez heads National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez was elected president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) board of directors, the council announced Aug. 9.

“The NCJFCJ has been fortunate to have Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez as an active and highly-sought after judicial expert in educating her peers on matters that affect our most vulnerable population – the children and families who seek justice,” said Joey Orduna Hastings, NCJFCJ’s chief executive officer. “Her commitment to promoting diversity while exercising judicial leadership will make her a great leader of the NCJFCJ.”

Gonzalez wasted little time in representing the organization, making a Nov. 21 appearance at the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence dinner hosted at the U.S. Supreme Court by Chief Justice John Roberts. The event presented Gonzalez with an opportunity for a keepsake photo with the chief justice.

The Reno, Nevada-based council is the nation’s oldest judicial membership organization and focuses on improving the effectiveness of juvenile and family courts nationwide. Born in the Dominican Republic, Gonzalez becomes the first foreign-born NCJFCJ president, according to the organization.

Gonzalez is recognized as a leading expert nationally and internationally on a wide range of family law issues. Earlier this year, she testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security on the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

In Wisconsin, Gonzalez served on the Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and is a member of the



La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez with U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who hosted The William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence dinner at the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 21. Gonzalez attended the event in her role as the president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare and of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families’ Advisory Council of Juvenile Justice. On a national level, she is a member of the National Juvenile Defender Center Judicial Council, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, American Judges Association, and the National American Indian Court Judges Association.

Gonzalez was first elected to the circuit court in 1995 and was re-elected in 2001, 2007, 2013 and 2019. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Loyola University in Chicago and law degree from the Marquette University Law School. ■

AWARDS

Judge Foley named ‘Angel in Adoption’

On Nov. 14, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley was recognized as an “Angel in Adoption” by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI).

Foley was nominated by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who presented Foley with the honor at the advocacy group’s 20th annual recognition event in Washington, D.C.

Foley has presided over hundreds of adoptions over the years, and is widely recognized for his efforts to unite children in need with good families.

In 2016, he was featured on the front page of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and on ABC’s Good Morning America, when he made an unusual public plea to help find a 12-year-old boy an adoptive home.

In 2015, Foley was featured in the Journal Sentinel when a newly minted graduate of Marquette University Law School credited him with inspiring her to become a lawyer. Foley had presided over the woman’s adoption hearing in 2003, when she was 13 years old. At that time, Foley made the memorable gesture of letting the

girl take the bench for a few minutes.

Foley previously served as presiding judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Children’s Division and has served on the Juvenile Benchbook Committee and

[see Awards on page 18](#)



U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin presents Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley with an “Angels in Adoption” recognition pin during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 13.

Specialty Courts *continued from front page*

the two years. The many types of specialty courts across the state fall into one of the five broad categories, shown in the stacked bar chart accompanying this article.

The chart tracks the rise of treatment courts by category, showing that the number of these courts doubled from 2011 to 2015, compared to the previous five-year period, and that growth continues.

Peer review guides Rock, Grant county

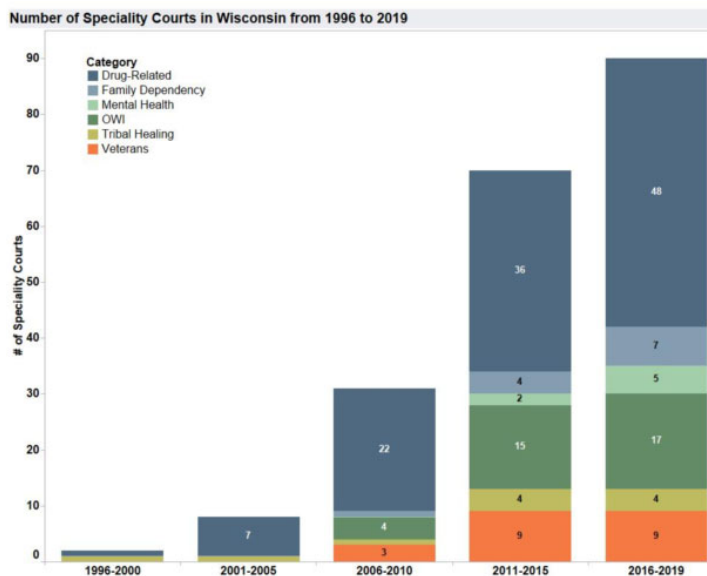
Due to the particularly large increase in drug-related treatment courts, it is more important now than ever for the court system to implement evaluations of their efficiency.

This year, Rock and Grant County engaged in a peer review process in which court officials from each county took turns visiting and evaluating numerous facets of the other county's drug treatment court program. The peer review process, which was developed by NPC Research, creates a learning environment where treatment court teams utilize the Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards to identify strengths and areas of improvement in each program. Each team received four hours of training on the peer review process, conducted interviews of each team member, as well as with a panel of treatment court participants from each team.

As explained by Rock County Circuit Court Judge Barbara W. McCrory: "It's important to have peers reviewing your treatment court. We speak the same language. Peers understand the struggles our participants face... We believe in the difference treatment courts can make in a person's life. Peer review helps us do that job better."

Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey, Grant County Circuit Court, said it is interesting how similar the drug court teams operate despite the very different challenges faced: "Rock County has Janesville and Beloit, and a heroin problem. Grant County, on the other hand, is a large rural county, with no real public transportation, and where methamphetamine is the issue."

Despite these differences, representatives from law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office, the County Treatment service, and Probation and Parole offices were able to sit around a table with a judge and arrive at a consensus on how each participant should be addressed in order to enhance public safety in their county, VanDeHey said.



This chart tracks treatment courts growth statewide by category.

"In almost every case where a participant was struggling, treatment adjustments were pursued over incarceration," Van De Hey said, citing that research indicates that, when dealing with addiction, incarceration is less effective, more expensive, and more detrimental to families than alternative approaches.

According to Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, justice system manager in Rock County, "the peer review process was an excellent opportunity to observe another treatment court program in the state and learn from each other how to make our programs even stronger."

Kristin Schier, treatment court program coordinator in Grant County, said the Peer Review process was worthwhile.

"It was an effective method to learn from our peers on how to identify and better implement the best practices for program improvement. I also enjoyed hearing from Rock County on their successes and challenges and then share with them our program's struggles and successes," Schier said.

Through the peer review process, court officials also had the opportunity to interview drug court graduates in Grant County. One participant credited the treatment court program there with saving his life: "It was nice to be heard by more than just the Grant County drug court team. The Peer Review team seemed like they cared." ■

TAD grants support treatment court growth

Three Wisconsin counties and one tribe are expected to establish treatment or specialty court programs, and seven counties plan to expand existing programs, thanks to an additional \$1.5 million in TAD (Treatment and Diversion) funding approved in the 2019-2021 state budget.

TAD funding during the biennium totals almost \$14.4 million and supports treatment courts and diversion programs for three tribes and 53 Wisconsin counties.

On Nov. 18, Gov. Tony Evers and state Attorney General

Josh Kaul announced where the additional money will be made available. The state Department of Justice administers the program in partnership with Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, Director of State Courts Office, and State Public Defender's Office.

The new TAD-funded programs include the following:

- Door County is awarded more than \$140,000 to create an adult drug court.

see TAD Grants on page 9

RETIREMENTS

Editor's Note: *This edition of the Third Branch features articles on judicial retirements through 2019. Other judges who have retired since then or have announced upcoming retirements will be featured in a future edition, including: Judge Joan Kessler, District I Court of Appeals; Judge Lee S. Dreyfus, Waukesha County Circuit Court; Judge Andrew T. Gonring, Washington County Circuit Court; and Judge David M. Bastianelli, Kenosha County Circuit Court.*

Judge Kitty K. Brennan Court of Appeals District I

After a 42-year legal career, including 25 years on the bench, District I Court of Appeals Judge Kitty K. Brennan retired Sept. 6.



Judge Kitty K. Brennan

Before being appointed to the Court of Appeals, Brennan had served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court from 1994 to 2008 and previously as chief judge and deputy chief judge of the First Judicial Administrative District. She previously worked in private practice, from 1984 to 1994, and as an assistant district attorney, from 1977 to 1984.

As a circuit court judge, Brennan presided over a number of high-profile cases, including a lawsuit resulting from a 1999 accident that killed several workers during the construction of Miller Park.

"There were over a hundred motions, five active parties, Japanese depositions, daily press coverage and a massive trial with logistical problems I had never faced before, like the need for a second courtroom door," Brennan recalled.

But some of her most memorable cases involved small claims, such as the elderly pro se litigant who urinated on the floor during presentation of his case, the two women fighting over a boyfriend that resulted in the losing litigant biting her adversary on the way out of the courtroom.

Brennan taught "Making the Record" for the Judicial College for seven years and found her contributions to judicial education to be rewarding.

"I will be forever grateful to (Judge) Lisa Stark (District III Court of Appeals) and (retired Milwaukee County Circuit Judge) Mel Flanagan for encouraging me to do it. I loved teaching "Making the Record" and miss it still.

Brennan said she will miss most the people with whom she has worked.

"Judging, for the most part, is a very solitary job. Friendships with our fellow judges are a treasure and truly help us to do our job better. I'll miss the conversations in the halls and at conferences," Brennan said.

Brennan said she is ready to begin pursuit of other activities, along with her husband, Joseph G. Murphy.

"I'm really looking forward to doing the things I've always postponed doing: more running, Yoga, art and Spanish

classes; travel with Joe and friends; and first and foremost, hanging with my kids, grandkids, and mom," Brennan said.

Judge William Atkinson Brown County Circuit Court

The Green Bay Press Gazette featured an article on Brown County Circuit Court Judge William Atkinson, who retired in August to spend more time with his family and grand children:



Judge William Atkinson

"Judge William Atkinson still remembers the very first time he set foot in the Brown County Courthouse. Just 7 years old, he climbed the steps of that august, Renaissance Revival structure, in all its exalted, solemn splendor, and he deposited a dead fox on the county clerk's desk... 'The county paid a bounty for each fox,' Atkinson recalled. 'You'd bring a dead fox in, they'd cut off one ear, and you'd get a \$5 check in the mail,'" Atkinson

recounted to the newspaper.

The experience led to an interest in the courthouse that lasted through his 28-year career as a circuit court judge.

Atkinson, 66, announced his retirement on July 3, effective Aug. 11. The announcement came as a surprise to many at four years into his fifth six-year term on the bench, and some people thought there may have been a health issue.

"It wasn't health; it was grandchildren, and they weren't unexpected. Atkinson's wife, Roberta, provides daycare for their daughter's three little ones, and Atkinson began to fret mightily about how much work his wife was having to do," the Press-Gazette reported.

Atkinson told the paper he probably enjoys playing in the sandbox as much as his grandchildren, and he allows one of them to pretend she is giving him swimming lessons each Sunday.

Atkinson was first elected to the bench in 1991 and re-elected in 1997, 2003, 2009, and 2015. He previously served as Green Bay Municipal Court Judge from 1985 to 1991 and as an attorney in private practice from 1979 to 1991.

Judge Michael J. Dwyer Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Dwyer retired in September, after 22 years on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Dwyer was first elected in 1997 and re-elected three time since, most recently in 2015. Before becoming a judge, Dwyer was in private practice from 1975 to 1997 and on the academic staff of the UW-Milwaukee School of Business, from 1978 to 1986.

He held a number of leadership roles over the years, including presiding judge of the Family Division, Children's Court Division and Probate Subdivision of



Judge Michael J. Dwyer

Website revisits life of Lavinia Goodell, Wisconsin's first woman lawyer



The photo on the left has long been mistaken as a likeness of Lavinia Goodell. The photo on the right has been verified as authentic by Goodell's family, after some research by Atty. Colleen Ball and Supreme Court Commissioner Nancy Kopp.

If she was alive today, would Wisconsin's first woman lawyer tweet? Would she post on Facebook or blog to bring attention to crucial issues of our time, or even to share some of her personal struggles?

The creative forces behind a new website dedicated to Lavinia Goodell, www.laviniagoodell.com say, 'yes.'

In 1874, Goodell (1839-1880), who was from Janesville, became the first woman admitted to practice law in Wisconsin. She is best known for her battle to be admitted to practice before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, but there is much more to her story.

Not only will visitors to the website be able to learn about Lavinia's quest to become a lawyer, they will discover her advocacy for women's suffrage, temperance, women's property rights, the right of women to obtain a divorce, and laws that would require men to support their wives and children.

The website, which is supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, is the culmination of extensive research conducted by Colleen Ball, an appellate lawyer for the Wisconsin State Public Defender, and Nancy Kopp, a Wisconsin Supreme Court Commissioner. Ball stumbled onto Chief Justice Edward Ryan's opinion denying women admission to practice in the Wisconsin Supreme Court while researching some obscure point as an associate at Reinhart Boerner Van Duren, S.C. in Milwaukee.

Ryan's jarring words stuck in Ball's mind:

["the law of nature destines and qualifies the female sex for the bearing and nurture of the children of our race and for the custody of the homes of the world and their maintenance in love and honor. And all life-long callings of women, inconsistent with these radical and sacred duties of their sex, as is the profession of law, are departure from the



Wisconsin Historical Society Collections Development Coordinator Simone Munson holds Lavinia Goodell's certificate of admission to practice law in Wisconsin. The certificate was donated to the society by Goodell's great grand-niece, Beverly Wright, who lives in Bear, Delaware (not pictured). Pictured with Munson after a State Bar of Wisconsin ceremony Dec. 6, are Atty. Steve Bates, Goodell's great, great-grandnephew, Supreme Court Commissioner Nancy Kopp, left; and Atty. Colleen Ball, right. The State Bar awarded Goodell its Lifetime Innovator award.

order of nature; and when voluntary, treason against it."].

Kopp first learned of Lavinia and read Ryan's scathing opinion in the 1970s while working as a legal secretary for Atty. Tom Berg in Janesville. When Kopp returned to school at UW-Whitewater, she wrote a history paper on Goodell and Angie King, who formed Wisconsin's first female law firm in 1879.

Ball had long thought Lavinia Goodell deserved a more in-depth biographical treatment than she had yet received. So, in the spring of 2018, she and Kopp decided to delve a bit deeper into Goodell's life to see if there was enough undiscovered information to make a full blown biographical treatment worthwhile. Kopp admits she was skeptical at first.

"I had long admired Lavinia's tenacity and considered her to be an important part of Wisconsin's legal history, but I thought it was doubtful there was much more to say about her. It didn't take long to discover I was wrong," she said.

Kopp tracked down several of Lavinia's relatives, who revealed that the widely disseminated photograph thought to be of Lavinia Goodell, is not her at all. Ball and Kopp traveled to Nashville and met with 92-year-old Sarah Frost Stamps, Lavinia's great grand niece.

Stamps explained how, in 1959, her father mistakenly provided the wrong photo to a writer researching a book on early women lawyers. The photo made its way into the William Goodell Family Collection located in the Special Collections and Archives at Berea college in Berea, Kentucky. Stamps discovered the error some years ago and has tried to set the record straight, as has Beverly Wright, Lavinia's great-great grand niece, who lives in Bear, Delaware. But once erroneous information is on the Internet,

[see Lavinia on page 21](#)

Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts focuses on timely permanence for children

By Kristen Wetzel, Children’s Court Improvement Program

About 550 people representing 63 counties, seven tribes, and a number of state and private organizations, attended the *Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: “Working Together to Effectuate Timely Permanence,”* held Sept. 25-27 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The conference was sponsored by the Children’s Court Improvement Program (CCIP) of the Director of State Courts Office and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and was co-hosted by Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court, and Melissa Blom, manager of the Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services.

The two-and-a-half day event provided a forum for state, county, and tribal leaders to learn innovative practices to achieve timely permanence for children.

Needham encouraged attendees “to explore the complex challenges facing families, the need for innovative solutions, and the importance of timely permanence for children.”

The plenary sessions focused on permanence, engagement, and the power of one caring adult. The workshop sessions provided practical examples and applications organized into four practice areas: judicial, legal, child welfare, and all disciplines.

Participants were encouraged to attend as a multi-disciplinary team, which included: judicial officers, attorneys (prosecutors, adversary counsel, guardians ad litem), and child welfare directors and supervisors. Each county and tribe was given time to develop strategies to implement in

see [Conference on page 8](#)



At the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts (left to right): Judge Scott Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court; Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack; Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services Manager, Melissa Blom; and Director of State Courts, Randy R. Koschnick.



County and tribal teams meet to discuss strategy during the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts in Wisconsin Dells.

Data visualization reveals CHIPS trends

By Kacie Terranova and Michael F. Thompson, Office of Research and Justice Statistics

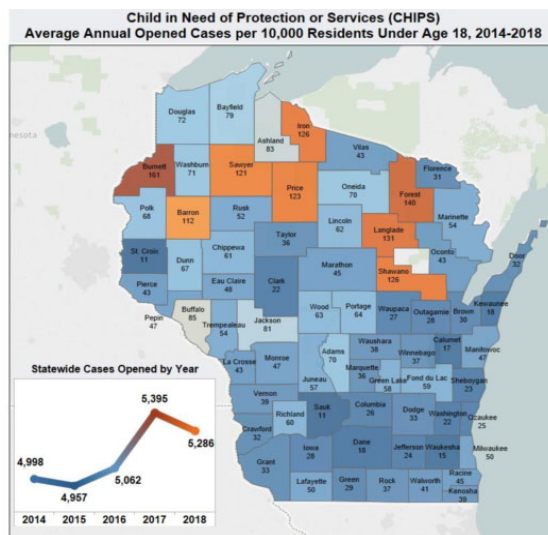
In conjunction with the 2019 Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts, the Office of Research and Justice Statistics released a “data visualization” of state- and county-level trends in Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) cases. CHIPS cases typically arise from allegations of either child abuse, child neglect or both. Parties are heard on what steps may be required in the best interest of the subject child.

The data visualization revealed that newly-opened CHIPS cases have been rising across Wisconsin in recent years. In 2017 and 2018, for example, about 300 more cases were opened than in each of the previous three years. While populous counties in Southeastern and South Central Wisconsin have higher numbers of cases, the map above adds perspective when each county’s caseload is divided by the county’s population of residents under the age of 18.

Counties in the Northern part of the state

generally have higher rates of CHIPS cases per 10,000 youth residents, with Burnett the highest at 161, followed by Forest at 140 and Langlade at 131. ■

This “data visualization,” created by the Office of Research and Justice Statistics, shows a five-year trend in CHIPS case filings per capita (youth population) across Wisconsin. The graphic was created to help attendees at the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts visualize trends that may otherwise be difficult to summarize. (Note: No recorded child welfare cases in Menominee County were conducted in circuit court over this period, only Tribal Court).



NEW FACES

Stensberg, Frederick appointed to new roles

On Dec. 2, Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick announced two deputy director appointments, effective Dec. 8.

Dean Stensberg was appointed deputy director for executive services, a position created to provide expertise and assistance over legislative and budgetary policy initiatives affecting the courts. Stensberg had served as deputy director for management services since Aug. 1, 2017, and prior to that, as executive assistant to Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

Before joining the court system, Stensberg served as chairman of the Wisconsin Parole Commission, as executive assistant and director of policy and public affairs for former state Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen; as assistant to former state Department of Corrections Secretary Michael J. Sullivan; and as special assistant to former Gov. Tommy G. Thompson.

Caitlin M. Frederick, who served as court system human resources officer since April 30, 2018, was appointed deputy director for management services.

Before joining the court system, Frederick worked 12 years at the state Department of Administration (DOA), most recently as executive budget and policy manager. She previously served as the director of civil service for Albany County in New York and began her career as a personnel administrator in Pennsylvania in 1994.

Frederick holds a Master's Degree in Public Finance and Human Resources from the State University of New York at



Dean Stensberg



Caitlin Frederick

Albany, and an undergraduate degree from Russell Sage College.

Tammy Johnson Supreme Court Marshal

It's unlikely Tammy Johnson will forget the first few weeks on her new job as Supreme Court Marshal. She started with a flurry of activity in the Supreme Court Hearing Room in early October, including law school admissions, a public hearing and oral argument.

By Oct. 14, she was on the road with the Supreme Court, helping ensure a safe and well-organized *Justice on Wheels* visit to the Marquette County Courthouse in Montello.

A week later, she was overseeing arrangements and security for oral argument in a high-profile case in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.

Then, just when things seemed to be settling down, police reported that on Nov. 26, a man entered the otherwise unoccupied Supreme Court Hearing Room and damaged a number of items, including the Court's ornate conference table.

Before joining the Court, Johnson worked as a State Capitol Police officer in a number of capacities: dignitary service, building service, road patrol, CPR instructor, and honor guard member. She previously worked as a road patrol and marine officer for the Town of Delavan in Walworth County.

Before entering law enforcement, Johnson worked in healthcare at a veterans care facility, Southern Wisconsin Center, and a hospital. She has a bachelor's degree in administration, with a minor in Criminal Justice, and holds a number of certifications.

Johnson replaces former Marshal Tina Nodolf, who retired in September. ■



Tammy Johnson

OBITUARIES

Judge John F. Foley, Milwaukee County

Retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John F. Foley died June 30 at age 90, according to an obituary published by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Foley was first elected to the bench in 1968 and served as a judge in Milwaukee County until his retirement in 1995. He continued his service to the judiciary by serving as a reserve judge from 1995-2010.

Throughout his life, Foley was active in the Milwaukee community. He served as president of the Milwaukee School

Board for two years (1965-1967) and received many civic and community awards, according to the obituary.

Foley is survived by his wife, Patricia, his four children, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Foley earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin and was



Judge John F. Foley

see Obituaries on page 20



On Jan. 21, Gov. Tony Evers signed 2020 Wisconsin Act 70, which makes 44 procedural updates to the handling of municipal court matters. The Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association worked with various stakeholders to promote the changes, which are intended to promote clarity, best practices, system efficiency, cost reduction, and the rights of both municipalities and defendants.

In addition to Governor Evers, pictured, (left to right): Judge Todd Meurer, Municipal Judge, Towns of Madison, Middleton, and Verona (Dane County); Judge Jerry Jaye, Municipal Judge, Lakeside Municipal Court (Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties); Judge Tom Hebl, Municipal Judge, City of Sun Prairie (Dane County); Judge Bob Kupfer, Municipal Judge, Village and Town of Somers (Kenosha County); Hon. Jason Hanson, Municipal Judge, Villages of DeForest and Windsor (Dane County); Judge Dan Koval, Municipal Judge, City of Madison (Dane County); State Rep. Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie); State Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac); and Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere).

Conference *continued from page 6*

their community to improve permanency outcomes for children.

Examples of some strategies include:

- Establishing treatment courts
- Holding quarterly CHIPS review hearings
- Conducting pretrial and family conferences
- Appointing attorneys for parents in CHIPS cases
- Revising Dispositional Order Conditions for Return
- Meeting as a county/tribe on a regular basis,
- Improving efforts to identify and engage fathers
- Utilizing mediation in CHIPS cases
- Creating a family friendly waiting area in the courthouse
- Gathering data on continuances and adjournments, and
- Exploring having a therapy dog in court.

As one attendee noted, “the team meetings were extremely helpful and a fantastic way to collaborate and implement a plan to utilize the information from the conference.” CCIP will follow up with each county and tribe to determine if progress has been made on their action plans and offer assistance with implementation. ■



In September, the Wisconsin State Law Library loaned the Baraboo Public Library Nineteenth Amendment materials to supplement its own display on women's suffrage and Baraboo's notable connections to it. The loaned display included biographical profiles, photos, and snapshots of front page headlines.

District 3 hosts personal safety training

Thirty-eight people, including Guardians Ad Litem (GALs), family court counselors, court commissioners, judges and court staff, attended a personal safety seminar hosted by the Third Judicial Administrative District at the Waukesha County Courthouse on Sept. 17.

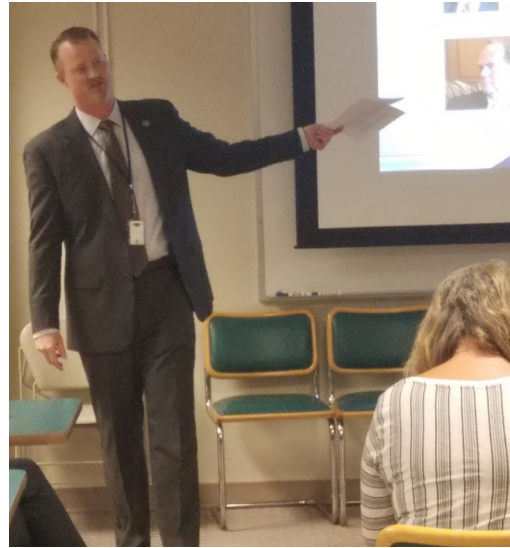
Personal Safety Practices Away from the Courthouse was presented by U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin Rob O'Connor, a Judicial Security Inspector for the U.S. Marshall Service.

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge Joseph G. Sciascia came up with the idea for a district-wide seminar after attending O'Connor's presentation at the 2019 Statewide Court Security Conference.

In addition to judges, Sciascia and Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court, extended an invitation to a range of people who conduct work at courthouses.

GALs, counselors and others are often dealing with individuals and court matters that are emotionally charged, and should have access to training and information on safety away from the courthouse.

O'Connor spoke about the need to focus on lighting, landscaping and locks as it relate to their home and office building. In addition, he spoke about the importance of security systems, types of windows, doors and what to do when people leave or return from work. ■



U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin Rob O'Connor, a Judicial Security Inspector for the U.S. Marshal Service, presents "Personal Safety Practices Away from the Courthouse" at the Waukesha County Courthouse on Sept. 17.

TAD Grants *continued from page 3*

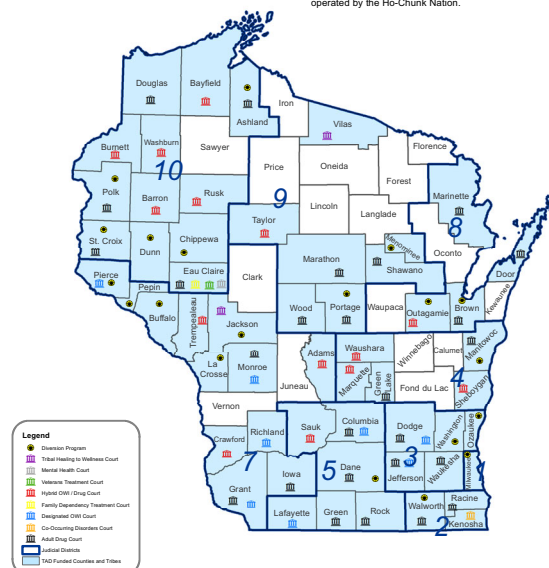
- Ho-Chunk Nation is awarded more than \$70,000 to support an established Healing to Wellness Court.
 - Lafayette County is awarded more than \$118,000 to create an OWI court.
 - Shawano County is awarded more than \$107,000 to support a newly established adult drug court.
- The expanding programs include the following:
- Adams County is awarded more than \$21,000 to support funding a peer support specialist and a volunteer transportation service for their program participants.
 - Buffalo-Pepin counties are awarded more than \$13,000 to support a newly established driver program that will provide needed transportation services for their diversion program participants.
 - Marinette County is awarded more than \$78,000 to support a case manager position to help increase program capacity and address the waitlist for their adult drug court program.
 - Monroe County is awarded more than \$57,000 to hire a mental health provider, a needed service for their adult drug court program as well as their TAD-funded OWI treatment court program.
 - Portage County is awarded more than \$76,000 to support a case manager position to increase capacity of their established diversion program. The diversion program will receive TAD funding starting in 2020, in addition to their existing TAD-funded adult drug court program.
 - Polk County is awarded more than \$83,000 to support a case manager position and implement a new diversion program to complement an existing TAD-funded adult drug court program

The TAD program provides local jurisdictions with options to give non-violent offenders an opportunity to enter diversion programs or treatment court programs as a safe

alternative to jail or prison confinement. These options typically involve drug and/or alcohol abuse treatment, case management, and other risk reduction services. Diverting non-violent offenders into substance abuse treatment can improve outcomes for individuals with a substance use disorder, and help keep them out of jail and correctional facilities by addressing an underlying addiction. ■

Calendar Year 2020 Wisconsin Counties and Tribes Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Funded Programs

The courts in Vilas and Menominee counties represent programs operated by the Lac du Flambeau and Menominee Tribes. The Healing to Wellness court in Jackson County is operated by the Ho-Chunk Nation.



Judicial Conference focuses on neuroscience

National presenters provided more than 280 judges with insight on “Emerging Issues in Neuroscience” at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference Nov. 6-8 in Elkhart Lake.

Among other topics addressed, judges learned how the brain functions and how it may be affected by drugs, violence and pain.

“The world is changing rapidly, and that is reflected in the types of issues we meet in our courts,” Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said in her *State of the Judiciary* remarks delivered at the two-and-a-half-day conference.

“There are times when the problems generated through senseless violence and drug abuse cause us to be at a loss to understand how best to respond to them in a legally and socially sufficient way. There is no question that these are complex problems. They do not have one cause that is easily identified and addressed. This conference will present new ideas on causation and hopefully give us more tools to address the concerns we all face,” Roggensack told judges.

Roggensack updated conference attendees on items in the state budget and developments in the court system in areas such as the Office of Research and Justice Statistics, the commercial docket pilot project, the Children’s Court Improvement Program and treatment courts.

In his remarks, Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick thanked judges for their efforts to educate legislators and others about the value of the work done by the Judiciary. Judges who appeared before the Joint Committee on Finance on Oct. 2 in support of legislation for new judgeships were particularly effective, he said.

“Chief Judge Jim Morrison, Judge Anna Becker, Judge Guy Dutcher, Judge Rod Smeltzer, Judge Jeff Froehlich were all very persuasive, as was Diane Fremgen, Deputy Director for Court Operations. They explained in great detail some of the complexities of today’s judicial workload and what it takes to keep our courts running smoothly,” Koschnick said.

Koschnick also highlighted a number of innovations in Judicial Education.

“This year’s conference features national-level presenters we would not normally be able to attract. But we took advantage of the opportunity presented by a number of top-notch national organizations, including the National Center for State Courts, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Federal Judicial Center, and the American Bar Association. This is a unique opportunity, and we are hopeful you can use what you learn here in your courtroom,” Koschnick told the judges. ■



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack highlights a number of accomplishments for the Wisconsin Judiciary during her *State of the Judiciary* at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference. Improved inter-branch relations and stronger partnerships with other justice system stakeholders led to successes in the state budget, she said.



Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick updates judges on activity of the director’s office during his annual remarks at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference. Koschnick thanked a number of judges for their work in support of the judgeship bill, and he discussed some recent innovations in judicial education offerings.



At one of several district luncheons held during the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, Circuit Court Legal Advisor Kat Carpenter presents on digital court reporting.



Retired Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser discusses the status of a judgeship bill during a lunch session with judges from the Ninth Judicial Administrative District at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

Mock trial provides realistic ASL training opportunity for deaf interpreters



Interpreters and other participants in a mock trial training program gather in Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Paul R. Van Grunsvan's courtroom in May 2019.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Paul R. Van Grunsvan and Court Interpreter Program Manager Carmel Capati hosted a mock murder trial that featured litigants, jurors, and witnesses who were all deaf.

The mock trial presented a unique opportunity for the interpreters to improve their skills in a courtroom setting under the supervision of a judge and with actual attorneys presenting and arguing their case.

Twenty-two Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs) and ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters attended the day-long mock trial that involved testimony of three deaf witnesses.

The interpreters rotated places between proceedings, creating the opportunity to work as counsel table interpreters and witness interpreters. The training was demanding and called on the interpreters to accurately and completely interpret the entirety of the trial, Capati said.

Mock trial program coordinators offered teaching and learning opportunities, with an emphasis on best practices for interpreters and common courtroom challenges for CDI and ASL interpreters.

At the conclusion of the trial all participants shared their thoughts and observations on the conduct of the proceeding and agreed the trial provided an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. ■



Certified Deaf Interpreters and American Sign Language Interpreters hone their skills during a mock trial in Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Paul Van Grunsvan's courtroom last year. More than 20 interpreters participated in the day-long session



In early December, Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick served on a panel that discussed digital audio recording and court reporting during the Midyear Meeting of the Conference of State Court Administrators in Galveston, Texas. Pictured with Koschnick are Minnesota State Court Administrator Jeff Shorba, left, and Nebraska State Court Administrator Corey Steel.

WSLL reaches out to public library librarians

By Carol Hassler, Wisconsin State Law Library

Librarians throughout Wisconsin are asked legal research questions every day, but answering these can be difficult. Librarians need to be careful not to provide legal advice, and budgets don't often support the purchasing of legal books and subscriptions that may provide answers.

More than half of the library's research requests originate from members of the public who need information on a wide range of topics. In an effort to address this situation, the David T. Prosser, Jr. State Law Library has increased outreach efforts to provide local librarians and others with ideas, resources and the training they need to help patrons find the legal information and resources.

Librarians Jaime Healy-Plotkin and Carol Hassler have presented to a number of groups, offering a framework for evaluating research sources online and in print, and practical techniques for working with people who are researching a legal issue.

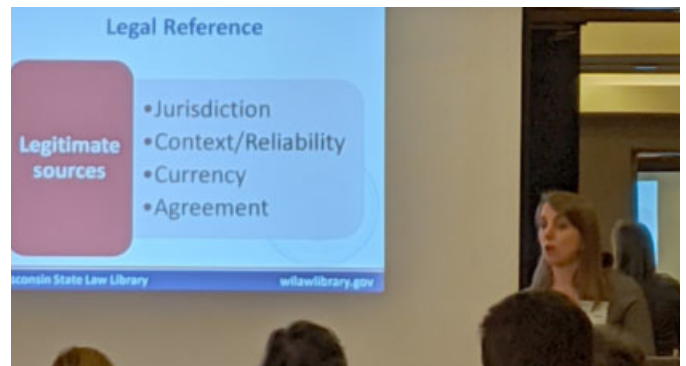
In 2018, Healy-Plotkin presented a free webinar through UW-Madison's iSchool (Information School) to give librarians advice on how to assist patrons with legal research. That webinar is still available [online](#).

In August, Healy-Plotkin and Hassler spoke to librarians from the South Central Library System and offered a session on legal research strategies and reference techniques. This was followed by a tour of the David T. Prosser Jr. State Law Library and its collections. Hassler presented a second webinar to librarians in the South Central Library System during the fall. This webinar was also recorded, and will

see [WSLL](#) on page 23



Carol Hassler, web services librarian at the Wisconsin State Law Library, presents on the topic of Public Records at the 2019 Wisconsin Library Association conference in Wisconsin Dells.



As part of recent outreach efforts, Jaime Healy-Plotkin, cataloging librarian at the David T. Prosser, Jr. State Law Library, presents to attorneys, public defenders, and state agency legal staff during the Criminal Defense Conference in Milwaukee on Nov. 7, 2019. She discussed the benefits and resources available through the library.

WSLL hosts state agency librarians, others

By Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Wisconsin State Law Library

The Wisconsin State Law Library recently hosted a networking luncheon for about a dozen members of the state agency librarians group. The group includes library professionals who represent not only the three branches of state government, but also some local specialty libraries.

The Legislative Reference Bureau serves the legislative branch; the Wisconsin State Law Library serves the judicial branch; and several state agencies within the executive branch maintain libraries. Some of these libraries are open to the public, while others offer local collections aimed at serving their employees. The group's focus is to foster access to and promote use of the



On Nov. 8, 2019, the Wisconsin State Law Library hosted the bi-monthly meeting of the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), an advisory council to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (DPI). At this meeting, Jaime Healy-Plotkin, cataloging librarian at the Wisconsin State Law Library, gave a tour of the special library after presenting a discussion of library and information trends. The gathering was one of a number of recent events hosted by the library.

collections. Depending on schedules and availability, the state agency librarians meet around six times a year to network and learn together.

At its October meeting, the group exchanged information about upcoming professional development opportunities and sat in on a presentation about publishers' changes to access to digital books. At past meetings, librarians have provided tours of their library locations, showcased projects such

as an update to a digital collection or website, and provided instruction on a variety of topics. ■

WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley addresses women lawyers in Ukraine

Traveling to Kiev, Ukraine, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley spoke at the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association Second All-Ukrainian Forum entitled “Women in the Legal Profession: Visibility, Advocacy and Influence.” The program was sponsored by the USAID New Justice Program and the Ukraine-Canada Project.

The forum brought together more than 200 women lawyers and judges from throughout Ukraine. Judges from all levels of courts and jurisdictions, including the Ukraine Supreme Court, members of the Ukraine Parliament and representatives from ministries, human rights advocates and experts on gender matters discussed ways to enhance gender policies in government. Participants were specifically encouraged to develop strategies for promoting gender equality in the justice system.

On the first day of the forum, Bradley participated in a discussion of how to leverage collective efforts in advocating for human rights. On the second day, she spoke of the history and work of the International Association of Women Judges. As a past board member of that organization and current member of its Board of Managerial Trustees, Bradley emphasized the importance of the association’s work and the breadth of its reach, representing over 6,000 members world-wide.

While in Kiev, Bradley also led a roundtable discussion on the importance of civic education for youth. Present at the roundtable discussion were members of the judiciary,



Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley speaks in Kiev at the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association forum on women in the legal profession. The program was sponsored by the USAID New Justice Program and the Ukraine-Canada Project.

including the Ukraine Supreme Court, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education.

Bradley shared the U.S. experience in implementing the iCivics program, a civic education program which she co-chairs in Wisconsin. The program was founded by former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

[see Connects on page 21](#)



Twenty-four judges from Shanghai, pictured here with Dane County court officials, traveled to Madison for an intensive three-week program, with events and instruction held at the Dane County Courthouse, UW Law School, and the federal courthouse. Topics addressed include judicial ethics, jury selection, evidence, treatment courts, pretrial services, access to justice, and alternative dispute resolution.

State Law Library publishes annual report

The David T. Prosser, Jr. State Law Library’s 2018 Annual Report is now available online at: wilawlibrary.gov. The report is believed to be the first of its kind prepared by the library, said State Law Librarian Julie Robinson.

“The library of 2018 is different in many ways from the library of 1836; however, what has not changed is our commitment to providing legal information. We are proud to serve the Wisconsin Court System, executive, and legislative branches of State government. In addition, we serve federal, county, city, and town government users...” Robinson wrote in the report’s introduction.

[The report](#) includes information about the library’s budget, collections, and projects that were undertaken or completed during the year, as well as goals for the future and updates on each of the library’s locations.

“As we look forward..., our focus will continue to be on providing access to reliable legal information to all of our user groups. We plan to continue to assess and evaluate both our physical collection and our online presence to ensure that our resources are relevant, accurate and comprehensive. While doing that, we also need to ensure that we are preserving Wisconsin’s legal materials for generations to come,” the report states. ■

Women’s Council study finds one in four circuit court judgeships now held by women

On Dec. 3, the Wisconsin Women’s Council issued a press release and factsheet, *Women on the Wisconsin Circuit Court, 2019*, as part of its research series benchmarking women in state and local government in Wisconsin.

The council found that women now preside over about one of every four Wisconsin circuit court branches, and that the number of female circuit court judges nearly doubled – from 33 (one-in-seven judges) in 2005, to 64 (one-in-four judges) in 2019.

The percentage of female judges serving on circuit courts increased from 19% in 2017 to 26% in 2019, among the state’s fastest growing category of elected offices for women, according to the council.

Even so, Wisconsin lags the national average of 33% and, 43 counties are without a woman judge, said Christine Lidbury, the council’s executive director.

“Wisconsin has long been a national leader for women serving on the Supreme Court, but this has not been reflected in the circuit courts,” Lidbury wrote.

The Dane County Circuit Court is near parity, with women holding 47%, or 8 of 17 branches. Milwaukee County is second highest at 43%. Among Courts with fewer than 5 judges, 75% do not have a female judge, according to the council’s findings.

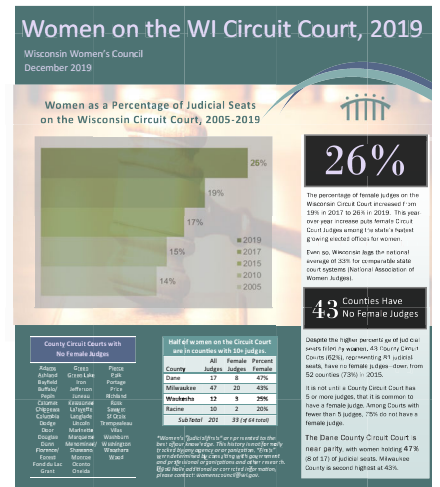
The fact sheet also includes a timeline of “firsts” for women trial court judges.

According to the council’s findings:

- First county judge: Judge Verle E. Sells, Florence County, 1936
- First Native American tribal judge: Judge Rhoda House,

- 1943
- First African-American county judge: Judge Vel Phillips, 1970
- First Native-American circuit court judge: Judge Jacqueline Schellinger, Milwaukee County, 1992
- First Hispanic circuit court judge: Judge Elsa C. Lamelas, Milwaukee County, 1993
- First chief judge: Kitty K. Brennan, First Judicial District (Milwaukee County), 2005.
- First Hmong-American circuit court judge: Kashoua “Kristy” Yang Thao, Milwaukee County.

The press release and related fact sheet can be found on the council’s website at: <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov>. ■



The percentage of women judges increased from 19% in 2017 to 26-percent in 2019, according to a fact sheet released in December by The Wisconsin Women’s Council.



In July 2019, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Davis traveled along with members of the Milwaukee County Veterans Treatment Court, Adult Drug Treatment Court and Family Drug Treatment Court program to National Harbor, Maryland, for the 2019 All Rise national conference. More than 5,000 treatment court professionals attended the conference, sponsored by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, to learn about the latest evidence-based practices for serving individuals with substance use and mental health disorders.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are Mary Moore (Defense Attorney), J.C. Moore (Court Commissioner and President of the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals), Dawn Rablin (Assistant State Public Defender), Lane Miller (Justice Point Case Manager), Cameron Overton (Adult Drug Treatment Court Coordinator), Zoe Plovovich (Assistant State Public Defender), Amy Pucilowski (Department of Corrections Agent), Judge Davis, Manuel Molina (Milwaukee Police Department Law Enforcement Officer), and Anna Linden (District Attorney Investigator). Not pictured but present at the conference: Jake Patten (Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator) and Rebecca Foley (Family Drug Treatment Court Coordinator).

NEWS AND NOTES

Chief Justice Roggensack addresses counties association

Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack addressed the Wisconsin Counties Association at the group's annual meeting Sept. 23 in Wisconsin Dells.

Wisconsin counties and the state court system have developed a successful partnership to the benefit of the people of Wisconsin, Roggensack told the group. Proof of that success can be seen in a number of recently approved state budget items, she said.

"Together we persuaded the legislature to raise the rate for court-appointed attorneys from \$40 per hour to \$70 per hour so that those who cannot afford to hire a lawyer for a criminal matter will have one provided. Forty dollars per hour was the statutory rate that was being paid in 1980, when I graduated from law school. But, by working together, counties and courts, we got it changed," Roggensack said.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack

The partnership, which also includes prosecutors and public defenders, also helped persuade the Legislature to raise circuit court support payments to the counties by \$3.6 million for the current biennium.

"I know that the counties could use more, but by working together, the Legislature and the governor listened to our concerns and we did make progress," Roggensack said.

The partners also helped persuade the Legislature and the governor to approve 65 new assistant district attorney positions.

NBA's Baker inspires drug court participants

Former Milwaukee Bucks player, and now-assistant coach, Vin Baker provided advice and inspiration to participants in the Kenosha County Drug Court during a program Aug. 28.

Baker, a four-time NBA All-American and Olympic gold medalist, was invited to address the group by Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Jodi L. Meier, who presides over the county's drug treatment court program.

"A lifelong Bucks fan, Meier said Baker was her favorite player during his days with the team, and she has followed his career since. She said she read his 2017 book about his recovery — "God and Starbucks: An NBA Superstar's Journey Through Addiction and Recovery" — and thought he would be an inspiration to the people in the program," The Kenosha News reported.

Baker said his own addictions cost him his basketball career and led him from riches to poverty. He rebuilt his life after getting sober and by working as a Starbucks barista.

"Now nine years sober, he said he was working as a manager at a Starbucks when the Bucks called to offer him a coaching job..."

"Baker spent about an hour with drug court participants and support staff, sharing his story, answering questions, giving advice, and — at 6 feet 11 inches tall towering over them as he handed out hugs, hand shakes and high-fives — congratulating each of the people in the program for their days of sobriety."



Judge Jodi L. Meier

[see News and Notes on page 24](#)

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 4*

the Civil Division, and worked on issues related to improving family court services to indigent and self-represented litigants.

Last year, Dwyer received the "Judge of the Year," award from the State Bar of Wisconsin's Bench and Bar Committee. The award honors a circuit court judge who has enhanced the judicial system by his or her leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education, or innovative programs.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Dwyer received his undergraduate degree in political science from UW-Madison and returned to his hometown after attending Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. He spent time at a small firm before deciding to found his own solo practice.

Dwyer discovered his passion for work in family court, he told the Bar.

"With that assignment I found -- almost accidentally -- that family law suits my temperament and is the kind of work that I love. The family court is a place where a judge can do the most to help people solve their problems, provided we establish an efficient basis," Dwyer said.

Dwyer served on two Supreme Court Committees,

including one which drafted rules allowing family law lawyers to act neutrally and draft and file legal pleadings on behalf of both parties.

Judge Eugene D. Harrington Washburn County Circuit Court

After nearly 22 years on the bench, Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Eugene D. Harrington retired Aug. 2.

"It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Washburn County and the State of Wisconsin for nearly 22 years as a circuit court judge. Except for my service as (a) United States Marine from 1970 to 1972, nothing in my work career has been more rewarding. Nevertheless, I intend to retire as the circuit court judge for Washburn County..." Harrington wrote in his letter of resignation to Gov. Tony Evers.

Harrington was first elected in



Judge Eugene D. Harrington

[see Retirements on page 22](#)

Wheels *continued from front page*

McGwin said she was thrilled to be able to bring Currie “back to life” in a column she wrote in anticipation of the Supreme Court’s *Justice on Wheels* visit Oct. 14.

“In preparation for the visit, security and public information court employees were here last week, and I was lucky enough to be asked to a meeting to offer up information about the history of the courthouse. I ended up learning something I didn’t know and had the opportunity to do more research...,” McGwin wrote.

McGwin did some digging and found a number of historical photos featuring Currie and his family. She produced a slide show of the photos and other

information that ran in a loop in the county board room at the courthouse during the Court’s visit.

Currie moved with his family to Montello, when Currie was just four months old, McGwin found. He graduated from Montello High School in 1917 and attended Oshkosh Teacher’s College. He then worked for a number of years as a teacher and principal outside the area before entering UW Law School. He graduated with honors in 1925 and spent the next 26 years working in private practice out of Sheboygan. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1951.

In her remarks at the Justice on Wheels opening ceremony, Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler re-traced some of Currie’s footsteps and accomplishments. Ziegler recounted an old newspaper report that Currie was inspired



Marquette County Circuit Court Judge Chad A. Hendee welcomes Supreme Court justices to the Marquette County Courthouse in Montello.

to become a lawyer, in part, as a result of visiting the courthouse as a youth. She wondered if any of the nearly 200 students from the Montello area who attended the Justice on Wheels program might someday end up taking an interest in the law or serving on the Supreme Court.

Before oral argument got underway, Marquette County Circuit Court Judge Chad A. Hendee welcomed the Court to Montello and his courtroom, where the Court heard argument in three cases. Local attorneys introduced each case with a plain-language summary and explanation of how it reached the Court.

The Supreme Court also sponsored an essay contest about the Wisconsin and U.S. constitutions for local fifth graders. Justice Brian K. Hagedorn presided over the awards ceremony and presented awards to: First Place, Carley Schraufnagel, Endeavor Elementary School; Second Place, Gabrielle Richards, Endeavor Elementary School; and Third Place, McKenna Byers, Neenah Creek Elementary School.

Marquette County is the 30th county outside Dane where the Court has held argument since the Justice on Wheels program started in 1993.

The program gives people outside the Madison area, including students, teachers, and the general public, an opportunity to observe the Court at work, without having to travel to Madison.

Other counties visited 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, Bayfield, Jefferson, and Monroe. ■



Attorney Manager Mark Gumz of the State Public Defender’s Baraboo office introduces a case to the audience during the Supreme Court’s Justice on Wheels visit to Montello Oct. 14. Gumz was one of three local “warm-up attorneys.” Others included Marquette County District Attorney Brian Juech and Atty. Erik Johnson.

Annual cyber-security training required for all

In an effort to protect court system computer equipment and data from significant security threats, Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack announced Dec. 6 that all CCAP system users must participate in annual online security awareness training.

"This training is an important tool to ensure all CCAP users are taking the necessary precautions to protect the court's computer systems," Roggensack said in an e-mail to all CCAP account holders.

Failure to complete the training on time will result in limitations being set on Internet and e-mail access. The training is intended to try to prevent security breaches by educating employees and court officials to understand the risks and identify online behavior that has the potential to expose the court system to malware and ransomware attacks, said Chief Information Officer Jean Bousquet.

Online training sessions were held at the end of 2019 and additional targeted training will be scheduled in June 2020 for some users who fail phishing tests.

"The bottom line is that the court system is still at a significant risk of computer malware infection through phishing attacks and social engineering," Bousquet said. "CCAP will remain diligent by maintaining up-to-date enterprise anti-virus systems, but we need help from all court officials and staff to act as the last line of defense by participating in the annual security awareness training and following online safety rules," she added.

Ransomware continues to be an extremely lucrative venture for cybercriminals. While there has been an overall decrease in ransomware activity against individual consumers, these attacks have now become focused on businesses and government systems that house large

quantities of data.

Research by Malware Bytes and Recorded Future reports 53 successful ransomware attacks against state and local governments in 2018 and 81 successful attacks in the first 9 months of 2019.

Twenty cities in Texas were hit by coordinated ransomware attacks last year. Three Florida cities were targeted by ransomware attacks, and at least two paid the demanded ransoms to unlock their data. The city of Baltimore, Maryland sustained two ransomware attacks in 14 months and paid over \$18 million in costs to recover. The city of Atlanta sustained a major ransomware attack in March 2018, which left the city facing upwards of \$17

million in costs relating to the attack.

Closer to home, a Milwaukee-based tech company fell victim to hackers, affecting more than 100 nursing homes across the country, after the company couldn't afford the \$14 million ransom demand. Email phishing also continues to be a popular method for hackers to gain access and as cybercriminals become savvier in their attacks.

All court officials and staff are asked to observe and follow these three online safety rules:

- Think before you click. Stop, look, and think about emails and their attachments before opening or clicking on them.
- Verify authenticity. If you're suspicious of an email, contact the sender using a different mode of communication to verify its authenticity.
- When in doubt, throw it out. Internet criminals invent new ways to scam users every day. Stay alert. When you're not sure about an email or attachment, delete it. ■



Court reporter Patrick Weishan explains his work to a group of middle schools students affiliated with the Muslim Youth Association during the group's visit to Branch 7 of the Dane County Circuit Court in September. Weishan has a passion for his job that shines through when he explains his work to people, said Chief Judge William Hanrahan, Dane County Circuit Court.

AWARDS *continued from page 2*

Juvenile Jury Instruction Committee. He is a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare.

The CCAI “Angels in Adoption” Program recognizes people and organizations that have made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of families. Since the program’s inception in 1999, more than 2,600 Angels have received this honor, according to the organization.

Judge Ashley wins Goldberg Distinguished Service Award

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley is one of two recipients of the Wisconsin Law Foundation’s 2019 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented in Madison on Oct. 10 and recognizes Ashley’s lifetime of service to the legal profession and the community.

“It’s humbling to receive this distinguished award

because I am also a beneficiary of so many people who work hard to make a difference in this world,” Ashley said.

Ashley is considered by friends and colleagues as “a change-agent” for reform on domestic violence and criminal justice issues, and for diversity and inclusion in the profession, according to an article on the award published in the State Bar of Wisconsin’s *Inside Track* newsletter.

Ashley is recognized as a national leader and educator on domestic violence issues, and as a leader in evidence-based diversion programs in the justice system. “He devotes time, effort, and understanding to advancing a diverse and inclusive legal profession that reflects the society it serves.”

“He has done all of this with humility, honesty, and humor,” said Kathryn Bullon, one of several people who nominated Ashley for the award. “He helps us draft our own blueprint by which we can become the best person, the best lawyer and advocate possible,” Bullon said.

Ashley earned his law degree at Marquette University Law School and began his legal career in 1983 as a public defender. He served in that position until 1992, when he opened his own solo law firm. He was elected to the Milwaukee County bench in 1997.

The other award recipient was Madison attorney Earl Munson.

Library’s Crowder celebrated as ‘Unsung Hero’

Amy Crowder, deputy law librarian at the David T. Prosser, Jr. State Law Library, was honored with an “Unsung Hero” Award by the Wisconsin Law Journal at a

Dec. 2 ceremony in Milwaukee.

Crowder has worked at the library for 25 years, having started as a part-time cataloger in 1994.

“As deputy law librarian at the Wisconsin State Law Library, Amy Crowder regularly contemplates ways to keep the library’s 135,000 physical items and nearly five miles of bookshelves useful in an increasingly digital world,” the Wisconsin Law Journal reported. The publication recognized 21 “Unsung Heroes,” or people “who excel behind the scenes.”

Crowder has organized the library’s Judicial Council collection of more than 6,400 items, and cataloged more than 1,000 items in its rare-book collection. She also started the library’s website and now analyzes how people use the library’s print and electronic collections.

“Being able to understand a user’s needs and level of legal knowledge – whether they be a judge, attorney or pro se litigant – helps me best respond, as a reference librarian, to their questions but also helps me, as deputy law librarian, develop a library collection in the necessary subject areas and formats to

provide equal access to the law,” Crowder told the Law Journal.

State Law Librarian Julie Robinson, who attended the award presentation, said Crowder is able to recommend meaningful additions to the library’s print and online collections because of the value she places on dealing with library users. ■



Judge Carl Ashley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, celebrates winning the Wisconsin Law Foundation’s 2019 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Felita Daniels Ashley, right; daughter Zoe, second from right; and daughter Elise, left

Photo credit: Shannon Green, State Bar of Wisconsin.



Deputy Law Librarian Amy Crowder, right, poses with State Law Librarian Julie Robinson and Crowder’s “Unsung Hero” award Dec. 2 in Milwaukee.



Christina Hagedorn, wife of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Brian K. Hagedorn, presents her husband with his judicial robe during an investiture ceremony held Aug. 14 in the Capitol Rotunda. Hagedorn, a former Court of Appeals judge, officially took office on the High Court Aug. 1, after winning a contested race in the Spring Election. The Hagedorn's children assisted in the ceremony.

New Judges *continued from front page*

Judge M. Joseph Donald **District I Court of Appeals**

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge M. Joseph Donald was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers in September to fill the vacancy on the District I Court of Appeals created by the retirement of Judge Kitty K. Brennan.

Donald was first appointed to the circuit court bench by former Gov. Tommy Thompson in 1996; he was elected in 1997 and re-elected three times.

Donald presided over thousands of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases and helped create Milwaukee County's Family Drug Treatment Court program.

Before becoming a judge, Donald served as Milwaukee assistant city attorney (1989-96) and as a law clerk for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court (1988-89). He is a graduate of Marquette University and Marquette University School of Law.

Judge Maxine A. White **District I Court of Appeals**

On Jan. 16, 2020, Gov. Tony Evers announced the appointment of Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, to the District I Court of Appeals. The appointment fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Court of Appeals Judge Joan F. Kessler on Feb. 7.

"Judge White is a passionate, dedicated jurist who is committed to ensuring that all people – regardless of background – are treated fairly in our courts. She will add a much-needed perspective to the Court of Appeals," Evers said in a press release announcing the appointment.

White is the first woman of color to serve on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, according to the governor's office.

White has served as chief judge of the First Judicial Administrative District (Milwaukee County) since being appointed to that position by the Supreme Court 2015. She was chair of the Committee of Chief Judges for a one-year term, ending in 2018 and had served as the district's deputy chief judge since 2008.

White has served in a variety of other leadership roles, including as presiding judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Family Division, as a director of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, and as a member of its executive committee. She previously served as chair of the Wisconsin Committee on Judicial Selection, the Governor's Task Force on Racial Profiling and as co-chair of the Supreme Court Special Committee on Gender Neutrality.

She served on the Wisconsin Judicial Council from 2008 to 2014.

White was first appointed to the bench in 1992 and has been re-elected five times, most recently in 2017. Before becoming a judge, White previously served as a legal advisor and instructor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and as a manager in the Social Security Administration.

Judge White earned her law degree from Marquette University Law School, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California, and her undergraduate degree from Alcorn State University.

Judge Angeline E. Winton **Washburn County Circuit Court**

On Aug. 13, Gov. Tony Evers announced the appointment of Judge Angeline Winton to the Washburn County Circuit Court. The appointment filled a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Eugene D. Harrington in July.

In 2016, Winton was elected as district attorney in Washburn County and served in that role until her appointment. Previously, she worked in private practice and served as an assistant district attorney for both Washburn and Burnett counties. Winton holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Eau Claire and graduated magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law.



Judge Angeline E. Winton

Judge Emily I. Lonergan **Outagamie County Circuit Court**

Gov. Tony Evers appointed Judge Emily I. Lonergan to the Outagamie County Circuit Court on Aug. 19 to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Nancy J. Krueger.

Prior to her appointment, Lonergan worked in private practice, most recently with Peterson, Berk & Cross, S.C. Lonergan has received



Judge Emily I. Lonergan

see New Judges on page 23

OBITUARIES *continued from page 7*

graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1955. He began his career in private practice.

Judge Warren Albert Grady Ozaukee County Court

Judge Warren A. Grady, who served 32 years on the Ozaukee County bench, died Dec. 14 at the age of 95.

Born March 3, 1924, Grady grew up in Port Washington and West Bend. He was an outstanding student-athlete, competing in both football and track in addition to being in the National Honor Society. He graduated from Port Washington High School in 1942, according to an obituary.



Judge Warren Albert Grady

Grady enlisted in the Navy on July 1, 1943. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant and served as an officer on the LSM 395 in the Pacific Fleet during WWII. After military service, Grady earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a law degree from the University of

Wisconsin Law School in 1951.

He married Phyllis Witzlib of Port Washington in 1951, and together they raised 8 children.

Grady was elected City Attorney in Port Washington in April 1952, and to the first of four terms in the Wisconsin State Legislature in November that year. During the 1957 session, Grady was chosen to be majority leader of the Assembly and helped pass legislation restructuring the state's court system, according to the obituary.

In 1962, Grady was elected judge in Ozaukee County and was re-elected to multiple terms, serving 32 years – the longest judicial tenure for any Ozaukee County Judge.

At the time of his death, Warren, and his wife, Phyllis, were residents of Oak Park Place in Baraboo, Wisconsin, though they also spent 17 years seasonally in Green Valley, Arizona and time at their beloved cottage on Townline Lake in Three Lakes, Wisconsin.

Grady was preceded in death by his parents, his six siblings and his eldest son, Jeffrey. He is survived by his loving wife, daughter-in-law Sandy (Jeffrey) of Madison; son, Kevin (Nancy) of Port Washington; daughter, Susan (Mark) Voll of Bella Vista, Arkansas; daughter, Kim (Alan) Geisthardt of Fond du Lac; son, Thomas (Deona) of Germantown; daughter, Karen (Dave) Stigen of Baraboo; son, Derek of Madison; and son, Michael (Dawn) of Oconomowoc. He is further survived by seventeen grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.

Judge Joseph D. McCormack Ozaukee County Circuit Court

Judge Joseph D. McCormack, who served on the Ozaukee County Circuit Court for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2009, died Oct. 19 at Lawliss Hospice in Mequon, according to an obituary.

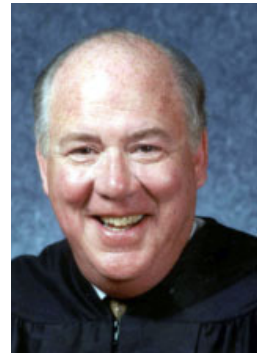
McCormack won a four-way race to fill a position created when the state's county courts were reorganized as the

circuit courts in 1979, and he continued as a reserve judge after his retirement.

McCormack was born in Milwaukee in 1946 and was graduated from Bay View High School in 1958. While earning a degree in Social Work part-time at the UW-Milwaukee, he also worked at American Motors. He was then employed as a social worker for Milwaukee County. He was graduated from Marquette Law School in 1973.

Before being elected, McCormack had served as Ozaukee County Counsel from 1975 to 1979, and as an assistant district attorney from 1973 to 1975.

Outside of the courtroom, McCormack was active in his community. He was a member of the Grafton Lions Club and coached little league baseball. He also served on the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Advisory Board. McCormack is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jackie, his two sons, Joseph and Timothy, his grandchildren, and five siblings.



Judge Joseph D. McCormack

Ronald R. "Ron" Witkowiak Court Administrator (Ret.) First Judicial Administrative District

Ronald R. Witkowiak, a wide-ranging talent who was appointed as the Wisconsin court system's first district court administrator, died Oct. 9 at the age of 88.

Witkowiak was a graduate of Marquette University High School and attended Marquette University. He was also a graduate of Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science and worked as a funeral director for 56 years, according to an obituary published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. In addition, Witkowiak was a Real Estate Broker and Insurance



Ronald R. "Ron" Witkowiak

Broker.

Witkowiak was a Korean War veteran, having served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1952, and with the 128th Tactical Control Squadron of the Air National Guard from 1948 to 1979. He served as Chief Deputy Clerk of Courts in Milwaukee County until 1976. Later he was appointed District Court Administrator of the First Judicial Administrative District, which includes all of Milwaukee County's circuit court branches.

Ron Witkowiak is the father of Judge Timothy M. Witkowiak, who has served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court since 2002. Ron Witkowiak is also survived by his wife of 65 years, Patricia, and their other children, Sandy and Gary; a brother, Ken; and a number of grandchildren. ■

Lavinia *continued from page 5*

it is usually there to stay.

The website clears up the photo mishap with side-by-side photo comparison on a web page dedicated titled “Lavinia’s true identity.”

Ball and Kopp partnered with the Rock County Historical Society and were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council to develop the website, which will serve as a digital biography of Goodell’s life and times. Lavinia left behind hundreds of letters and many diaries. In addition, Ball and Kopp unearthed scores of Lavinia’s publications, some dating back as far as 1860, most of which have not been seen for nearly 150 years. They also located some of Lavinia’s court files.

Ball and Kopp contemplated turning this wealth of information into a traditional published biography, but that would take years and they felt the time for Lavinia’s resurrection was now, with the centennial of women’s suffrage at hand.

Ball and Kopp said they feel certain that if Lavinia were living today she would have blogged, tweeted and posted her views on Facebook, so they decided to blog her biography. Each post represents a snapshot of a moment or point in Lavinia’s life, though not in chronological order.

One post might share with readers Lavinia’s father’s delight at her birth; others might tell of Lavinia’s thrill at

seeing President Abraham Lincoln in New York City; the rigorous course of study she pursued to become a lawyer; the stories behind her cases; her reflections on marriage and spinsterhood; her jailhouse school; her face-off with Chief Justice Ryan over her admission to the Wisconsin Supreme Court; her agony in committing her mother to a mental institution; and her search for cures for the illness that would claim her life at age 40.

Many of the issues Lavinia championed remain relevant in the 21st century. Ball believes that if Lavinia were alive today she would certainly be celebrating the centennial of women’s suffrage. “I suspect she would have been at the first Women’s March. She would be in favor of the #MeToo movement. Part of the reason she was so vocal on temperance was that when husbands drank – it wasn’t just a moral thing for her – if they were drunk, they wouldn’t be supporting their families and might be abusing their wives,” Ball said.

Ball and Kopp hope that www.laviniagoodell.com will be an interactive experience with visitors sharing information about Lavinia and her contemporaries as well as stories about other early women lawyers. In addition to the website, Lavinia also has a presence on Facebook (Lavinia Goodell) and Twitter, @Lavinia_Goodell. ■

WISCONSIN CONNECTS *continued from page 13***Retired Judge Flanagan teaches in Tunis**

Retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mel Flanagan traveled to Tunis, Tunisia in September to assist the Professional Association of Women Judges in Tunisia and the American Bar Association in the Rule of Law Initiative.

Flanagan helped train women judges from all over Tunisia to teach their court colleagues about the Organic Law 58 of 2017 on gender based violence crimes. The comprehensive law provides a coordinated

process for the handling of these matters by government agencies and outlaws physical, economic and psychological abuse against women as well as harassment in public.

The policies and procedures were created in an effort to help prevent violence against women and girls, to protect and provide support to victims of abuse, and prosecute offenders effectively.

Flanagan, who holds a 4th degree black belt in the Japanese art of Aikido, also took some time to teach the judges about personal self-defense. ■



Judge Mel Flanagan



Rep. Barbara Dittich, (R-Oconomowoc), center, discusses the court system with Waukesha County judicial officials during a “Ride-along” visit in July. Dittich sat in on proceedings in Judge Michael O. Bohren’s courtroom as part of the legislative outreach program. Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow is seated at Dittich’s right; Judge Michael J. Aprahamian to Dittich’s left.

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 15*

1997 and re-elected in 2003, 2009 and 2015. He worked in private practice from 1978 to 1997. Harrington served on the Records Management Committee, Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association and the Wisconsin Pro Se Working Group.

Gov. Tony Evers appointed Judge Angeline E. Winton to fill the vacancy created by Harrington's retirement.

Judge Nancy J. Krueger Outagamie County Circuit Court



Judge Nancy J. Krueger

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge Nancy J. Krueger retired Sept. 4, 2019, after 12 years on the bench. She was first appointed in 2007; was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2014.

Before becoming the county's first woman judge, Krueger had served as staff attorney for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; as an assistant district attorney for Outagamie County (1980-82); was in private practice, from 1982 to 1992; and worked as in-house counsel for an insurance company from 1992 to

2007.

Krueger had served as Outagamie County Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court Judge, on the Civil Benchbook Committee and on Judicial Education Committee. She also served as coach of the Appleton East Mock Trial Team and was a member of the Steering Committee for Leadership Fox Cities.

Shortly after becoming a judge, Krueger told UW-Green Bay's alumni magazine that she enjoyed the change from lawyer to judge:

"I love being a judge. In Outagamie we do a little of everything (family law, adoptions, criminal cases, etc.). Every day is something new and different. Most of it is interesting and important... Good court judges have to be knowledgeable about a variety of areas of law; they need to be willing to listen; have a sense of caring about people; and they need to understand the stress those people are under. It's important to have an even disposition..."

Krueger is now a reserve judge.

Karla Baumgartner Judicial Education

The animals will have to wait a little longer for breakfast after Judicial Education Director Karla Baumgartner retires in April, but the wait will likely be worth it.

After 18 years with the Office of Judicial Education, Baumgartner plans to spend more time on her passion for rescuing and raising horses on the 16-acre property in Rock County that she shares with her husband, municipal court judge Thomas Alisankus. When retirement is official, the alarm clock will be dialed back a bit from 5 a.m., when she now wakes up to start chores, Baumgartner said.

"I currently have five horses, including two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Mustangs, two mules and two burros of my own. And, I work with various horse rescues



Karla Baumgartner, Director of the Office of Judicial Education, acknowledges a standing ovation in appreciation for her years of service to the Judiciary. Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack announced Baumgartner's retirement in the State of the Judiciary on Nov. 6 at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference in Elkhart Lake.

around the state to foster horses for them when they need extra care or the rescues are full," Baumgartner said. In addition, she has chickens, a pair of geese (Lyle and Fiona), a variety of barn cats and a dog, Bentley.

The couple has placed more than a dozen abused or neglected horses over the years, and she hopes to continue that trend.

Baumgartner is approved by the Mustang Heritage Foundation to work with the BLM to "gentle" wild horses and burros that are rounded up from public lands out West. This process makes the animal more attractive for adoption through BLM by people who may have less experience raising horses. She also plans to research ways to use her horses for equine-assisted therapy, such as "Horses for Heroes" to help military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

In January, Baumgartner scaled back to part-time and is assisting in the office's transition to a new director. Baumgartner previously worked as Judicial Education manager and as the legal editor for the five-volume Wisconsin Judicial Benchbook. Prior to joining the Office of Judicial Education, she worked in private practice and as a law clerk for the Dane County Circuit Court. She holds a law degree from the University of Wyoming School of Law.

Her "first career" was serving as Executive Director of the Dane County Humane Society in Madison and as the Director of Metro Animal Control & Welfare in Casper, Wyoming.

Baumgartner said she will miss the Judicial Education team, judges and other court staff with whom she has worked over the years.

WSLL *continued from page 12*

soon be available for free to librarians throughout the state.

Professional library conferences, such as those recently held by the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) and the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA), present other opportunities to connect with librarians who work closely with the public. Healy-Plotkin and Hassler presented their legal research tips seminar at the WLA conference, for example, and Hassler presented on researching public records.

The David T. Prosser, Jr. State Law Library is also reaching the public through other efforts, such as a public service desk flyer designed to inform self-represented

litigants about legal resources available through the library. This flyer may be downloaded and printed by librarians, clerk of circuit court staff, or anyone interested in making it available to the public.

The flyer is available [here](#), in color or black and white.

Librarians can be at the front lines of the legal system. By reaching out to and training librarians who work with the public, we can further access to legal information throughout the state. ■

For more information, contact Carol Hassler, carol.hassler@wicourts.gov

New Judges *continued from page 19*

many awards and accolades throughout her professional career including the Gordon Sinykin Award of Excellence from the Wisconsin Law Foundation. She was recognized as one of Wisconsin Law Journal's Up and Coming Lawyers in 2015.

Loneragan received her undergraduate degree from Marquette University and her law degree from Marquette University Law School.

**Judge Brittany C. Grayson
Milwaukee County Circuit
Court**

Attorney Brittany C. Grayson was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on Sept. 4. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of retired Judge Michael J. Dwyer.

Grayson most recently worked as an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County, where her focus was in treatment and deferred prosecutions for eligible defendants. Previously, she handled Children in Need of Protection or Services cases for the district attorney's office. Until her appointment, Grayson served on the State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors. She is a graduate of Marquette University and Marquette University Law School.

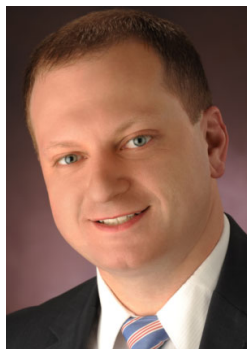


Judge Brittany C. Grayson

**Judge Beau G. Liegeois
Brown County Circuit Court**

Gov. Tony Evers appointed Judge Beau G. Liegeois to the Brown County Circuit Court on Sept. 20. Liegeois' appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William M. Atkinson, earlier that month.

Liegeois began his career as a legal officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps through the Wisconsin Army National Guard. He most



Judge Beau G. Liegeois

recently had served 11 years as an assistant district attorney in Brown County, where he was an active leader in expanding the county's treatment court programs.

Liegeois is a graduate of UW-Madison and holds a law degree from Valparaiso University Law School.

**Judge Anthony J. Stella, Jr.
Iron County Circuit Court**

Judge Anthony J. Stella, Jr., Iron County Circuit Court, was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers to fill the vacancy created by the death of Judge Patrick J. Madden on July 9.

Stella served as Iron County District Attorney from 1986-1989 and again from 1995-1997. He had also served as Iron County Corporation Counsel, as an attorney for the City of Hurley, Town of Knight, and Town of Cary, as well as in private practice. Stella holds a degree from UW-Madison and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.



Judge Anthony J. Stella Jr.

**Judge Milton L. Childs,
Milwaukee**

On Oct. 29, Gov. Evers appointed Judge Milton L. Childs to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. Childs fills the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge M. Joseph Donald to the District I Court of Appeals.

Prior to his appointment, Childs was a managing attorney in the State Public Defender's Office, where he worked as a public defender for 15 years.

Childs received his Bachelor's degree from Xavier University (Louisiana), his MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management (DeVry University), and his law degree from Marquette University Law School.

Before attending law school, Childs was a math teacher for 12 years and served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for eight years, earning the rank of sergeant. ■



Judge Milton L. Childs

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 15*

Baker said he loves coaching, but also sees himself as a life coach.

Meier said she thought it was important for drug court participants to see that addiction and downfall can happen to anybody, and that “anybody can pull themselves out of it,” Meier told the newspaper.

Hansher officiates wedding of man he sentenced

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge David Allen Hansher hadn’t performed a wedding in about a dozen years when he received an unlikely request.

As reported by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist Jim Stingl on Sept. 27:

“In 1995, Milwaukee County Circuit Judge David Hansher sentenced Ramiah Whiteside to 47 years in prison for fleeing from police and causing a horrible crash that killed four people. Whiteside walked free on parole this month after serving 24 of those years and almost immediately, he came looking for Hansher. Sounds ominous, I know.

“But he was not bitter or seeking revenge. Whiteside fell in love while locked up and he had come to ask Hansher to officiate at his marriage to this woman.”

At the time of sentencing, Hansher said Whiteside should never be released on parole. But about a dozen years into Whiteside’s sentence, a newspaper reporter told Hansher that Whiteside had made progress toward rehabilitation. The judge and convict began writing back and forth, and Hansher even visited Whiteside in prison.

Hansher said: “He’s been rehabilitated,... a goal of prison that goes beyond punishment. He recognized he was completely out of control as a youngster. He said, ‘You were right. I deserved the long sentence.’”

Hansher officiated the wedding Sept. 18 at the courthouse, just across the hall from where he had sentenced Whiteside 24 years earlier.

Outagamie County judges honored

On Sept. 9, 2019, Judge Vincent Biskupic, Outagamie County Circuit Court, unveiled portrait photos of judges who served the county in the 1950s and 1960s. Biskupic began doing research when he noticed the county had older and newer photographs of judges, but there was a period of time that was missing. He contacted family members, judges, court staff, attorneys and police officers who helped fill in the blanks.

The new portraits were hung at the courthouse in an event covered by Green Bay television stations WHBY-TV and Fox11.

The five judges whose photos were added include Judge Raymond P. Dohr, Judge Gerald E. Jolin, Judge Gustave J.



Judge David Allen Hansher



Judge Vincent Biskupic

Keller, Judge Oscar J. Schmiede Sr., and Judge Stanley A. Staidl.

Staidl’s son-in-law, Ron McIntire, spoke at the event, which he called an outstanding honor.

“This is honoring five judges that should have been honored for doing outstanding judgeship work over the years and it’s time that somebody should post their photographs and recognize their service to Outagamie County and the State of Wisconsin,” McIntire was quoted as saying by Fox11.

Chief Judge White addresses Milwaukee Bar

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, spoke at a Milwaukee Bar Association (MBA) luncheon on Oct. 8.

She discussed the opportunities and challenges of the First Judicial Administrative District since she was first appointed chief judge by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2015.

During her tenure, White said she has welcomed 16 new judges who reflect diversity in a range of areas – experience and legal practice, gender (10 are women) and race (three are racial minorities).

She outlined a number of accomplishments in therapeutic courts and securing grant funding to support court initiatives and improvement programs. White acknowledged support from the court’s “partners in justice,” including the MBA, University of Marquette Law School, Milwaukee Area Technical College, the leadership in the Milwaukee Community Justice Council, the Milwaukee Justice Center and Legal Action of Milwaukee.

White closed her remarks with a preview of anticipated challenges, which she said also bring new opportunities. These include working with the US Secret Service and other partner agencies to prepare for the potential impact of the Democratic National Convention in July 2020 and the planned closure of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake and 2017 Wisconsin Act 185, which restructured the juvenile corrections system.

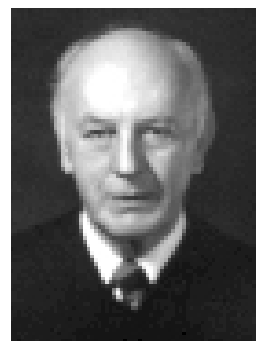
Beilfuss Justice Center dedicated in Clark County

On Sept. 27, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack traveled to Neillsville for a dedication ceremony of a portion of the Clark County Courthouse named in honor of the late Chief Justice Bruce Beilfuss, who died in 1986.

Beilfuss served on the Supreme Court from 1964 to 1983, including three years as chief justice. He was born in the Clark County community of Withee in



Chief Judge Maxine A. White



Chief Justice Bruce Beilfuss

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 24*

1915 and graduated from Neillville High School.

The fourth floor of the building encompasses two courtrooms and offices of the district attorney, register in probate, corporation counsel, and clerk of circuit court. The area was re-named the Bruce F. Beilfuss Justice Center, and a plaque was hung in his honor.

At age 33, Beilfuss was appointed a circuit judge in 1948, becoming the youngest circuit judge in Wisconsin at the time. He held that position for 15 years and presided over jury trials in fifty-five of the state's seventy-two counties, traveling as many as 30,000 miles per year.

Before he was a judge, Beilfuss practiced law in Abbotsford from 1938 until being elected Clark County District Attorney in 1941. He served in that position until 1948 and was re-elected in absentia, while serving in the U.S. Navy.

While running for the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1963, he defeated four opponents in the primary election and was elected to the Supreme Court by a 2-to-1 margin.

"He's done so much for the county, for the state, and for the country," said Jacob C. Brunette, president of the Clark County Bar Association, said at the ceremony.

Commercial Docket continues growth trend

On Dec. 4, the State Bar of Wisconsin published an article updating the progress of the Commercial Docket pilot project, which was established in 2017 to provide expertise in the handling of business cases.

"It has been quite successful," Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court, told the Bar's *Inside Track* newsletter. "The vast majority of lawyers have been pleased that judges with business law experience are helping to resolve these cases and moving them along quickly, understanding the economic realities involved."

The pilot formally serves eight counties, including Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, and Waupaca in the Eighth Judicial Administrative District, as well as Waukesha County. The court is also open to voluntarily transferred cases from other jurisdictions.

Since its inception, the Business Court has handled close to 80 cases, with a majority being handled in Waukesha County.

The expertise of judges who handle the cases has helped resolve numerous commercial disputes, Milwaukee Atty. Laura Brenner told *Inside Track*.

"Their familiarity with the issues and what could be coming next, in terms of discovery or what might else may be needed, is really helpful to keep the cases moving forward," said Brenner, who specializes in business litigation.

Many commercial cases involve prohibited business activity, such as unfair competition, antitrust claims, or disputes concerning no-compete or confidentiality agreements. Other cases involve internal disputes in business organizations, such as shareholder claims, claims against officers or directors, or claims involving the interpretation of rights and obligations under agreements governing business.

Brown County opioid treatment court featured

WLUK-TV in Green Bay recently ran a feature on Brown County's opioid treatment court. The court was created in

2014 because the criminal court system was getting clogged with more and more cases, involving opioid abuse, the station reported.

The coverage highlighted the story of Samantha Hampton, Green Bay, who was among the court's first graduates.

"I did it. It was very hard. I thought it was like a get-out-of-jail free card. It's not. It's very time consuming. It's hard work. And I graduated in August of 2016, and my life has been completely changed ever since," Hampton said.

"It was a little bit bumpy in the beginning. I definitely had some struggles and I would test the water. But I saw that they were really just there to support me and help me, and I did the best that I could. And you really have to want it... and do it for yourself," said Hampton.

Judge Thomas J. Walsh, the Brown County Circuit Court Judge who presides over the court, said the problem of opioid abuse, and heroin, was getting worse and worse. And putting people in prison just wasn't solving the problem.

"Our treatment court has been working quite well. The majority of people have been getting out. They are staying clean and sober. And they're remaining employed," Walsh told WLUK. ■



Barron County Circuit Court judges and staff pose by "The Giving Tree" which they decorated in the Justice Center Rotunda. The "decorations" included mittens, hats, scarves, and socks that were given to local people in need. Staff also collected non-perishable food donations. Left to right, front row: Karen Schaaf, Debbie Nichols; Barron County Circuit Court Judge James C. Babler; and Laura Fornell. Back row: Chief Judge Maureen D. Boyle, Barron County Circuit Court; Deanne Alsbury; Bobbie Reinke; and Tammy Vucenic.

Chief Justice*Patience Drake Roggensack***Director of State Courts***Hon. Randy R. Koschnick***Editor***Tom Sheehan***Contributing Writers***Katy Burke**Carol Hassler**Jaime Healy-Plotkin**Tom Sheehan**Kacie Terranova**Michael F. Thompson**Kristen Wetzler***Graphic Design/Layout***Sara Foster*

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“There are also many people that I’ve come to consider not just ‘stakeholders’ but also friends,” Baumgartner said.

After catching up on some sleep, Baumgartner said she also plans to visit daughters, Cheyenne and Samantha. Both daughters live in Minnesota and both are planning to get married in 2020. So, if she happens to miss the work involved in planning for Judicial Education events, she’ll still have some things to plan for.

Alisankus, who is the judge for the joint municipal court of Evansville-Union Township is not retiring but is looking to slow down a bit, Baumgartner said. “Some people have hobbies, Tom has jobs,” Baumgartner said.

Although Baumgartner’s not likely to be idle, she literally does intend to ride off into the sunset.

“I have a lot of hobbies to keep me busy, but the horses will consume most of my time, including trail riding and camping with them in Wisconsin and Minnesota,” Baumgartner said

**Jane Dixon
Judicial Assistant**

After 40 years with the Wisconsin court system, Jane Dixon, Judicial Assistant to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet, will retire in February.

Dixon began her career in January 1980 as an assistant, and eventually administrative assistant, to Erica Moeser, then-director of the Board of Attorneys Professional Competence (now the Board of Bar Examiners). Among other duties in her 11 years with the Board, Dixon assisted with administration of the Wisconsin bar exam. She made sure exam materials were ready and in place on time, even when it meant she was driving around a carload of hard copy exams.

Dixon also worked for the Court of Appeals, first as a staff attorney assistant for 14 years, and then as judicial assistant to now-retired Judges David G. Deininger, Burnie Bridge, and Gary E. Sherman for 13 years. For the last year and a half, Dixon said she was fortunate to have reached her goal of serving as judicial

*Jane Dixon*

assistant to a Supreme Court justice.

“I’ve been blessed to work with so many amazing people during my career.”

Dixon said she will keep the friendships she has made along the way, but will miss seeing many of those friends regularly at work. Dixon said she looks forward to finally having time for traveling, kayaking, biking, and just enjoying her family and golden retrievers.

**Rhonda Menor
Court Reporter**

After nearly 40 years working as a court reporter in Marinette County Circuit Court, Rhonda Menor’s retirement didn’t go unnoticed. In fact, it was front-page news in the Marinette Eagle Herald on Dec. 10.

Menor, only the second Branch 1 court reporter since 1941, took advantage of the newspaper interview to educate people about stenographic court reporting, as did Branch 1 Judge David G. Miron.

“Many people have jobs where an occasional daydream or brief lack of concentration has no major impact. Not so with court reporters, who are required to listen to and document every word – make that every syllable – of a court hearing,” wrote editor Dan Kitkowski.

Menor said the advancements in technology are the biggest changes she has seen on the job. Her first stenographic machine was a manual model, much like a manual typewriter, and she initially would have to transcribe notes using an electric typewriter, Menor told the paper.

“Now, I don’t even look at my paper notes,” she said. “As I’m writing on my steno machine, my software is translating it into English. I can put a computer screen in front of someone who is deaf or hard of hearing and they can instantly read what’s going on in the courtroom. It’s like closed captioning,” Menor told the paper.

Miron said most people don’t understand the importance of a court reporter’s job.

“I don’t think they have a clue what she does,” Miron said. “I mean, she’s responsible for taking down every word that’s said in that courtroom. Absolutely every word. She’s got to be on top of her game the entire time that she’s sitting there...”

Menor, a 1978 graduate of Appleton East High School, was a free-lance court reporter after graduating from Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, in 1980. She lived in Appleton, but did some work in Brown and Marinette counties before being recruited to work in Marinette by now-retired Marinette County Circuit Court Judge Charles Heath. ■