

# Muni View

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## Coordinator's Corner

Welcome spring and welcome to our **20** new Municipal court judges! Five of our new judges were appointed to serve newly created courts and one was elected to serve a newly created court. Four new judges have been appointed to replace retiring judges and ten new judges were elected to serve existing courts. We are looking forward to meeting each of these new judges at the Orientation Seminar on May 11, 2005, at the Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Enclosed with this edition of the Muni View is the annual Municipal Judge Ouestionnaire. This questionnaire is used by both this office and by the Municipal Judge's Association. The Office of Judicial Education uses it to keep accurate and current information on each municipal court. The Municipal Judge's Association uses it to compile information that many judges find helpful in supporting budget and other financial requests. We've added a new question this year which asks about your special interests and/or any other information about yourself that you would like to share with your fellow judges. Answers to this question will assist the Office of Judicial Education in our continual search for seminar faculty and/or leaders for group discussions and breakout sessions. Please take time to complete this questionnaire and return it to our office by **June 30, 2005.** 

I hope everyone has a chance to get away for some well deserved "rest and relaxation" this summer. Enjoy!

#### NEW COURTS/NEW JUDGES

District 1: **Alice Rudebusch** was appointed in the City of Oak Creek on June 28, 2004, replacing the late **John Grahovac.** 

District 2: A new court was created in the **Town of Linn. Peter B. King** was appointed as municipal judge on January 27, 2005.

District 5: **Ann Molitor** was appointed in the Village of McFarland on February 20, 2005, replacing **Diane Norman**. Diane resigned as municipal judge to accept an appointment by Governor Doyle as a Tax Appeal Commissioner.

District 6: A new court has been created in the Village of Spring Green. Ted Lins was appointed as municipal judge on January 27, 2005. James Wegner was

appointed in the City of Horicon on June 29, 2004, replacing **Laura Reynolds** who resigned from that office after moving out of the jurisdiction.

District 8: A new court was created in the **Town of Silver Cliff. Mark Majcen** was appointed as the municipal judge on May 1, 2005. A new court was created in the **City of New London. Dennis Resch** was appointed as municipal judge on January 1, 2005. **Kevin Rathburn** was appointed in the Village of Suamico on September 20, 2004, replacing **Roy Keith.** 

District 10: A new court was created in the **Village of Webster**. **Brian Sears** was appointed as municipal judge on August 11, 2004.

### SPRING ELECTION RESULTS:

District 2: Joseph M. Purpero was elected in the Town of Raymond replacing Patrick Moczynski who did not run for reelection. Robert C. Kupfer was elected in the Town of Somers replacing Anthony Milisauskas who was elected to the circuit court.

District 3: **Melissa B. Murray** was elected in the Village of Pewaukee replacing **Thomas A. Tetting** who did not run for reelection but will be serving as a reserve judge. **John Grundahl** was elected to the multi-jurisdictional court of Mid-Moraine.

District 5: **William Donaldson** was elected as a write-in candidate in the Village of Black Earth replacing **Kenneth Meigs** who did not run for reelection.

District 7: **John Gannon** was elected in the Village of Viola replacing **J. Joanne Walter** who did not seek reelection.

District 8: Charles L. Teege was elected in the Village of Denmark replacing Robert McCabe who did not run for reelection.

District 9: Daniel T. Cveykus was elected in as municipal judge of the newly created municipal court for the Village of Kronenwetter.

Kristine R. Weirauch was elected in the City of Schofield replacing Harlan Kamke who did not run for reelection. Kenneth Eales was elected in the Town of Manitowish Waters replacing Dan Johns who did not seek reelection.

District 10: **Jane E. Schmaltz** was elected in the City of New Richmond replacing **James F. Utecht** who did not run for reelection.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW JUDGES!

#### **ORIENTATION & INSTITUTE**

This year's Orientation & Institute Seminar will be held May 11 – 13, 2005, at the Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells. All new judges are required to attend the day-long Orientation. The Institute is open to judges with 2,000 or fewer cases annually and to judges who've been on the bench three years or less.

#### TRAFFIC SEMINAR

July 14 & 15, 2005, Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc. The tentative agenda for this year's Traffic Seminar includes; Indigency Issues, Receipt of Scientific Evidence, Questions & Answers with DOT, Changes in the Commercial Driver License Laws, Drug Recognition Evidence, Refusal Hearing Issues & Answers, Ethics, New Laws/New Cases and breakout sessions on Reading Driver Records, Graduated Driver Licenses, Speed **Equipment Operation and Current** Issues with *Terry* stops.

#### OTHER SEMINARS

Other seminars for the currently reporting period (May 2005 – April 30, 2006) are:

Special Topic Seminar –
September 29 & 30, 2005, at the
Radisson in Green Bay
Municipal Court Clerk's
Seminar – October 27 & 28, 2005,
at the Chula Vista Resort in
Wisconsin Dells
Trial Seminar – March 23 & 24,
2006, at the Marriott Madison
West in Middleton

A 2005/2006 Seminar Calendar is enclosed.

### WELCOME NEW EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

I am pleased to announce that the Honorable Kristin Koeffler, Municipal Judge for the City of Milton has accepted the invitation to join the Education Committee. This expands the Education Committee to six members. Kris has served as the municipal judge for the City of Milton since 1997. She is the fulltime Director of the Rock County Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Kris has served as a faculty member at a number of municipal judge seminars and has planned several very successful half-day education programs for Rock County municipal judges. The Education Committee is looking forward to the new ideas and fresh perspective Kris will no doubt bring to the committee. Welcome Kris!

## IMPORTANT BENCHBOOK UPDATE:

Due to an error at the printer, the 2005 Benchbook Update that you received in March, is missing pages 10-13 through 10-18. These pages are enclosed. Please insert them in your Municipal Judge Benchbook ASAP.

### FUNDING AVAILABLE TO MUNICIPAL COURTS FOR ELECTRONIC RECORDS TRANSFER

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has received a grant to provide funding to municipal courts and law enforcement agencies interested in electronically transferring records to the DOT. Municipal courts may apply for this funding from the DOT. The funds may be used to help the court obtain hardware, software or other equipment necessary to electronically transfer records. Please review the enclosed Request for Proposals for specific information regarding this funding.

#### **AMENDMENT TO SCR 60.06:**

New Rules Governing Campaigns, Elections, and Political Activity, effective January 1, 2005. (Reprinted from the March 10 & 11, 2005, Special Topic Seminar New *Laws/New Cases* Handout)

Restrictions have been imposed in four basic areas. The first applies to all judges, judges-elect, and judicial appointees while the rest do not apply to judges who did not devote more than 40 hours to the performance of their official duties in the preceding calendar year. The first, which involves campaign conduct and rhetoric, requires that we must maintain the dignity, integrity, and independence appropriate to the office, cannot make pledges, promises, or commitments regarding cases. controversies, or issues likely to come before the court, cannot make false statements regarding

ourselves or opponents, and should not make statements likely to confuse the public about the proper roles of judges and attorneys.

In the <u>second</u>, we must resign our judgeships before running for nonjudicial elective office.

The <u>third</u> prohibits membership or active participation in the activities of political parties, or contributions to them or their candidates, or support of their candidates. We can attend their events as a member of the public or as a candidate promoting our own candidacy, but cannot pay more for an event than the amount necessary to defray the sponsor's cost.

The <u>fourth</u> prohibits personal solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions though we can serve on our own campaign committee which solicits and accepts contributions (avoiding "direct involvement"). We can personally solicit and accept endorsements, including from judges and attorneys, though not from parties who have a case pending before us. And we should avoid having our names used for fund-raising purposes.

NOTE: This amendment was included in the 2005 Municipal Judge Benchbook supplement

Other New Legislation:

REMINDER: Please make sure and review all Legislative Bulletins that are sent to you throughout the year by the Director of State Courts Office. Also, check the State Court Website at wicourts.gov for the most current copy of New Laws/New Cases

prepared by the New Laws/New Cases Faculty Committee.

#### Muni View

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