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CCAP, OITS Merge

by Sarah Maguire, intern
Director of State Courts Office

The Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) and the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) merged into a single department on July 15. This new department, called the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP), will unite the court technology systems and allow for a more efficient and cost-effective use of technical resources.

"Ultimately this staff will have the ability to provide custom applications and enhancements to all court system users," said J. Denis Moran, director of state courts. "One standard computer infrastructure will minimize problems in areas like e-mail delivery that are caused from incompatibilities in our current separate systems."

One of the first projects the new department will work on is a unified case management system that the trial and appellate courts can use. The department is still in the process of assigning other projects.

Moran said the new department is keeping the CCAP acronym to capitalize on the substantial name recognition and successes of the old program at the state and national levels.

Jean Bousquet, the former director of the Circuit Court Automation Program, heads the new unified department.

Myse Named Judge of the Year

Reserve Judge Gordon Myse has been named "Trial Judge of the Year" by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). ABOTA is a national organization of civil trial attorneys whose membership is split equally between lawyers who represent plaintiffs and lawyers who represent defendants.

The award is presented each year to a member of the Wisconsin judiciary "whose thorough preparation, breadth of knowledge of the law, decisive rulings and courtesy to litigants, jurors and members of the bar have consistently advanced the interest of justice and the dignity of the judicial process," according to the selection committee.

Myse began his judicial career in 1972 as a circuit court judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit, which covered Langlade, Menomonee, Outagamie, and Shawano counties prior to court reorganization. He recalled commencing a difficult medical malpractice trial on his first day on the job. "I was absolutely terrified," he said. "I had no idea of the issues or how to do it. Fortunately, the trial went very smoothly because they were very able lawyers...but it was an awfully difficult introduction to the

circuit court bench."

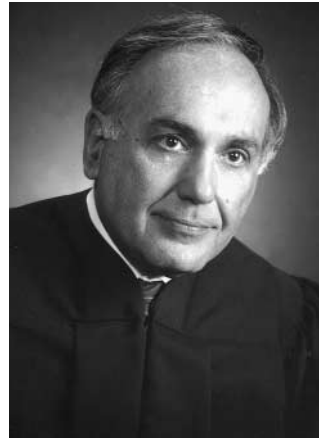
In 1978, he became an Outagamie County Circuit Court judge and he

remained on the bench in Appleton until 1983, when he opted to return to private practice. In 1986, Myse returned to the bench as a judge on the District III Court of Appeals where he remained until his retirement in 1999.

Myse's experience on the trial bench convinced him of the need for a real-world perspective on the

appellate court. "The rather rarefied atmosphere of isolation that clouds an appellate court is a danger that must be guarded against or you get irrelevant," he said. "I mean, you just don't understand what's going on in the real world. We've really made a big effort in our court to have contact with people...and that really does help keep us in touch with reality."

Winners of the ABOTA award in past years are (beginning with most current): Judges Dennis D. Conway, Thomas H. Barland, John J. DiMotto, P. Charles Jones, James C. Eaton, Allan J. Deehr, N. Patrick Crooks, Robert W. Landry, Susan Steingass, George A. Burns Jr., and James P. Fiedler. Of these past winners, Crooks, DiMotto, and Eaton are still active judges.



Reserve Judge Gordon Myse

Budget Forces Courts to Cut Back

The state Legislature passed a two-year, \$47 billion state budget in July and Gov. Scott McCallum completed his vetoes on August 30.

The budget permanently reduces the base fund-

ing of the circuit courts, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Director of State Courts Office, and State Law Library by four percent instead of the five percent that the governor had originally requested.

The August orientation for new judges in Madison was cancelled due to the cut and additional cost-saving measures, such as a moratorium on out-of-state travel, have been instituted.

The budget is a mixed bag for the Supreme Court's interpreter initiative. The governor approved an increase of \$456,200 in the reimbursement rate to

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The Third Branch

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LEGISLATION

Governor Acts on Flurry of Bills

by Sheryl A. Gervasi, legislative liaison

While the state budget has been the focus of attention for the Legislature, legislators have continued to work on a variety of legislation of interest to the courts. Here is the summary of newly introduced bills or ones that were acted upon as of late August.

BILL	KEY PROVISION	STATUS
2001 Act 10	Revises Uniform Commercial Code-Secured Transactions (recommended by Wisconsin Commission on Uniform State Laws)	effective July 1, 2001
SB 22	Extends time to bring civil action for sexual assault of a child	enacted in the budget
SB 26	Exposing a child to harmful material (<i>State v. Weidner</i> , 2000 WI 52)	enacted in the budget
SB 80 AB 182	Eliminates sunset for fifth standard for involuntary civil commitment	enacted in the budget
SB 126	GAL payments, parenting plans, and parenting education in family cases	in Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 151 AB 449	Calculating child support—income shares model	in Senate Judiciary Committee
SB 186	Admitting health care records into evidence	vetoed
AB 5 SB 60	Restores courts' power to suspend for failure to pay in juvenile non-traffic-related cases	enacted in the budget
AB 116	Allows inpatient alcohol and drug treatment of minors 14 or older without their consent	enacted in the budget
AB 397	Standard of review used by courts in Labor and Industry Review Council (LIRC) cases	in Assembly Labor Committee
AB 407	Admissibility of digitally produced photo, film, audio, or video	in Assembly Judiciary Committee
AB 440	Jury trial requests in first-offense operating-while-intoxicated cases in municipal court	in Assembly Judiciary Committee
AB 443	Restorative justice assistant district attorneys in Milwaukee and Dane Counties	partially vetoed
AB 444	Court interpreter program and fees	increase in reimbursement rate included in budget
AB 447	Joint simplified divorce procedure	in Assembly Family Law Committee

Dishing out Fare and Impartial Justice

The Wisconsin Court Reporters' Association (WCRA) is counting on the court community's well-documented passion for food to fuel its fundraising efforts this fall.

WCRA is developing a cookbook containing recipes submitted by court reporters, clerks of circuit

court, and court staff from around the state.

The spiral-bound and as-yet-nameless book will contain an estimated 500-700 recipes covering the following categories: appetizers/beverages, main dishes, soups/salads, breads/rolls, vegeta-

bles, desserts, and miscellaneous.

Among the main dishes will be Blue Eggplant from Laura Ahlin, an official court reporter in District Ten, and Chicken Lasagna from Tina Bjerke, a freelance court reporter in La Crosse.

continued on back page

NEW FACES IN THE WISCONSIN COURTS

Michael R. Havemann *District Nine Court Administrator*

Michael R. Havemann, who has served as a court administrator in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, became the new District Nine court administrator on July 2.



Michael R. Havemann

Havemann replaced longtime District Court Administrator James E. Seidel, who retired in the spring, in the Wausau-based district that encompasses a group of 12 counties in northeastern Wisconsin.

Havemann most recently was court administrator and clerk of court in Las Vegas Municipal Court where he was responsible for the supervision of more than 179 clerical, administrative, professional, and law enforcement staff. In Las Vegas, Havemann worked on long-range planning, implementation of various trial court performance standards, and court security, facilities, and technology.

During his nine years in Utah, Havemann held a position similar to that of a district court administrator for a four-county area. Among the projects he worked on was a model court information database for all state courts, an orientation manual for clerical employees, and videos explaining the need for new court facilities.

From 1972 to 1983, Havemann worked in various capacities in Phoenix government. He started as a criminal justice planning coordinator, became a management analyst with the Phoenix Police Department, and then worked as a court administrator.

Havemann holds a bachelor's degree and a master's in public administration from Brigham Young University and is a graduate of the Court Executive Development Program at the Institute for Court Management. He and his wife, Karen, have a grown son and daughter and four grandsons.

Judge Kevin E. Martens *Milwaukee County Circuit Court*

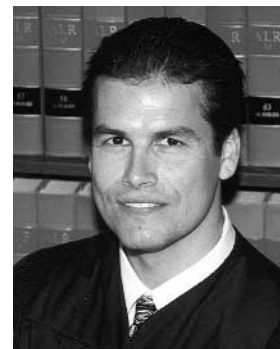
Milwaukee County's newest judge is an academic standout who won appointment to the open judgeship over a pool of 24 applicants that included veteran litigators and prosecutors.

Judge Kevin E. Martens, who graduated first in his class from Milwaukee's Whitnall High School, *summa*

cum laude from Marquette University, and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, has been assigned to Milwaukee Children's Court. He replaces Judge Thomas P. Doherty, who retired in the spring after 21 years on the bench.

Martens is Milwaukee County's second Hispanic judge. He began his career as a law clerk to Judge Robert W. Warren in U.S. District Court in Milwaukee. He then spent a year and a half as an associate with Foley & Lardner, where he worked on litigation. From March 1997 until his appointment to the bench, Martens was an assistant U.S. attorney. He specialized in prosecuting civil health care, benefit, and program fraud cases.

Martens and his wife, Karen, who taught Head Start and kindergarten in the Milwaukee Public Schools for six years, have three young children. He also coaches youth soccer and basketball at the YMCA and enjoys a variety of sports.



Judge Kevin E. Martens

Judge Gregory J. Potter *Wood County Circuit Court*

Governor Scott McCallum appointed Wood County District Attorney Gregory J. Potter to Wood County Circuit Court, Branch 1, to replace Judge Dennis D. Conway, who retired.

Potter served as district attorney from 1987 until his appointment to the bench. In that capacity, he prosecuted cases and supervised a staff of three attorneys, five secretaries, and the crime victim/witness coordinator.

From 1984 to 1987, Potter was a partner in the law firm of LaChapelle & Potter. He handled civil litigation, family law, personal injury, probate, real estate, and criminal defense.

Potter is a graduate of Gonzaga University Law School in Spokane, Washington, and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He serves on the boards of directors of the Wisconsin Rapids Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Boys and Girls Club.

Potter was sworn in on September 5. He will stand for election to a full, six-year term in April 2002.



Judge Gregory J. Potter

Summer
2001

Family Violence Collaboration Project Receives Grant

by Karen Leone de Nie, administrative assistant to the Supreme Court

At least one of every three abused women has a child at home who is also being abused or neglected. The perpetrator may be the mother's abuser, another family member, or the mother herself. Although this statistic points to a link between domestic violence and child abuse, efforts to protect both groups have been undertaken separately.

A \$22,748 State Justice Institute grant to the Director of State Courts Office could change that. The grant will make possible a statewide, integrated response to family violence that includes experts from child welfare agencies, domestic violence groups, and juvenile court. The initiative is called the Family Violence Collaboration Project.

The separation between services for mother and child is based on a lack of understanding of the duties and limitations of various professionals, divergent definitions of success in these cases, and a historic culture of mistrust based on the outcomes of prior cases. To address these issues, child protection agencies, domestic violence programs, and justice system professionals may need to reach consensus regarding how best to protect children, hold domestic abuse perpetrators accountable, and provide services to domestic violence victims.

In Wisconsin, several communities have convened interdisciplinary

teams to find solutions to the burdens on children, parents, agencies, and the courts that evolve out of a divided response to family violence. These communities have eliminated multiple interviews of child abuse victims, improved services for pregnant women using controlled substances and/or alcohol, and increased legal assistance available to people filing domestic abuse, harassment, and child abuse restraining orders.

The 15-month Family Violence Collaboration Project plans to replicate some of these efforts throughout the state. The project will use a partnership approach to develop a method for sharing information among all agencies and the courts and to establish a uniform procedure for processing cases where domestic violence and child maltreatment co-occur. The goal is to identify best practices for reducing the trauma experienced by all parties and to expedite case resolution. To accomplish this, the project will:

Establish the Family Violence Collaboration Work Group to identify issues, provide feedback and guidance on the development of a guidebook, and develop training curriculum for a statewide summit. The work group will include representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family

Services, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Director of State Courts Office. In addition, Kenosha, La Crosse, and Monroe counties (selected for their varying population size, geographical location, and ethnic diversity) will each select a child protection, domestic violence, and court system professional, as well as a community stakeholder (e.g., district attorney, school employee, law enforcement official, survivor, etc.). A neutral facilitator, with knowledge of the child protection, court, and domestic violence systems will lead the work group and write the guidebook and curriculum.

Publish the Family Violence Collaboration Guidebook.

The book will use a step-by-step, question-and-answer format to help counties develop interdisciplinary policies and procedures. Sample documents, such as memoranda of understanding, mediation protocols in domestic violence cases, and safety assessment tools will be provided. The guidebook will allow each county to establish procedures that reflect local needs. It will be distributed to each county's human services director, primary domestic violence program, and circuit court. The guidebook will also be posted on the Wisconsin court system Web site.

Host a statewide summit. The curriculum will focus on effective multidisciplinary interventions in domestic violence and child maltreatment cases, reflect local training needs, and introduce the *Family Violence Collaboration Guidebook*.

The seed for this collaboration was planted when a Wisconsin team, composed of representatives from agencies and others involved in domestic and child abuse cases, attended a fall 2000 conference, *Exploring Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment*. The result of that conference was the beginning of a cross-disciplinary discussion of family violence.

Budget Forces Courts to Cut Back *continued from page 1*

counties for using qualified interpreters for in-court services but vetoed a proposed two-year interpreter coordinator position which would have coordinated a training and certification program for court interpreters.

The governor also vetoed a measure that would have shifted the Director of State Courts Office appropriation from annual to biennial. The Director's Office asked for the

shift to permit greater flexibility in budgeting.

In addition, the governor vetoed a proposed increase in the family court counseling service fee for custody and physical placement studies. The Legislature would have raised the fee from \$300 to \$500, which McCallum called excessive. He also vetoed a provision that would have funded 14.55 assistant district

attorney positions with money from fines, penalties, and forfeitures.

Finally, McCallum held the State Public Defender's Office to the five percent base budget cut that he had originally proposed, vetoing a legislative measure that would have restored some of the funding. He also vetoed 59.3 new positions for the State Public Defender.

Electronic Forum Focuses on Elder Abuse, Protective Services

by Attorney Betsy Abramson, elder law consultant

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) is going online to improve the state's adult protective services and elder abuse systems, and will need a wide variety of participants to help the initiative succeed.

DHFS has launched an electronic forum called a listserv that will allow participants to discuss Wisconsin-specific questions and share ideas to improve the services available to adults at risk. A listserv is an e-mail discussion group. A subscriber posts a question, discussion topic or idea by sending an e-mail to the listserv, and the e-mail is then automatically distributed to all the listserv subscribers. Participants may respond if they wish, and they have the option of responding to an individual or to the entire list.

Participants in the listserv will have access to a wide range of Wisconsin professionals in disciplines related to adult protective services and elder abuse. This will enable subscribers to identify new problems and learn about issues from a variety of people throughout

the state and across professional disciplines. Listserv participants might wish to discuss specific cases, strategies for dealing with certain types of cases, new resources and training opportunities, and legal and policy responses to elder-abuse issues.

This listserv must be interdisciplinary to be effective. It is hoped that many people—healthcare professionals, educators, lawyers, judges, and policymakers—will use the listserv to learn about adult protective services and elder abuse in Wisconsin. Judges and other court staff are important to the listserv's success and are encouraged to participate.

For more information, or to join this free service, contact Abramson at 16 N. Carroll St., Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703. Phone: (608) 663-3599; fax: (608) 250-4370; e-mail: abramson@mailbag.com. Your request to subscribe should include your name, agency, position, address, phone, and e-mail address and explain your interest and involvement in adult protective services and/or elder abuse.

Judicial Oversight Initiative Project Honored

The Board of Directors of the Task Force on Family Violence honored individuals working on the Judicial Oversight Initiative (JOI) with its Outstanding Leadership Award during the *Evening of Hope* celebration at the Women's Club of Wisconsin on June 7.

The award recognizes leaders within the community who work to combat family violence. Clerk of Circuit Court John Barrett accepted the award on behalf of the project.

"We are pleased and proud to have been selected by the task force to receive this award," Chief Judge Michael J. Skwierawski said.

"The JOI represents a coordinated community effort which we believe is already having positive results."

The JOI began in early 2000 when the Milwaukee County Circuit Court received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice under the Violence against Women Act. The grant provides for additional judicial supervision of batterers, treatment for batterers, and enhanced services for victims in Milwaukee County.

The JOI is one of three demonstration projects on domestic violence. The others are in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Boston.

Attorneys Speak Out on ADR

by Dan Wassink, senior policy analyst
Director of State Courts Office

The Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) has launched an ambitious project to learn about attorneys' experiences with Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

PPAC's subcommittee on ADR has developed a survey of attorneys representing litigants in selected types of civil cases. The survey asks the attorneys how they decided whether to use ADR, what type was used (mediation, focus group, etc.), their assessment of whether ADR was successful in settling the case, and whether they were satisfied with the process.

The survey is being conducted through the end of the year as a pilot in Calumet, La Crosse, Oneida, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties. The subcommittee will likely re-draft and expand the survey in 2002.

In exploring other potential projects, the subcommittee met recently with representatives of the Wisconsin Association of Mediators, a statewide association of professional and volunteer mediators and interested individuals. The discussion touched on many topics, but focused on issues related to "institutionalizing" ADR in states, and on ethical concerns that arise when a judge refers a civil case to a colleague for mediation.

Results from a similar survey of Wisconsin circuit court judges are available as part of PPAC's ADR Clearinghouse on the court system's Web site at www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/Alternative_Dispute_Resolution_Clearinghouse.htm. Subcommittee members eventually will post the results of the survey of attorneys on the clearinghouse site, which is intended as a central source of ADR information in the state.

Summer
2001

Support Staff Association is Planned

by Sarah Maguire, intern, Director of State Courts Office

An Ozaukee County judicial clerk is trying to start a professional association to help court support staff throughout the state work together and exchange ideas.

Mary Lou Mueller, former executive director of the Northern Ozaukee United Way, said she hopes this association will help the courts operate more efficiently. More than 40 clerks from 13 counties have expressed interest in joining. "Often when I have had the opportunity to go to training for CCAP [Consolidated Court Automation Programs] the question that is asked by all those attending is, 'What area do you work in and how do you do this procedure or that set of paperwork,'" said

Mueller, who is modeling the group after a California association. "I thought, 'let's find a way to network.'"

Mueller hopes eventually to hold conventions, training and professional development sessions, and implement a court clerk certification program through the association.

"A professional organization that encourages professional and personal growth," Mueller said, "is important to the members, the court and the community at large."

Mueller anticipates holding an organizational meeting to ratify bylaws, elect officers, and develop committees by Oct. 1. For more information, contact her by phone at (262) 284-8420 or e-mail marylou.mueller@ozaukee.courts.state.wi.us.

Summer Law Clerks Trade Time for Experience

by Sarah Maguire, intern
Director of State Courts Office

While many of their counterparts spent the summer on the beach or clerking for high-powered firms, 22 law students from around the country worked for judges in the Wisconsin courts. Their payment came in the form of real-world experience in the law.

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson began the Volunteer Summer Law Student Internship Program in 1997. "The summer program is valuable to both students and the judges," Abrahamson said. "It's a great way for students to see the law in action, and it gives judges an opportunity to reach out to the community and to future legal professionals." Although judges use their clerks differently, the clerks typically get the opportunity to research and write and observe various court proceedings.

Judge Annette K. Ziegler, Washington County Circuit Court, said the program benefits both the judges and the students who participate. "The program often refreshes judges' interests," Ziegler said. "It brings you back to where you were not that long ago." Ziegler, a graduate of Marquette Law School, said she wishes she had participated in a program like this in law school. "There is always something going on, and it is fun for the judges," she said. "I'm glad we have the program in place."

Ziegler said her clerk—Rebecca Villwock, a second-year law student at the University of Wisconsin Law School—spent a good deal of time with her daily. Villwock did legal research, drafted memoranda, and spent time on the bench next to Ziegler.

Aaron O'Neil is another University of Wisconsin Law School student who participated in the program. He clerked for Judge Gerald C. Nichol, Dane County Circuit Court. "It has been a very

JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

*judges and
court staff*

*leaders in
a fair,
impartial,
and innovative
justice system*

County Government Forum Focuses on Education

In 1948, when New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey appeared ready to topple President Harry S. Truman, Dewey withdrew from the public eye. "When you're leading," he said, "don't talk." Dewey's philosophy backfired of course, and most leaders—in every sense of the word—have embraced the idea that they must make themselves available to the public to answer questions and hear concerns.

In this spirit, Judges Dale L. English and Robert J. Wirtz, Fond du Lac County Circuit Court, presided over and participated in a forum on county government entitled *Fond du Lac County Educational Seminar*. The seminar was organized to address questions about the various responsibilities of, and services provided by, county agencies.

Representatives of the agencies made presentations for an audience of approximately 125 people, including county officials, law enforcement, social services, the court system, probation and parole, the district attorney's office, and the public defender's office. After the presentations, the judges presided over a question-and-answer period and a panel discussion on the various topics covered.

The conversation ranged from the probate clerks' duties with regard to mental commitments and guardianships to the jurisdiction and services

provided by the county social services department to the obligations of the public defender and the district attorney. Law enforcement representatives offered their perspective on various issues and social services professionals detailed the help they are able to offer to juveniles and the elderly.

Perhaps most importantly, the seminar provided county employees with a roadmap for finding answers in the future, which may add up to solving problems more quickly, and providing better service for the public.

Judge Robert J. Wirtz, Fond du Lac County Circuit Court, leads a forum on county government with assistance from Judge Dale L. English, left, and Social Services Administrator Ed Schilling, right.



valuable experience," O'Neil said. "I've learned quite a bit." O'Neil said the job is both difficult and rewarding. "The most challenging thing is getting stuck in the course of research," he said. "Sometimes attorneys come up with some pretty novel arguments and trying to figure them out can be a bit tough."

John Kelly, who clerked for Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John Siefert, echoed O'Neil's comments. "The most rewarding thing about the program is that it has given me a great deal of exposure to the legal system," he said. "I am acquiring first-hand experience in dealing with legal matters [and] I feel much more comfortable in handling legal issues than I did back in May before I started work here."

Kelly is a University of Illinois law student. Although most students come to the program from Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin, the

Office of Court Operations recruits students from all the law schools in the country. "This year, there were 73 applicants from 30 different law schools throughout the country," said Melissa Lamb, a program assistant in the Office of Court Operations who coordinates the program. "By far the biggest recruitment challenge is that this is a volunteer program," Lamb said. "There is always a great response to the initial recruitment, but many students find other opportunities where they will be paid and withdraw from the program."

Most students who apply for the program prefer to clerk in either Milwaukee or Dane County, which provides another major recruitment challenge. Many students seek paid employment in addition to the internship and consequently prefer to clerk in a larger city where more



University of Wisconsin law student Rebecca Villwock has assisted Judge Annette K. Ziegler with research and writing this summer.

jobs and temporary housing are readily available.

"Although many judges are eager to participate in this program," Lamb said, "it is difficult to find students who want to be placed in many of the counties in northern Wisconsin, so several judges in that area [were] not matched with students."

To find out more about participating in the program, contact Lamb at (608) 266-3121 or e-mail melissa.lamb@courts.state.wi.us.

Courts Celebrate Law Day

Judges, attorneys, and court staff throughout the state celebrated Law Day on May 1. Many of the programs reflected the American Bar Association's Law Day theme, *In the Best Interests of our Children*.

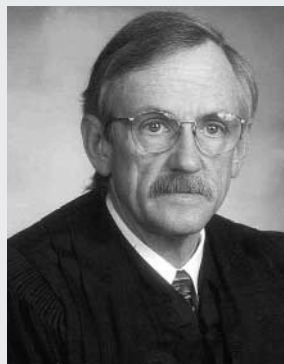
The Director of State Courts Office supports Law Day planning by publishing a planning guide and by recruiting Law Day teams in each county.

At tiny Downsville School, Judge William C. Stewart Jr., **Dunn County** Circuit Court, spent Law Day asking and answering questions. To his delight, the fourth graders could name the three branches of government and describe the purpose of laws. They also asked good questions, such as the meaning of the black robe, how one becomes a judge, and which cases are the hardest.

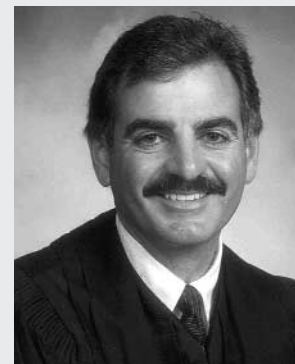
On the opposite side of the state, Chief Judge Joseph M. Troy, **Outagamie County** Circuit Court, worked with Public Defender Eugene A. Bartman and theater students at Lawrence University to stage the case of State v. B.B. Wolf. About 180 children from several local elementary schools attended and watched with interest as the Big Bad Wolf was convicted of criminal damage to property and trespassing. Troy recruited his brother, Timothy Troy, a drama instructor at Lawrence, to direct the play.

In **Trempealeau County**, Judge John A. Damon and Clerk of Circuit Court Angeline Sylla organized the Day in the Life program, hosting 12 high school stu-

dents from six local schools for a day in the courthouse. The students took notes on the experience and wrote essays for display in a binder. Damon and Sylla also organized a luncheon in honor of all legal secretaries in the county. The local bar also participated in Law Day with two local attorneys, Lora Beseler and Bruce Kostner, coordinating a panel discussion on the best interests of children.



Judge William C. Stewart Jr.



Chief Judge Joseph M. Troy

RETIREMENTS

OLR Deputy Retires

Elsa Greene, an Emily Dickinson scholar who took up the law as a second career, retired in June as deputy director of the Office of Lawyer Regulation's (OLR) Madison office.



Elsa Greene relaxes at her recent 40th college reunion.

Greene, who holds a Ph.D. in American studies, was working at the University of Pennsylvania when she decided to move to Madison to be closer to her family. She then opted to follow in the footsteps of her father—a sole practitioner in Minneapolis—and fulfill a longtime dream by going to law school.

Following her law school graduation, Greene went to work as a clerk at the Court of Appeals in 1982. She joined the staff of the Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility (BAPR)—the predecessor of the OLR—in 1983. "I found it just extremely interesting and satisfying to work for the Court in the area of professional ethics," Greene said. "It was always very gratifying to me that our court—more than many other state supreme courts—has taken a direct interest in supervising the practice of law."

At the time of her retirement, Greene was in charge of supervising investigations of attorneys throughout the state except in metropolitan Milwaukee. She also did her own investigations and some prosecutions. "Our client was the integrity of the legal profession, and serving that client is a benefit both to the public and to the members of the profession," she said.

In retirement, Greene plans to continue restoring her 122-year-old limestone farmhouse located near Barneveld, about 45 minutes west

of Madison. She also plans to research the clan of Welsh that settled the valley and built the farmhouse she now calls home. In addition, she hopes to look into organizing women lawyers to assist low-income litigants in Iowa County domestic abuse matters, and to spend some time writing.

Court Improvement Program Leader Steps Down

Michelle M. Jensen, director of the Children's Court Improvement Program, stepped down on June 28 to take a job with the state Department of Health and Family Services.

Jensen began her tenure with the courts shortly after earning her law degree. She started as CHIPS (children in need of protection and/or services) project coordinator in June 1997. In that capacity, she developed and administered a system to offer grants of federal money for pilot projects, improvements to existing programs, and educational sessions designed to improve the courts' handling of cases involving abused and neglected children.

More recently, Jensen traveled the state helping train judges and court administrators on the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Municipal Judge Educator Switches Gears

Ronni Jones, who has worked in the Office of Judicial Education since 1987, retired from half of her position at the end of July. Jones gave up her role as municipal judge education manager, and Attorney Karla Baumgartner has been hired to replace her in the half-time position.



Ronni Jones with her daughters Brenna (left) and Meghan.

Jones will continue as editor of the *Wisconsin Judicial Benchbooks*. The five benchbooks (criminal, civil, family, juvenile, and probate/mental health) are desktop procedural reference texts for trial judges. Jones works with committees of circuit court judges on the annual updates to the benchbooks.

As municipal judge education manager, Jones (and program assistant Carol Koschel) has been responsible for providing continuing education to the state's 228 municipal judges, six reserve municipal judges, and three City of Milwaukee court commissioners. The two-person team put on four to five municipal judge seminars annually and one municipal court clerk seminar for 150 clerks each year.

With committees of municipal judges and clerks, they have also produced the *Municipal Judge Benchbook*, a procedures manual for municipal clerks, a directory, and a periodic newsletter. "It has been a fantastic 14 years," Jones said. "I have loved every minute of it and think the municipal judges are a really great group of people."

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Jones received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then returned to the East Coast where she lived in both Cambridge, Mass., and Washington, D.C. In Cambridge, Jones worked for B.F. Skinner's Committee on Programmed Instruction. In Washington, she worked at George Washington University helping to set up the Law Alumni Program.

After Jones and her husband, Reserve Judge P. Charles Jones, returned to Madison and raised two daughters, she earned a law degree with honors and received the Constitutional Law Prize from the University of Wisconsin Law School. While a student there, she developed the draft of Chapter 948 of the Wisconsin Statutes on Crimes Against Children. Following graduation she served on the Legislative Reference Committee that drafted the legislation.

Jones said she is looking forward to semi-retirement. "We plan to travel often, and I hope to spend much time with a grandchild expected in early September. I also hope to garden in the summer, and sit in front of the fireplace with a book in the winter. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?"



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson presents Karen Leone de Nie with a plaque marking her service to the Supreme Court. Court staff also purchased a digital camera for Leone de Nie, an avid photographer.

Supreme Court's 'Secret Weapon' Departs

Karen Leone de Nie, who quietly made things work at the Wisconsin Supreme Court for four years, left her position in July and moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where her husband, Michael de Nie, took a faculty position in the history department at Texas Christian University.

Leone de Nie, who grew up on a farm in New Jersey, was hired as an administrative services assistant to the Supreme Court, a position whose chief function was to be a receptionist to the Court. However, Leone de Nie's self-taught computer skills, work ethic, and creativity transformed the job. By the time she departed, Leone de Nie was supervising a project to restore the Supreme Court's portrait collection, designing and helping edit *The Third Branch* newsletter, working with Webmaster Jeff Prey to redesign the court system Web site, and designing and editing a teacher's guide to the Wisconsin courts entitled *Connecting to the Courts*.

In May 2000, Leone de Nie was recognized at a state Capitol ceremony with an honorable mention in the prestigious Virginia Hart Recognition Award competition. The competition recognizes the "unsung heroines" of state service whose work is excellent, and who regularly perform beyond their job duties. The award is named for Virginia Hart, Wisconsin's first woman cabinet member. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson nominated Leone de Nie for the award, noting her broad array of skills and talents, her work ethic, and her unflagging good humor.

"Karen did the work of 10 people," said Abrahamson, who often called Leone de Nie the Court's 'secret weapon.' "Words cannot express how much we will miss her, but we share in her excitement and wish her all the best as she and Michael embark on this new adventure."

In Texas, Leone de Nie plans to pursue a second college degree in landscape architecture.

Summer
2001

UW Program Provides Interns for the Courts

by Joann Miller, student
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Although the Political Science Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater has been placing undergraduate interns with circuit court judges, district attorneys, and private law firms for more than 20 years, the program has remained a well-kept secret.

John Kozlowicz, Ph.D., has been instrumental in implementing and maintaining this outstanding program, which gives students valuable experience in the justice system and employers much-needed help with their workload.

He has worked closely with Attorney James Molloy, who teaches in the College of Business and Economics, to develop a cooperative relationship that has resulted in a minor in legal studies option for students. Many of the students participating in the internship program are involved in the legal studies program.

To be eligible to apply for an internship, a student must have completed Kozlowicz's legal research class as well as at least one substantive law class. These

requirements help to ensure that the interns have the ability to do legal research and to write.

Once placed in an internship, the student determines the number of credits (between one and 12) s/he will receive for the work. For each credit, a student must work 50 hours. In addition, the students are required to keep a daily journal of their activities and impressions. At the completion of the internship, the student is also required to write a paper regarding some aspect of the internship.

Students who have participated in the program reported that they were grateful for the opportunity to see the legal process in action. Those placed with judges were able to witness trial preparation, the conduct of a trial, and the decision making process. Those placed with attorneys experienced the preparation for trial and the presentation of the case. All were given opportunities to perform legal research, and often saw how that research applied to a given case.

Judge Robert J. Kennedy, Walworth County Circuit Court, has hosted interns through Kozlowicz's program for 20 years—first as a district attorney, then in private practice, and, for the last 13 years, as a judge. Each semester there are at least two interns placed with Kennedy. He said the interns provide a new and fresh point of view, enabling him to see a case through the eyes of a non-lawyer. Kennedy has also found that the interns "do tremendous research." He likened their research capabilities to those of second-year law students.

Many of the student interns are also members of the campus organization Law Society and hope to go on to law school.

Judges and court staff interested in learning more about hosting an intern may contact Kozlowicz at (262) 472-1120 or e-mail kozlowij@uwwvax.uww.edu or Molloy at (262) 472-3209 or molloyj@uwwvax.edu.

Miller is a UW-Whitewater senior and president of the UW-Whitewater Law Society. She is currently an intern at the state Department of Justice.

Navigating the Internet: Useful Web Resources

Consumer Guide to Legal Help on the Internet www.findlegalhelp.org

The American Bar Association has added a new section to its Web site devoted to helping the public make informed decisions regarding their legal needs. The site—a portal to government and private resources on the law—provides links to state-specific legal information and offers plain-English explanations of how the law and the courts work. The site is divided into five sections, including: "Free Legal Help," "Finding a Lawyer," "Self Help," "Legal Information," and "Trouble with Your Lawyer."

Crime and Justice Research Institute www.cjri.org

The Crime and Justice Research Institute Web site includes numerous studies of drug courts, community courts, services for juvenile offenders, program evaluation practices, and more. The site also provides description of its current projects, including studies of mental health and domestic violence courts. The institute is a non-profit corporation based in Philadelphia that employs researchers and graduate students from area universities to study public policy and the criminal justice system.

Destination Law School www.destinationlawschool.com

Destination Law School is a useful tool for anyone who wants to learn how to conduct legal research online and can be especially helpful to new interns and law clerks.

Professor Arthur Miller of Harvard Law School has joined West Group and Kaplan to provide interactive learning modules to teach the organization of law and basic online legal research. The five modules are titled: "What is the Law?" "The Client has a Problem and you are the Law Clerk," "Finding the Law," "Searching for the Case," and "Hands-on Training on Westlaw." Registration is required to use the site, but all resources are free.

In the Spotlight: Drug Courts www.ncjrs.org/drug_courts/drug_courts.html

This *In the Spotlight* Web site by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service is a one-stop resource for information on the establishment, operation, funding, and success of drug courts. The site includes links to statistics, legislation, publications, programs, technical assistance, and more.

Sentencing Guidelines: Reflections on the Future

www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/186480.pdf or www.ncjrs.org/txtfiles1/nij/186480.txt

Sentencing Guidelines is an article that considers the research and experience of criminal justice practitioners and scholars on the future of "ideologically neutral yet seemingly contradictory sentencing guidelines." The report also discusses the disparity between restorative justice and current sentencing policies and proposes a hybrid system to make them compatible.

Family Connections Strengthens Mother-Child Bond

by Sandy Lott, Ph.D.
Family Connections Director

Not long ago, a woman inmate at Taycheedah Correctional Institution was offered a transfer to Burke Correctional Center, a minimum-security facility with a less restrictive environment. She turned it down because in leaving Taycheedah she would also be giving up the opportunity to see her daughter.

The effect of a woman's incarceration on her children is profound, but Family Connections (FC) helps renew and maintain relationships between a mother and her children. FC is the non-profit program that provides monthly transportation and supervision for children to visit their mothers at Taycheedah. Although the number of children participating is small, there is much hope in watching the children seated in the Taycheedah visiting room—sensing their anticipation that their mother will be next through the door and sharing their joy, smiles, embraces, and tears.

Since May 2000, when the program started, FC volunteers have accompanied 68 children on 15 monthly visits. The volunteers prepare and serve breakfast to the children before the trip and supervise and support the children throughout the day, a day filled with considerable emotion and energy. To become a volunteer, an individual must complete the FC volunteer training program, the prison's volunteer orientation, as well as submit

to a criminal background check by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and a caregiver background check by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Although the FC's mission is to strengthen the bond between mother and child, it has also resulted in some unexpected benefits. It has renewed connections between siblings who may be living in separate homes but are reunited during their monthly visits to Taycheedah. In addition, children from different families lend support and empathy to each other during the long bus rides. Finally, some of the children's current caregivers gain close to eight hours of valuable personal time while the children are on the trip.

Thus far, children participating in the monthly visits live in Dane County, as well as Beloit and Chicago. Taycheedah officials have strongly encouraged an FC branch in Rock County in order to provide services to more families living in Beloit and Janesville. Negotiations are underway on this arrangement, and on a plan to begin monthly visits to the Burke Correctional Center in Waupun.

The program continues to face challenges. Each trip costs approximately \$900 for bus rental and food. In addition, many mothers at Taycheedah do not know about the program, and some caregivers are

reluctant to permit the visits. Further, mothers whose children are not part of the social services network may have inaccurate contact information, making it difficult to reach the children and caregiver. For those who are involved with social services, the overwhelming workload of the social service providers can complicate efforts to finalize the many details necessary for a visit to take place. FC is working with all those involved—mothers, children, caregivers, social workers, probation and delinquency staff, and corrections staff—to overcome these obstacles.

There is a great deal of community support for the program in the form of donations, volunteers, and in-kind support. A local bookseller, for example, collected books given by store patrons for the children to read on the long bus rides, and each month members of the Verona Senior Center crafter group, ages 79 to 91, create surprise gifts for the children.

FC is funded by Madison-area Urban Ministry, the United Way of Dane County, the Wisconsin Community Fund, and others.

For more information about Family Connections, contact Lott at (608) 226-9660.

Courts' Web Site Celebrates First Million-Hit Month

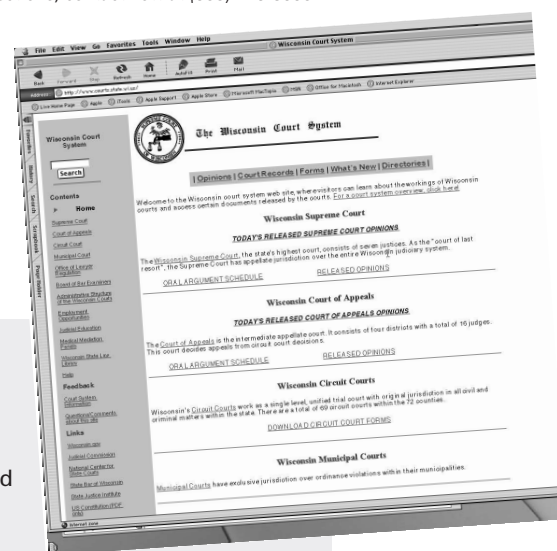
The Wisconsin court system Web site, www.courts.state.wi.us, was visited 1.3 million times in June, marking the site's first million-plus month since it went live in March 1998. By comparison, between January and June 2000, the Web site received 1.8 million hits.

The Supreme Court's June 12 release of its opinion in [Wisconsin Professional Police Association v. George Lightbourn](#), popularly

known as the "pension case," propelled the large number of hits. The opinion was downloaded 44,000 times on June 12 and a total of 74,058 times during the month. Downloads of this opinion continued at a rate of several hundred per day in early July.

"The Wisconsin court system is committed to providing the public with quick and easy access to

court information," said Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran. "We have employed technology as one means of connecting with court users, and these numbers tell us we're on the right track."



OBITUARIES

Judge John F. "Jack" Aulik
Dane County Circuit Court

Judge John F. "Jack" Aulik

Judge John F. "Jack" Aulik, who created the Dane County Drug Diversion Program where he presided for his last seven years on the bench, died July 4 of cancer. He was 67.

Aulik was known as tough but fair, and was a hard worker who kept his calendar current. He was committed to seeking out innovative approaches to solving problems. "Aulik understood that the responsibility of a judge goes

far beyond the basic duty of presiding over particular cases," *The Capital Times* wrote upon his August 1997 retirement from the bench. "And, because of that, he will leave as his legacy a program that makes the whole judicial system more efficient and humane."

Aulik was born and raised in Antigo and educated at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1959, following law school, he opened a law practice in Sun Prairie. His practice emphasized condemnation law, and he represented numerous farmers whose land was being taken for the interstate system.

In 1986, after Governor Tony Earl appointed Attorney Paulette Siebers to the bench, Aulik decided to run for the judgeship. He chose to launch a campaign because of his doubts about Siebers's experience and his belief that Dane County needed a judge with a private bar background. He won a very close race and served for 11 years, retiring after a bout with colon and liver cancer made him switch gears. "I want to enjoy more of my own time in other endeavors—travel, fishing," Aulik told the *Wisconsin State Journal* at the time. "I don't have any guarantees. If I contract cancer again, it's terminal."

Judge Ernest J. Keppler
Sheboygan County Circuit Court

Judge Ernest J. Keppler, a member at various times of both houses of the state Legislature and a Sheboygan County Circuit Court judge, died May 23 at Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. He was 83.

Keppler became interested in the law when he was a teenager working in his father's tavern. As he washed windows and emptied spittoons, he listened to the lawyers' re-argument of the day's cases. "I found it most interesting," he recalled in a 1997 interview with the court system's Oral History Project.

Keppler's interest was piqued in part by the Wild West flavor of the stories he overheard. Sheboygan County in the Prohibition Era of the 1920s and into the 1930s was known for gambling and prostitution, both centered in the resort community of Elkhart Lake. The justice of the peace heard these cases in a makeshift

courtroom located in a bungalow next door to Keppler's father's tavern. When the crowds overwhelmed the tiny bungalow, Keppler's father rigged a system to broadcast the proceedings from the bungalow through a radio in the tavern.

By the early 1950s, thanks in part to District Attorney John Buchen, who went on to become a judge, and Assistant District Attorney Nathan S. Heffernan, who served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1964 to 1995, the gambling and prostitution rings were under control. Keppler's fascination with the justice system, however, remained strong and he earned his law degree in 1950.

Keppler's career in politics began in 1942 when, at age 24, he served one term in the state Assembly. He then practiced law in Sheboygan before being elected to the state Senate in 1960. He served for 18 years, holding the positions of majority leader and vice president. Keppler left the Senate to become a circuit court judge, and he served on the bench in Sheboygan County from 1979 to 1985. He was a reserve judge from 1985 until the time of his death.

Judge Maurice M. Spracker
Milwaukee County Court

Judge Maurice M. Spracker, a Russian immigrant who landed in Milwaukee and became a lawyer and then a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge, died June 9 of natural causes. He was 95.

Spracker was born in what is now Ukraine, and arrived in the United States as a small boy. He earned his law degree from Marquette University Law School and worked in private practice while helping his sister become a lawyer.

"My father loved mentoring young people," Spracker's son, Stanley, told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. "He thought you should go to law school even if you didn't use it, that it was a valuable tool."

Both of Spracker's children, Stanley and Marilyn, are practicing lawyers.

Spracker first took the bench as a court commissioner for Milwaukee Circuit Judge Robert W. Hansen. When Hansen was elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court (he defeated Chief Justice George R. Currie, becoming the first challenger to unseat a chief justice), Spracker was appointed to succeed him. He was sworn in as a judge in 1968 and was elected to his first term the following year. He remained on the bench until 1975 when he neared the then-mandatory retirement age of 70 and spent the next five years as a reserve judge.

Spracker's son, Stanley, of Washington, D.C., and daughter, Marilyn of Chicago, survive him. He is also survived by the sister he helped through law school, Gertrude Kiselow of Palm Springs, Calif., and his grandchildren.

Program for Juveniles Makes Use of Martial Arts

by Sarah Maguire, intern
Director of State Courts Office

Oconto County's six-month-old Juvenile Diversion Program (JDP), which aims to get kids back on track through a mixture of counseling, mentoring, and tae kwon do, is showing early signs of success. The first class a group of five will graduate in late summer.

The JDP provides first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders (ages 12 to 15) and their parents with an opportunity to participate in structured activities and group interactions aimed at increasing self-esteem, teaching communications skills, and improving decision making. The goal is to reduce recidivism and help parents and juveniles communicate better.

"This program is a lot tougher than the traditional juvenile program," said Judge Larry J. Jeske, who started the JDP and oversees it. "We divert them and do not file a petition. If they graduate, we're not likely to see them again." Those who drop out (there was one in the first class) will be returned to the regular court process.

Jeske based the JDP on a program that Chief Judge Joseph M. Troy runs in Outagamie County.

"Judge Troy runs a great and highly successful program," Jeske said.

"The rate of recidivism is so much lower than elsewhere, it pays to get kids through the program."



Judge Larry J. Jeske

In Oconto County, the human services department is running the program, but Jeske hopes eventually to set up the JDP as an independent corporation with its own funding. The program recently received a \$1,457 donation from the Oconto County Partnership in memory of Russ Dufek, a former member of the county board and former director of the local Volunteers in Probation.

The first component of the program, counseling, requires the participation of both the juvenile and his/her family. They must meet regularly with counselors to discuss how they ended up in trouble and how best to avoid future problems. Jeske said communicating with the family is particularly important because parental involvement helps to strengthen the juvenile's support network. In cases where the family

is found to be unavailable or uninterested, appropriate social service agencies become involved.

The second component is mentoring. Participants must meet regularly with volunteers who spend one-on-one time with them. Most of this time is filled with fun activities, such as mini-golf outings, shopping trips, or basketball games. The mentors mainly serve as positive role models for the juveniles.

The third piece of the program and the most popular is tae kwon do. A lieutenant from the Oconto County Sheriff's Department meets regularly with the juveniles to instruct them in the martial art. "The main reason for tae kwon do is to teach discipline," Jeske said. "Kids enjoy it so much, they'll do most anything to stay in [the program]."

The graduation ceremony is modeled on the Outagamie County program. It will be a family event, and participants will have to wear their tae kwon do uniforms and do a demonstration in order to graduate. "When the kids graduate, they have such a feeling of pride in their hearts," Jeske said. "It's really something to see a 13-year-old girl breaking boards, but when they do it, they're so proud."

PEOPLE

The release of the movie Pearl Harbor held special interest for Reserve Judge **Thomas H. Barland** who, at age 11, was a witness to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The *Leader-Telegram* (Eau Claire) reported that Barland was living at the time with his family in Wahiaawa, a small town near the Wheeler Army Airfield where his father worked as a civilian electrical engineer for the War Department. When he heard the planes, and saw the Japanese red-circle insignia on their sides, he hopped on his bicycle and headed for the airfield where he was close enough to see the pilots' faces and watch the bombs drop. Twice, machine gunners opened fire at him, with one bullet hitting a metal awning over his head and another landing at his feet.

Wisconsin's work on cooperation among the federal, state, and tribal courts was highlighted at the *Federal*

Indian Law Conference in New Mexico this year. Chief Judge **James B. Mohr**, Vilas County Circuit Court, and Chief Judge **Ernest H. St. Germaine**, Lac du Flambeau tribe, presented on cooperative approaches in domestic abuse cases and gave an update on the work of Wisconsin's State/Federal/Tribal Court Forum. The National American Indian Court Judges Association, recognizing Wisconsin's role as a leader in cooperative efforts between state and tribal courts, will hold its annual conference in Green Bay in September.



Chief Judge James B. Mohr

continued on page 14

PEOPLE *continued from page 13*

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** is slated to speak at the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice's fall conference in Nova Scotia. The conference theme is *Citizenship and Citizen Participation in the Administration of Justice* and Abrahamson will join a panel discussion on involving citizens in the courts. Abrahamson began Wisconsin's Volunteers in the Courts initiative in 1996. The initiative identified more than 100 court-related volunteer programs around the state and facilitates the sharing of information to encourage replication of successful efforts.

The 2001 Wisconsin Bar Leaders Conference held this summer featured a presentation by Supreme Court Justice **N. Patrick Crooks**, who encouraged local bar leaders to become involved in cooperative efforts of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Crooks highlighted Court with Class, a joint effort that brings approximately 1,500 high school students from public and private schools around the state to Madison each term to watch Supreme Court oral arguments and meet with a justice. Crooks was also the luncheon speaker at the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association summer conference in Egg Harbor.

The Wisconsin Court Reporters Association (WCRA) collected 400 pieces of business apparel to benefit The Bottomless Closet, a Milwaukee organization that helps women in the W-2 program build professional wardrobes. **Tania Northouse**, a freelance court reporter who owns Verbatim Reporting Service, organized the drive at the WCRA spring convention in Eau Claire. The WCRA organizes a volunteer activity in conjunction with each of its conventions.



Judge Lisa K. Stark

Judge **Lisa K. Stark**, Eau Claire County Circuit Court, got a hole in one at a recent golf fundraiser for the Eau Claire YMCA. The shot won her a trip for two to Las Vegas and new golf clubs.

Rachel Ayala, Connie Ward, and Laura Elliott, interpreters in the Milwaukee County courts, were honored for their efforts at a recent luncheon

at the Wisconsin Club. Chief Judge **Michael J. Skwierawski** presented the interpreters with certificates of recognition for their work in the criminal and civil courts. Attorney **Ernesto Romero**, director of Litigation Services for Milwaukee County, coordinated the event. "We depend so much on their abilities to be available on a moment's notice to help someone who is involved in the system and can't speak English," Romero said. "I think it's important to recognize and thank those who make such substantial contributions in our courts."

Former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices **Nathan S. Heffernan** and **Janine P. Geske** collaborated on a guest editorial column that appeared in newspapers around the state. Heffernan and Geske argued in the column that mounting political and financial pressures are threatening to undermine the public's confidence in the judiciary. They called for full public funding of judicial races in Wisconsin.

Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge **Patience D. Roggensack's** roller-coaster ride from medical researcher, to mom, to lawyer, to appellate judge was featured in the April 4 *Wisconsin Law Journal*. She had three children before starting at the University of Wisconsin Law School at age 37. "You just have to do your best on every single little task," Roggensack said, "and if you do that consistently, after a while things work out."



Judge Patience D. Roggensack

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Dominic S. Amato** received attention from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* when he dismissed a ticket-scalping charge arising from an incident outside Milwaukee County Stadium. After the defendant pleaded guilty to illegally selling two Brewers tickets, Amato inquired whether he had offered them for sale for more than their face value. When the defendant, a Milwaukee lawyer, said no, Amato dismissed the case over the prosecutor's objections. The defendant had offered two extra tickets to two undercover Milwaukee County sheriff's deputies, and spent the next 45 minutes in a holding cell inside the stadium.

The *Capital Times* heralded the return of Judge **Paul B. Higginbotham** to the bench in Dane County Circuit Court. Higginbotham returned half time in August after a 13-month leave due to back problems.

Municipal Judge **JoAnn Eiring**, Town of Brookfield, became president of the Wisconsin Municipal Judges' Association in June, taking over from Municipal Judge **Richard Steinberg**, City of Brookfield. Eiring is the association's first female president. The *Brookfield News* reported that Eiring will represent the 200-judge association for two years.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Lake Geneva Attorney **John O. Olson**, of the Braden and Olson law firm, to the Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) on March 21. The BBE has 11 members (five lawyers) and meets eight or nine times a year to oversee the bar examination and handle admission requests.

A public relations consultant for the Massachusetts Supreme Court interviewed Court Information Officer

Amanda K. Todd on how to develop effective outreach programs. Massachusetts has chosen to focus on the Wisconsin program and on the top-notch work of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts as it develops its own public relations plan.

Reserve Judge **Thomas H. Barland** wrote a guest column in the *Leader-Telegram* (Eau Claire) taking issue with a letter to the editor that encouraged jury nullification, called upon people to use medical excuses to avoid jury duty, and alleged that the county law library was not open to the public. Barland wrote that the letter writer "was in error as to every point raised," and went on to explain the jury system and reassure the public that the law library is available for their use. His column concluded: "Every able citizen has a duty under our Constitution to serve as a juror when called. Eau Claire County has been blessed with many people who have been very conscientious and hardworking jurors, often at personal sacrifice. A comment we see frequently on the post service jury questionnaires is, 'This has been the most interesting experience of my life.'"

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge **John A. Des Jardins** employed a rarely used law to choose jurors off the street when the jury pool for a sexual assault trial fell short, reported *The Post-Crescent* (Appleton). Des Jardins stopped the proceeding and sent Officers **Chris Proietti** and **Greg Fischer** to find volunteers for the three-day trial.

Marathon County Courthouse employees are unhappy about a policy requiring employees to wear nametags containing their first names. Administrator **Mort McBain** started the program, which he said would improve customer service, reported the *Wausau Daily Herald*. Court Commissioner **Tammy Levit-Jones** said that operating on a first-name basis in the courtroom does not show an appropriate level of respect. But McBain disagreed and said service to the public has increased since the implementation. "We truly are public servants," McBain said.



Judge Jacqueline R. Erwin

The *Watertown Daily Times* reported on Judge **Jacqueline R. Erwin's** presentation on jury duty to 100 members of the American Association for Retired People at the Watertown Senior Center on April 9. She talked about the important role seniors can play in the court system.

Former Gov. **Tommy Thompson** appointed **Clifford LeCleur** in March to serve on the state Judicial Commission. LeCleur comes from La Crosse where he owns a real estate business. He and his wife own and manage 1,100 apartments in the Midwest. The commission has nine members; four (lawyers and judges) are appointed by the state Supreme Court and five (non-lawyers) are appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. The commission's task is to

enforce high standards of judicial behavior, both on and off the bench.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Chief Judge **James Evenson**, Sauk County Circuit Court, to the Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee, which provides informal ethics advice to judges. He told the *News Republic* (Baraboo) that he is honored to serve.

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge **Andrew P. Bissonnette** declared an ordinance that prohibits nude dancing unconstitutional, reported the *Watertown Daily Times*. The Juneau City Council passed the ordinance in July 2000. The controversy began when a local bowling alley changed into a strip club almost three years ago.

Judge **Robert E. Eaton**, Ashland County Circuit Court, received a Wisconsin Victim Witness Professional Award for making a difference in the lives of crime victims. Eaton joined others on April 26 in receiving the honor. Attorney General **James Doyle**, the keynote speaker, said Eaton "truly listens to victims, ensures that they understand the court procedures and that they feel involved in the case." Eaton said he considers this part of a judge's job. "I try to empathize with them, and I try to treat them as I would want to be treated if I were in their position."

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** was guest speaker at a celebration marking the reopening of the restored historic courthouse in Grant County. Abrahamson joined Grant County Circuit Court Judges **George S. Curry** and **Robert P. Van de Hey**; Richland County Circuit Court Judge **Edward E. Leineweber**; Grant County Board Chair **Eugene Bartels** and other county supervisors; Representative **Stephen Freese**; Reserve Judge **Peter G. Pappas**; and District Court Administrator **Steven R. Steadman** for the event.

Milwaukee County's 19-month-old, \$2 million effort to develop better responses to domestic violence appears to be working. When the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* sent reporter **David Doege** to sit in on a plea hearing in a domestic battery case in Court Commissioner **Glenn Yamahiro's** court, Doege reported that every facet of the case—from the no contest plea, to the counseling, to the follow-up—fell into place in a way that "would have been unheard of in Milwaukee until recently, and still is unheard of in most cities." Judicial Oversight Initiative Project Director **Carmen Pitre** said the creation of a corps of victim advocates has boosted victims' cooperation, and that better follow-up with defendants has helped to ensure that counseling is completed.

Judge **John W. Roethe**, Rock County Circuit Court, was the keynote speaker at the Edgerton Awards Banquet in May. He explained how police strike a balance between enforcing laws and protecting individuals' rights, and discussed types of searches that are legal, and types that are not.



District Court Administrator **Steven R. Steadman**, Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson**, Judge **George S. Curry**, Rep. **Stephen Freese** (R-Dodgeville), and Rep. **Gabe Loeffelholz** (R-Platteville), celebrate the Grant County Courthouse's restoration.

Chief Justice

Shirley S. Abrahamson

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Judicial Conference Agenda Set

The 2001 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference is set for October 24-26 at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan. Judge Kitty K.



Judge Kitty K. Brennan

Brennan, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, will chair the conference.

Pre-registration forms have been mailed to all who are eligible to attend, and should be returned to the Office of Judicial Education by Friday, September 28.

The conference will begin with the State of the Judiciary address by Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. The agenda also includes an interactive plenary session in which judges will be asked to use wireless voting technology to identify issues of primary concern to the courts. The results will help to set the court system's future planning and policy direction.

The conference will also feature a breakout

session on high profile trial management with Judge Mark S.

Gempeler, Waukesha County Circuit Court, who presided in the sexual assault trial of former Green Bay Packer Mark Chmura.

In addition, Judge Carl Ashley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, will conduct a session on hate crimes, and Judicial Commission Director James C. Alexander and Chief Judge Kathryn W. Foster will teach practical ethics. Classes on termination of parental rights under the Adoption and Safe Families Act; unified family court and mediation; case management tools and tips; and using the Internet for legal research will also be presented.

For more information, the Office of Judicial Education may be reached at (608) 266-7807; fax (608) 261-6650.



Judge Carl Ashley

Dishing out Fare and Impartial Justice *continued from page 2*

Desserts include Racine County Juvenile Clerk Rose Phyfer's Glazed Cream Cheese Pound Cake and Court Reporter Patricia L. Gillmore's (Dunn County Circuit Court) Danish Coffeecake.

Court Reporter Kelly Powers Johnson, who works for Judge Sarah B. O'Brien in Dane County Circuit

Court, is organizing the project. "It's the first cookbook we've ever done," she said, "and we've been very pleased with the level of interest." The cookbook will be printed in time for the WCRA fall convention in Door County and is expected to cost between \$12 and \$15.

The WCRA's primary mission is to promote the court reporting profession and proceeds will go into a general fund that may be used to fund student recruitment and scholarships.

To find out more or reserve a copy, contact Johnson at (608) 271-1852 or e-mail Kelly120958@aol.com or write to Johnson at 2910 McKenna Blvd., Madison, WI 53719.

The Third Branch

Wisconsin Supreme Court

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