

Muni View

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Coordinator's Corner

It looks like winter may truly be behind us at last! I hope you're all enjoying it as much as I am. This is my first spring on my 16 acre "ranch" and in spite of the seasonal mud I love it!

The annual **Municipal Court Questionnaire** is enclosed. Please take a minute to fill out this very important document and return it to our office by fax or mail by **June 30, 2006**. Last year, we added a question to this document which inquires about your special interests and any other information about yourself that you would like to share. Answers to this question help us find potential seminar faculty and/or group discussion and breakout leaders. So, if this type of involvement with Judicial Education interests you, please answer this question.

This is also the time of year when we update the **Municipal Court Directory**. The updated directory should be mailed by mid-July. Please notify us of any changes to your contact information that have occurred over the past year.

Enjoy the warm weather.
Summer's almost here . . .

Ron Wambach, Franklin Judge, Retiring After More Than Three Decades

At the end of April, Judge Ron Wambach will step down from the bench in the City of Franklin for the last time. Judge Wambach first took the bench in 1972 at the age of 26. During his 34 years as a municipal judge he has been a tremendous asset to all of Wisconsin's Municipal Judges. Judge Wambach has volunteered his time freely to both the Office of Judicial Education and to the Wisconsin Municipal Judge's Association. He is a past president of the Association and served as its secretary/treasurer for 16 years. Judge Wambach has graciously served this office in many capacities throughout the past 30 years, as a speaker at many seminars and as a long standing and invaluable member of the Municipal Judge Benchbook Committee.

Although we will miss having Judge Wambach as a municipal judge, we are thrilled that he intends to become a reserve judge, remain active in the Judge's Association, and, for the time being, remain on the Benchbook Committee.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE THROUGH THE YEARS, RON!

Spring 2006 Election Results

District I: **Frederic F. Klimetz** was elected in the City of Franklin replacing Judge **Ron Wambach** who retired after more than 30 years on the bench.

District IV: **Linda Will** was elected to the City of New Holstein replacing Judge James Bauer.

District V: **Randi Othrow** was elected to the City of McFarland replacing Judge Ann Marie Molitor. **Jody Morey** was elected in the Village of Mt. Horeb replacing Judge **Phil Chavez** who did not seek re-election. **Judge Chavez** was appointed as a Reserve Judge in District I.

District VIII: **Ron J. VanLanen** was elected to the Hobart-Lawrence joint Municipal Court replacing Judge Bruce Deadman who did not seek re-election.

District X: **Alfred Schrank** was elected in Glenwood City replacing Judge Kimberly Moe. **Monique Stertz** was elected in the City of Chetek replacing Judge **Merv Cox** who retired. **Sherry Gjonnes** was elected in the Village of Frederic replacing Judge **Jan Kelton** who did not seek re-election.

OATH OF OFFICE

Congratulations to all who were elected. Please remember that you must take your oath of office before you can take any official action during your new term. The oath, once taken, must be sent to the Clerk of Circuit Court and a copy should be sent to our office.

OTHER NEW JUDGES/NEW COURTS

District I: **Jodi Sanfillipo** was appointed in the Village of West Milwaukee on Nov. 1, 2005 to replace the late James A. Beaudry.

District II: **Jay Peterson** was appointed judge of the newly created Village of Walworth Municipal Court on Jan. 13, 2006.

District IV: **Catherine Delahunt** was appointed judge of the newly created Sheboygan & Kohler Joint Municipal Court on Feb. 20, 2006.

District V: **Jerald Canon** was appointed in the Village of Marshal on Dec. 13, 2005 to replace Tammy Tremain who resigned.

District VIII: **Tim Elliot** was appointed in the Village of Shiocton on Oct. 1, 2005. He replaced Donald Buchinger. **James Jueds** was appointed judge of the newly created Northern Waupaca County Joint Municipal court on March 14, 2006.

WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR
NEW JUDGES!

NEW LEGISLATION

2005 WI Act 317: Increased penalty for Absolute Sobriety Sec. 346.65(2q) – This legislation was just signed into law on April 10, 2006. It increases the forfeiture from **\$10 to \$200**. Please note that although this change will become effective after publication (publication date is unknown at this time), the bond book will not be amended to reflect this change until January 2007.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Set forth below is a list of recent legislative changes that impact municipal courts:

- 2005 WI Act 190 - Municipal Court Jurisdiction over juveniles 12 – 15 years of age, for traffic offenses
- 2005 WI Act 191 – Request for Jury Trial on Appeal from Municipal Court
- 2005 WI Act 192 – Noncompliance with a Municipal Court Order
- 2005 WI Act 116 – Municipal Adult Drug Paraphernalia Ordinances
- 2005 WI Act 54 – Increase in Municipal Court Costs
- 2005 WI Act 59 – Collection Procedures Affecting Courts

On March 30, 2006, we sent all courts a memorandum summarizing each of these pieces of legislation. Contact us if you have not received this memorandum or have any questions about the changes.



UPCOMING SEMINARS

ORIENTATION AND INSTITUTE

This year's Orientation & Institute Seminar will be held May 10, 11 & 12, 2006, at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake. All new judges are required to attend this seminar. Judges who were elected or appointed since 2003 and/or judges whose courts handle less than 2000 cases per year may attend the Institute. The purpose of the Institute is to provide a review of the basics of operating a municipal court. For this reason the agenda topics do not change from year to year.

SPECIAL TOPIC

The Special Topic Seminar will be held at the Radisson in LaCrosse. The tentative agenda includes presentations on the following topics: Domestic Violence Issues in Municipal Courts (including the impact domestic violence has on children), Independence of the Judiciary, Cultural Diversity, Ethics, New Laws/New Cases, General Networking session, Issuing an Opinion: Verbal or Written, Truancy and other Juvenile Issues, and Open Records/Juvenile Records. Announcements will be mailed to your court in the next few weeks.

OTHER SEMINARS

Other seminars for the current reporting period are:

Trial – September 14 & 15, Paper Valley, Appleton
Municipal Court Clerks'

Seminar – October 5 & 6, 2006, Radisson, Green Bay

Law & Humanities – November 9 & 10, 2006, Country Springs, Waukesha. Topic: *Separation of Powers and Judicial Independence*

Traffic – March 8 & 9, 2007, Grand Geneva, Lake Geneva

The Office of Judicial Education always welcomes your suggestions of topics for future educational seminars. The more input we receive from ALL judges the greater the likelihood that each seminar will provide you with information that is of the most interest and relevance to you as a sitting judge.



BENCHBOOK UPDATES

Each of you should have received the 2006 Benchbook updates within the last month. Included with this Newsletter are four additional updates:

- Page 8-A – Juvenile/Underage Sentencing in Municipal Court
- Page 14-A – Summons for Indigency/Good Cause Hearing

- Appendix 12 – 2006 Municipal Court Fee Schedule
- Appendix 19 – 2006 Municipal Court Fees/Costs
- Clerk Form bb

In order to keep your Benchbook current, please insert these pages in your Benchbook immediately.

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Happy Spring!

