

3	New Faces	10	Leadership
5	Milwaukee Leaders unveil Community Justice Council	10	Obituaries
6	Wisconsin Connects	11	Retirements
8	Awards	12	People
		16	Calumet County Domestic Violence Court

Court System awarded grant for Effective Justice Strategies

The New York City-based JEHT (Justice, Equality, Human Dignity and Tolerance) Foundation has awarded the Wisconsin Court System a \$573,000 grant over the next two and a half years to support research and development of the most promising strategies for improving the effectiveness of the state's criminal justice system.

"This grant will help all stakeholders in the criminal justice system work effectively together toward solutions that enhance public safety and, where appropriate, reduce excessive reliance on incarceration," said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson.

Specifically, the grant will help fund the project *Enhancing Public Safety: Effective Justice Strategies*, which is intended to build on local, evidence-based practices that deliver effective outcomes for communities, victims and defendants.

Examples of effective Justice Strategies initiatives include the formation of Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCC) and problem-solving courts. These efforts have helped address underlying issues, such as drug addiction, alcohol abuse, domestic violence and mental health problems. Many of these underlying issues come to light in the courtroom, and the public relies on the judiciary to play a leadership role, along with its justice system partners, in safely and effectively addressing these challenges.

Effective solutions depend on collaboration and cooperation among county boards, law enforcement, district

attorneys, public defenders, the bar, advocacy and treatment groups, the Department of Corrections and community leaders. The grant will help encourage collaboration by providing training, research, planning and support to partners in the criminal justice system. Funding will be disbursed only as outlined in the grant application, said Erin Slattengren, who administers the grant for Court Operations.

Widespread interest in effective justice strategies has been driven by growing fiscal concerns, incarceration rates, recidivism rates and other factors that reflect a need to employ new practices.

During the last 15 years, the state has experienced unprecedented growth in prison, jail and community corrections populations. The prison population has doubled over the past decade, from 11,000 prisoners to more than 23,000 prisoners and has tripled since 1990. The growth has had a significant impact on the costs, workload volume and overall operations of the criminal justice system across the state.

Objectives of the effective justice strategies effort include: enhancing public safety and reducing recidivism; providing courts with better information to deliver the most effective sentences; identifying and fostering support for local, court-centered programs; and recommending a comprehensive state-level strategy to promote and implement effective criminal justice strategies and evidence-based practices. ■

Courts welcome four new judges

Four new judges have been appointed to fill the terms of retiring judges, including one to the Court of Appeals and three to circuit court branches – one each in Dane, Rock and Taylor counties.

Neubauer sworn in as District II Court of Appeals' Judge

District II Court of Appeals' Judge Lisa Neubauer was sworn into office during a small ceremony in Racine on Jan. 7. Neubauer, who was appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle, replaces retiring Deputy Chief Judge Neal Nettesheim, who is now a reserve judge.



Judge Lisa Neubauer

"Lisa Neubauer will be an excellent judge," Doyle said in announcing her appointment. "Her legal experience and expertise, community involvement, and commitment to the community will serve her well in this position."

Neubauer, who was recently featured in a story in *The*

(Racine) Journal Times, was quoted as saying she held on to the dream that she would someday become a judge but didn't count on it becoming a reality.

"It was always there, that I would always love the opportunity. To get on the bench, the stars really do have to align," Neubauer was quoted as saying.

Neubauer, the first woman to serve on the District II Court of Appeals, credits her parents with instilling in her a strong commitment to public service. She will serve out a term ending July 31, 2008.

Neubauer served as an attorney at Foley & Lardner LLP since 1989 and was previously a law clerk for Judge Barbara B. Crabb in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. She received a B.A. in Political Science from UW-Madison and her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School with honors.

Neubauer is a former member of the Wisconsin Federal Judicial Nominating Commission and has been named a 2006 and 2007 Wisconsin Super Lawyer. She has served as a board member for the Racine Area United Way, Legal Action of Wisconsin, and the Equal Justice Fund. Lisa and Jeff live in Racine, where they raised their three children, Katherine, Greta and Sam.

see **New judges** on page 14



Winter
2008

Director's column: On the road with Chief Justice Abrahamson

I knew it was going to be a long, cold commute when the alarm went off at 5 a.m. January 24. It was below zero and only expected to get colder and snowier as I ventured off on a two-day, four-county tour with Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson.

Driving proved harrowing at times, but the trip was well worth it. It isn't often one gets the opportunity to learn so much from the people who make the justice system operate and from the Chief Justice herself. (She fired me in jest three times, but had no choice but to rehire me, or face a long walk home).

I also was fortunate enough to attend a retirement party for Tenth District Court Administrator Gregg Moore on his home turf, where it was clear how much his talent and friendship have been appreciated.



A. John Voelker

There was one definite theme that came through during the trip, whether discussing issues with the Chief in the car, talking to judges, court staff, lawyers, and law enforcement, or recognizing the contributions of valued staff: The justice system in this state has many very talented folks who are committed to serving the people of this state. I am very fortunate to be in a position to advocate for such a dedicated group of people, even if it means an occasional white-knuckle drive.



Photo by Patrick Brummond

Chief Justice Abrahamson and Director of State Courts A. John Voelker, center, visit with Trempealeau County Sheriff Richard Anderson, far left, Jackson County Sheriff Duane Waldera and Trempealeau County Circuit Court Judge John A. Amon, far right, on the set of Anderson's cable television access show in Whitehall.

The journey begins

Let me take you along for the ride to Jackson, Trempealeau, Eau Claire and Chippewa counties - stops 45, 46, 47 and 48, respectively on the Chief's 72-county tour of the state. We also visited with Ho-Chunk Nation judicial, executive and legislative leaders, who kindly invited us for a visit. The Chief visited the other 44 counties by herself.

Thursday, Jan. 24

6:20 a.m. After a quick pit stop for coffee, including a cup for the Chief, I arrive at her house. I was nervous that she may not be ready because she had an evening speech

see Director's column on page 9

Tribal clerk training explores CCAP, self-represented litigants

By Ann Zimmerman, State Pro Se Coordinator

Tribal court clerks from the Stockbridge Munsee, Lac Courte Oreilles, Forest County Potawatomi, and Oneida Indian Tribes in the state of Wisconsin gathered in Madison on November 9, 2007 to receive training on CCAP, WCCA, and providing assistance to self-represented litigants.

Frank Fischer, a Business Process Consultant with CCAP, provided training on Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) and how it helps the Wisconsin circuit courts, and also gave an interactive demonstration of Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA).

Ann Zimmerman, state *pro se* coordinator provided an overview on current court-based projects to assist self-represented litigants in Wisconsin, and presented materials developed for Wisconsin Court System staff in 2006 by policy analyst Marcia Vandercook on providing legal information to court users.

Training was coordinated by the State-Tribal Justice Forum, a committee made up of five circuit court judges, five tribal court judges, one district court administrator, a representative from the State Bar Indian Law Chapter and one representative from the Legislative Council's State-Tribal Relations Committee. The director of state courts is an ex-officio member, and Erin Slattengren, a special programs manager with the Director's Office staffs the committee. The committee's general charge is to promote and sustain communication, education, and cooperation among tribal and state court systems and to promote initiatives outlined in the final report of the 2005 Walking on Common Ground Conference (www.walkingoncommonground.org/web-content/WOCG_Report.pdf). ■

NEW FACES

Williams joins Court Operations staff

Jeanne Williams joined the Office of Court Operations as the Children's Court Improvement Program Training Coordinator on January 28. Williams has a master's degree in adult education from Penn State University and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa.

*Jeanne Williams
Children's Court Improvement
Program Training Coordinator*

She has worked in adult education for eleven years, including work at Penn State in continuing and distance education, and then cooperative extension. For the past six years, while working at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, she has been responsible for coordinating curriculum, distance education initiatives, and the design and development of professional development experiences for faculty and staff within the Wisconsin Technical College System. She worked in the office of Medical Mediation from 1994-95.

Jeanne lives in Evansville with her husband and two teenage sons.

Slattengren named special projects manager

Erin Slattengren accepted the newly created position of special projects manager in the Office of Court Operations, effective Feb. 4. While Slattengren is taking on different duties, she will continue her work with the Planning

and Policy Advisory (PPAC) Committee's Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee and the Assess, Inform, and Measure (AIM) pilot projects. Part of her new duties will include administration of the JEHT (Justice, Equality, Human dignity and Tolerance) Foundation grant.

She will continue to assist PPAC and its subcommittees until her replacement for the policy analyst position can be found. She'll also continue to manage the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) grant, which focuses



*Erin Slattengren
special projects manager*

on improving the processing of domestic violence cases under the Violence Against Women Act.

Slattengren joined the court system in May 2005.

Foster hired as program assistant

Sara Foster has been hired as program assistant to the Supreme Court and will provide administrative and publications support for the director's office and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Foster moved to the Madison area from Chicago in 2006. She now lives in McFarland, having worked most recently as a substitute teacher in several Madison suburbs.

Foster's also worked as a summer-school teacher for the Madison Metropolitan School District, an equipment-training facilitator for Starbucks Coffee in Chicago and as an account coordinator and assistant account executive at marketing companies.

Foster has a master's degree in teaching, elementary education, from Concordia University (River Forest, Ill.), and a bachelor's degree in literature and creative writing from Purchase College at State University of New York.



*Sara Foster
program assistant*

Johnson returns to Wisconsin, district court administrator post

Scott Johnson has returned to Wisconsin to serve as Tenth District court administrator after serving as deputy chief clerk in the federal court system in Iowa. Johnson started as sixth district court administrator in November of 1999 and transferred to the ninth district several years later. He has had three active military tours during his time while working as a DCA including service in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. Previously he has worked in the Oregon, Minnesota and North



*Scott Johnson
Tenth District court administrator*

Dakota court systems as trial court administrator, court administrator and deputy to the presiding judge. ■

Children's Court Initiative summary report available online

By Michelle Jensen-Goodwin and Bridget Bauman, Court Operations

The Children's Court Initiative (CCI) Summary Report, which compiles the data, findings, and best practices from the CCI on-site reviews conducted in 30 counties, was issued in January 2008.

CCI is a comprehensive county circuit court review process designed to strengthen court processing in child welfare and termination of parental rights cases. The project establishes safety, permanency, due process, and timeliness performance measures that are based on state and federal law, best practice principles outlined by the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, and areas evaluated in both the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Title IV-E review related to court practice.

The counties reviewed include: La Crosse, Pierce, Washington, Rock, Waukesha, Iowa, St. Croix, Dane, Sheboygan, Washburn, Burnett, Adams, Waupaca, Green, Barron, Marquette, Columbia, Milwaukee, Racine, Crawford, Jefferson, Shawano, Trempealeau, Clark, Brown, Manitowoc, Jackson, Rusk, Pepin and Buffalo.

The on-site reviews in these counties occurred between June 2005 and August 2007, during which time a total of 834 child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and 343 termination of parental rights (TPR) court files were reviewed; 260 hearings were observed; and over 300 focus group sessions were conducted. ■

The report can be found at:
wicourts.gov/about/organization/programs/ccip.htm#1

Questions about the CCI Summary Report may be directed to Bridget Bauman at (608) 267-1958 or bridget.bauman@wicourts.gov, or Michelle Jensen-Goodwin at (608) 266-1557 or michelle.jensen-goodwin@wicourts.gov.

Key Findings from CCI Summary Report

Strengths:

- Documenting "contrary to the welfare," "reasonable efforts to prevent removal" and "reasonable efforts to achieve the goals of the permanency plan" findings on written orders
- Providing parents with notice of hearings
- Giving priority to CHIPS and TPR cases, consistent with case-processing standards
- Filing orders in a timely manner and using standard circuit court forms

Needs Improvement:

- Guardian ad litem performance
- Complying with the Indian Child Welfare Act
- Sending notice of hearings to caregivers and participation in court
- Complying with statutory change of placement notice requirements
- Providing adversary counsel for children 12 and older in CHIPS cases
- Consistently making detailed, child-specific "contrary to the welfare", "reasonable efforts to prevent removal" and "reasonable efforts to achieve the goals of the permanency plan" findings orally on the record

Public Library Initiative spreads, gains national attention

By Ann Zimmerman, State Pro Se Coordinator

Apptly enough, the Third Judicial District is the third district in Wisconsin slated to hold workshops to acquaint public libraries with the latest law related resources available for assisting self-represented litigants.

On March 6th and April 8th, workshops will be held in Waukesha and Horicon, respectively. These workshops stem from a pilot project the Wisconsin Court System first unveiled in April 2007 in the Tenth Judicial District. Dubbed the "Public Library Initiative," it is designed to further assist people who are representing themselves in court proceedings. The project's goal is to foster communication between local courts and public libraries in an effort to better meet the legal information needs of self-represented litigants.

The success of this Wisconsin model is gaining attention

from other state courts and national library publications. In October 2007, Wisconsin's Public Library Initiative was featured in LibraryJournal.com (www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6488200.html?desc=topstory) and will be the subject of a feature article in an upcoming edition of *Public Libraries Magazine*, the official journal of the Public Library Association (www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/publiclibraries/publiclibraries.cfm).

This project is the latest in a series of steps the court system has taken to improve access to the courts for people who are representing themselves, and it is hoped that the program can be replicated around the state to reach as many public librarians as possible. In September 2007, the Ninth

see **Library** on page 13

Milwaukee leaders unveil Community Justice Council

by Beth Bishop Perringo, Deputy Court Administrator, District One

Milwaukee's Community Justice Council, under the chairmanship of Chief Judge Kitty K. Brennan, had its first public meeting on Jan. 23, 2008. The Council is composed of 27 members from all levels of government and a variety of agencies, legal groups and non-profits. The mission of the Council is "to efficiently and collaboratively coordinate services and to effectively allocate financial resources to ensure crime reduction, victim support, offender accountability and restorative community-based programs."

"The creation of the Community Justice Council provides us with a unique vehicle for change," said Chief Judge Kitty Brennan. "I am pleased with the cooperation and conviction of all members of the executive committee and their commitment to positive change in Milwaukee County."

The Executive Committee of the CJC has been meeting monthly for approximately seven months to develop the structure and mission of the Council. The idea for the formation of the CJC came from several different fronts. Some years ago then-Chief Judge Michael Skwierawski created a version of the Council that did not survive due to a variety of reasons. Then in the fall of 2006, Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. invited the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to Milwaukee County to conduct an assessment of the criminal corrections system. One of the recommendations the NIC made was to create a criminal justice coordinating council. The Milwaukee County Board then passed a resolution requiring the

establishment of a community criminal justice council, now called the Community Justice Council.

The Executive Committee is composed of Chief Judge Kitty K. Brennan, Chair, Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Inspector Kevin Carr, Milwaukee County Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., State of

Wisconsin First Assistant Public Defender Tom Reed and Benedict Center Executive Director Kit Murphy McNally.

The Council has six standing committees: Data Analysis and Housing, Jail and Huber, Programs and Interventions, Public Outreach and Education, Juvenile Justice and Public Health. Various issues of importance to the Milwaukee community will be discussed through several standing committees which will make recommendations to the Executive Committee. At the



Chief Judge Kitty K. Brennan addresses the first public meeting of Milwaukee's Community Justice Council on Jan. 23, 2008

January 23 meeting, the Council discussed the House of Correction plan to restructure the electronic monitoring program. This issue will be forwarded to the Jail and Huber Utilization standing committee for action.

Community groups, government agencies and other interested community members will be invited to join the Council for discussion on various issues affecting Milwaukee County's criminal justice system. ■

Legal Resource Center staff lifts spirits with gift bags

By Kate Roherty, Library Associate, Milwaukee Legal Resource Center

The Milwaukee Legal Resource Center staff, along with other courthouse employees, attorneys, family and friends, demonstrated support of cancer patients during the Christmas season.

On behalf of our co-worker and friend, Rebecca Knutson, who is currently receiving chemotherapy at the Oncology Alliance at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital, a gift bag was assembled for each patient who receives treatment at the clinic.

According to Rebecca: "Since being diagnosed last May, I have been receiving weekly chemotherapy treatments. I know how difficult and depressing the hours in the chemo chair can be, and the side effects and other complications of cancer can be devastating. But I am amazed every day at how incredibly kind people have been in offering me their help, support, prayers and love, and I am so grateful for their care and concern.

"Thankfully at this time I am still able to work and do

many of my regular activities but whenever there has been a need, someone has stepped forward. Many people have volunteered to come with me and support me during my weekly sessions. Kate Roherty came up with the idea of sharing this overwhelming kindness and generosity with other patients."

The project began as we brainstormed a way to try to have a positive impact on patients as they received treatment during the week of Christmas. Thinking there would be maybe 20 patients, we decided on a gift bag for each person containing items to help make the treatment a little easier.

After checking with the clinic we were shocked to learn that at least 60 people receive treatment for cancer at CSM each week. We were unsure how to proceed. Should we scale back the number of people who would get a bag, or give them something smaller?

Then people around us who knew about Rebecca's situation came forward and got involved by giving their

see **Gift bag** on page 6

WISCONSIN CONNECTS

White named to Milbank Memorial Fund Technical Board

Judge Maxine A. White has accepted an appointment to a three-year term as one of six members of the technical board of the Milbank Memorial Fund. She becomes the first member of the judiciary to be named to this board since its inception.

The Board of the Milbank Memorial Fund established the technical board in 1922 to provide it with general advice about its priorities and programs. Historically, its members have consisted of medical doctors and chief executives of major health organizations.

During her term on the technical board, Judge White will serve with an attending neurologist at a major health center, a former secretary of a state department of health and three chief executive officers and presidents of health organizations.

The Milbank Memorial Fund is an endowed operating foundation that works to improve health by helping inform decision makers in the public and private sectors. The Fund has engaged in nonpartisan analysis, study, research, and communication on significant issues in health policy.



Judge Maxine A. White

Gonzalez makes international presentations

Circuit Court Judge Ramona Gonzalez, La Crosse County, visited the Dominican Republic Oct. 11-12, 2007 to give a presentation at a conference on the Hague Convention on Child Abduction. The seminar was set up by the Dominican Central Authority on Children's Issues.

Audience members for the Spanish-



Judge Ramona Gonzalez

language program included judges, lawyers, police, journalists and representatives from other government groups and organizations.

On Dec. 20, Gonzalez participated in a one-hour digital video conference on the subject of combating domestic violence. Gonzalez made the video appearance on the program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs and the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the technological help of UW-La Crosse.

Voelker nominated for COSCA board

Director of State Courts A. John Voelker has been nominated to serve on the board of directors of the Conference of State Court Administrators, a national association.

Final selection of board members will be made this summer at the group's annual meeting, said Shelley Rockwell, COSCA association manager.

Nominees are selected based on a variety of factors, including diversity, geography, state population and length of service. Responsibilities of the board include policy development, program planning, project conceptualization and oversight.

Bradley teaches at International Judicial Academy

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley was invited to be a member of the faculty of the International Judicial Academy. Along with three federal court judges, she recently spoke at a seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The seminar, hosted by the Academy, focused on various issues relating to insurance law. ■



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley

Gift bag *continued from page 5*

time, talents or donations for the bags. Said State Law Librarian Jane Colwin: "It was such a great idea, I couldn't help but contribute."

Together we knew we could provide a bag for each patient and they would be as wonderful as we had imagined. Each bag contained candy, a Christmas ornament, gift card to Barnes & Noble or Schwartz Bookshops, homemade Christmas cookies and a holiday mug.

Each patient was given a bag as they checked in and they were able to enjoy the contents while receiving treatment. Rebecca's oncologist Dr. Scott Maul had this to say: "You would not believe what a difference this made for people. The fact that a person going through chemotherapy went to the effort of reaching out to others going through the same process meant a lot and touched many hearts."

Nurses and patients shared with us the impact that the bags had on people, saying how their demeanor brightened

and how amazed they were that people they had never met could do such a kind and generous thing for them at a time when it was badly needed.

Once we saw the impact the gift bags had on the patients we pledged to do it again next Christmas. We invite anyone who would like to be involved by giving their time, talents or donations of items or money to contact either Rebecca at Rebecca.knutson@wicourts.gov or Kate at Kate.roherty@wicourts.gov or by calling the Milwaukee Legal Resource Center at (414) 278-4322. We would sincerely like to thank everyone who contributed. We spent a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon putting the bags together. The results were powerful and moving to everyone who was involved. Thanks to all for making the project such a huge success. ■

Information from restraining order focus groups being compiled

by Danielle Basil Long, Policy Analyst, Director of State Courts Office

Court Operations staff members are compiling recommendations of two separate focus groups, which met last year to assess current restraining order practices in Wisconsin.

The focus groups were funded by a grant through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance under a project to assess needs and problem areas and identify potential corrective actions concerning domestic abuse restraining orders.

The first focus group was conducted in June 2007 with eleven clerks of court or their designees. Participants and their respective counties: Jim Smith, Milwaukee; Vicki Gilbertson, Dane; Sheila Reiff, Walworth; Diane Fremgen, Winnebago; Lora Walters, Marathon; Lisa Wilson, Brown; Pam Radtke, LaCrosse; Roselle Urness, Buffalo; Cindy Kimmons and Dawn Dunbar from Lincoln; and Jane Putskey, Waushara.

The second focus group was conducted in October 2007 with nine judges and court commissioners. Participants and their respective county or municipality: Judge Michael J. Rosborough, Vernon County; Judge Faye M. Flancher, Racine; Judge Douglas T. Fox, Price; Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix; Commissioner David Reddy, Walworth; Commissioner Marjorie Schuett, Madison; Commissioner Sandy Grady, Milwaukee; Commissioner Dolores Bomrad, Washington; and Commissioner Dan Bissett, Winnebago. Both focus groups were facilitated by Mary Crave from the University of Wisconsin - Extension.

Also in attendance: District II Court Administrator Kerry Connelly and Danielle Long, Sara Ward and Erin Slattengren

from the Office of Court Operations.

Overall, focus group results demonstrate that current practices and access to restraining orders in Wisconsin are quite good. While there is certainly room for improvement, respondents were mostly positive about the status quo. Promising practices were shared among participants and they were charged with making recommendations for improvements. Although practices vary significantly across counties, participants agreed on many areas where system improvements could be made statewide.

Some of the clerk recommendations include:

- using a decision or filing tree to help petitioners (at the time of filing a TRO) determine the most appropriate remedy for their situation,
- sharing ideas and best practices statewide,
- providing training for all parties (clerks, judges, sheriffs, court commissioners) on both the processing of TROs and domestic abuse sensitivity.

Judge and commissioner recommendations include:

- having a consistent agency or person (preferably an advocate or volunteer lawyer) onsite at every courthouse to assist petitioners with the process
- having someone within the system (preferably the clerk) verify proof of service of the temporary restraining order rather than relying on the petitioner to do so, and create a best practices protocol to be used statewide.

Focus group findings will be compiled into a report which will include participant recommendations for improvements. ■

Wisconsin set to join Wildlife Violator Compact

By Nancy Rottier, Legislative Liaison

On April 1, 2008, Wisconsin will become the 28th state to join the Wildlife Violator Compact (the Compact). The Legislature authorized Wisconsin to join the Compact in 2005 Wisconsin Act 282; the provisions of the compact can be found at s. 29.03, Wis. Stats. All the states surrounding Wisconsin are already members of the Compact.

Compact member states must agree to recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of any person whose license privileges have been suspended by a participating state. The suspension must be treated as if it had occurred in the home state. In addition, each member state must allow a violator to accept a wildlife citation and to proceed on his or her way without delay, regardless of residency, if the violator's home state is party to the compact.

Before joining the compact, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed administrative rules to assure due process is afforded to individuals subject to administrative suspensions in this state or who are suspended in a member state.

DNR staff had extensive discussions with staff from the Office of Court Operations and Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) and with several clerks of court to simplify the administrative rules and the procedures required of the court system by the compact. Consultations have continued with the DNR and with the recently-hired Wildlife Violator Compact Administrator.

The Records Management Committee is developing a new form for implementing the Wildlife Violator Compact, as well as a new form to be used for court suspensions or revocation of wildlife licenses permitted under ch. 29, Wis. Stats. The procedures and the forms will be very similar to the current ones used to notify the Department of Transportation of the suspension or revocation of a driver's license. CCAP staff is also making appropriate programming changes for the new procedures. The forms and procedures will most likely be implemented in June 2008. Watch for bulletins from the Director's office explaining the forms and procedures. ■

AWARDS

Nettesheim, Fleishauer honored with jurist awards

The State Bar of Wisconsin Bench and Bar Committee has selected two Wisconsin judges for the exceptional contributions they have made to their communities and the justice system over the years.

Judge Neal P. Nettesheim, who recently retired from the District II Court of Appeals, will receive the bar association's "Lifetime Jurist Achievement" award; Judge Frederic W. Fleishauer, Portage County Circuit Court, will receive the "Judge of the Year" award at the State Bar of Wisconsin's Annual Convention in May.

The Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award recognizes a jurist who has served more than one full term as a circuit court judge and who has demonstrated outstanding, long-term judicial service during his or her years as a sitting judge.

The Judge of the Year Award honors an outstanding circuit court trial judge who has exceeded the call of judicial office and who has improved the judicial system in some fashion during the past year.

Judge Nettesheim, who was Wisconsin's second-longest sitting judge at the time of his retirement last year, was in private practice from 1966 to 1975, when he became a Waukesha County judge. He served as a Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge from 1978 to 1983, when he joined the District II Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge from 1990 to 93. He was praised by William J. Domina, Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel, as a jurist who defended both "the rule of law and the rule of common sense" and as the embodiment of "fairness, scholarship and excellent judicial temperament."

In addition to serving on the bench, Judge Nettesheim has played an exceptionally active role in promoting judicial education and excellence. He served on the state's Judicial Education Committee, which oversees continuing education

programs for judges and was Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, which provides orientation and training for newly elected or appointed judges and a refresher for sitting judges, from 1987 to 1993. Judge Nettesheim is also active in the State Bar, where he has served on the Mentor Council and the Bench Bar Committee, which studies the organization, operation and general administration of Wisconsin courts, including practice and procedure issues.

Judge Fleishauer, who has served on the bench since 1981, was praised by his peers as a model of integrity, patience and respect in all of his contacts with attorneys, other county personnel and persons appearing in his courtroom. Katherine Munck, Executive Director of Justiceworks, Ltd. of Portage County, which promotes the principles of restorative justice, noted that Judge Fleishauer has "expended an enormous amount of personal time and effort in forwarding initiatives to improve the justice system and to involve the community in that endeavor." Munck said Fleishauer worked collaboratively with stakeholders in Stevens Point and Portage County to build community awareness of the justice system and to promote restorative justice.

Judge Fleishauer is widely recognized for the efficiency and professionalism of his courtroom. Past recipients of the Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award include the Hon. Edward R. Brunner, Lee E. Wells, Peter G. Pappas, Patrick T. Sheedy, Mark J. Farnum, P. Charles Jones, Edwin C. Dahlberg and Myron L. Gordon.

Past recipients of the Judge of the Year Award include Kitty K. Brennan, Mark S. Gempeler, John J. Perlich, Gerald C. Nichol and Maxine A. White. ■



Judge Neal P. Nettesheim



Judge Frederic W. Fleishauer

Director's awards announced

Director of State Courts A. John Voelker has announced the winners of the 2007 Director's Recognition Awards:

Kevin Grittner, Randy Peterson, Shannon Spranger Bill Severson and John Hutchins, Consolidated Court Automation Programs. Director Jean Bousquet nominated this group based on its role in the CCAP Database Team's successful work in migrating all CCAP circuit court databases from Sybase to PostGres. The team's efforts and individual performance in this large-scale project were keys to the success of this crucial initiative. Grittner, Peterson, Severson and Hutchins are database administrators; Springer is a senior technical support engineer.

Erin Slattengren, policy analyst, Court Operations (now special projects manager).

Sheryl Gervasi, court operations director, along with the Policy and Planning Advisory Committee (PPAC) Planning Committee, Hon. Carl Ashley and Hon. William

McMonigal, nominated Slattengren for this award based on her work with PPAC and the Office of Court Operations. Slattengren's contributions in the management of grant funds such as the STOP and JEHT grants have been critical to the success of this expanding area of court operations. Slattengren's work in staffing PPAC with dedication and enthusiasm has resulted in renewed vitality for ongoing initiatives and the successful beginning of new court system programs and projects.

Mary Hoeft Smith, trust account program administrator, Office of Lawyer Regulation.

Keith Sellen nominated Mary Hoeft Smith for this award based on her work with the revisions of the trust account rules that will substantially improve the professional practice of law and protection of funds of clients and other persons. Hoeft Smith's work was critical to the Supreme Court's adoption of the Trust Account Petition. ■

Director's column *continued from page 2*

the night before in Milwaukee and would have arrived home quite late. My fear soon subsided, however, as the Chief quickly appeared from her house, suitcase in tow.

8:45 a.m. We arrive in Black River Falls, and I notice the bank temperature sign reads minus 18. It felt bitter cold, but that didn't deter a number of people from the media, law enforcement, the local bar, court staff, and county government from gathering in the courtroom for a discussion about the justice system.

It was a great opportunity to hear about the challenges facing the system, as well as the creative responses that have developed. We discussed videoconferencing, inmate classification and funding for district attorneys.

We covered a lot of topics quickly before Seventh District Court Administrator Pat Brummond let us know we needed to move on in order to stay on schedule. Before we left, Jackson County board chairman, Steve Dickinsen, who once advocated closing down the courts to save money, commended the Chief Justice for her leadership in identifying new approaches to address the funding issues facing the courts at the local level. It was a perfect time to move on – leaving on a high note, of which there were many during our tour.

11:30 a.m. We pull into the parking lot of the relatively new Wa Ehi Hoci, or court facility of the Ho-Chunk Nation. It was amazing to see the progress the tribal court has made over the years. A court system that once operated out of a trailer is now housed in a very well-designed and attractive courthouse. A tour led by Ho-Chunk Trial Judge Todd Matha wrapped up with a stop in the room that houses the nation's traditional court – a wood paneled room with an impressive round fire pit in the center provided a glimpse of the importance tradition can play in the Ho-Chunk nation.

Tradition continued to be evident as we were invited as guests of the tribe at a luncheon that included traditional drumming and singing. All of the hospitality put us a bit behind schedule...

1:00 p.m. We arrive in Whitehall at the Alternative Grounds restaurant for another luncheon (no we didn't eat again) visit with leaders of the justice system, county board Chair Barb Semb and Rep. Barbara Gronemus, D-Whitehall. We talked about the county's drug court, teen court and criminal justice coordinating council.

Our next stop in Whitehall was unique – an appearance on Trempealeau County Sheriff Richard Anderson's regularly scheduled cable-access TV show. Initially, I thought a 30-minute show sounded long, but it went very quickly, and he asked some great questions. After recognizing a number of volunteers within the court system at an awards ceremony at the courthouse, it was off to Eau Claire.

6:15 p.m. We arrive in Eau Claire, and after a few minutes of unpacking at the hotel, the Tenth District's unofficial welcoming committee – Chief Judge Benjamin D. Proctor and district court administrator Gregg Moore, picked us up for dinner. Gregg even got his car washed for the occasion. It was a great evening at a nice restaurant

filled with good conversation.

Friday, January 25

8:30 a.m. After meeting with the Eau Claire County Circuit Court judges to assess the state of the judiciary in the county, the Chief Justice and I toured the courthouse. We met many of the hard-working members of the clerk of circuit court staff, who are the public face of the system. We then met with a series of individuals in a reception, where we addressed issues ranging from judicial need in Eau Claire to the rationale behind recent Supreme Court decisions.

11:45 a.m. At the conclusion of a brief interview with a local television station, Judge Proctor, the Chief Justice and I met with the editorial board of the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram. Because Eau Claire County has a number of innovative programs, the discussion focused on the many good things that are happening in the community and briefly on public financing for Supreme Court races. With a sandwich in one hand, steering wheel in the other, the Chief read directions as we headed for Chippewa County...

1:15 p.m. We arrive in Chippewa County, meeting first with the judges and the publisher and a reporter from the Chippewa Herald. The Chief then "held court" in one of the branches, fielding a variety of questions from individuals in the crowded courtroom. In order for her staff to meet the Chief (what am I, chopped liver?), the clerk of circuit court mentioned it was the first time she closed her office during business hours.

4:45 p.m. With the navigation system on, we head out to find the party – Gregg Moore's retirement party that is. Unfortunately, the snow had started to fall, and that wasn't a good sign for the ride back to Madison. With the banquet room very full, Gregg was honored for his significant contributions to the court system during his 24 years of service. The program was a proper send off for Gregg, and it allowed me to tell a few stories about Gregg that not many people were aware of. I won't go into sordid details here...

7:45 p.m. We brush off the car, hoping for better weather as we head south. To my chagrin, neither the weather nor the roads improved. We passed through some snow and then some freezing drizzle. It seems that all the salt trucks were on the other side of the interstate. Despite the weather, many drivers don't reduce their speed, and we see more than a dozen cars in the median. I don't know if the Chief Justice was tired or afraid to watch me drive, but she did close her eyes on a few occasions during the trip home.

Midnight I drop the Chief off at home.

12:15 a.m. I pull into my driveway, happy to make it home safely from a very productive trip.

Saturday, January 26

6:00 a.m. The Chief prepared to leave for the Conference of Chief Justices while I slept. ■

OBITUARIES



Judge Ronald S. Brooks
(Ronald S. Goldberger)

Ronald S. Brooks (Ronald S. Goldberger)

Judge Ronald S. Brooks, who was known as Ronald S. Goldberger before changing his name in 1999, died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008 in Florida. He was 64. Brooks sat on the bench in Milwaukee County Circuit Court from 1988 to 2000. He retired at age 56.

Judge Robert C. Jenkins Portage County and Portage County Circuit Court Judge

Judge Robert Curtis Jenkins, who served both as a county and circuit court judge in Portage County, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008 after a brief illness at St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. He was 85.

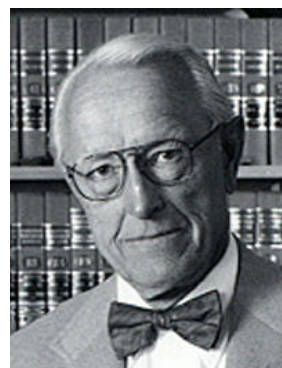
Jenkins attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he majored in accounting before his college education was interrupted by enlistment in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, Jenkins earned a law degree from the UW Law School and returned to Stevens Point, where he entered practice with his father.

Jenkins was a highly respected and active attorney. He was a Justice of the Peace, served three terms as Portage County

District attorney and was a member and past president of the Portage County Bar Association. He also served on the economics committee of the State Bar of Wisconsin. He was chairman of the Portage County Republican Party for many years. On the recommendation of the county bar association, Jenkins was appointed County Judge by then-Gov. Warren Knowles in 1969. Jenkins served first as county judge and later circuit court judge until his retirement in 1988. He continued to serve as reserve judge until 2000.

Jenkins served two terms as a city alderman and was a member of the town of Hull Board. He was a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club, Izaak Walton League, Portage County Taxpayers Association, Jaycees and Serra Club. He was chairman of the UW Alumni Association and of the first parish council at St. Peter Catholic Church. He was a member of the St. Michael's Hospital Board, Portage County Red Cross, American Legion Post 6 and Chamber of Commerce Board.

Surviving Jenkins is his wife of 64 years, Betty June; a daughter, Elizabeth Susan Goetting (Chandler), Amherst; a son, William Frost Jenkins (Teri), Stevens Point; a son, Jason Jenkins, Seattle; a daughter, Holly Jenkins, California; and two grandchildren, William Frost Jenkins II and Jillian Page Jenkins both of Stevens Point. ■



Judge Robert C. Jenkins

LEADERSHIP

Jefferson County Courts launch new case-assignment system

Last year, the Jefferson County Circuit Court launched a new system for case assignments. At the six-month mark, the new system had moved the county up significantly in statewide rankings in the median age at disposition measurement in case processing, according to Jefferson County Circuit Court Presiding Judge Randy R. Koschnick. The main objectives of the new system are to make better use of tax money, improve the level of service to the public and enhance public safety.



Jefferson County Circuit
Court Judge Randy R.
Koschnick

Under the new system, individual branches specialize in specific areas. The four branches are assigned to the following two-year rotations: criminal/traffic (two branches); civil/family (one branch); and juvenile/probate/general (one branch). Two full-time court commissioners assist by

handling family cases, small claims cases, injunction hearings and criminal intake. This case assignment plan has

allowed for more efficient scheduling and the ability to process cases in a more timely manner. Court-related offices and agencies, such as the District Attorney, Public Defender and Human Services also benefit by the increased efficiencies which come along with specialized court assignments in that they are required to assign personnel to fewer branches on an ongoing basis. Public safety is enhanced as criminal cases are given scheduling priority and are thereby resolved promptly.

The new system was implemented without the need to hire additional personnel, so there is no additional cost to the taxpayers, Koschnick said. Due to some personnel changes within the new system, the county actually saved over \$12,000 in personnel costs in 2007 and expects to realize ongoing annual savings of similar amounts, Koschnick said.

A key component of the new system is the use of video conferencing. The probate court branch was equipped with a new video conference system in early 2007 as part of the court reorganization plan. As a result, mental commitment patients receiving care at the Winnebago and Mendota

see **Jefferson county** on page 16

RETIREMENTS

Judge Naze announces retirement

After 20 years on the bench, Brown County Circuit Court Judge Peter J. Naze will retire March 21.

"I've been thinking about it and concluded it's time," Naze told the *Green Bay Press Gazette* in a story that appeared Jan. 4. "I'm going to miss the work, and I'm going to miss the people... but it's time to move on."

Naze said he'll travel more and further pursue his interest in bicycling during retirement. He also hopes to work as a reserve judge and handle mediation cases. Among things Naze said he has enjoyed the most over the years is bringing students into the courtroom.

He recalls receiving many thank-you notes from such visits over the years – one said he did a better job than Judge Judy; another young girl suggested she'd date him if she were a grandmother.

The newspaper outlined some of the more prominent cases handled by Naze over the years, including the John Maloney homicide trial in 1999. ... "Maloney, a former Green Bay police arson investigator, was convicted of killing his wife, Sandy, and burned her house and body to cover up the crime." Appeals are still pending, reporter Andy Nelesen wrote.



Judge Peter J. Naze

her life and to being a grandma to 8-month-old grandson Luke. She started working in January 1969 at the age of 23, in the Veterans service office with Leroy Harmon until September 1973. From there, she worked part time, then full time in the register in probate office.

"I have really enjoyed working with the people of Burnett County," Richard said. "The best part of my job was having such variety (of things to do). I never knew what the day would bring. Working with three judges (Gunderson, Taylor and Gableman) was very good, and the job would not have been half as enjoyable without these three judges," Richard told the newspaper.



A plaque signed by Benjamin D. Proctor, chief judge of the Wisconsin 10th Judicial District; Scott R. Needham, deputy chief; and Gregg Moore, district court administrator for the past 24 years, was presented by Moore to Dorothy Richard at the retirement party given for her Friday, Jan. 4, in the courtroom of the Burnett County Government Center.



Photo by: Brian Moore

Retiring Tenth District Court Administrator Gregg Moore poses with Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson at a retirement party in Madison. Moore also was honored at retirement party in Chippewa Falls. Abrahamson jokingly accused Moore of being a "quitter," despite 24 years of service to the Wisconsin Court System.

Three Registers in Probate retire

Three Registers in Probate from northern Wisconsin counties are retiring after many years of service: Dorothy Richard, Burnett County; Diane Erickson, Iron County; and Rosalind Wilhelm, Ashland County. Richard served 39 years in several capacities; Erickson, 14 years; and Wilhelm eight years.

Richard was featured in the *Inter-County Leader* newspaper, which reported more than 80 people



Photo by: Ericka Nelson

The 10th district RIPs in attendance at the Tenth Judicial District meeting in October at the Barron County Justice Center surprised Gregg Moore and Dorothy Richard with a cake.

gathered for a retirement party on Jan. 4 in Siren.

Tenth District Court Administrator Gregg Moore, who made a presentation, called Richard a great resource and mentor for new registers in probate. Richard was always on the lookout for ways to save taxpayers' money, Moore was quoted as saying.

Retired Burnett County Circuit Court Judge James Taylor said Richard's reputation was built on the way she did her job - with compassion and empathy, according to the newspaper.

Richard said that she is looking forward to the next part of

Dodge County bids farewell to Judge Klossner

Dodge County Circuit Court Judge Daniel W. Klossner, who was first elected in 1984, and who has been elected three times since then, retired February 12. Klossner was a court commissioner in Dodge County prior

to his election as judge. He is also former chair of the Board of Bar Examiners. ■



In honor of his last two days serving the citizens of Dodge County, Judge Daniel Klossner thanked the ladies at the Justice Facility with corsages. Judge Klossner is retiring on February 12, 2008 after 23 years on the Bench.

PEOPLE

On Dec. 10, 2007, the **Wisconsin Supreme Court** made headlines statewide in announcing its unanimous support for realistic, meaningful public campaign financing for Supreme Court races.

“Public financing of Supreme Court campaigns is a timely and vital subject, important to the maintenance of a fair, neutral, impartial, non-partisan judiciary in Wisconsin. We commend the legislature and governor for considering this issue,” members of the Court wrote to legislators and Gov.

Jim Doyle.

The letter did not endorse any particular bill or proposal, nor address financing for any other races.

“A cornerstone of our state is that the judiciary is fair, neutral, impartial, and non-partisan. The risk inherent in any non-publicly funded judicial election for this Court is that the public may inaccurately perceive a justice as beholden to individuals or groups that contribute to his or her campaign. Judges must not only be fair, neutral, impartial and non-partisan but also should be so perceived by the public,” the letter stated.

“For the first time since the early 1980s, two judges - one state and one tribal - sat side by side on the judicial bench... to hear a civil case in **Sawyer County Circuit Court**,” the



In the media room at the Walworth County Judicial Center, a team from WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee prepares to do a remote broadcast on the Mark Jensen murder trial. Scott Keske, left is the broadcast engineer while Michael lammi, right is the cameraman and Heather Shannon does the reporting. Photo by: Terry Mayer/Special to the Janesville Gazette

As reported statewide, January 8 brought tornadoes to southern Wisconsin. The strange winter weather forced an emergency evacuation of the upper floors of the Walworth County Courthouse – right in the middle of the high-profile Mark Jensen murder trial that had been moved to Elkhorn from Kenosha. Kenosha County Judge **Bruce E. Schroeder** told the *Elkhorn Independent* that he was happy to interrupt the trial rather than chancing a tornado strike during testimony – although he admitted having ridden out tornado warnings in the past. “Years ago, there was a tornado warning (in Kenosha) and I had the jurors stay in the courtroom,” the judge was quoted as saying. “But that’s an old masonry building from 1923.”

Sawyer County Record newspaper reported on Nov. 14, 2007.

Judge **Norman L. Yackel**, Sawyer County Circuit Court, and **James Mohr**, Lac Courte Oreilles tribal judge, listened to attorneys representing parties seeking to modify child-custody placement at a Nov. 6. The hearing was held, in part, to determine placement and whether that decision would be in tribal court or the county circuit court, the *County Record* reported.

In 2001, Sawyer County and the Lac Courte Oreilles signed onto a protocol to help resolve questions about where a case in dispute should be heard.

“Although the judges have had a number of discussions and transferred cases between their respective courts, this was the first situation requiring an on-the-record hearing,” *County Record* news editor **Terrell Boettcher** reported.

Board of Bar Examiners Director **John Kosobucki** and his wife, **Noelle**, celebrated the birth of their first child, **Lara Elizabeth Kosobucki** at 12:27 a.m. on January 2.

Court Information Officer **Amanda Todd** and her husband, **Jim Beal**, celebrated the birth of their third boy, **Joseph Scott Beal** on Feb. 7 in Madison.

The Chronotype newspaper in Rice Lake touted the benefits of Barron County’s restorative justice program in an editorial on Feb. 6. Since introducing the program 10 years ago, director **Polly Wolner**, her staff and volunteers have had a positive effect on the entire community. A new study by **Eric Kapser**, assistant professor of political science at UW-Barron County seems to support these claims. The study shows a strong correlation between the restorative justice program and a decrease in the number of juvenile crimes in the county, according to the newspaper.

The program focuses on the harm that is caused by criminal behavior through educating offenders on the consequences of their actions and allowing victims to take a more active role in the justice system. Programs like victim-offender conferencing, teen court, truancy intervention, victim impact panels and Prime for Life have been established in the county’s courts, law enforcement agencies and schools. The success of the program has led to additional state and federal funding, as well as interest from other counties hoping to create similar programs.

The Governor’s Commission on Reducing Racial Disparities in the Wisconsin Judicial System made headlines when it released its report in early February. The report, which recommended changes in the system to promote fairness, calls the gaps in incarceration rates “a genuine crisis for the country and the state of Wisconsin. It is not merely a problem of appearance; it is a calamity that builds on itself. The criminal justice system has to own its part of the problem, even though it cannot solve all aspects of the problem.”

One of the areas the report focused on was disparity in

First District unification effort makes headway

By Beth Bishop Perrigo, Deputy Court Administrator, District One, and D. Michael Baier Jr., court information intern

The First Judicial District has launched a unification initiative to improve the resolution of cases involving children and families.

Chief Judge Kitty Brennan announced a Unification initiative for the First District Children's and Family Court in 2006 and created a Unification committee, consisting of: Judge Maxine A. White, Presiding Judge of the Family Division; Judge Mary Triggiano, Presiding Judge of the Children's Division; Judge Karen Christenson; Mike Bruch, Family Court Commissioner; Beth Bishop Perrigo, Deputy District Court Administrator; Liz Finn Gorski, Children's Court Coordinator; Janet Nelson, Lead Attorney Child Support Enforcement; and Susan Medina, Paralegal.

The mission of the Family and Children's Unification Project is to provide children and families with a more accessible way of resolving Family and Children's Court matters through the combined and coordinated efforts of Children's Court, Family Court and other adjunct agencies that provide services to children and families. The project's goal is to get all of one family's cases in front of one judge or a team of judges to avoid inconveniences and costs to families and the taxpayers and increase the wisdom of judicial decisions and resources available to families.

In launching its initiative, Milwaukee joins a number of other counties with unified family courts, including Kenosha and La Crosse.

The Milwaukee effort had the early assistance of Judge Susan Carbon of New Hampshire, who met with the Chief Judge, presiding judges from Children's and Family Court and Deputy DCA Perrigo to describe the successful Unification efforts in her state. In addition, Judges White and Triggiano attended the American Bar Association Summit on Unified Courts in Baltimore, Maryland, along with Judge John Albert and the Dane County team. Information gathered from these events was shared with the committee to develop the First Judicial District Family and Children's Court Unification Project goals:

- analyze cases involving both the Children's and Family Divisions for the purpose of sharing case specific

information;

- improve the quality of judicial decision-making in Children's and Family Court by assigning appropriate cases to the initiative;

- provide specialized training and continuing education to Family Court and Children's Court judges and staff in the areas of substantive family and juvenile law, case management, cultural competency, family dynamics, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health, child welfare, child development and domestic violence;

- reduce the adversarial nature of the legal process through the use of alternative dispute resolution, when appropriate;

- eliminate duplicative hearings;

- improve the case management of Family and Children's Courts cases in the initiative;

- increase the use and availability of community and court resources;

- provide better protection to victims of abuse and neglect and prevent future harm;

- improve access to the courts;

- improve and expand the use of technology in the courts; and

- provide professional and courteous service to all persons involved in the initiative.

A significant challenge to Milwaukee's successful unified court is the physical distance between the Family courts in downtown Milwaukee and the Children's Court Center six miles west of downtown. To initially address this issue, the Chief Judge created the Family/Children's Unification Paralegal position held by Susan Medina. In this position, Medina is responsible for cross referencing all new case filings at Children's Court in Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) to determine if there are any corresponding Paternity/Family court cases. She then completes a Children's/Family Court Unification Form and sends it to all corresponding courts. The form details all pertinent information related to all court cases. The Family and Children's court judges are now communicating with each other to improve the processing of a family's cases.

see **First district** on page 15

Library *continued from page 4*

Judicial District replicated the program.

Implemented at the judicial district level, the program is coordinated in a partnership arrangement with the district, State Law Librarian Jane Colwin, and State *Pro Se* Coordinator Ann Zimmerman. A library system within the given judicial district typically co-sponsors and hosts the program, which is aimed at informing public library staff about the various court-related services and information currently available to assist self-represented litigants. The presentation typically lasts 3.5 to 4.5 hours. An optional afternoon program presented by Jane Colwin, who provides an overview of Wisconsin's legal framework, is often elected by the attending librarians. Featured speakers usually include:

- The district chief judge;
- Jane Colwin, state law librarian;

- The judicial district court administrator;

- Any *pro se* coordinators within the District;

- A local register in probate;

- A local clerk of circuit court; and

- Ann Zimmerman, Wisconsin Court System's state *pro se* coordinator.

In addition to these group presentations, the project has a second component in which local Registers in Probate and Clerks of Circuit Court make personal follow-up visits to each public library in their respective counties in order to foster personal working relationships and to provide further information related to available circuit court resources. For further information, contact Ann Zimmerman at Ann.Zimmerman@wicourts.gov. ■

New judges *continued from page 1***Knox-Bauer sworn in Taylor County***Judge Ann Knox-Bauer*

Judge Ann Knox-Bauer was sworn in as Taylor County Circuit Court judge on Jan. 3. She was appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gary L. Carlson. She will begin serving in late January for a term ending July 31, 2009.

"Ann is a respected lawyer in the Taylor County community," Doyle said.

"Her dedication to the people of Wisconsin and to justice will make her an asset on the bench. She brings great experience and leadership, and I know she will serve well in this judgeship," Doyle added.

Knox-Bauer said she felt privileged to serve the people of Taylor County and to continue the legacy established by Judge Gary L. Carlson during the past 28 years.

"I am looking forward to fulfilling my duties as Circuit Court Judge with integrity, civility and enthusiasm," Knox-Bauer said in the announcement.

Ann Knox-Bauer has served as an attorney at Salm & Knox-Bauer since 1991. She has served as a Taylor County Court Commissioner since 1999 and as Taylor County Family Court Commissioner since 2006. Knox-Bauer received her bachelor's degree from the UW-Eau Claire and her law degree from Hamline University School of Law in 1991. Knox-Bauer is a member of the Kiwanis, has volunteered for the Chippewa Fire District, and has formerly served as a Mock Trial judge. She and her husband, John, live in Medford with their two children, Joseph and Amanda.

Forbeck appointed in Rock County

Gov. Jim Doyle has appointed Kenneth Forbeck to the Rock County Circuit Court, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge John W. Roethe.

Doyle said Forbeck brings a wealth of legal expertise and experience to the bench and that he will serve the people of Rock County well.

*Judge Kenneth Forbeck*

Forbeck said the appointment is a privilege and an honor.

"I intend to undertake this responsibility and to serve the citizens of Rock County with the fairness, the integrity and the compassion required of the position," Forbeck said.

Forbeck has served as an attorney at Forbeck, Elliott & Monahan for the past 34 years and previously worked in the Rock County District Attorney's Office. He received his bachelor's degree from Marquette University and subsequently his law degree from Marquette University Law School in 1970. Forbeck is active in the Stateline Boys and Girls Club, the Roy Chapman Andrews Society, Beloit 2020 and serves as Vice President of the Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Beloit.

Colas appointed to Dane County Circuit Court

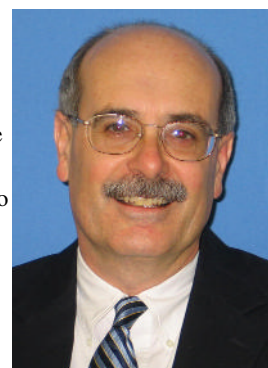
Gov. Jim Doyle announced the appointment of Juan B. Colas to the Dane County Circuit Court to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Angela B. Bartell. Colas was scheduled to be sworn in on Feb. 22 for a term ending July 31, 2009.

"Juan Colas possesses the legal knowledge, integrity, and temperament that is required of Circuit Court judges," Doyle said. "He is a well-respected member of his community and will make an excellent addition to the court."

Juan Colas has served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice since 1992. He also served as legal counsel for Gov. Tony Earl and in the Office of the State Public Defender.

"I am grateful to Governor Doyle for entrusting me with this charge," Colas said. "I am eager to serve the people of Dane County and the State of Wisconsin in this new capacity."

Colas received his bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and his law degree from the UW Law School. Colas has been an attorney since 1981. He is a member of the Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association, volunteers as an ESL teacher at the Literacy Network of Dane County and formerly served as a Mock Trial judge and as an instructor in the UW Law School Lawyering Skills Course. Colas was born in Colombia and will be Dane County's first Hispanic judge. He and his wife, Amy, live in Madison with their two daughters, Elena and Grace. ■

*Judge Juan B. Colas*

First district *continued from page 13*

Paternity testing has been streamlined between the Children's and Family divisions. DNA test results are now shared to avoid duplicative testing. Children in Need of Protection and/or Services (CHIPS) DNA tests that have a 99 percent or greater probability of paternity are being used to establish paternity in Family Court. Medina completes a Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgement Form or paternity interview and forwards the forms to Child Support Enforcement so a PA/FA case can be filed downtown. Since the same family is more likely to initially appear at Children's Court, DNA testing prevents the family from having to make a trip to the downtown courthouse, reducing the likelihood of non-appearance of the parent in the paternity case (especially incarcerated parents who are produced to appear at Children's Court hearings) and expediting the support determinations.

Additionally, on Nov. 14, 2007, a statewide unification group met in Madison to discuss unification efforts that are currently working in Wisconsin. In addition to Brennan, White, Triggiano and Bishop Perrigo, attendees included: Dane County Circuit Court judges John C. Albert and Shelley Gaylord; Circuit Court Judge Todd W. Bjerke, La

Crosse County; Circuit Court Judge Karen E. Christenson, Milwaukee County; District Two Court Administrator Kerry Connelly; District Seven Court Administrator Pat Brummond; Children's Court Improvement Program Director Michelle Jensen-Goodwin; and Milwaukee County Children's Court Coordinator Liz Finn Gorski.

As a result of the meeting, the group will continue to explore areas that could assist jurisdictions in their efforts to unify their court systems. Area of common interest included: CCAP enhancements, legislative changes including those affecting confidentiality laws, conflicting standards and burdens, and mediation services. The group agreed that they would keep in contact to explore additional unification efforts statewide.

The First District also is starting a limited pilot project that will assign all family related cases, including CHIPS, Termination of Parental Rights, Guardianship, Family, Paternity and Juvenile Injunctions to one judge. Judges and Clerks in both divisions will be cross trained separately in February of 2008 to better understand the legal requirements for all case types. ■

PEOPLE *continued from page 12*

sentencing for drug offenses between blacks and whites for the same offense. The report states that these policies and practices need to be re-examined.

The report also stressed the important changes being made at the local level. "Currently, there is a lack of data and/or lack of tracking data by race at all stages of the judicial system, from initial law enforcement contact through probation, incarceration and parole," the report states. "Local jurisdictions need to have data so they have an understanding of what is happening in their communities and can begin the discussion locally."

Included in the reports recommendations:

- Increasing and improving the validity and reliability of data (e.g. collecting and making data available) throughout the state.
- Developing a tracking system to identify race and age at all stages of contact with the justice system in local jurisdictions.
- Developing information technology resources to pull together data from different databases to the extent possible.
- Developing consistent and reliable data across the systems and across jurisdictions.
- Breaking down the barriers that prevent juvenile justice system and child welfare system workers from sharing information about youth in either system.

The full report can be found at: www.equaljustice.wi.gov

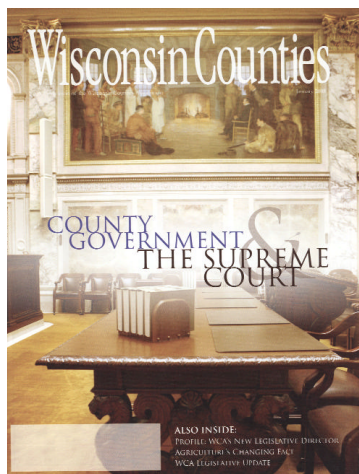
Bev Butula, past President of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, recently wrote about many of the helpful features of the Wisconsin State Law Library in her Wisconsin Law Journal online blog.

"The various items offered on the WSLL Web site can assist in quickly locating information," Butula writes.

Butula likes the "Legal Research Guides" section, "which gathers and organizes online pathfinders to assist when initiating your research. (Like when you have to do a legislative history for the first time in many years)." She's also a fan of the "Historical Documents" section, which "provides links to numerous documents and collections." Library cardholders can borrow materials as well as access legal databases from a desktop. More information can be found at: wsll.state.wi.us/reform.html

In 2007, the Wisconsin State Law Library Web site received over half a million hits.

The January issue of *Wisconsin Counties* magazine, a publication of the **Wisconsin Counties Association**, focuses on the relationship between the Supreme Court and county governments. Among the many articles is a look at significant Wisconsin Supreme Court decisions that affect county governments. Also included is an article by Director of State Courts **A. John Voelker**, who touts the benefits of a strong partnership between state courts and county governments. ■



January 2008 issue of *Wisconsin Counties* magazine

Chief Justice
Shirley S. Abrahamson

Director of State Courts
A. John Voelker

Co-Editors
Amanda K. Todd
Tom Sheehan

Associate Editor
Sara Foster

Contributing Writers
D. Michael Baier Jr.
Bridget Bauman
Sara Foster
Michelle Jensen-Goodwin
Judge Randy R. Koschnick
Danielle Basil Long
Beth Bishop Perrigo
Kate Roherty
Nancy Rottier
Tom Sheehan
A. John Voelker
Ann Zimmerman

Editorial Committee
Hon. Michael J. Rosborough
Vernon County Circuit Court
Carolyn Olson
Iowa County Clerk of Circuit Court

Graphic Design/Layout
Sara Foster

The Third Branch is a quarterly publication of the Director of State Courts Office, providing news of interest to the Wisconsin court system.

Send questions, comments, and article ideas to:
Tom Sheehan
Court Information Officer
P.O. Box 1688
Madison, WI 53701-1688
phone
(608) 261-6640
e-mail
tom.sheehan@wicourts.gov
fax
(608) 267-0980

Calumet County creates Domestic Violence Court

Calumet County launched a new domestic violence court in January. The new program is under the direction of Calumet County Circuit Court Judge Donald A. Poppy, with the assistance of Calumet County District



Calumet County Circuit Court Judge Donald A. Poppy

County Coordinator Response Team after Judge Poppy attended two national seminars sponsored by the National Counsel of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the U.S. Department of Justice. The goal of the new program is to increase offender accountability and victim safety through the use of rewards and penalties during probationary periods.

Under the new program, offenders convicted of domestic violence will be recommended for the program by the district attorney. This recommendation will be based on the nature and severity of the assault, and the offender's criminal record. Once in the program, the

Attorney Ken Kratz, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, headquartered in Appleton.

The program was designed by Judge Poppy along with the Calumet

offender will be placed on probation and must participate in domestic abuse and drug and alcohol abuse assessment. The probation officers and treatment providers from Harbor House will work together with the court to ensure the offender is participating in their rehabilitation.

If an offender does not cooperate or fails to meet the deadlines established by the court, he or she will face additional jail time. Cooperation in the program and progress made by the offender will be rewarded with modifications in their probation conditions. The regularly scheduled hearings designed to monitor the progress of the offender will be overseen by Bureau of Community Corrections probation agent Patricia Oaks. In her role as court officer, she will ensure that all information is present for the court to make informed decisions.

The primary goal of the new program is to increase the safety of victims and hold offenders accountable, while insuring they receive treatment, Judge Poppy said.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson expressed her concern on domestic violence and the Supreme Court's role in providing training for judges to address the problems facing the community when she attended the Response Team's final planning meeting.

Since its start in January, five offenders have been placed in the new program. ■

Waukesha County Family Court expands self-help program

The Waukesha County Family Court Self-Help program has expanded its offerings to include a Family Legal Clinic. Thirteen attorneys have volunteered for the clinics and provide free Family Court related legal advice. The Self-Help staff screen each litigant prior to the consultations to ensure as much assistance as

possible for each appointment. These screenings allow the volunteer attorneys to make the best use of the litigants' 20-minute consultation. As of Feb. 7, 2008, they have offered 5 clinics assisting 20 litigants. So far, attorneys have committed to volunteer at 96 clinics in 2008. ■

LEADERSHIP *continued from page 10*

Mental Health Institutions no longer have to leave those facilities to be transported by sheriff's deputies to appear at commitment hearings. Now, with the video conferencing system, they can appear from the hospital via video conference. Not only does this save money in transportation costs, Koschnick said he believes it is also a more dignified option for those patients and they no longer have to risk missing treatment to appear. The video conference system cost will be offset by

transport savings within the first two years. Plans are currently underway to equip the other courtrooms with video conference systems at two year intervals with the cost likewise offset by transport savings.

The change has meant many people had to leave behind their long-standing procedures to make room for the new system, but Judge Koschnick said he believes that the positive changes will far outweigh any negatives. ■