

HANDY INTERNET LEGAL RESEARCH TOOL

Thanks to Judge Ron Ziwick for recommending the following website that easily finds legal opinions.

Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>) will locate the full texts of legal opinions from the U.S. federal courts, and state district, appellate and supreme courts. You may search for cases by name or by topics (i.e. disorderly conduct or loitering) or other queries that you are interested in.

To use this tool, go to the site, click on the “legal opinions and journals” button, and try to query “separate but equal.” The search result will include links to such now famous cases such as *Plessy v. Ferguson* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, which discuss the acceptability of “separate but equal” facilities for citizens at two different points in history. Results will also include opinions from cases that you may be less familiar with but which are still relevant to your query.

JUDGE JOHN NEUENSCHWANDER HAS SECOND BOOK PUBLISHED

Most of you know John Neuenschwander as an outstanding faculty member and as the municipal judge for the city of Kenosha. Judge Neuenschwander was also a history professor at Carthage College in Kenosha for many years. He recently retired from that job but still serves as a Professor Emeritus of history.

In writing his new book, *A Guide to Oral History and the Law*, Judge Neuenschwander combined his two professional pursuits. “I was a professor and a judge, and I wanted to put the two together” said Judge Neuenschwander in an article from the *Kenosha News*.

Judge Neuenschwander’s first book is titled *The Middle Colonies and the Coming of the American Revolution*.

Congratulations to Judge Neuenschwander! We are certainly fortunate and grateful that he shares so much of his time and talents educating municipal judges.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

2009-2010 SEMINARS

Trial – March 11 & 12, 2010
Heidel House Resort, Green Lake. Please note that this is the last seminar for the 2009/2010 seminar reporting period.

2010-2011 SEMINARS

Orientation Institute – May 4 – 7, 2010, Heidel House Resort, Green Lake. (Mandatory for new judges. Others may attend May 6th & 7th if they have been on the bench four (4) years or less and have not already attended it twice)

Traffic – July 15 & 16, 2010, Radisson Paper Valley Appleton

Special Topic – September 16 &

17, 2010, Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells

Clerks – November 3-5, 2010, Marriott Madison West, Middleton

Law & Humanities – November 2010 – not yet scheduled

Trial - March 24 & 25, 2011
Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan

IN MEMORIAM

Robert F. Schneider, municipal judge for the village of Butler passed away on July 31, 2009. Judge Schneider served as a municipal judge for 23 years.

John McManus, municipal judge for the town of Presque died on August 7, 2009.

NEW LEGISLATION

Below is a brief summary of new legislation passed recently. Please remember that you can access the current *New Laws/New Cases* at: <http://wicourts.gov/services/judge/edu.htm>. The New Laws/New Cases publication is produced by Judge John Neuenschwander, Judge Daniel Koval and Commissioner Todd Meurer.

2009 Wis. Act 28 – Seatbelt violation can now serve as the primary reason for stopping a motor vehicle. Amending Sec. 347.48(2m)(gm) Effective July 1, 2009. Prior law prohibited a police officer from stopping a motor vehicle based solely on the

officer's observation of a seatbelt violation. The amendment to 347.48(2m)(gm) now allows an officer to stop a vehicle based solely on the officer's observation of a seatbelt violation.

2009 Wis. Act 22 – Passing parked vehicles and opening doors of vehicles on highways – Amends 346.80(2)(c) and creates 346.94(20) and 346.95(10)

Act 22 creates a new rule about how a person should open the door of a motor vehicle on a public roadway. Before opening the door the person must ensure that it will not interfere with the movement of traffic or endanger any person or vehicle. It also requires any person operating a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device upon a roadway allow a minimum of 3 feet when passing a stopped or standing school bus or motor bus.

PENDING LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 383 - Rewrite of Chapters 755 & 800 pertaining to municipal court operation and procedures.

A hearing on this bill was held on December 1, 2009, before the Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, and Housing. Overall the majority of the testimony was positive and the WMJA is hopeful that the bill will continue to move forward in the legislature in a timely manner.

Senate Bill 329 – Relating to increasing allowable municipal court costs from \$15 -\$28 to from \$15 - \$38.

A hearing on this bill was also held on December 1, 2009, before the Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform and Housing. Most testimony in this hearing seemed supportive of this bill. We will keep you posted as to whether this bill passes or not.

NEW JUDGE

Roger D. Benjamin was appointed as municipal judge for the village of Butler on August 21, 2009.

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