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**Spring/
Summer
2018**



Photo credit: Shannon Green, State Bar of Wisconsin

Supreme Court justices gathered in the Hearing Room with friends and family of the late Justice William G. Callow on May 16 to honor Callow and formally accept his portrait from his widow, Jean, and son, Grant. Pictured with the portrait (left to right): Justice Daniel Kelly, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, Jean Callow, Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler, Justice Michael J. Gableman, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, and Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley. Callow, who served on the Court from 1977 to 1992, died March 6. ([See obituaries on page 8](#))

Judge Dallet elected to Supreme Court; 12 new circuit court judges take bench Aug. 1



Justice Michael J. Gableman

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Rebecca F. Dallet defeated Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Michael P. Screnock in the Spring Election to win a 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, effective Aug. 1.

Dallet fills the Supreme Court seat being vacated by Justice Michael J. Gableman, who did not seek re-election. Dallet received 555,848 votes, compared to Screnock's 440,808 votes, in final results tallied by the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Dallet was first elected to the circuit court

[see Election on page 14](#)



Judge Michael P. Screnock



Judge Rebecca F. Dallet

Abrahamson will not seek re-election in 2019

Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson announced May 30 that she will not seek another term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Her current term expires July 31, 2019.

Abrahamson was first appointed to the Court in 1976 by then-Gov. Patrick J. Lucey. She was elected in 1979 and re-elected three times, most recently in 2009. She served as chief justice from Aug. 1, 1996 to April 30, 2015. She was the first woman on the Court, the first woman chief justice, and she is the longest-serving justice in Wisconsin history.

Abrahamson said in a statement that deciding

not to seek re-election was a difficult decision. "...But in that regard, it is like many of the decisions in cases I have helped decide over four decades on the court – most often, good arguments on both sides, difficult choices, important questions."

Abrahamson said she will encourage qualified candidates to seek election to the Court in April 2019. Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Abrahamson was in private practice in Madison for 14 years and was a professor at UW Law

[see Abrahamson on page 15](#)



Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson



Five new judges appointed in four counties



Judge Kevin G. Klein

Gov. Scott Walker has appointed five new circuit court judges in four counties.

Judge Kevin G. Klein was appointed Dec. 4, 2017 to fill the vacancy on the Price County Circuit Court created by the retirement of Judge Douglas T. Fox.

Klein previously served as a court commissioner in Price County and worked in private practice. He is a past president of the Price-Taylor County Bar and a

former member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Board of Governors, and served as president of the State Bar from 2012-13.

Klein has an undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a law degree from UW Law School.

Judge Richard A. Radcliffe took the Monroe County Branch 3 bench on Dec. 24, 2017. He



Judge Richard A. Radcliffe

see [New judges on page 15](#)

NEW FACES

Sheila T. Reiff Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

The Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Sheila T. Reiff as the Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, effective Feb. 19.

Before her appointment, Reiff had served as Walworth County clerk of circuit court since 1995. She previously worked there as deputy clerk of circuit court and as a court calendar clerk, beginning in 1980.

At the time of her appointment as Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Reiff was serving concurrently as



Sheila T. Reiff

Walworth County's register in probate, probate registrar, probate commissioner and clerk of juvenile court.

During her career as a clerk of circuit court, Reiff served on several committees that provide input and guidance to the Director of State Courts and the Supreme Court, including Records Management, Bridging the Distance (video conferencing), CCAP (Consolidated Court Automation Programs) Steering, Making the Record, and the

Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts.

Reiff continues to serve on Making the Record and CCAP Steering Committees.

Reiff replaces former Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Diane M. Fremgen, who was named deputy director for Court Operations effective Jan. 2.

Diane M. Fremgen Deputy Director for Court Operations

Former Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Diane M. Fremgen was appointed deputy director for Court Operations effective Jan. 2. Fremgen, a past president of the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association, had served as Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals since 2012. She previously served as the clerk of circuit court in Winnebago County for 15 years.

Fremgen concurrently served in her new role as deputy director for Court Operations and as acting-Clerk of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals until Sheila T. Reiff officially took over that position on Feb. 19.

Fremgen replaces former Deputy Director for Court Operations Sara Ward-Cassady, who left the court system in January to work as a principal court research associate for the National Center for State Courts.

Ward-Cassady had served as a deputy director since 2011 and originally joined the Office of Court Operations in 2003. Before that, she worked as a grievance investigator in the Office of Lawyer Regulation and as an assistant district attorney in Marathon County, where she had also worked as a staff attorney and court commissioner.



Diane M. Fremgen

Elizabeth Behnke Purchasing and Facilities Officer

Elizabeth Behnke joined the Court System in July as the purchasing and facilities officer, replacing Dave Korenic upon his retirement. Behnke joins the courts after spending two years at the state Department of Health Services as an advanced program and policy analyst, working on strategic sourcing projects. Prior to that, she was a senior purchasing agent at the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ). She began her state service career with DOJ in 2011, processing background checks for the Concealed Carry Weapons Program. Behnke holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and a law degree from UW Law School.



Elizabeth Behnke

see [New faces on page 24](#)

Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts provides solutions for youth challenges

By Justin Wolff, Children's Court Improvement Program

About 360 people attended a conference in Elkhart Lake Oct. 18-20, 2017 to learn about solutions-based approaches for improving the social and emotional well-being of children in the child welfare and youth justice systems.

The Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: "Inspiring Hope and Building Resiliency Among Our Youth" was the follow-up to the highly-regarded 2015 conference, which focused on introducing trauma-informed care practices to court and child welfare agencies across the state.

The conference, co-hosted by the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) of the Director of State Courts Office and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, included participants from 56 counties, seven tribes, the court system, Legislature, and multiple state agencies.

"Never before have we taken a more comprehensive approach to addressing these difficult issues and toward helping the people who need it most," said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

"This solution-oriented conference should lead us to better outcomes for children and families," said Roggensack, who chairs the Wisconsin Commission on Children, Families and the Courts. Members of the multi-disciplinary commission help implement the CCIP, a federal grant initiative focused on improving the processing of child abuse and neglect cases in the court system.

The conference was co-hosted by commission member Judge Marshall B. Murray, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, and Jason Witt, director of the La Crosse County Human Services Department. Featured keynote speakers included author and poet Antwone Fisher, who along with Rick Miller, founder of Kids at Hope, began the conference by detailing Mr. Fisher's journey from the hopelessness of a childhood of abuse and abandonment to finding hope and realizing his dreams. That message was echoed by a powerful youth panel discussion featuring members of Wisconsin's Youth Leadership Team and Youth Advisory Council, which closed out the event.



The 2017 Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts was co-hosted by the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP), the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), and included participants from 56 counties, seven tribes, the court system, Legislature, and multiple state agencies. Pictured at the conference (left to right): Judge Marshall B. Murray, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Eloise Anderson, Secretary, DCF; Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack; and Jason Witt, Director, La Crosse County Health and Human Services.

Other presenters of note included: Dr. Leonard Sax, Director of the Montgomery, Alabama Center for Research in Child and Adolescent Development, speaking on gender differences in adolescent brain development; Colorado Circuit Court Judge Roxanne Bailin (ret.), Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding, professor of ethnic and women's studies at Sacramento State University, discussing implicit bias; John Tuell of the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, presenting on systems responses for dual-status youth; Judge Steven C. Teske of the Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia, with an impassioned call for ending the "school-to-prison pipeline;" and Sixto Cancel, former foster child and founder of Think of Us, a technology-based company with the goal of leveraging data and applications in the child welfare system. ■

New chief judges named in Fifth and Tenth Judicial Administrative Districts

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has appointed circuit court judges from Dane and Barron counties to serve as the new chief judges of their respective judicial administrative districts. The Court re-appointed circuit court judges from Kenosha, Marathon, and Marinette counties to new two-year terms as chief judges of their districts. The Court also re-appointed Chief Judge Lisa S. Neubauer to a second three-year term as chief judge of the Court of Appeals.



Judge Maureen D. Boyle

Dane County Circuit Court Judge William E. Hanrahan was appointed chief judge of the Fifth Judicial Administrative District, effective March 3. Hanrahan replaced outgoing Chief Judge James P. Daley, Rock County Circuit Court, who retired from the bench March 2, ([see story, page 5](#)). Hanrahan will serve the remainder of Daley's appointed term, to July 31, 2019 or until further order of the Court.

Hanrahan, who presides over the circuit court's criminal division, was



Chief Judge William E. Hanrahan

[see Chief judges on page 32](#)

TAD, family treatment funding among 2017-18 legislation affecting the courts

By Nancy M. Rottier, Legislative Liaison

The Legislature concluded its 2017-18 session on March 22, having approved a variety of bills affecting the courts, with other proposals failing to clear both the Senate and Assembly before the session ended. Nearly 2,000 bills were introduced during the legislative session, of which 367 proposals were signed into law. Included in the new laws affecting the courts were the following, divided by subject matter area:

Acts Affecting Court Administration

Act 117 – allowing circuit court commissioners to issue search warrants in first offense OWI cases upon a finding of probable cause in order to allow a blood draw to be taken

Act 32 – additional \$2,000,000 per year in funding for the Treatment and Diversion Programs (TAD)

Act 202 – establishing a family and juvenile treatment court grant program in the Department of Children and Families. (See related story, page 10)

Act 261 – funding for various substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, including family and juvenile treatment courts. This act also includes an amendment to s. 968.12(2), Wis. Stats., the warrant upon affidavit statute, to allow a judge to take an affidavit without face-to-face contact.

Act 207 – changing the population standard for populous counties from 500,000 to 750,000

Act 212 – requiring base budget review reports by state agencies, the legislature and the courts

Act 83 (plus AJR 20 and 21) – appointing delegates to a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution



Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers testifies at an informational hearing about Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) before a joint legislative committee at the Capitol last fall.

The hearing offered lawmakers on the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and the Assembly Committee on Corrections an opportunity to learn about EBDM efforts of the statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Kremers, a member of the council's EBDM subcommittee, told lawmakers that Milwaukee County now conducts risk-needs assessment for everyone who is brought to jail in an effort to more effectively control the jail population by identifying the most appropriate interventions in the early phases of the criminal justice process.



Judge Christopher R. Foley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, testifies at a Jan. 9 public hearing before the Assembly Committee on Family Law. The committee recommended approval of AB 775, which eventually passed the Legislature and was signed into law as 2017 Act 256. The bill was introduced in a package of legislation presented by the Speaker's Foster Care Task Force.

Acts Affecting Criminal Law

Act 145 – penalties for straw purchases of firearms, including mandatory minimum sentences

Act 309 – adds several crimes to definition of “serious violent crime” that makes them subject to mandatory minimum sentences and increases the mandatory minimum period of confinement to 5 years instead of 3 years and 6 months

Act 310 – mandatory minimum sentences if person on probation, parole or ES and is convicted of illegal possession of a firearm

Act 311 – increases the penalties for carjacking offenses

Act 128 – increasing the penalty for patronization of a child, regardless whether the actor knew the age of the child

Act 129 – soliciting an intimate representation of a minor

Act 131 – increasing the penalty for multiple violations of patronizing a prostitute

Act 174 – changes to crime of underage sexual activity

Act 283 – prosecution of child neglect

Act 184 – plans for supervised release of sexually violent persons

Act 188 – increased maximum terms of imprisonment for domestic abuse repeat violators

Act 89 – allowing work release for inmates in Department of Corrections contracted facilities

Act 199 – allowing Huber release for probationers confined in a county jail pending disposition of revocation proceedings

Act 100 – creating a program for industrial hemp, with criminal penalties for those violating program requirements

Act 272 – adds GALs, corporation counsel and

see Legislative update on page 26

Trauma-informed care training expands

More than 400 criminal justice staff across multiple departments and disciplines in Milwaukee County have been trained in trauma-informed care, thanks in large part to “train-the-trainer” sessions made possible by a 2016 \$2 million grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

Milwaukee County was one of 11 jurisdictions selected nationally for the foundation’s [Safety and Justice Challenge](#) network. The county committed to multiple strategies to improve the criminal justice system, including developing a trauma-informed system.

With the support of experts from Policy Research Inc., train-the-trainer sessions helped provide 30 representatives from the behavioral health and criminal justice systems staff with the material and skills to train their peers.

In turn, training reaches many more people, including prosecutors, public defenders, corrections staff, pre-trial service providers, judges, court leaders and staff, and lawyers, among others.

“If we each engage in this three-to-four-hour training program, we better understand how trauma manifests behaviorally and is triggered through interactions. Only then will we all be poised to engage individuals, connect them to support, break their cyclical involvement in the system, and ultimately promote public safety,” said Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges Carl Ashley and Deputy Chief Judge Mary E. Triggiano will conduct special trauma training programs for the Milwaukee judges and court commissioners this summer.

The program is designed specifically for judges and

commissioners and is entitled “How being trauma informed improves judicial decision-making.”

Studies show the effects of trauma are pervasive in the criminal justice system.

“We recognize that as public servants we must strive to understand the people we serve – to appreciate that the behaviors we observe in our courts may reflect physical and emotional impact of past trauma,” White said.

Through these trainings, local criminal justice leaders hope to avoid re-traumatization and improve outcomes for individuals involved in the system.

Reaction to the training has been overwhelmingly positive. Describing their training experience, one attendee stated, “I was pleasantly surprised that I not only enjoyed the training, but found it useful... This training provided concrete examples of what trauma looks like, what we can do to address it on an individual basis, and delved into what we can do to address it systemically. It was a refreshing change.”

Along with the trainings, a trauma strategic plan has been developed and work is starting to take theory and discussions into practice by updating mission statements, and including people who have been impacted by trauma in discussions, among other efforts. ■

Contributors to this article include: Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Deputy Chief Judge Mary E. Triggiano, Safety & Justice Project Manager Erin Perkins, and Judicial Operations Manager for the Milwaukee County Courts Stephanie Garbo.

RETIREMENTS

Editor's Note: This edition of The Third Branch features entries on recently retired judges. Upcoming editions will feature articles on additional judges who have announced their retirement, including: Rock County Circuit Court Judge Alan R. Bates, Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge Gary L. Bendix, Clark County Circuit Court Judge Jon M. Counsell, Buffalo and Pepin Counties Circuit Court Judge James J. Duvall, Ashland County Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Eaton, Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Kathryn W. Foster, Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge William S. Gabler, Sr., Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Gritton, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Guy D. Reynolds, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Timothy C. Samuelson, and Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer L. Weston.

Chief Judge James P. Daley Rock County Circuit Court

After two decades on the bench, Chief Judge James P. Daley, Rock County Circuit Court, leaves a legacy in the form of the Rock County Veterans Treatment Court. The first of its kind in Wisconsin, the program offers an alternative to incarceration, as well as drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment, to veterans whose trauma may have been a contributing factor to criminal behavior. Daley, who retired March 2, helped establish the treatment court in

2009, and served as its presiding judge.

“The need is there, and we want to do our best to meet it,” Daley said at the program’s first graduation ceremony in 2011. Daley has also played a part in establishing a drug treatment court and OWI court in the county.

Daley is a retired brigadier general who served with the Marines during the Vietnam War. In 2011, he was one of three retired Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers inducted into the Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Fame.



Judge James P. Daley

“Do every job you’re given to the best of your ability,” Daley said at the induction ceremony. “Whether it’s pushing a broom or taking the hill. We don’t do this for glory; we do this because it’s our job, and it’s important.”

Daley was appointed to the Branch 1 bench in 1998, by then-Gov. Tommy Thompson. He had previously served as the Rock County district attorney and worked in private practice. He is the former chair of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee and the Judicial Conference Planning Committee, and has served on the Judicial Conference

[see Retirements on page 6](#)

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 5*

Nominating Committee and the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts.

In 2013, Daley was appointed chief judge of the Fifth Judicial Administrative District. He was the first judge outside of Dane County to serve as chief judge for the district.

Daley told the Janesville Gazette he and his wife have discussed taking a trip on Route 66 for years. He told the paper his retirement plans also include visiting his Vietnam War buddies and writing about them.

Judge John J. DiMotto Milwaukee County Circuit Court



Judge John J. DiMotto

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John J. DiMotto retired Feb. 28, ending a 27-year judicial career and 42 years of work in the justice system.

"I have been very fortunate to have served in the Wisconsin Judiciary for these many years with you and our Milwaukee County colleagues," DiMotto wrote in a letter announcing his retirement. "I hope that my service has made a positive difference in the lives of everyone who came before me."

DiMotto said he is only one of two Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges to have served in all six divisions, the first being retired Judge John P. Foley.

"If I had to choose the favorite type of case it would be civil cases because of the breadth of the work," he said. "These cases span a spectrum from small claims to foreclosures to personal injury to products liability to medical malpractice to contract disputes to complex business litigation to administrative reviews. Every day is a new challenge, and I have always loved those challenges. They have made me a better person and a better judge."

DiMotto was first elected to the Branch 41 bench in 1990. He had previously served 15 years as a Milwaukee County assistant district attorney. He has served as an associate dean for the Wisconsin Judicial College, faculty of the National Judicial College, chair and member of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, member of the Judicial Education Committee, and on the Wisconsin and Milwaukee Trial Judges Associations. He has been awarded Wisconsin Judge of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates and Jurist of the Year by the Wisconsin Justinian Society of Lawyers. He is the recipient of the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*.

"Judge DiMotto has taken so many independent steps to improve the level of judicial services in our state, he has almost become a legend in his own time. There can be no question that Wisconsin courts, as well as the people who appeared before him in court, have benefitted because of his work as a member of the judiciary," Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said in a press release announcing DiMotto's retirement.

DiMotto leaves the following words of wisdom for new judges taking the bench: "You should approach every case as if it is the most important case you will ever handle

because for the litigants in that case it is the most important case in their lives. Treat everyone who comes into your courtroom with dignity and respect, even individuals who do the most despicable, vile acts. Be a student of the law. You must know your case better than anyone in the courtroom. Do not hesitate to contact your judicial colleagues for advice and counsel. No one judge knows everything. You can consult with your judicial colleagues under the Judicial Code. Remember that under your oath you are a public servant whose role is to do justice, without respect to persons, in every case."

In retirement, DiMotto plans to travel more with his wife, retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jean W. DiMotto. He also plans to serve as a reserve judge.

Judge J. David Rice Monroe County Circuit Court

After seven years on the Monroe County Circuit Court Branch 3 bench, Judge J. David Rice retired on Oct. 1, 2017. Rice's retirement also ended a 30-year career in public service, beginning with his work as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Nathan S. Heffernan in 1970. Rice also previously served as city attorney for Sparta and as a federal district court magistrate.

Rice told the *La Crosse Tribune* that he timed his retirement to correspond with the completion of the Monroe County Justice Center complex. He served as the chair of the building committee for the new complex for six years. The new complex was dedicated during a ceremony on Sept. 29, 2017.

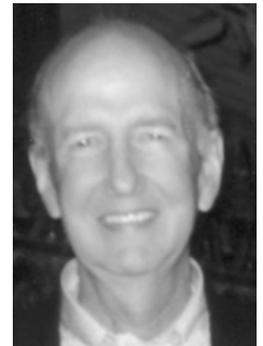
"This is probably the most important building built in the county since 1898," Rice told *The Tomah Journal* at the groundbreaking ceremony on May 28, 2014. "I don't think there has ever been a project that has been so thoroughly vetted."

The new complex replaced the Monroe County Courthouse, which was built in 1896, and contains a jail, sheriff's office, four courtrooms, and offices for judges and judicial staff.

Rice told the *Tribune* he planned to spend more time with his family.

"They have supported me in everything I have done, and I owe them, especially my wife, more of my time than I have been able to spend with them for the last 47 years," he was quoted as saying.

Rice was first elected in 2010 to the then-newly created Branch 3, and he was re-elected in 2016. He is a graduate of UW-Madison and UW Law School. He is a past president of the Sparta School Board and former member of the State Bar Board of Governors. His uncle, Judge James W. Rice, served as a Monroe County judge for more than 30 years.



Judge J. David Rice

Fitzpatrick honored for college athletic achievements, career accomplishments

District IV Court of Appeals Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick received the “Double D Award” from the Drake University Athletic Department during a May 6 ceremony in Des Moines.

The award is the highest honor Drake bestows on its student-athletes, recognizing past athletic letter winners for achievements in their chosen fields or community service after college.

Fitzpatrick competed four years each in track and cross country and earned six letters at the university, where he earned both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree. He was nominated for the Double D by former running teammates.

In accepting the award, Fitzpatrick addressed top university administrators, student-athletes, and coaches who gathered for the Bulldogs’ year-end athletic banquet. He also presented awards to four-year letter winners during the event.

Being a student-athlete is good preparation for what life may bring in the future, Fitzpatrick told students. Athletic participation helps teach the value of hard work, discipline, time-management and how to handle stressful situations, he said.

“There are no shortcuts. You have to put in the hard work



Court of Appeals Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick accepted the “Double D Award” and addressed student athletes during the Drake University Athletics Banquet in May.

to succeed in athletics, just as you do in a career,” said Fitzpatrick, who served as team captain during his junior and senior years.

As a college runner, Fitzpatrick recalled logging about 100 miles a week in two-a-day training sessions. Waking up to run 13 miles on a Sunday morning had a way of keeping Saturday nights fairly tame

during his college years, he said.

While at Drake, Fitzpatrick won individual Missouri Valley Conference Championships in the mile and 1,000-yard races. He was also awarded All-Conference honors five times.

Thirty-nine years later, his ¾-mile split of 2:58.4 on the

Distance Medley Relay remains the third best in Drake history.

Fitzpatrick said he gained lifelong friends while competing at Drake, and his family has deep ties there. He met his wife, Sharon, while both were undergrads. Sharon holds a bachelor’s degree and MBA from Drake; their daughter, Michelle Fitzpatrick Berends, earned both a bachelor’s degree and law degree from Drake; and Michelle’s husband, Ryan Berends, holds a degree in Actuarial Science from Drake.

While in law school, Fitzpatrick served as student director of the Drake Legal Clinic, which provided free legal services to poor people and the elderly. He still returns to campus at the invitation of a former professors.

Before being elected to the Court of Appeals in 2017, Fitzpatrick served on the Rock County Circuit Court bench since 2008. He worked in private practice from 1985 to 2008. ■



Long before his days on the bench, Court of Appeals Judge Michael R. Fitzpatrick, spent a lot of time on the running track at Drake University, where he competed four years each in Track and Cross Country. This photo is from the Drake Relays of 1979 or 1980.

Best appellate brief writing to be recognized

The State Bar of Wisconsin’s Appellate Practice Section will recognize the winners of its most recent Best Briefs competition during a ceremony June 29 in Milwaukee. The contest honors outstanding appellate briefs filed by State Bar members in cases that were decided between April 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2017.

Winning briefs will be chosen by retired Wisconsin Court

of Appeals judges Richard S. Brown and Patricia S. Curley and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Louis B. Butler. Contest winners will be announced in early June. The event is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., June 29 at County Clare Inn and Pub, 1234 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee. The event is free and open to the public. ■

New benchcards, online training available on sexual assault and domestic violence

By Amber Peterson, Office of Court Operations

In fall 2017, the Office of Court Operations released two new resources aimed at improving the court’s response to domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Both projects were funded by the Director of State Courts Office’s STOP Violence Against Women grant.

The first resource is a set of sexual assault benchcards developed for use by Wisconsin judges by a workgroup of the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant Advisory Committee. These benchcards are intended to be a quick reference tool to assist judges as they handle sexual assault cases. The benchcards cover a number of topics including: Voir Dire, Rape Shield, Other Acts Evidence, Expert Testimony, Access to Victims’ Mental Health Records, Sex Trafficking, and Victim Rights.

The benchcards are available in both electronic and hard copy formats. The electronic version of the benchcards can be accessed using the Benchbooks link on the Judicial Dashboard. The resource is located in the “Bench Cards” folder. A hard copy of the benchcards were either mailed or distributed to judges by their district court administrators.

The second resource is an online training designed for clerks of circuit court and their staff titled “Effectively Processing Restraining Order Cases.” The Office of Court Operations partnered with UW-Madison’s Division of Information Technology to develop six modules that teach clerks about the different types of restraining orders and how to process the paperwork. Additionally, the training covers general information on working with members of the public who have experienced trauma.

The training consists of the following self-guided modules that range from 15 to 20 minutes in length:

Introduction, Domestic Abuse, Child Abuse, Harassment, Individual at Risk, and Processing Restraining Order Cases.

The training can be found on CourtNet on the “Education and training” page:

<http://courtnet.wicourts.gov/education/index.htm>

STOP grants may be awarded to courts, law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers to develop and strengthen effective strategies to combat violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. ■

For more information about the sexual assault benchcards, the online training for clerks, or the STOP grant, contact Amber Peterson in the Office of Court Operations at (608) 267-7764 or amber.peterson@wicourts.gov.



OBITUARIES

Justice William G. Callow Wisconsin Supreme Court

The Honorable William G. Callow passed away on March 6, at the age of 96. Callow was born on April 9, 1921 in Waukesha. He attended the University of Wisconsin and graduated with a business degree in 1943. After graduation, Callow served in the Pacific Theater during WWII as a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He was also a veteran of the Korean War. Once back in the United States, he returned to Madison to earn a law degree from UW Law School in 1948.



Justice William G. Callow

Callow began practicing law in his hometown of Waukesha and became the assistant city attorney there in the

early 1950s. By 1952, he was Waukesha city attorney. In 1961, Callow was elected as Waukesha County Judge and served on the bench for 16 years.

During his time in that position, Callow was dedicated to helping young people understand the law and its consequences and he wrote and distributed a pamphlet entitled “You and the Law.” He lectured to more than 300 Wisconsin high schools on the subject of teenage marriage, misconduct and the law.

Six years after he was elected as county judge, Callow was appointed by then-Gov. Warren Knowles as Wisconsin Commissioner to the National Uniform Law Commission and served in that position for 25 years.

In 1977, before the state’s current structure of circuit courts was created, Callow was elected to a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He was the only Wisconsin county judge to make that transition directly.

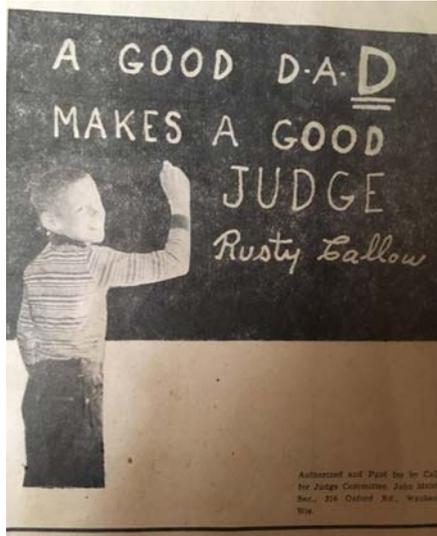
Callow retired from the Supreme Court in 1992, but for

OBITUARIES *continued from page 8*

years afterward, he sat as a pro tem trial court judge during the summers and served as an arbitrator and mediator for the Wisconsin Employee Relations Commission.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack said Callow was warm and generous. "He was a lawyer and judge whose passion for the law was driven by a superior intellect and strong conviction. I knew a man of honor and commitment who never lost his sense of humor in the gravest of situations."

Callow is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean; children Grant Callow, Christine Vasquez (Rick), Katie Wilkie (Dan); grandchildren, Michael Deluca (Ashley); and great-granddaughter, Olivia Deluca.



Grant Callow, son of the late Justice William G. Callow, was a boy when he was featured in one of his father's old judicial campaign ads. He shared a copy of the ad with some of the attendees at his father's portrait dedication ceremony on May 16.

Judge James 'Jim' L. Carlson Walworth County Circuit Court

Judge James L. Carlson passed away on March 14, in Whitewater at the age of 74. Judge Carlson was born on January 24, 1944 in Kenosha. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1966, followed by his law degree at UW Law School in 1970.

Upon graduation, Carlson began his career as an attorney at the Clark Dempsey Law Firm in Whitewater, while also serving as the assistant city attorney for Whitewater. In 1976, Carlson was elected district attorney for Walworth County. During this time, he focused on building capabilities of the office.

In 1978, then-Gov. Lee Dreyfus appointed Carlson to fill a judicial vacancy for Walworth County. He was regularly elected and re-elected to the court until his retirement on July 31, 2016. While serving as judge, Carlson was chair of the Probate Benchbook Committee and was a founding member and former chair of the Walworth County Municipal Judges Association. He also was a presenter for Judicial Education workshops and had a passion for the development for treatment courts in Wisconsin.

In 2013, Judge Carlson was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Walworth County Bar Association. He was the longest serving judge in Walworth County history.



Judge James L. Carlson

Judge Dennis D. Conway Wood County Circuit Court

Judge Dennis D. Conway, Wisconsin Rapids, passed away on April 29, from health complications. He was 82 years old.

Born in Wisconsin Rapids in 1936, Judge Conway graduated from Lincoln High School in 1954. He attended the University of Notre Dame and soon after earning his undergraduate degree, enlisted in the US Army.

While in the Army, Conway learned Russian and translated Soviet communications while stationed in Berlin until he was honorably discharged in 1961.

In 1964, Conway obtained his Juris Doctor from UW Law School. He worked briefly in Elkhorn before returning to Wisconsin Rapids to practice law. Then-Gov. Martin J. Schreiber

appointed Conway to the position of Wood County Circuit Court judge where he followed in the footsteps of his father, Judge Byron B. Conway, and his great uncle, Judge William Conway. Conway was re-elected until his retirement in 2001.

As an advocate of social justice, Conway spent much of his career working with juvenile offenders. Among his accomplishments, he chaired the Wisconsin Committee of Chief Judges, chaired the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners, and was named "Trial Judge of the Year" by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge Allan J. Deehr Manitowoc County Circuit Court

Former Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge Allan J. Deehr passed away on Feb. 14. He was 75.

Deehr was first appointed to circuit judge for Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties in 1973. After the reorganization of the court system in 1978, he continued to serve on the Manitowoc County Circuit Court bench until his retirement in 1997. He served as the first chief judge for the Fourth Judicial District, from 1978 to 1984.

According to an obituary, after his retirement, Deehr consulted with developing countries, such as Egypt and Kosovo, on judicial processes.

Deehr received his law degree from UW Law School. He



Judge Dennis D. Conway



Judge Allan J. Deehr

Judicial engagement initiative expands beyond initial pilot counties

By Michelle Zaccard, Office of Court Operations

In 2014, Wisconsin began participating in the Judicial Engagement Initiative with Casey Family Programs. The goal of the initiative was to engage judicial systems to support children and their families involved in the child welfare system by integrating best practices, data-centered case management, and cross-system collaboration.

The initiative was piloted in three counties (Dane, Monroe, and Kenosha) and was overseen by the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare. This data-centered approach shaped many activities for Dane, Kenosha, and Monroe counties, some of which are highlighted below.

Dane County examined data related to children who had been in care for an extended period and worked toward improving case planning for these children. As a result of the interventions, subsequent case file reviews indicated a 22-percent reduction in the number of children who had been in care for more than 2 years and a 13-percent

reduction of children in foster care overall. Dane County also addressed the need for more opportunities for family interaction through a new social services specialist position, as well as increased funding to expand the existing visitation program. In December 2017, Dane County provided training to stakeholders focused on the importance of permanency.

Kenosha County also observed improvements in data since participation began. Kenosha County increased the percentage of parents appointed attorneys in CHIPS matters from 31 percent to 54 percent. The Kenosha County data from December 2017 showed significant improvements in reaching more timely permanency. Kenosha County reduced the average number of days children were in care from 423 days in June 2015 to 280 days in December 2017. Kenosha County provided trainings on child safety decision-making to county stakeholders. Kenosha County also began holding

[see Judicial engagement on page 18](#)



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack and Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick were among officials who attended a bill-signing ceremony for a new Juvenile and Family Drug Treatment Court grant program.

Left to right, behind Gov. Scott Walker: Adam Plotnik, legislative liaison for the Office of State Public Defender; Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender; Rebecca Foley, Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court coordinator; Rep. Jesse Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek), with son, Noah; Ryan Knocke, legislative aide; Bridget Bauman, director of the Children's Court Improvement Program; Katelyn Schultz, legislative aide; Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee); Nick Bentz, legislative aide; Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack; Rachel Keith, legislative aide; and Randy R. Koschnick, Director of State Courts.

New legislation makes grants available for juvenile, family treatment courts

A new grant program to be administered by the state Department of Children and Families is expected to increase the number of juvenile and family drug-treatment court programs available in Wisconsin in coming months and years.

Counties and Native American Tribes may apply for grants to create evidence-based programs that screen, assess, and provide new dispositional alternatives and court procedures for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the children's court, or for juveniles who have problems related to mental illness or substance abuse.

"This grant program is the result of all branches of state government, as well as local governments, working together to improve the effectiveness of our justice system for the people who rely on it most," said Wisconsin Supreme Court

Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

The chief justice attended a bill signing ceremony for [Act 202](#) at the Capitol on April 3, along with Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick. The chief justice chairs the Wisconsin Commission on Children, Families and the Courts, a multi-disciplinary commission focused on improving the processing of child abuse and neglect cases in the court system.

A county or tribe that operates a program funded by a family treatment court or juvenile treatment court grant must do all of the following, under the legislation:

- Establish eligibility criteria for a person's participation in the program.
- Provide services to program participants that are

[see Grants on page 18](#)

AWARDS

Judge John J. DiMotto receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge John J. DiMotto was named winner of a 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. The award was one of 25 given as a part of the 16th annual Leaders in the Law awards which honor the top members of the state's legal community. Of DiMotto's 40-year career, 27.5 of them were spent on the bench.



Judge John J. DiMotto

Throughout his career, DiMotto served in all six rotations of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. He has a deep background in criminal courts and led the sensitive crimes unit for nine years while working at the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

"He was the epitome of the prosecutor who wants justice in his cases and who is not afraid to try something that is a hard case to try for whatever reason," criminal law professor and DiMotto's former colleague, Dan Blinka, said.

Now retired (see story, page 6), DiMotto will be remembered as someone who was an expert at trial work and an adviser to new judges in times of difficult courtroom decisions.

"(He was) a class act dedicated to doing the right thing, willing to take the time to do the right thing and someone who cared deeply about making sure the justice system did right by those who appeared in front of him," Pat Dunphy, a personal-injury lawyer who has argued many cases in front of DiMotto, said.

DiMotto was recognized for his career and achievements in an event at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee in February.

Judge Christopher R. Foley

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley was awarded the Marquette University Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences Professional Achievement Award of 2018. The prestigious award is given annually to a Marquette Alumnus. Foley earned his undergraduate degree at Marquette in 1975 followed by his Juris Doctorate in 1978.

He has served the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Children's Court Center since 1985.



Judge Christopher R. Foley

According to a release from Marquette University, Foley has lost count of the number of adoptions over which he presided over the years. He has even been nicknamed "The Adoption Judge."

"God only knows how many adoptions I have done, but each one has been exceptionally touching and rewarding," Foley said.

Foley will often invite a sibling to join him on the bench

at adoption hearings and will let them bang the gavel to make things official.

In 1996, Foley initiated the Foster Care Conversion Project to speed up the adoption process.

"The Foster Home Conversion Project was a milestone in changing systematic attitudes about the need for permanency," Foley said.

Foley believes foster parents and children are "incredibly courageous" and said working with them is "truly a gift."

"There is something remarkably touching about (Marquette) telling you, 'You have lived our mission; we are proud,'" Foley said of receiving the Professional Achievement Award.

Foley was recognized for his career and achievements at a reception on April 26 at Marquette University.

Chief Judge White elected to board of national court executives organization

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was elected to the board of the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO) at the group's annual conference last fall. White was also appointed to the organization's Strategic Planning Committee. Founded in 1963, NAPCO is an independent, nonprofit education and research organization of chief judges and presiding judges committed to improving the administration of justice.

White gave a presentation at the conference, along with Justice Management Institute President Elaine Borakove, entitled, "Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils: From Silo to System Coordination." Milwaukee County is among 25 jurisdictions in the country currently utilizing this type of collaborative approach to examining challenges facing the judicial system.



Chief Judge Maxine A. White

Director Keith Sellen, OLR

Keith Sellen, director of the Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR), was named one of 2018's Leaders in the Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. In 2000, Sellen left his 22-year career in the US Army to become the director of OLR.

One of his highlighted accomplishments at the OLR is overseeing Wisconsin's Lawyer Support and Monitoring Program, which started in 2010. The program provides support to lawyers who struggle with chemical dependency or different conditions like depression.

Sellen feels that his career is held together by one common thread: "a commitment to public service."



Atty. Keith Sellen

WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley's travels extend to three continents

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley traveled to three continents over the course of three months at the end of 2017 to promote access to justice in Pakistan, help launch an international network on electoral justice in Mexico, and advance women judges' participation and leadership at a forum in Morocco.

In October, she returned to Lahore, Pakistan for the second time in 2017 to participate in the Second Punjab Women Judges' Conference organized by the Punjab Judicial Academy.

With all of the 300 women judges from the Punjab Province in attendance, along with the Chief Justices of the Pakistan Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court,



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley and Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer (Arizona Supreme Court) were the two representatives from the United States at the inaugural meeting of the Global Network on Electoral Justice in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

United States who participated in the First Assembly of the Global Network on Electoral Justice in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

She joined representatives from 28 countries and 16 international organizations and academic institutions,



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley at the Casablanca conference with judges from Jordan and Palestine.

presented on access to justice for sexual assault victims, and in particular, the special needs of child witnesses.

The following month, she was one of two state court justices from the

including: the European Court of Human Rights; the Organization of American States; and the United Nations Development Programme. The event was sponsored by the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary of Mexico, and emerged as a response to the challenges faced by constitutional courts and electoral tribunals in contemporary democracies.

With Bradley as one of its original members, the Global Network on Electoral Justice officially launched on Jan. 1. The goal is to initiate a network that provides for an exchange of experiences and best practices to contribute to the design and implementation of shared strategies to solve common electoral justice problems.

Wrapping up the year, in December, Bradley participated in a regional forum for women judges entitled "Towards a Women Judges' Platform in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region" in Casablanca, Morocco. Bradley represented the International Association of Women Judges at the forum, which was organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in partnership with the International Development Law Organization.

The forum brought together leading women judges from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Palestine to discuss challenges, as well as models towards advancing women judges' effective participation and leadership in the justice sector. At the forum, Bradley presented on the status of women judges on international tribunals, and also moderated panels and facilitated breakout sessions. ■



In October, 17 judges from Shanghai visited Madison as part of a judicial skills development program through UW Law School. The judges participated in lectures at the law school, Dane County Circuit Court, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The judges are pictured with several members of the Dane County Circuit Court.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack discussed the opioid crisis and its effects on the courts and other parts of the justice system during her State of the Judiciary Address on Nov. 15, 2017 in Wisconsin Dells. She also highlighted the work of the Children's Court Improvement Program, efforts in Trauma-Informed Decision Making, and the rollout of statewide mandatory eFiling.



Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick delivered his first State of the Director's Office remarks at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference Nov. 15 in Wisconsin Dells. Koschnick, who served 18 years on the Jefferson County Circuit Court bench before being appointed director, introduced himself and discussed drug courts, Evidence-Based Decision Making, and the importance of collaboration.

OBITUARIES *continued from page 9*

had previously worked in general practice and served as the Manitowoc County district attorney.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; four children; and six grandchildren.

Judge Timothy L. Vocke

Judge Timothy L. Vocke, Rhinelander, died April 23, at the age of 70.

Vocke was born in Illinois in 1948. After high school, Vocke attended the University of Kansas and graduated in 1970. He decided to earn his law degree after being injured while he was a member of the Navy ROTC program at Kansas. Vocke received his law degree from UW Law School. Following graduation, he accepted a position as an assistant district attorney in Racine County. Later on, he was appointed Vilas County district attorney and then elected Circuit Court judge in Vilas County.



Judge Timothy L. Vocke

In 1984, Vocke worked in private practice in Rhinelander. While in this role, Vocke served as a reserve judge, enjoying the opportunity to "Have Gavel, Will Travel." Vocke was involved in many other organizations including the Government Accountability Board, the Wisconsin Cello Society, the Boy Scout Council, and the State Bar of Wisconsin. He spent time volunteering with his daughters' high school Mock Trial program and used his martial arts training to teach self-defense courses to young women as well as judges, court reporters, and others in the legal profession. Vocke retired from the practice of law in 2009, although he continued to sit as a reserve judge up until his passing.

In 1995, *Wisconsin Lawyer* ran an article titled "Lawyers at Play." Vocke was one of the lawyers featured and was described as a "cellist/martial artist" who formerly was a pilot, wrestling coach and official, and SCUBA diver. Additionally, Vocke was a member of the "Iron Butt Association" having traveled thousands of miles on his motorcycle.

Vocke is survived by his wife Maribeth, daughters Heather Vocke, Erica (Pete) Anderson, Jillian Vocke, his three grandsons, and his brother Thomas Vocke. ■

Elections *continued from front page*

bench in 2008 and was re-elected in 2014. Before that, she was presiding judicial court commissioner in Milwaukee County, from 2007 to 2008. She previously served as an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County from 1996 to 2007 and as special assistant U.S. Attorney from 1999 to 2002. She is a member of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference's Criminal Jury Instruction Committee. She has been an adjunct law professor at Marquette University Law School since 2005 and served on the 2012 Wisconsin Legislative Council's Special Committee on Supervised Release. Dallet is a graduate of Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University Law School.

Srenock was first appointed to the Sauk County Circuit Court bench in 2015 and was elected in 2016. He worked in private practice from 2007 to 2015, after having served as finance director for the city of Ashland from 2001 to 2004, and as city administrator of Washburn, from 1998 to 2001. Srenock holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, MBA from Eastern College and a law degree from UW Law School. Srenock, one of three circuit court judges on the Sauk County bench, has presided over the county's adult drug court since its inception in 2016.

Dallet and Srenock outpolled Madison Atty. Tim Burns in the Feb. 20 primary.

Justice Michael J. Gableman, who was elected to the Supreme Court in 2008, did not seek re-election. His term expires July 31.

Prior to his election to the Court, Justice Gableman served as the circuit court judge for Burnett County. He was appointed to that bench in 2002 by then-Gov. Scott McCallum, and elected in 2003.

Gableman also has served as an administrative law judge for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, district attorney for Ashland County, assistant district attorney for Marathon and Langlade counties, assistant corporation counsel in Forest County, and has worked in private practice. In addition, he served on the State Court/Tribal Court Relations Committee and the Judicial Council. He was chosen by Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack to serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to tribal courts in the state.

Gableman was born in West Allis, Wis. He received his bachelor's degree from Ripon College in 1988, and his law degree from Hamline University School of Law in 1993.

Court of Appeals

District I Court of Appeals Judge Timothy G. Dugan ran unopposed for the District I Court of Appeals bench, headquartered in Milwaukee. Dugan was first appointed to the bench in 2016.

Court of Appeals Judge JoAnne F. Kloppenburg ran unopposed and was elected to the District IV bench, headquartered in Madison. She was first elected in 2012.

Circuit Courts

Twelve new judges, including 10 of whom won contested races, were elected to six-year terms on circuit courts throughout the state, effective Aug. .1

Ashland County

Ashland County District Attorney Kelly J. McKnight ran unopposed and will replace incumbent Judge Robert E.

Eaton, who is retiring from Ashland County Circuit Court. McKnight was first appointed Ashland County district attorney in 2010. Before becoming district attorney, McKnight worked in private practice. He earned his law degree from UW Law School and served as a policy analyst for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission in Odanah.



Judge-Elect Kelly J. McKnight

Buffalo and Pepin counties

Atty. Thomas W. Clark defeated Atty. Roger M. Hillestad to fill the Buffalo and Pepin Counties' Circuit Court seat held by Judge James J. Duvall, who is retiring at the end of his term. Clark is a graduate of Hamline University Law School. He has served as Buffalo County District Attorney since 2005.



Judge-Elect Thomas W. Clark

Clark County

Clark County Family Court Commissioner Lyndsey Boon Brunette defeated private practice Atty. Roberta A. Heckes to replace retiring circuit court Judge Jon M. Counsell. Brunette received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Before working as a Court Commissioner, Brunette served as Clark County corporation counsel and Clark County district attorney.



Judge-Elect Lyndsey Boon Brunette

Columbia County

Longtime Columbia County Assistant District Atty. Troy D. Cross defeated Atty. Brenda L. Yaskal of the Sauk County Office of the Corporation Counsel to fill the seat vacated last year by the retirement of Branch 3 Judge Alan J. White. Cross is a graduate of Marquette University Law School. Gov. Scott Walker appointed Cross to start July 8, 2018.



Judge-Elect Troy D. Cross

Dane County

Atty. Susan M. Crawford was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court Branch 1 bench to replace Judge Timothy C.

Samuelson, who decided not to run for election.

Crawford defeated Shorewood Hills Municipal Court Judge Marilyn Townsend. Crawford holds a law degree

see [Election on page 17](#)

Abrahamson *continued from front page*

School. She is a past president of the National Conference of Chief Justices and past chair of the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts.

Born and raised in New York City, Abrahamson received her bachelor's degree from New York University in 1953, her law degree from Indiana University Law School in 1956, and a doctorate of law in American legal history in

1962 from UW Law School.

She is the recipient of 15 honorary doctor of laws degrees and the Distinguished Alumni Award of UW-Madison and Indiana University-Bloomington. In 2010 the American Bar Association awarded her the John Marshall Award in recognition of her dedication to improving the administration of justice. ■

New judges *continued from page 2*

Judge Karl R. Hanson

filled the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge J. David Rice. Radcliffe worked in private practice and is a former city attorney for Tomah. Prior to that, he clerked for U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Robert Martin.

Radcliffe received his law degree from UW Law School, and his bachelor's degree from UW-Eau Claire. He is a former chair of the Office of Lawyer Regulation District 5 Investigative Committee.

The Branch 1 vacancy on Rock County Circuit Court created by the retirement of Judge James P. Daley was filled by Judge Karl R. Hanson on March 5. Hanson is a former assistant attorney general for the Wisconsin Department of Justice and municipal judge for the towns of Milton, Harmony, and Lima. He previously served as an attorney for the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission and worked in private practice.

Prior to entering the legal profession, Hanson served ten years in the United States Army and the Wisconsin Army National Guard, holding numerous leadership positions during his tour in Bosnia and two tours in Iraq. He holds an undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a master's in public administration from Western Kentucky University, and a juris doctorate from UW Law School.

Judge Audrey Skwierawski was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 41 bench seat previously held by Judge John J. DiMotto.

Skwierawski is a former assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice, and served on the Attorney General's Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team and the State of Wisconsin Violence Against Women Act Advisory Committee. She previously served as an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County.

Skwierawski received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. She took the bench April 2.

Walker named Atty. Laura Crivello to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 36 bench, to replace Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, who announced he will retire on Aug. 27. Crivello will begin her term Sept. 2.

Crivello has an undergraduate degree from UW-Milwaukee and a law degree from Marquette University Law School. She currently serves as an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County, leading the prosecution team for the High Intensity of Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). In 2017, she received the "Women in Law" award from the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. ■



Judge Laura Crivello



Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick spoke to the State Bar Board of Governors Feb. 9 at the State Bar Center. The main purpose of Koschnick's visit was to introduce himself and discuss the role of the director. He also talked about the value of working together with the Bar on projects such as eFiling, which benefits both the courts and lawyers.

Kenosha County celebrates re-opening of remodeled courtroom

On Jan. 8, Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Anthony G. Milisauskas, County Executive Jim Kreuser and Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca Matoska-Mentink celebrated the re-opening of the Branch 4 courtroom with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The renovation and remodeling of the courtroom where Milisauskas presides began in October and was officially returned to service on Jan. 3 by Second Judicial District Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court.

Milisauskas showcased improvements in audio visual equipment, a new additional counsel table to accommodate multi-litigant cases, the remodeling of chambers, refurbishing of the public benches in the gallery, along with reconfigured bench, clerk's desk and court reporter station. ■



Kenosha County Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, left, and Judge Anthony G. Milisauskas, right, perform a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark completion of the Branch 4 remodeling project.

Rock County reaches out to public, celebrates drug court milestone

Celebrating ten years of service, Rock County's Drug Treatment Court sponsored a 5k fun walk/run during the county's second "Hope Over Heroin" event last fall in Janesville.

More than 100 people participated, sporting their Rock for Recovery t-shirts. Current and former drug court participants, retired Rock County Circuit Court Judge Richard T. Werner, staff and community members traversed the streets of Janesville.

Drug treatment court participants volunteered to help put on the event – some directed walkers at various checkpoints; others helped Judge Barbara W. McCrory hand out t-shirts and maps at the beginning of the walk; and one drug court participant entertained walkers by juggling water bottles at the finish line.

Hope Over Heroin is an annual event highlighting local efforts to address heroin addiction in Rock County. Drug treatment staff manned a table and explained the program to attendees. At the conclusion of the program, participants lit candles and released balloons to remember those who died as a result of heroin use.

Another Rock County courts initiative started in 2015, when representatives from Rock County attended the Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts and began work to create the Rock County Trauma Project.

After the conference, Rock County Circuit Court Judge Alan Bates sent invitations to the district attorney, public defender, Guardian Ad Litem and people who work

in child protective services, school districts, law enforcement, juvenile justice, charitable agencies, health care, and others, to participate in the project. The team developed a vision statement and core values.

Since its founding, the task force has initiated a number of programs within the juvenile court, and among its partners to promote the use of trauma informed care.

One of the Trauma Project's core values is education: "To provide the community with the most up-to-date

[see Rock County on page 29](#)



Juvenile justice workers were among volunteers from the Rock County Trauma Project who helped out with activities during a National Night Out event in Janesville last fall. The event is one of several recent outreach efforts by the courts in Rock County.

Elections *continued from page 14*

from University of Iowa College of Law. Before moving to private practice in 2011, Crawford served as chief legal counsel to former Gov. Jim Doyle and in positions at the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of State Employment Relations. She is a former assistant attorney general at the Wisconsin Department of Justice.



Judge-Elect Susan M. Crawford

Eau Claire County

Atty. Emily M. Long ran unopposed to replace incumbent Judge William M. Gabler, Sr., who will retire from the Branch 3 bench at the end of his term July 31.

Long is a graduate of UW Law School and currently works in private practice. She previously served as an Eau Claire County assistant district attorney, as well as an Eau Claire County reserve court commissioner. Long also has taught Family Law classes as a clinical professor at UW Law School.



Judge-Elect Emily M. Long

Private practice Atty. Sarah M. Harless defeated incumbent Judge Shaughnessy P. Murphy to serve on the Eau Claire County Circuit Court Branch 5 bench. Harless holds a law degree from the Rutgers University Law School (Camden). Harless served as a Law Clerk for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District III early on in her career.



Judge-Elect Sarah M. Harless

Juneau County

Atty. Stacy A. Smith defeated private practice Atty. Scott H. Southworth to fill the Juneau County Circuit Court Branch 1 seat vacated by the retirement of Judge John P. Roemer on Aug. 10, 2017. Smith is a graduate of Regent University Law School in Virginia. He currently serves as an assistant district attorney in Vernon County and previously served as an assistant district attorney in Juneau County. Gov. Scott Walker appointed Smith to fill the seat effective July 8.



Judge-Elect Stacy A. Smith

Manitowoc County

Private practice Atty. Jerilyn M. Dietz defeated Attorney Ralph J. Szygelski to fill the Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge Branch 2 seat held by retiring Judge Gary L. Bendix. Dietz previously served as Calumet County District Attorney and as an assistant district attorney in Kenosha and Manitowoc counties. Dietz is a UW Law School graduate.



Judge-Elect Jerilyn M. Dietz

Price County

Judge Kevin G. Klein defeated Price County District Attorney Mark T. Fuhr to retain his seat on the Price County Circuit Court bench.

Klein was first appointed as Price County Circuit Court Judge in 2017 after the retirement of Judge Douglas T. Fox. Klein is a graduate of UW Law School and worked in private practice before his appointment.

Sauk County

Atty. Patricia A. Barrett defeated Atty. Sandra Cardo Gorsuch to take the Branch 3 seat held by Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Guy D. Reynolds, who is retiring at the end of his term.

Barrett is a graduate of UW Law School. She worked for several law firms before serving as Sauk County district attorney from 1995 to 2013.



Judge-Elect Patricia A. Barrett

Waukesha County

Atty. Laura F. Lau defeated Wisconsin Gaming Administrator Jack A. Melvin III to win the Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Branch 12 seat held by retiring Judge Kathryn W. Foster. Lau holds a law degree from Marquette University Law School. She has served as a circuit court commissioner in Waukesha County since she was appointed by Foster in 2001.



Judge-Elect Laura F. Lau

Winnebago County

Atty. Teresa S. Basiliere defeated Winnebago County Deputy District Attorney Scott A. Ceman to replace retiring Judge Thomas J. Gritton. She has served as Winnebago County court commissioner and spent over 22 years in private practice. Basiliere is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law. ■



Judge-Elect Teresa S. Basiliere



Photo Credit: Joe Koshallek

Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler won a second 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2017, and was administered the Oath of Office by Retired Justice Jon P. Wilcox during an investiture ceremony in the Assembly Chambers on Nov. 21, 2017. Ziegler's sons, Drew, left, and Charlie, right, assisted with the ceremony. Her husband, J.J., not pictured, had the honor of presenting the justice's robe. Ziegler was first elected to the Supreme Court in 2007 after serving 10 years as a circuit court judge in Washington County.

Grants *continued from page 10*

consistent with evidence-based practices in treatment services needed by those participants, including substance abuse treatment services, mental health treatment services, and intensive case management services.

- Provide a multidisciplinary screen, as defined by statute, for program participants.
- Provide a holistic and trauma-informed approach to the treatment of program participants and provide those participants with services that may be needed.
- Integrate all services provided to program participants by state and local government agencies and other organizations.

The grant program was first proposed in 2015 by the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, Alternatives, and Diversions at the prompting of Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary E. Triggiano. Triggiano served on the study committee, along with La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliott M. Levine. DCF played an integral role in supporting the legislation throughout the process. The legislation was introduced this session by Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) and Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).

The expansion of Family Drug Treatment Courts is also

Judicial engagement *continued from page 10*

a semi-annual child welfare law training that included invitations to judges and attorneys from surrounding counties.

Monroe County successfully obtained a grant to fund a part-time Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) case manager. Monroe County adjusted the case assignment process to have two judges assigned to all new juvenile matters on an alternate week schedule, and agreed to have the same judge assigned to any related court cases. The judges have been holding regular review hearings between permanency hearings, resulting in more interactions between the court and parents, as well as with other case participants. Monroe County also provided a day-long training to county and tribal stakeholders that focused on the Indian Child Welfare Act and child safety.

After experiencing successful outcomes with the Judicial Engagement Initiative, Dane, Kenosha, and Monroe counties will now share their experiences with a new set of counties. Barron, Jefferson, Marathon, Marinette, and Oconto counties

among recommendations from First Lady Tonette Walker's [Fostering Futures](#) initiative, as it incorporates the principles of trauma-informed care.

[Milwaukee](#) was the first county with a fully operating family drug treatment court program, which started Oct. 1, 2011. Success there has inspired other counties, including Jackson, Bayfield and more recently Walworth and Kenosha, to begin implementing their own programs. [Kenosha County](#) launched its new family drug treatment court program, effective April 1.

In a similar effort, Barron County has established a reunification court, with a goal of reducing the time a child is in out-of-home care, and to work toward preventing the need for the termination of parental rights.

Statistics gathered by the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) program during its first five years in operation demonstrate the success of that effort. Children in the FDTC are 2.5 times more likely to be reunified with their parents and are nearly 50 percent less likely to continue in out-of-home care after a year as compared to children of substance using parents in a traditional court setting.

2017 Wisconsin [Act 261](#) appropriated \$250,000 for fiscal year 2018-19 for the new grant program. ■

recently began working toward implementing the Judicial Engagement Initiative with a kick-off meeting in Stevens Point. Judge Shelley J. Gaylord, Dane County Circuit Court; Judge Todd L. Ziegler, Monroe County Circuit Court; and Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court, have all agreed to serve as mentors for the five new participating counties.

In addition to mentoring the new counties, each of the pilot counties continue to build on their own accomplishments. Family Treatment Court in Kenosha County began April 1; Monroe County will continue to increase representation for parents in temporary physical custody hearings; and Dane County has plans to expand services including the use of volunteers for at-risk families and certified parent peer specialists.

The Judicial Engagement Initiative will continue to expand throughout the state using the new set of county participants as a new generation of mentors. ■

eFiling updates add case types, features

The Wisconsin Circuit Court eFiling system is rapidly evolving with new case types and features, including several that were issued in a new software release on May 16.

Mandatory eFiling for probate and informal probate cases is now in effect statewide. Guardianship, commitment, judgment, and lien case types are now available for voluntary eFiling in almost every Wisconsin county and will be mandatory statewide on Sept. 1.

In coming weeks and months, Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) will also be introducing a new set of case types, including juvenile guardianship, juvenile civil commitment, adoption, juvenile adoption, and juvenile civil law and ordinance violations on a voluntary, county-by-county basis.

Enhancements to the eFiling system continue to be made on a regular basis to add new functionality and address requests from filers. CCAP and the Office of Court Operations are working on modifying all mandatory court forms for a change to electronic signatures and documents

that will be introduced later this year.

Beginning Sept. 1, all court officials will begin using a new electronic signature format aimed at simplifying the process used to sign documents and creating consistency across all documents. Additionally all electronic documents will include a new header at the top of each page that will include the case number, document number, filed date and page numbering. This header, used in a number of federal courts, is popular with judges and practitioners because it numbers documents for ease of reference and prevents unnumbered pages from being disconnected from the main document.

For details about the changes to electronic signatures and documents see Informational Bulletin 18-07

(<http://courtnet.wicourts.gov/bulletins/docs/ib1807.pdf>). ■

CCAP staff is available to assist eFilers by phone, 1-800-462-8843, by [chat](#), email at eFileSupport@wicourts.gov and is on Twitter @ [CCAP_Wisconsin](#).

Online security training increases awareness, reduces risk of potential threats

The Wisconsin court system launched security awareness training in 2016, following approval by the CCAP Steering Committee of a dedicated program for cybersecurity improvements. The effort appears to be paying off, based on the declining percentage of CCAP users willing to click on potentially disastrous links and attachments contained in test e-mail messages sent by CCAP.

The training program requires all CCAP system users to complete annual security awareness training. In addition, CCAP implemented a second powerful anti-virus engine, which greatly reduces the number of infected emails that reach court system inboxes in the first place.

Starting in December of 2016, all court system personnel were asked to complete a 30-minute online training program. To date, 99 percent of staff completed the initial training, and most users have completed the second round, which was announced in December 2017. All new CCAP users are also asked to complete the training.

In another effort to increase awareness of cyber security concerns, phishing tests began in March 2017 whereby each person with a court system email account receives one random phishing email at some point during each month. The click rates are measured each month, providing a gauge of the effectiveness of the program.

CCAP users demonstrated a 50-percent net reduction in clicks on potential malware during the past year, resulting in 186 fewer clicks on potential phishing links or attachments in February 2018 than in March 2017. This translates to 186 fewer incidents in which the court system was exposed to a potential ransomware infection. The conclusion can be drawn that the security awareness program is having a positive impact by reducing the court system's exposure to malware. However, the 6.3 percent click rate in February

represents a lingering and significant vulnerability equal to 164 potential exposures to ransomware. That leaves much room for improvement.

CCAP will remain diligent by maintaining up-to-date enterprise anti-virus systems that prevent the vast majority of computer viruses from even reaching the court system network, but that alone is not enough. Malware constantly changes and adapts, and there is a gap between when new viruses are unleashed and when anti-virus engines are capable of preventing network exposure.

For example, employees at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) were greeted earlier this year by a ransomware message similar to this:

"All your files are encrypted with RSA-2048 encryption.... It's not possible to recover your files without a private key....

You must send us 0.7 BitCoin (~\$8,000) for each affected PC or 3 BitCoins (~\$35,000) to receive ALL Private Keys for ALL affected PC's."

The CDOT ransomware attack took 2,000 employee computers down for more than a week. And before the CDOT security team was done recovering from the original ransomware attack, the virus had already mutated and re-infected the agency, forcing the security team to start the clean-up process from scratch.

According to FBI statistics, ransomware such as this infects more than 100,000 computers around the world every day and total payments are approaching \$1 billion. To make matters worse, a 2016 Kaspersky Labs report stated that one of five businesses that pay the ransom never get their data back.

Companies and government organizations are responding to these threats by ramping up their cybersecurity measures, including security awareness training. According to a recent



Legislative Council Study Committees to examine guardianships, pre-trial release and placement and support

The Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Legislative Council has approved 10 Legislative Council study committees for the 2018 interim session, including three committees that are examining issues affecting the courts. Below is a list of those study committees and the scope of topics to be addressed.

Study Committee on Minor Guardianships

Scope: The Study Committee is directed to examine ch. 54, Stats., concerning guardianship of minors and adults, and recommend legislation that creates procedures specific to guardianship of a minor. The committee may consider whether any new provisions should apply to guardianship of a minor's person, estate, or both.

Study Committee on Bail and Conditions of Pretrial Release

Scope: The Study Committee is directed to review Wisconsin's pretrial release system, including considerations for courts in imposing monetary bail and for denying pretrial release. The committee shall review

relevant Wisconsin constitutional and statutory provisions and best practices implemented by Wisconsin counties and other states, including use of risk assessment tools for informing pretrial detention decisions. The committee is directed to recommend legislation regarding bail and pretrial release that enhances public safety, respects constitutional rights of the accused, considers costs to local governments, and incorporates evidence-based strategies.

Study Committee on Child Placement and Support

Scope: The Study Committee is directed to review the standards under current law for determining periods of physical placement and child support obligations. The committee may consider alternatives to current law concerning physical placement, including a rebuttable presumption that equal placement is in the child's best interest. The committee may also consider whether the current standard for determining child support adequately and equitably provides for the support of children and alternative models for determining child support obligations. ■



Judge Michael O. Bohren, Waukesha County Circuit Court, was among presenters at the 2018 Court Safety and Security Conference held Feb. 20-22 in Oshkosh. Bohren discussed security strategies implemented during proceedings on the Slender Man case, which drew national media attention. Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick gave opening remarks to attendees, many of whom were law enforcement officers.

CCAP *continued from page 19*

report by Gov.uk, more than 50 percent of large- and medium-sized organizations have cybersecurity training programs in place. This group includes all State of Wisconsin executive branch agencies supported by the Department of Administration.

The vigilance of individual CCAP users will greatly help avoid circumstances like these.

If you have a CCAP account, you are the last line of defense. Our goal is that with continued awareness testing, short annual training refreshers, and your ongoing diligence, the court system's risk of malware infection will continue to decrease. Please remember to complete your training if you haven't yet done so. And as always, remember to follow

these three online safety rules:

Think before you click.

Stop, look, and think about emails and their attachments before opening or clicking on them.

Verify authenticity.

If you're suspicious of an email, contact the sender using a different mode of communication to verify its authenticity.

When it doubt, throw it out.

Internet criminals invent new ways to scam users every day. Stay alert. When you're not sure about an email or attachment, delete it. ■

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 6*

Sarah Bartelt, left, and Carolyn Bartelt, right, pose with fellow judicial assistant Anna Evanson, who retired from the Court of Appeals District III. Carolyn worked with Evanson from 1979-2004, and Sarah worked with Evanson from 1987 to 2018.

District III Court of Appeals Judges honor longtime judicial assistant

Retired District III Court of Appeals Judicial Assistant Anna Evanson, was a bit humble in leaving her job after 38 years with the courts. She did not want a fuss made in The Third Branch. However, Court of Appeals judges who worked with her over the years saw it differently. They spoke highly of Evanson and contributed the following:

Retired Judge R. Thomas Cane: "In addition to being an extremely competent Judicial Assistant, Ann has a cheerful outlook on life and a great sense of humor. Working with her over the many years was enjoyable and comfortable. I wish her the best for a well-deserved retirement."

Retired Judge Michael W. Hoover: "I've never known anyone who was more dedicated to the justice system and to going above and beyond. Anna was a true professional in every sense and aspect."

Judge Thomas M. Hruz: "Anna defines the meaning of a delightful person. Ever kind, intelligent, hardworking yet easygoing, she has served well all of the judges in District III since nearly its inception, decades ago. We all love

Anna."

Judge Lisa K. Stark: "At her retirement party Anna referred to the District III Court of Appeals as family; she certainly made us feel like family. Not only did she help shape the court and its functioning over her long tenure, but she was she unwaveringly loyal and extremely conscientious in making certain our work was as perfect as possible. She cared for each of us personally, and brought beauty and fun to our office with flowers from her garden, office decorations and her wonderful homemade treats. We miss her but wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement."

Retired Judge Mark A. Mangerson: "Anna was one of those rare

employees who did her work so efficiently and effectively that her performance wasn't appreciated until she was gone. Thanks, Anna, for making it easy and enjoyable to be your 'boss.'"



Verda Nemo poses with a picture of the Grant County Courthouse.

Verda Nemo Grant County Child Support Administrator

Verda Nemo, Grant County child support administrator, retired on Jan. 18, after more than 39 years of service. Nemo witnessed the caseload grow from 500 cases in 1978,

[see Retirements on page 23](#)



Judy Holloway, a Barron County Deputy Clerk of Court (second from left), retired on April 13, after 29 years of service. Judy was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by the three Barron County Circuit Court Judges J.M. Bitney, Maureen D. Boyle and James C. Babler.

High-profile trial gives Juror Appreciation Month new meaning in Waukesha County

September as Juror Appreciation Month took on new meaning in Waukesha County as potential jurors were called to the courthouse for the trial of one of two girls accused of being involved in the repeated stabbing of their friend in an apparent effort to please the fictional Internet character known as Slender Man, said Clerk of Circuit Court Kathleen Madden.

Potential jurors were summoned Sept. 11, 2017, Madden wrote in a note to the Third Branch that day. Both suspects and the victim were 12 years old at the time of the incident, which occurred in 2014.

"Today we call in 117 jurors and will call in 100 new jurors each day until the jury is selected. I found it ironic that the first of these two large trials is being held during Juror Appreciation month. We sincerely do appreciate our jurors each and every day, but maybe just a little bit more right now! This is a very large pool of jurors and they have been incredibly responsive in the weeks leading up to today," Madden wrote.

The "failure to appear rate" for jurors that day was less than 1-percent, Madden said. "That is absolutely remarkable! I love our jurors!"

All jurors who showed up during Juror Appreciation Month in Waukesha County were greeted with a banner hung in the courthouse and received a token of appreciation in the form of a can koozie or magnetic chip bag clip, Madden said. Staff also wore "We Appreciate Jurors" pins.

In **Racine County**, Judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz, Branch 2, wrote a guest column that appeared in The Journal Times newspaper of Racine. He thanked jurors for their service and discussed the important role they play in our justice system.

"... On behalf of all Racine County Circuit Court judges, I wish to thank the 3,873 citizens who answered the call to participate in 59 jury trials conducted in 2016 and the 2,663 citizens who have participated in 28 jury trials in Racine County this year," Gasiorkiewicz wrote.

He continued: "The privilege of ordinary citizens to serve as fact finders in jury trials is among the most democratic of

American institutions. The very idea that ordinary citizens without experience in law or the judicial process should decide issues of great importance is certainly unusual in today's world... Daily I see fellow citizens take time out from their busy lives to exercise their civic duty to serve as jurors. I have seen firsthand their attentiveness to my directions on law and their commitment and compliance with their charge to 'search for the truth,'" Gasiorkiewicz wrote.

Clerks of circuit court in several other Wisconsin counties held activities to mark September as Juror Appreciation month, including those who shared those activities with *The Third Branch*:

Officials in **Barron County** hung a banner at the courthouse to show appreciation for jurors.

In **La Crosse County**, posters were hung and an article appeared in the newspaper, said Clerk of Circuit Court Pam Radtke.

In **Lincoln County**, a thank you letter was published in local newspapers, signage was posted, and jurors were treated to packaged breakfast bars, fresh fruit, donuts, coffee and bottled water, said Clerk of Circuit Court Marie Peterson.

In **Oneida County**, thank you notes were included in local newspapers.

In **Sauk County**, banners and signs were hung in the hallway of the courthouse, and a note of appreciation was displayed on the county's website, said Clerk of Circuit Court Carrie Wastlick.

In **Waushara County**, the county board passed a proclamation designating September as Juror Appreciation Month, which read, in part:

"... The Waushara County Board of Supervisors in partnership with Hon. Guy D. Dutcher and Clerk of Court Melissa M. Zamzow, do hereby honor the service and commitment of the citizens of Waushara County who perform jury duty, by participating in the judicial process aid those elected to serve; therefore, preserving the rule of law, the basis for a free society." ■



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack met with students at Sun Prairie High School during an educational outreach visit in December. The chief justice conducted a trial simulation with students and discussed how the court system works. Student feedback was very positive, said Steven Braatz, a Social Studies teacher who helped coordinate the visit.

NEWS AND NOTES

Policy group releases report on Milwaukee County Courthouse funding

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on May 9 that the process of funding a proposed new \$262 million courthouse in Milwaukee County will be difficult, and additional funding from sources outside county government may be needed, according to a study by the Wisconsin Policy Forum. The group was hired by the county to study the problem.

“Costs of demolishing the building and relocating criminal court services during construction boost total spending on the project to an estimate of between \$341 million and \$367 million,” the newspaper wrote, attributing the information to the policy research group’s president, Rob Henken.

“The county has never before financed such a costly facility. The standard practice of issuing 15-year general obligation bonds to raise even \$300 million of the total would eat up the county’s borrowing capacity for several years and crowd out other long-delayed projects, the group says in its report, ‘The Jury Is Out.’”

60 Minutes episode explores trauma-informed care in Milwaukee

On March 11, CBS News’ 60 Minutes featured a segment entitled, “Treating Childhood Trauma,” about efforts in Milwaukee to implement trauma-informed decision-making in an effort to improve outcomes for children and families deeply affected by trauma.

60 Minutes special contributor Oprah Winfrey returned to Milwaukee, where she grew up, to interview victims of deep trauma, treatment care providers, academicians, and others involved in the justice system.

Much of the coverage focused on the efforts of SaintA’s, a human services agency that places and coordinates care for approximately 2,000 children in foster homes. Trauma-

informed care focuses on a person’s experiences before trying to correct their behavior, “whether it be juvenile delinquency, poor performance in school, or out-of-control anger,” according to the report.

Winfrey summarized it like this: “It comes down to the question of not, ‘What’s wrong with you? What’s wrong with that kid? Why is he behaving like that,’ to, ‘What happened to you,’ which is a very different question.”

The episode did not focus extensively on the role of the courts. However, the courts have been actively addressing the effects of

trauma through juvenile programming, and by helping to provide training across disciplines, said Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges Mary E. Triggiano and Carl Ashley have provided trauma-informed training to nearly 400 people under a

grant provided by the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge program. The next phase of the training focuses on judges and court commissioners ([see related story, page 5](#)).



Chief Judge Maxine A. White



Judge Mary E. Triggiano



Judge Carl Ashley

[see News and Notes on page 27](#)

RETIREMENTS *continued from page 21*

handled by a two-person office, to an average of 2,200 cases, with a staff of six handling monthly payments of \$500,000. The office has an 82-percent collection rate, making it one of the top 10 counties in the state. Nemo said the increase in cases has been a steady one, and has shown changes in society. Under Nemo’s leadership, the Grant County Child Support Office has received numerous commendations, including being named “County of the Year” in 2010 by the Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association. Nemo and her husband, Jim, are looking forward to enjoying more UTV riding, but their immediate focus for retirement will be baseball. Long-suffering Cubs fans, they plan to get to more games, spring training, and finally to make that trip to Cooperstown to see the Baseball Hall of Fame. ■



On Dec. 19, 2017, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack presented Jo Stewart, right, with a plaque honoring Stewart for her more than 26 years of service to the court system. Stewart retired from the Office of Management Services.

Court reporters celebrate 70 years of service

Brown County Circuit Court Reporter Sheri Piontek and Eighth Judicial District Court Reporter Stephanie Schreiber were recognized for 70 years of combined service at an event on Oct. 6, 2017, at the Brown County Courthouse. Both reporters began their careers in Brown County on the same date on October 4, 1982.

Piontek began her career working for Judge Charles E. Kuehn from 1982 to 1987, then worked for Judge Peter J. Naze from 1987 to 2008, and has been working for Judge Marc A. Hammer since 2008.

Schreiber began her career working in Brown County for Judge Alexander R. Grant until 1988, leaving employment briefly to do freelance work. She then returned as the official court reporter for Judge William J. Duffy until his retirement in 1991. At that time she became the District 8 Court Reporter until taking an official position in Oconto County with Judge Larry L. Jeske. After taking a brief sabbatical to stay home with her young daughter in 2003, she returned to Oconto County in 2006, working in a job-share position for Judge Richard D. Delforge until his retirement in 2010, followed by Judge Jay N. Conley. In 2016, she returned to a full-time position and currently works again as the District 8 Court Reporter.



Eighth Judicial District Court Reporter Stephanie Schreiber, left, and Brown County Court Reporter Sheri Piontek.

Both reporters have experienced many changes in the court system over the past 35 years, Piontek said.

“The way we produce transcripts has changed dramatically. I began my career manually typing transcripts, then purchased four software programs that specialized in computer-aided transcription. The software enables me to write realtime for the judge, as well as has the capability of doing closed captioning. I have changed the way I write the English language on my steno machine many times during my career, constantly trying

to make transcript production easier and faster for the judges, attorneys, and the Court of Appeals. It is fun combining the court reporting skills and the computer technology together to produce a transcript.”

Schneider said: “When I began my career, we typed transcripts on a typewriter, using carbon paper for as many copies as we needed and using an eraser to correct any typing errors. We were lucky to get 50 pages done in a day. Now, using computer-aided transcription, it’s not unusual to get over two hundred pages done in a day.” ■

NEW FACES *continued from page 2*

Caitlin Frederick Human Resources Officer

Caitlin Frederick joined the Office of the Director of State Courts as the human resources officer on April 30. She was most recently the executive budget and policy manager in the State Budget Office at the Wisconsin Department of Administration, where she served as an analyst since 2006. Before that, she worked as the Director of Civil Service for Albany County, New York. She began her career as a personnel administrator in Pennsylvania in 1994.

Frederick is a graduate of Russell Sage College. She earned her Masters of Public Administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany, where she specialized in human resources and public finance.



Caitlin Frederick

Anna Yarish Program Assistant to the Supreme Court

Anna Yarish has been hired as the program assistant to the Supreme Court and will provide administrative and



Anna Yarish

publications support for the Director of State Courts Office and the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Yarish moved to Madison from Oshkosh in 2015. She now lives in Middleton, having worked most recently as the office manager at the Wisconsin Historical Museum.

Yarish has also worked as the Learning Assistance Coordinator for the Center for Academic Resources at UW–Oshkosh and as a tutor and peer educator on campus. Yarish has a bachelor’s degree in U.S. History from UW–Oshkosh.

Yarish replaces former program assistant Sara Foster, who made the move to the position of executive secretary to the Director of State Courts last year. Before joining the court system in 2008, Foster had worked as a substitute teacher, 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. ■

Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court celebrates 50th graduate

In recognition of National Drug Court Month, the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) celebrated the milestone of its 50th graduate during a ceremony in Milwaukee on May 25.

Established in 2011, FDTC was the first of its kind in Wisconsin and has served as a model for similar courts established elsewhere. FDTCs are designed to help break the cycle of substance use through family-centered treatment and support services with the ultimate goal of protecting children and creating more stable home environments.

"I congratulate Milwaukee County on the work they are doing with the Family Drug Treatment Court Program," said Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack. "When a family falls apart because of a parent's addiction, the children suffer significantly. We cannot effectively remedy the problems in the family without treating the parent's addiction," Roggensack said.

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, trumpeted the accomplishment of the FDTC: "Our trauma-informed and committed Children's Court leadership, along with the systems-changing collaboration of community partners in the Milwaukee County FDTC, has been phenomenal. The work of the families and their teams has been inspiring," White said.

The FDTC's approach changes the dynamic among traditionally adversarial institutions, legal parties, child welfare and treatment systems, into partnerships to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families, White said. The primary goal of the court is to achieve safety and permanency for the children and the healing of families.

After six years in operation, FDTC continues to see the results of its collaborative efforts in terms of positive outcomes for our families. Graduate Ivy Hayes said: "FDTC

loved me until I learned how to love myself, they gave me structure and held me accountable, in a loving, caring way. They are the most supportive, caring people I know. They helped me get my life and family back."

Nationally, it has been estimated that between 60 percent and 80 percent of substantiated child welfare cases involve parental substance use disorder and more than 80 percent of these parents never complete substance abuse treatment.

In Milwaukee County, FDTC families were found to be 43 percent more likely to be reunified after substantial participation in the Milwaukee County FDTC. ■



Deputy Chief Judges M. Joseph Donald and Mary E. Triggiano attend a celebration of the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court's 50th graduate, along with Chief Judge Maxine A. White, right.

Flier guides self-represented litigants



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Self-represented litigants often need more information than front-line staff can provide. Librarians at the Wisconsin State Law Library help by providing access to legal information and assisting litigants with locating organizations which provide legal services.

The Library is making it easier to refer people to our services with our public service desk handout. Our new half sheet flier gives a brief description of the type of help we can provide along with essential contact information. The handout can be printed in black and white or color, and can be cut in half for easy distribution at public service desks, such as Clerk of Court service windows.

The fliers can be downloaded or printed from our website. Grayscale: <http://wilawlibrary.gov/about/desk-handout-bw.pdf>

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Part of the Wisconsin State Law Library's mission is to facilitate equal access to the law by providing access to trusted sources. Over half of our research requests originate from the general public, who need information on a wide range of topics. Use this handout for a quick and easy referral to the Library's services. ■

Legislative update *continued from page 4*

other attorneys to battery to an officer of the court statute

Acts Affecting Civil Law

Act 235 – various civil procedure changes including extensive changes to civil discovery statutes

Act 203 – changing procedure for relocating a child who is the subject of a legal custody or physical placement order

Act 317 – certain landlord-tenant changes; includes requirements for the WCCA website and a change to limited scope representation

Act 211 – changes to asset forfeiture of property seized in a crime

Act 58 – prescribing unique appellate procedures for actions affecting an electronics and information technology manufacturing zone (FoxConn)

Act 165 – civil immunity granted for certain investigative drug activities

Act 181 – adopting the Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act

Act 302 – allowing venue for domestic abuse, child abuse and harassment cases to be in nearby counties if the petitioner works in the area of domestic abuse

Act 208 – authorizing counties to conduct foreclosure sales using an Internet-based auction

Act 339 – eligible bidders and purchasers at foreclosure sales

Act 268 – requiring child support compliance in order to maintain eligibility for Medical Assistance

Acts Affecting Juvenile Law

Four proposals of the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care were signed into law, including Acts 253, 255, 256, and 258, noted below.

Act 185 – juvenile corrections reform (closure of Lincoln Hills)

Act 253 – establishing a pilot program by July 1, 2018 to allow the State Public Defender's Office to appoint counsel for indigent parents in CHIPS proceedings in a 5-county pilot area (Brown, Outagamie, Racine, Kenosha, and Winnebago counties)

Act 255 – additional funding for the CASA program

Act 256 – substantial likelihood that parent will not meet conditions for return ground for TPR

Act 258 – requiring certain signatures by appellant in TPR appeals cases

Act 47 – adding juvenile correctional officers to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse

Act 308 – removing the 3-year time limit on restrictive custody under Serious Juvenile Offender Program



Chief Judge Jason Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court, left, makes a point during a Nov. 29, 2017 meeting of the Judicial Committee on Child Welfare at the Capitol. The committee discussed proposals introduced as part of the Speaker's Task Force on Foster Care during an update presented by Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier (back to camera). Other committee members at the meeting include (at larger table, clockwise from Rossell): Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County Circuit Court; Judge Shelley J. Gaylord, Dane County Circuit Court; Judge Christopher R. Foley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Judge Mary E. Triggiano, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Chief Judge Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court; Judge Todd L. Ziegler, Monroe County Circuit Court; and Circuit Court Commissioner Anton Jamieson, Dane County. At the head table, left to right: Children's Court Improvement Program Analyst Justin Wolff; Children's Court Improvement Program Director Bridget Bauman; Judge Marshall B. Murray, Milwaukee County Circuit Court (Committee Chair); Children's Court Improvement Program Analyst Michelle Zaccard; and Seventh Judicial Administrative District Court Administrator, Patrick Brummond.

Acts Affecting Probate Law

Act 90 – allowing transfer by affidavit for personal representatives in small estates

Act 140 – changes relating to transfers for emergency detention

Act 187 – adopting the Uniform Adult Guardianship Jurisdiction Act

Act 204 – allowing emergency outpatient mental health treatment for minors without consent in certain circumstances

Act 332 – non-probate transfers of real estate

Acts Affecting Traffic Laws

Act 105 – expanding traffic violations requiring operating license suspension and traffic school

Act 127 – removing “knowingly” as an element of operating after revocation

Act 172 – revocation of operating privilege for certain OWI offenses

Act 286 – allows a municipality or county to have an impoundment ordinance for habitual parking violators

Act 287 – increased penalties for taking, driving or operating a commercial motor vehicle without permission

Act 294 – vehicle following distance, including provisions for platooning and for commercial motor vehicles

Bills that received favorable action in only one house

SB 53 – addressing expungement. The Assembly added

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 23***Kenosha County debuts Family Drug Treatment Court**

Kenosha County has added substance abuse treatment programming for parents whose children have been taken into foster care. According to an April 9 article in the *Kenosha News*, the county's new Family Drug Treatment Court will accept families who have had new child protective service cases filed April 1 or later.

According to the newspaper, the underlying goal is to find a more successful way to handle parents with addiction problems, said Ron Rogers, director of Kenosha County Children and Family Services, a partner in the treatment court program.



Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell

Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court, handles CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) cases and says that data shows parents' substance abuse is a critical factor in these cases.

Rossell told the newspaper that data shows that the number of children who have been returned to their families from foster care

and then taken back into custody after further neglect has been increasing in recent years.

"One of the first things we saw with our re-removals, that we had a significant percentage of cases where that was happening, and in almost all of those cases it was due to substance abuse," the newspaper quoted Rossell as saying. The article was picked up by the Associated Press and ran in many publications nationally.

The newspaper subsequently published an editorial praising the program.

Blizzard cancels court in northeastern counties

Blizzard Evelyn dumped about two feet of snow in the Fox Valley area, resulting in the cancellation of circuit court calendars in nine northeastern Wisconsin counties on April 16.

"It's been 130 years since the Green Bay area has felt the impact of a snow like this Blizzard Evelyn," reported WLUK-TV after the storm, which occurred April 14-15.



Chief Judge James A. Morrison

The wet, heavy snow buckled roofs on several large buildings, including a hotel in Green Bay and a machine service company in

Ashwaubenon. Motorists were warned not to travel if they

could avoid doing so, and many businesses and government offices were closed.

District Eight Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court, determined all circuit court calendars in that district would be canceled on April 16, including Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie and Waupaca. The calendar in Shawano County was also canceled April 16 due to the storm.

Director of State Courts featured in magazine

The Wisconsin Law Journal interviewed Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick about his first four months as director for a cover article in the Wisconsin Law Journal's premier magazine edition in January.

The article also outlines Koschnick's previous experience as a public defender, a presiding judge, and as chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District.

When asked about making the transition from the Jefferson County Circuit Court bench to the director's office, Koschnick told reporter Erika Strebel: "It's been very eye-opening. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes – you don't realize as a judge. You sit in court, you decide your cases and you sort of take for granted what happens behind the scenes to keep the system moving."



Deputy Chief Judge John A. Des Jardins

Judge Des Jardin recalls the "Ice Bowl"

The Associated Press asked Deputy Chief Judge John A. Des Jardins, Outagamie County Circuit Court, to reflect on his experience attending one of the most iconic events in sports history – *The Ice Bowl*, which marked its 50th anniversary on

Dec. 31, 2017.

[see News and Notes on page 28](#)



Chief Justice Roggensack discusses aspects of leadership with members of Leadership Fond du Lac during the group's Fond du Lac County Government Day activities at the State Capitol on Feb. 28. Part of the Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce, the leadership group helps prepare future leaders who are willing to make a lasting commitment of service to the city of Fond du Lac.

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Reporter Genaro Armas reported that Des Jardins was 15 years old when the Green Bay Packers faced the Dallas Cowboys in temperatures that reached minus-13 degrees with a wind chill of minus-48. Des Jardins recalled bundling up in thick layers in an attempt to stay warm. Despite the unbearably frigid weather, the Packers defeated the Cowboys 21-17. "We were hugging everybody. Everybody was so padded, so you could only get your arms around so far," Des Jardins said.

Des Jardins' love for the Green Bay Packers runs deep - his grandfather and namesake was a member of the original team in 1919. Des Jardins has attended every playoff game and currently works the sidelines by holding the "down-and-distance" markers at home games.

Today, Judge Des Jardins' Appleton chambers is filled with Packers memorabilia; including his ticket stub and program from that chilly, historic day.

Chippewa County Drug Court Celebrates 10 years

Judge Roderick A. Cameron

The Chippewa County Drug Court celebrated its 10th anniversary in September. Reporter Clint Berge of Eau Claire's WQOW detailed the program's history as well as its successes and impact on the county's communities.

"The program teaches convicted drug users how to stay sober by having them participate in weekly court sessions, meetings and job training skills, all to help them get out of jail, stay sober and get back on track," Berge wrote.

Chippewa County's Drug Court was established in 2007 by former Chippewa County Circuit Court Judge Roderick A. Cameron. "Treatment courts actually help people, and we can't arrest our way out of the drug problem," Cameron said.

In ten years, the Drug Court has seen 36 graduates from its program and is busier than ever helping drug addicts successfully move on to a normal life. According to Rose Baier, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council coordinator, data has shown that 75 percent of program participants don't have another charge filed on their criminal record for at least three years after graduation.

On Sept. 28, 2017, the Heyde Center in Chippewa Falls sponsored a celebration event for the program which included success stories from graduates and speeches from founders of the Drug Court.

Dane County Circuit Court judge pens article on 'Prison Pipeline'

In November, Madison Magazine published an article by Dane County Circuit Court Judge Everett D. Mitchell in which he explains his work with CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) cases and his goal to help troubled young men and women grow up to be "strong and resilient."



Judge Everett D. Mitchell



District Court Administrators gathered for a photo at the Concourse Hotel in Madison after the Joint Meeting between the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Committee of Chief Judges on April 12. Left row, bottom to top: Ron Ledford, District 6; Susan Byrnes, District 9; Holly Szablewski, District 1; Thomas Schappa, District 8; Theresa Owens, District 5; and Jon Bellows, District 4. Right row, bottom to top: Patrick Brummond, District 7; Louis Moore, District 2; Don Harper, District 10; and Mike Neimon, District 3.

After hearing many stories from young people across the county who have been traumatized, abused, and even abandoned, Mitchell has concluded that Dane County has an "active pipeline" where children enter the welfare system, then juvenile delinquency, and ultimately move on into the adult criminal justice system.

"As a judge, I am trying to use the courtroom process to disrupt this pipeline. I decided my court would demonstrate compassion, patience, and belief in transformation. I know these kids are already hurting and scared," Mitchell wrote.

Mitchell has worked with other judges to change the practice of handcuffing juveniles who enter the courtroom. "Removing the cuffs was a step toward ensuring that the courtroom and this process did not rob the children of their humanity," Everett said.

Everett said he also believes young folks should be able to speak in court and have input in developing their own treatment plan.

"If you want to assist in dismantling this pipeline," Mitchell wrote, "take the step and...become a court-appointed special advocate, volunteer...work with community leaders to develop treatment group homes in Dane County so judges have more options to place children."

Article explores Pre-Sentence Investigation reports

An article published Jan. 8 in The Janesville Gazette highlighted the significance of Presentence Investigation (PSI) reports, which judges may order and use to help make

Rock County *continued from page 16*

information related to trauma-informed care.”

This led to participation in another outreach effort – the National Night Out hosted by the Janesville Police Department on Aug. 1, 2017.

The Rock County team hosted a booth on a summer evening in downtown Janesville. Hundreds of people stopped by to enjoy free snacks, play games, and have their faces painted.

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 28*

sentencing decisions in serious felony cases. A PSI is used to tell the story of a person’s life through interviews with family members, teachers, employers, a criminal history, a psychological test, and even confidential files.

“It provides, for the defendant in front of us, the good, the bad and the ugly in their lives,” retired Rock County Circuit Court Judge James P. Daley said.

The end of a PSI contains recommendations for prison or probation time that many judges use to devise sentences. In some cases, these sentences lead to rehabilitation because of information brought to light by information from the PSI.

Daley told the Gazette he reads the PSIs, but ignores the recommendations even though he believes the local corrections agents who write the reports are well trained.

“I want to deal with the person as an individual without getting the Department of Corrections’ (DOC) goals mixed up with what my job is,” Daley said.

Daley said he tries to give the defendant hope no matter how awful the crime.

“Rarely have I seen people who are only bad,” Daley said. “I’ve seen some very bad people, but even they had some good things in their lives... They’re human beings. They should be treated like human beings, and they must have their dignity when they leave that courtroom.”

Dane County’s Community Restorative Court program uses text message reminders

The *Wisconsin State Journal* reports that Dane County’s Community Restorative Court (CRC) now uses text messages to remind offenders, victims, and volunteers of upcoming obligations instead of communicating through voicemails.

“A lot of young people these days don’t react to phone calls,” CRC Director Ron Johnson was quoted as saying. He is hopeful that the new text messaging system will increase participation and work better for the younger men and women served by CRC.

The CRC’s purpose is to direct young adults between the ages of 17 and 25, who have committed misdemeanors, through a restorative justice process. This process can help offenders avoid jail time and a criminal record if the offender takes responsibility for their crimes and helps repair damage done through community service or restitution.

All agency partners provided information about “Understanding Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs)” and “The Good News is Resilience can bring back Health and Hope!”

The Rock County Trauma Task Force is now in the process of converting from a task force to a permanent collaborative organization. ■



Judge James P. Daley

“The goal is to keep more people out of the criminal justice system by ensuring success through the community-based restorative justice process,” Dane County’s Equity and Criminal Justice Coordinator Colleen Clark Bernhardt said.

Chief Judge featured in exhibition highlighting African-American Leaders in Milwaukee

Chief Judge Maxine A. White was among photographic subjects of photographer James Seder’s series “Black. Leadership. Milwaukee.” The photos are part of a larger exhibition that opened in January at Jewish Museum Milwaukee: “Allied in the Fight: Jews, Blacks and the Struggle for Civil Rights.” According to an article in Milwaukee’s *Shepherd Express*, the exhibition is part of the Milwaukee-wide initiative “200 Nights of Freedom,” which memorializes the 50th anniversary of the Open Housing Marches of 1967-1968.

Seder’s goal was to “explore the vast spectrum of Black leadership in Milwaukee.”

Milwaukee woman gets pass on jury duty to give birth

When Lindsay Jenson, a resident of Bay View and special education teacher at Bruce-Guadalupe School, did not show up for jury duty as assigned on Dec. 6, 2017, it turns out that

[see News and Notes on page 31](#)



Jefferson County court reporter Rachel Gwidt, pictured here with circuit court judge Robert F. Dehring Jr., assembled a court-reporter themed Halloween display at the courthouse last fall.

Legislative update *continued from page 26*

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 that more closely mirrors the provisions of AB 331. It was passed by the Assembly, 95-0, and returned to the Senate for action on ASA 1. No Senate vote was taken on the amended bill.

SB 54 – requiring DOC to recommend parole, probation or extended supervision revocation if a new crime is charged. The Senate amended the original bill to limit the new crimes to felonies or violent misdemeanors. The Assembly added Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 that includes \$350 million in new bonding authority for a new prison and 53.75 new assistant district attorney positions in 40 counties. Senate did not act on the amended bill.

AB 91 – creating a category called an undesignated felony, in which a conviction for a Class I felony can be later changed to a Class A misdemeanor

AB 115 – authorizing executive branch agencies to use federal dollars for civil legal services

AB 116 – creation of Interagency Legal Aid Coordinating Council

AB 117 – allowing assistant DAs to engage in private practice for certain civil purposes

AB 231 – creating a state prosecutor board

AB 521 – eliminating the 6-month waiting period to be remarried after divorce

AB 566 – allowing service of certain pleadings to be made by email

AB 586 – allowing modifications to legal custody or

physical placement contingent upon a future event

AB 589 – sign language interpreter regulation

AB 642 – changes to the pretrial detention statute to add additional crimes

AB 759 – creating a new statutory chapter to regulate “rental-purchase companies” and exempting compliant companies from the Wisconsin Consumer Code

AB 823 – creating the crime of entering with intent to commit battery

AJR 93 – proposed Constitutional amendment to change the cash bail provisions in Article I, Section 6 and 8

SB 344 – preventing person under 18 from being prosecuted for prostitution

Bills that did not receive a vote in either house

AB 723/SB 612 – requiring expansion of information available on CCAP

AB 37/SB 283 – increasing the private bar rate paid to attorneys representing indigent clients

AB 660/SB 550 – moving some 17-years-olds back to jurisdiction of the juvenile court

AB 331 – expungement. A version of this bill was adopted as ASA 1 to SB 53.

AB 458/SB 365 – establishing a new judgeship in Calumet County

AB 567/SB 467 – establishing a Public Defender Board student loan payment pilot program ■

AWARDS *continued from page 11*

“What I have loved in this job is when a community of different constituents come together to solve problems and make some progress,” Sellen said.

Sellen, along with 25 other Leaders in the Law Award winners, was honored at an evening event at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee in February.

Two court system staff members named Unsung Heroes

The *Wisconsin Law Journal* recognized two court system employees among the publication’s 2017 Unsung Heroes.

Jim Smith was recognized for his 31-year career with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Court’s Office. During that time, he has served on a committee to develop rules for the statewide eFiling system and working on the Milwaukee Justice Center, which provides guidance for self-represented litigants. Self-represented litigants and attorneys have sought out Smith for assistance over the years, Milwaukee County Clerk of Court John Barrett told the *Law Journal*.

“Some are particularly fond of him because Jim, in addition to being a good legal mind, was a good listener,” Barrett was quoted as saying. “He was just able to hear what people were trying to say even when they weren’t that articulate in saying it. That’s a special knack.”

For Smith, who retired last June, being a good listener and providing assistance to people is the main role of the clerk of court’s office staff.

“You’re standing face-to-face with someone who maybe has their kids with them, and they’re in tears – and you really start recognizing how important that is,” Smith told the *Law Journal*.

District Court Administrator Michael Neimon was nominated by Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael O. Bohren for his dedication to the Third Judicial Administrative District as well as the entire court system. Neimon, who serves on the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee’s court security subcommittee, works on organizing the court system’s annual security conference.

“The conference is better each year in part due to Mike’s hard work,” Bohren wrote when nominating Neimon.

In his role as district court administrator, Neimon provides support to the district, which encompasses Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties, Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow, and the circuit court judges and staff.

“I mostly try to be a colleague and provide technical and professional expertise in areas that they might not have,” Neimon was quoted as saying. “Lucky for me, I have the best clerks of court in the state of Wisconsin. So they make my job easier.”

Outside of work, Neimon is the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 49 in Oconomowoc (he has two Eagle Scout sons), coaches high school curling at the Kettle Moraine Curling Club, and helps teach at a martial arts academy (he has a black belt in karate). ■

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Judge Christopher R. Foley

Jenson really had a good excuse – she was in labor with her first child.

On Dec. 5, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Christopher R. Foley, who presided on the case Jenson was assigned to, had joked with Jenson about giving birth in the courtroom, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

“She assured me her due date was several weeks away. I kiddingly told her she was on her own if she went into labor

because I would be fainting,” Foley was quoted as saying.

Hours after jury selection was completed and the jurors were dismissed, Jenson’s water broke. While in labor, she set an alarm on her phone for 8 a.m. to remind her boyfriend to call the jury management office and notify them of the emergency.

“I didn’t just want to not show up,” Jenson said.

Jenson and her boyfriend welcomed a healthy baby girl, Tilden Jean, on Dec. 6, 2017.

Racine judge visit schools

Racine County circuit court judges were featured in the May 21 edition of *The (Racine) Journal Times* for their outreach and education efforts at three Racine high schools – Horlick, Case, and Park.

The presentations about legal rights and responsibilities for young adults were led by Racine County Circuit Court judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz, along with judges Wynne P. Laufenberg, David W. Paulson and Timothy D. Boyle, the newspaper reported.

Gasiorkiewicz told *The Third Branch*: “Almost a year ago I was at a Racine Unified School District (RUSD) presentation here in Racine where I was advised that RUSD was going to start educating high school students on ‘financial literacy,’ which I thought was a fabulous idea. Following that presentation I contacted RUSD with the idea of a presentation to high school students on ‘Legal literacy.’”

The program included distribution of about 1,500 copies of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s publication “Legal Rights and Responsibilities: What You



Judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz



Judge Wynne P. Laufenberg



Judge David W. Paulson

Should Know About Wisconsin Law.” Students received copies and will be able to use them as a reference if needed, Gasiorkiewicz said.

Gasiorkiewicz is happy to share a PowerPoint presentation and information about the project with other judges and court staff.

Chief Judge White keynotes at Kenosha NAACP Dinner

Chief Judge Maxine A. White gave the keynote address at the Kenosha County Chapter of the NAACP’s Freedom Fund Dinner on Nov. 4, 2017.

According to the Kenosha News, the purpose of the event was to highlight civil rights achievements and honor the 50th anniversary of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall’s appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The theme of the 2017 dinner was “Steadfast and Immovable.”

White’s message centered on the many improvements and initiatives the Milwaukee County Circuit Court has undertaken to improve the outcomes and delivery of justice in Milwaukee County and Wisconsin.

Judges attend veterans court training

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Ellen K. Berz and Rock County Circuit Court Judge John M. Wood were among judges who attended training sessions for veterans treatment court judges March 22 in Rockford, Ill. The sessions were held in conjunction with Winnebago County (Illinois) veterans court judges and were put on by the Illinois Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice.

Milwaukee County Family Drug Court receives grant for programs

WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee, interviewed Chief Judge Maxine A. White for their segment “414ward” in December. White spoke about a \$2.1 million grant that was awarded to the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court.

The program was established in May 2011 to provide potentially more effective outcomes for parents who have been brought in on charges of child abuse or neglect by offering programs that treat drug addiction. “Instead of criminalizing their behavior, instead



Deputy Chief Judge Timothy D. Boyle



Judge Ellen K. Berz



Judge John M. Wood

Chief judges *continued from page 3*

appointed to the Dane County bench in 2007. He was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. He serves as associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College and is a member of the Criminal Jury Instructions Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.



Chief Judge Lisa S. Neubauer

Before becoming a judge, Hanrahan served as an assistant attorney general in the Wisconsin Department of Justice, from 1998 to 2007, including three years as director of the Medicaid Fraud Unit. Before that, he was an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County, from 1988 to 1998. Hanrahan is a graduate of UW-Green Bay and Hamline University School of Law. The Fifth District encompasses Dane, Green, Lafayette, and Rock counties in South central Wisconsin.

Effective Aug. 1, Deputy Chief Judge Maureen D. Boyle, Barron County Circuit Court, will replace outgoing Chief Judge Scott R. Needham in District Ten's top administrative post. The Tenth District encompasses the northwestern part of the state, including Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, and Washburn counties.

Boyle was first appointed to the Barron County bench in 2013, and was elected in 2014. She previously served as an assistant district attorney in Barron, Walworth, and Rock counties and as assistant director of the Center on Impaired Driving. She is a member of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

Needham served more than three terms as a chief judge, including one year as the chair of the Committee of Chief Judges. He was first elected to the St. Croix County bench in 1994 and has been re-elected four times since, most recently in April.

Needham previously worked as an attorney in private practice from 1978 to 1994. In 2010, he was chosen Judge of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates.



Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell

Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court, was re-appointed to a new term as chief judge of the Second Judicial Administrative District, which includes Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Rossell was appointed to the Kenosha County bench in 2011 and was elected in 2012. He served in private practice from 2002 to 2003 and again from 2008 to 2011. He was an assistant district attorney in

Kenosha County from 2003 to 2008. Rossell is a graduate of UW-Whitewater and UW Law School. Rossell serves on the Judicial Education Committee and the Wisconsin Judicial Committee on Child Welfare, which is part of the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP).

Chief Judge Gregory B. Huber, Marathon County Circuit Court, was re-appointed chief judge of the Ninth Judicial Administrative District, which includes Florence, Forest,

Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oneida, Price, Shawano, Taylor, and Vilas counties.

Huber was elected to the circuit court bench in 2004 and was re-elected in 2010 and 2016. He has served as deputy chief judge of the Ninth District since 2012. Before joining the circuit court, he served as a state representative from the 85th Assembly District in the Wausau area, from 1989 to 2004. From 1983 to 1988, he was an assistant district attorney in Marathon County. Huber has served on the Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference and as co-chair of the Ninth District's Pro Se Committee.

Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court, was re-appointed chief judge of the Eighth Judicial Administrative District, which includes Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, and Waupaca counties.

Morrison was appointed to the Marinette County bench in 2012 and elected to a six-year term in 2013. He serves on the Supreme Court Finance Committee, the executive and legislative committees of the Judicial Conference and is former chair of the Board of Bar Examiners.

He previously worked as an attorney in private practice.

Chief Judge Lisa S. Neubauer, District II Court of Appeals, was re-appointed to a new three-year term as chief judge of the Court of Appeals. She was first appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007, elected in 2008, and re-elected in 2014.

Neubauer is on the Supreme Court Finance Committee and the Wisconsin Federal Judicial Nominating Committee. She is a former Board Member for Equal Justice Coalition and Legal Action of Wisconsin. In 2004, she won the Community Service Award, Association for Women Lawyers.

Neubauer previously worked as an attorney in private practice, from 1989-2007, and was a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb from 1987 to 1988.

The Supreme Court appoints or re-appoints circuit court judges as needed to serve as administrative chief judges in each of the state's judicial administrative districts and the Court of Appeals.

Working as a team with a deputy chief judge and a professional court administrator, a circuit court chief judge helps manage the flow of cases and meets several times a year with other chief judges as a committee to work on administrative issues of statewide importance. With the exception of the First Judicial Administrative District, where the chief judge is a full-time administrator, chief judges and their deputies maintain court calendars in addition to handling administrative matters. ■



Chief Judge Gregory B. Huber



Chief Judge James A. Morrison

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of not taking care of the kids, we sort of put that on hold, bring them before a different judge who works with them on a recovery effort,” White said.

Drug courts offer a new way of looking at the problem of substance addiction and its impact on families from a public health standpoint.

“What we’ve learned in the criminal justice system is that we cannot lock our

way out of this. We have to engage other models of dealing with families to render them healthy,” White said.

Before programs like this existed, children usually were taken away from a substance addicted parent and placed in the foster care system. These parents now have the ability to bring themselves away from addiction and back to their families. ■



Barron County Circuit Court Judge James C. Babler presided over a mock trial that served as a final exam for UW-Barron County students enrolled in a course on crime and punishment. The 12 students in the class were split into two teams: prosecution and defense. They each had three witnesses and three lawyers. They prepared opening statements, direct and cross examination questions, and closing arguments.



Barron County Clerk of Circuit Court Sharon Millermon served as bailiff during a May 16 mock trial for UW-Barron County students. The 12 jurors were volunteers from the Rice Lake High School National Honor Society.