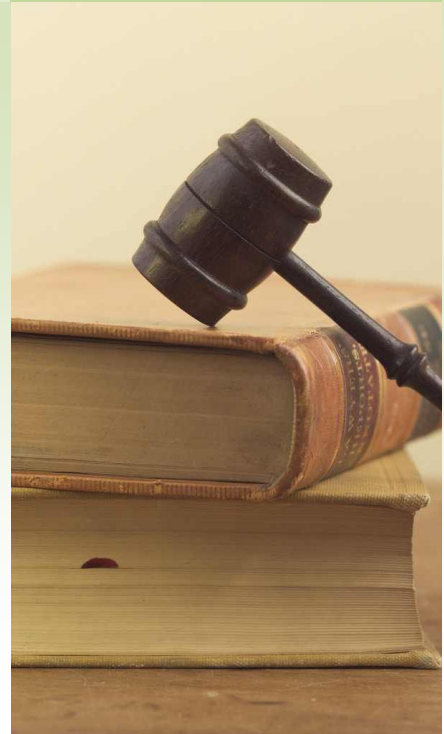


Muni View



Coordinator’s Corner

Thanks to the help of our summer intern, Samantha Alisankus, this issue of the *Muni View* has a new look to it! I hope you all enjoy it.

As most of you know, every other year we present a Law & Humanities seminar. This is a seminar that is not related to the nuts & bolts of everyday court procedure but is, rather, an enrichment seminar. I’m very happy to announce that this year, due in large part to the efforts of Judge Mosley, we are able to present Mr. Mark Stein, author of the book, *How the States Got Their Shapes*. Please read the article in this edition of the *Muni View* for more information and plan to attend what I’m sure will be a very enlightening and fun seminar.

I hope everyone is enjoying your summer and if you live in the southern half of the state, please, do a rain dance for me! My pastures are crispy.

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Kenosha County Judge retires after many years of service

by Samantha Alisankus, Summer Intern

After serving on the bench for over 25 years, Kenosha Municipal Court Judge, John Neuenschwander has retired from that position. Beloved by all of his colleagues for his relentless dedication to Judicial Education, Judge Neuenschwander personified the word commitment. Although it may seem that this retirement marks the end of Judge Neuenschwander's involvement with the municipal judge education, it is a pleasure to announce that that is not the case (no pun intended). In fact, he has been appointed as a reserve municipal judge for the 2nd Judicial District. Anyone who knows Judge Neuenschwander would not be surprised to hear that he also intends to remain involved with his numerous committee obligations. Judge Neuenschwander served as a member of the Judicial Education Committee for many years and, although no longer a member of that committee, he currently serves on the New Laws/New Cases Committee, the Benchbook Committee, and the Orientation Committee. It is easy to see why through the years, Judge

"Judge Neuenschwander has always been thought of as one of the pillars of the education program."

Municipal Judge Receives Award for Years of Educational Service

Village of Lena Judge, Russ Buhr, was presented with the "Educator of the Year Award" for his dutiful 33-year service to the Lena Schools as a teacher of biological sciences and as a coach and athletic director. Judge Buhr was presented this award by the Lena Lions Club as a part of the Club's January meeting. According to an article in the *Oconto County Times-Herald*, Judge Buhr has "been presented with many awards for his unselfish work" and this is undoubtedly another well-deserved award to be added to his collection. Congratulations Judge Buhr!

Neuenschwander has always been thought of as one of the pillars of the education program.

Because of his expertise and involvement in committees, Judge Neuenschwander was always in great demand for seminar presentations. One of Judge Neuenschwander's most revered qualities is his ability to engage an audience. When seminar evaluations came around he always received high marks from seminar attendees, one in particular described Judge Neuenschwander's presentation as "excellent as usual", a fitting description for his presentation content and style.

Judge Neuenschwander, having a Ph.D. in history, spent 39 years as a professor of History at Carthage College in Kenosha. During the time he was teaching, Judge Neuenschwander was also working toward a law degree, which he eventually received from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1983. He practiced law independently before beginning his position as Municipal Court Judge in Pleasant Prairie. After holding that position for a number of years, Judge Neuenschwander was encouraged, by Kenosha's mayor at the time, to run for the City of Kenosha Municipal Judge. He did, and he has spent the past 25 years serving in this position.

In his time as Kenosha Municipal Judge, he lived by the motto: "My job is to deal with them [the parties] fairly, firmly, and as quickly as possible." He firmly believed in the integrity & independence of the court system and truly saw it as a means for educating those who came before him.

Although we are sorry to see Judge Neuenschwander go, we are excited that he is staying involved as a reserve judge and we are as happy as ever to know that he will continue to remain as a faculty member at judicial education seminars throughout the year. Best of luck Judge Neuenschwander, and thank you for the many years of humble service to our courts and to our education programs!



Lake Country Municipal Court Judge retires after sixteen years on the bench

by Samantha Alisankus, Summer Intern

After serving for sixteen years as the Lake Country Municipal Court Judge, Judge Douglas Stern has retired from that position. As Lake Country Municipal Court Judge, Judge Stern served seventeen communities in the Lake Country area. This is no small feat considering the Lake Country Municipal Court was the first municipal court in the state to integrate and serve multiple municipalities and remained among the largest joint courts.

Judge Stern initiated many innovated changes to the Lake Country Court since he was elected in 1997. These changes include operating the court in a fiscally efficient manner that resulted in all court expenses being covered by forfeiture payments and court cost. This was accomplished in part by Judge Stern's push to go from a paper-based record system to a paperless digital system. Doing so helped to reduce the amount of storage space needed by the court which meant that less money would need to be spent on locating and occupying an additional storage outlet.

Despite all of Judge Stern's positive changes within the court's operational system Judge Stern, during an interview for *Oconomowoc Today*, says that his position is fundamentally one of "community service". It is this belief that has guided Judge Stern throughout his sixteen years. In the same article, Judge Stern conveys his overall message that the Municipal Court System, as a whole, is an institution for learning; a place where individuals are expected to engage meaningfully in the court process, while simultaneously amending faults where faults may lie.

In one of Judge Stern's closing remarks for the article, he states, "if I can be a force for behavior change, if I can have that impact, then I will have fulfilled what I believe is the primary purpose of the municipal court"; and Judge Stern, we believe that you have done exactly that, and we are excited to have you continue to impact the court system in many positive ways as a reserve judge. Thank you for your service and best of luck in retirement!

MUNICIPAL COURT QUESTIONNAIRE

The annual **Municipal Court Questionnaire** is enclosed. Please take a minute to fill out this very important document and return it to our office by fax or mail by **July 20th**. A few years ago we added a question asking about your special interests and any other information about yourself that you would like to share. Answers to this question help us find potential seminar faculty and/or group discussion and breakout leaders. So, if this type of involvement with Judicial Education interests you, please answer this question.

News from WMJA

by Hon. Scott Letteney, Town of Geneva



July 2012 brings with it a significant transition for the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association. Judge JoAnn Eiring, of the Town of Brookfield, ends her second term as Association President. Judge Eiring led us during the implementation of the changes to Sections 755 and 800 and some of the biggest changes to OWI laws in the state's history. JoAnn guided the Association with her trademark humor and grace, and we'll all benefit from her continued leadership.

I am honored to have been elected to succeed JoAnn as President. Judge Steven Cain of the Mid-Moraine Municipal Court was elected Association Vice President. Judge Jodi Sanfelippo of the Village of West Milwaukee was reelected as Secretary/Treasurer.

For a number of years, the Association has held its monthly meetings in Brookfield. A recent email discussion about those meetings has caused us to consider when, where, and how we conduct the business of the Association.

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2012 Municipal Judge Laws and Humanities Enrichment Seminar

This year's Municipal Judge Laws and Humanities Enrichment Seminar will be hosted at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison, WI on November 15th and 16th, 2012. Mark Stein will be presenting at this year's seminar and he will be discussing his book, *How the States got there Shape*; an intriguing exploration of the events that defined the boundaries of the states, which was recently been adapted into a television series on The History Channel.

This will be a full 2-day seminar that carries 4 judicial credits

The regular monthly meetings have been held in Brookfield largely because it is centrally located to the greatest concentration of municipal courts in Wisconsin. In the 15 counties that are reasonable driving distance to Brookfield – the area that is south and east of Sheboygan County to Green Lake County and to Rock County – there are about 130 municipal courts. In the remaining 57 Wisconsin counties, there are fewer than 125 municipal courts. This means that, right or wrong, WMJA operation has been dominated by judges from southeast Wisconsin courts.

At our annual meeting on July 26, during the Trial Seminar in Stevens Point, I hope to have a discussion about WMJA meetings and operations. I would like to discuss such topics as whether we need monthly meetings, when and where WMJA meetings should be held, and ways to involve municipal judges from other parts of the state in our Association.

I look forward to seeing you in Stevens Point and to serving you for the next two years as WMJA President.

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Election Results, New Judges, Resignations

District II

Michael M. Easton was elected in the City of Kenosha, replacing **John Neuenschwander** who retired.

District III

Charles A Warren was elected in the Village of Palmyra replacing **Alan D Borre**.

Timothy T. Kay was elected in the Lake County Municipal Court, replacing **Douglas Stern** who retired.

District V

Mary G. Gehin was elected in the Village of Belleville, replacing **Gerald H. Ziegler**.

Mathew T. Roethe was elected in the City of Stoughton, replacing **Jonathan Hajny**.

Marilyn Townsend was appointed to the Village of Shorewood Hills Municipal Court following **Frank Remington's** appointment to the Dane County Circuit Court Bench.

District VI

Dennis J. Bertzyk was elected in the City of Wautoma and Redgranite, replacing **Nancy West**.

Seth S. Tully was appointed to the newly created Mauston Area Municipal Court.

District IX

John L DeWane was elected in the city of Shawano to serve the Shawano-Bonduel Municipal Court, replacing **David Winter**.

District X

Eugene Rick was elected in the City of Barron, replacing **David Cusick**.

Upcoming Seminars for the 2012/2013 Seminar Year:

Trial Seminar – July 26 & 27, 2012 – Holiday Inn, Stevens Point
Traffic Seminar - September 13 & 14, 2012 – Hyatt on Main, Green Bay
Clerk's Seminar – October 18 & 19, 2012 – Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells
Law & Humanities – November 15 & 16, 2012 – Concourse Inn, Madison
Special Topic – March 14 & 15, 2013 – Marriott Madison West, Middleton