

# Muni View

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A periodic publication of Municipal Judge Education, Office of Judicial Education, Wisconsin Supreme Court

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Just when you thought the *Muni View* had gone the way of the dinosaur it magically appears in your mailbox! Now that we have lived with the changes to 755/800 for almost eight months we can move on to discuss other matters in the world of municipal courts.

I'm sad to report that this past July village of Clinton Municipal Judge Tom Vogt passed away. Most of you will remember Tom as the generous soul that devoted much time and effort to making copies of CDs that contained the *Municipal Judge Benchbook* and copies of the most up-to-date seminar materials. Tom will most definitely be missed by the judges and by the Office of Judicial Education. Tom's obituary is included.

This fall, our annual Municipal Court Clerk's seminar will be held at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Judges, remember that with the amendment to Supreme Court Rule 33.04(4) it is now necessary for you to ensure that at least one court clerk from your court attends the annual Clerk's Seminar at least once every two years beginning this year.

Please note that included with the

mailing of this *Muni View* is a copy of your Judicial Education Credit Notice. This notice reflects the number of judicial credits that the Office of Judicial Education has recorded for you through August 26, 2011. Please contact as if you feel that our records do not accurately reflect the credits that you have earned since May 1, 2011.

## OBITUARY

### HON. THOMAS JOHN VOGT

(Excerpt from the *Janesville Gazette*)

Thomas John Vogt, 78, of Clinton, WI, passed away on Monday, July 4, 2011, in Beloit Memorial Hospital. He was born on April 2, 1933, in Sharon, WI, the son of Paul and Mary (Soell) Vogt. Tom's religion and church were his first loves. He studied for eight years for the Missionary and then enlisted in the U.S. Army as an interpreter in Giessen, Germany. After his discharge he graduated from the U of WI-Whitewater.

For most of his teaching career, Tom taught in Clinton and was instrumental in getting microscopes and computers for the grade school out of his own pocket. His teaching theory was that when a kid got a good grade his or her name was put into a box, and at the end of the week a

name was drawn for a cash prize. Tom enjoyed tutoring children for no charge if they really wanted to learn. When he retired he donated all his science materials and computers to the school.

After his teaching career, Tom spent his time bringing older people to church. He also took communion to all the Clinton nursing homes and to others who couldn't make it to church. Tom became Clinton's judge, and he tried to be fair to all. He didn't believe in parents paying their children's fines. Tom had the children do community service, and when they were finished, he would treat them to lunch. He helped many Wisconsin judges with CDs to save them time when deciding penalties. Tom loved his 41 plus years at Lake Como, where they honored him this spring. He was so pleased, and was looking forward to being there this summer.

## 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 **Sept. 30**. I remind you there is a question on the back of

this questionnaire asking about your special interests and any other information about yourself that you would like to share. We ask this question to 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.

## **RETIREMENT OF LONGTIME MUNICIPAL JUDGE – RICHARD STEINBERG**

When Judge Steinberg became the municipal judge of the city of Brookfield 37 years ago a few things were quite different. He had to take the bench without the benefit of any formal judicial education training and without the help of a *Municipal Judge Benchbook*. The WMJA only consisted of a few judges (then called justices) who met for lunch occasionally. As time went on, Judge Steinberg held two terms as president of the growing WMJA. His first term was 1980/1981 and his second term was in 200/2001. During his 1980/81 term he was chair of the WMJA's newly formed Judicial Education and "desk book" committee. The formation of this committee was the catalyst for the formalized and mandatory judicial education now required by SCR 33.04 as well as the *Wisconsin Municipal Judge Benchbook*.

In recalling his 37 years on the bench, Judge Steinberg states that "Fond memories, major challenges and friendly peers made it a grand

experience."

Congratulations on your well deserved retirement from the bench Judge Steinberg. You will be missed.

## **NEWS FROM WMJA: Input on 755/800 Trailer Bill By Hon. Jerry Jaye**

With about seven months working with the revised Chapters 755 and 800 under our collective belts, the rewrite committee feels that now may be a good time to solicit your ideas for a trailer bill to "clean up" any discrepancies. For example, 800.14(5) regarding restitution to municipal court for transcript fees appears to be in conflict with 814.65(5) and 814.08. There have been other listserv postings regarding the changes as well such as the requirement for signatures on electronically generated non-traffic citations.

If you have detected any issues or have suggestions regarding additions, deletions, clarifications or statutory conflicts, please notify the committee by emailing either Judge Jim Gramling, Ret., at [velagram2@aol.com](mailto:velagram2@aol.com) or Judge Dan Koval at [dkoval@cityofmadison.com](mailto:dkoval@cityofmadison.com). The committee will be meeting in the fall to discuss all issues brought forward. Thank you.



## **NEWS FROM THE**

## **MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK'S ASSOCIATION: Benefits & Contact information By Dawn Kuzniewicz**

The Wisconsin Municipal Court Clerk's Association is dedicated to creating open lines of communication and continuing educational opportunities for court clerks. The Association has many programs to facilitate this goal including a mentoring program, annual educational courses, bi-annual newsletter, Yahoo group for file and information sharing, and many more. It is the goal of the Association to make sure each clerk is provided the knowledge they need to navigate the court system.

If you are a new clerk or wish to be provided with a mentor in your area please contact Tracy Wright at [twright@kenosha.org](mailto:twright@kenosha.org) or (262) 653-42223.

For more information or to join the Association please contact Kari Kowalski, Secretary/Treasurer at [kkowalski@franklinwi.gov](mailto:kkowalski@franklinwi.gov) or (414) 425-4768.

## **MUNICIPAL JUDGES RECEIVE RECOGNITION**

Village of Oregon municipal Judge **Beth Cox** received the "Outstanding Elected Official" award from the Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources at their annual conference on June 15, 2011. The Clearinghouse is part of the University of Wisconsin Health Service Department.

The *Oregon Observer* quoted the Clearinghouse as citing Cox as “a strong and tireless advocate for Oregon youth, instrumental in creating and reinforcing change in Oregon’s norms around alcohol and drug use by youth.”

City of Milwaukee municipal Judge **Derek Mosley** was presented with the “Academy of Legends Award” at the *Milwaukee Community Journal’s* 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Ceremony on August 6.

Judge Mosley was recognized for his accomplishments and community involvement in a multitude of areas. Included among those accomplishments are;

The establishment of “Operation Streetsweeper” which targets street drug dealing and was responsible for closing 100 drug houses; the establishment of a Youth Development Boot Camp for juvenile offenders; and numerous awards for community involvement including the “Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award.”

**Congratulations Judge Cox & Judge Mosley. We are proud of you both.**

## **ELECTION RESULTS, NEW JUDGES, RESIGNATIONS**

### **District I**

**Jennine Sonntag** was elected in the village of Hales Corners. Bruce Ranta did not seek reelection.

### **District II**

**Melanie Reichert** was elected in the village of Union Grove defeating **Rod Koenen**.

### **District IV**

**Paul Baker** was elected in the village of Winneconne. **Donald Sleik** did not seek reelection.

### **District V**

**Jason Hanson** was first appointed then elected in the village of Deforest/Town of Windsor court replacing **David Grove** who resigned.

**Christopher Washburn** was elected in the village of Blue Mounds. **Rhonda Hazen** was unable to run for reelection as the municipality she resided in left the joint court.

### **District VI**

**Jesse Leichsenring** was elected in the city of Wisconsin Dells replacing **Craig Casey** who did not run for reelection.

**David Pronold** was appointed in the River Valley Joint Municipal Court following **Paul Schoenmann’s** move out of the municipality.

### **District VII**

**Douglas Gnewikow** was elected in the village of Norwalk replacing **James Lamboy**.

### **District IX**

**Douglas Klingberg** was elected in the newly formed Kronenwetter-Rothschild Joint Municipal Court. He defeated **Daniel Cveykus** who also ran for the seat.

### **District X**

**Ashley Hinrichs** was elected in the village of Star Prairie replacing **Eva Hansen** who retired.

**Carla Lingerfelt** was appointed to the Glenwood City Municipal Court replacing **Kimberly Moe** who resigned.

**Robb Schuler** was elected in the city of Chetek replacing **Monique Stertz** who did not seek reelection.

**Leonard Shier** was elected in the village of New Auburn after **Donald Boeger’s** retirement.

**Richard Olson** resigned from the village of Colfax and the seat is currently vacant.



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