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Muni View

Vol. 2001 No. 3 December 2001 A periodic publication of Municipal Judge Education, Office of Judicial Education, Wisconsin Supreme Court

Coordinator's Corner

As I near the 5-month mark with Judicial Education, I continue to be moved by the warm welcome I have received from all of you. Thank you for all the kind words you have expressed to me since starting this position and thank you for your patience as I "learn the ropes." Having now met many of you, I can tell that I'm going to enjoy working with all of you.

It's that time of year again for the Benchbook Committee to begin work on any revisions that need to be made to the Municipal Judge Benchbook. The Committee will meet in Madison in late January. It is our goal to make the Benchbook as useful to you as possible so please drop me a line, a fax or an e-mail if you have any suggestions for improvement of format or content and I will pass it on to the Committee.

New Judges/New Courts/Resignations

Thomas L. Bellovary has been appointed to replace the late Roselyn Calek in the Town of Dover.

Herman Lee King has been appointed to replace Robert Doyle in the Village of Belleville.

J. Joanne Walter has been appointed to replace the late Hilda J. Baker in the Village of Viola.

A new combined court has been created by the City of Shawano and the Village of Bonduel. Attorney David Winter has been appointed judge.

Elections

102 municipal judges are up for election in 2002. After the January filing deadline, the Office of Judicial Education will send a form to those of you that are up for election. The form requests information as to whether you are running and if you have opposition. If you are opposed, we request the name of your opponent(s). Please return the form so we can keep our records current and correct.

Final Seminar for the Current Seminar Year

The final municipal judge education seminar for the May 2001 – April 2002 seminar year will be March 7 & 8, 2002, at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva. Please note that this date has been changed from March 28 & 29, 2002. The seminar is a Traffic Seminar and includes presentations on Probable Cause, Ethics, Troublesome Traffic Offenses, the Judge's Role in Traffic Safety, use of Field Tests, Intoxilizers & radar/laser, New Laws /New Cases as well as a number of roundtable discussions. We hope the traffic Seminar will be well attended and look forward to seeing all who have not yet attended a seminar during this current reporting period. The seminar announcement and registration form is enclosed with this MuniView.

Seminars

Thanks to the hard work of the Municipal Court Clerk Advisory Committee, another successful Court Clerk Seminar was held October 24, 25 & 26, 2001, in Wausau. Although the accommodations weren't all we had hoped for, the evaluations for the program and faculty were very favorable.

63 judges attended the Special Topic Seminar held September 13 & 14, 2001, in Eau Claire. The presentations at this seminar addressed juvenile issues as well as those relating to the collection of forfeitures. The program and the faculty received very high marks from attendees. In an effort to best meet the educational needs of municipal court judges, the Education Committee would appreciate suggestions for topics to be presented at future Special Topic Seminars. Please contact Karla with any ideas.

72 judges attended the Trial Seminar held July 12 & 13, 2001, in Oshkosh. The seminar received excellent reviews and was both educational and enjoyable. This was Ronni's last seminar and all were sad to see her go. However, in light of her stellar performance in the mock trial, I hope we can convince her to return again to share her talents.



Directory Correction

Please make the following corrections in your 2001-2002 Municipal Court Directory for Judge C. Michael Hausman, City of Delafield:

Business Telephone: 262-646-5900 Court Telephone: 262-646-6245 Fax Number: 262-646-5934 Email: cmhausmanlaw@milwpc.com

If you are aware of other corrections that should be made to the directory, please contact the Office of Municipal Judge Education at (608) 266-7816.

Golden Gavel Award

"Thinking Outside the Box"

Wisconsin law requires that municipal warrants be "signed" by the issuing judge, or at the issuing judge's direction, have a computer-generated facsimile of their signature affixed to the warrant. See Sec. 800.02(5), Wis. Stats. What about signature stamps - Do they qualify? Maybe not, according to a recent Crime Information Bureau audit. At least one municipality has been warned that warrants with signature stamps will be purged because they do not contain an original signature or a computer-generated signature.

This View's Golden Gavel Award goes to Judge Shelley Gaylord, City of Madison, for her suggestion that perhaps an argument could be made that since most signature stamps themselves are now actually generated by computer, the literal reading of Sec. 800.02(5), Wis. Stats. may none-the-less be satisfied. Now that's yet another example of the superior thinking of municipal court judges!

If you know of a legal/municipal court issue that has been resolved by original-thinking municipal court judges and would like to nominate them for the "Golden Gavel Award," send us a note with the specifics. Winners will be announced in the next MuniView.

Website

We are in the process of updating the information on our Municipal Court Website and are looking for ways to make it more user-friendly. Please drop us a line with any suggestions you may have. You can visit our website at: http://www.courts.state.wi.us/

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Carol and I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to working with each of you in 2002!



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