

Muni View

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Coordinator's Corner

I am deeply saddened to include in this Muni View, an obituary for Ronni Jones, past Municipal Judge Education Coordinator. Ronni held this position for 14 years and was a remarkably talented and compassionate person. Her passing is a tremendous loss to all her knew her. While I did not know Ronni as long as some of you, I will so greatly miss her guidance and friendship.

Ronni G. Jones, age 61, passed away with her daughters and her husband by her side on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 12, 1941, the daughter of Martin and Anne (Small) Grumbiner. Following Ronni's graduation from U.W. Madison, she joined in marriage with P. Charles Jones on June 30, 1962, at the Unitarian Meeting House, with Max Gaebler presiding. In 1963, Ronni and Chuck relocated to Cambridge, Mass., where Ronni worked with B.F. Skinner Programmed Instruction Project. Ronni helped to support Chuck through Harvard Business School. In 1965 they both worked in Washington, D.C., Ronni at George Washington Law School. They returned to Madison in 1967, where Ronni worked for the American Society for Training and Development. Ronni and Chuck adopted two daughters, Meghan in 1969, and Brenna in 1971. During that time Ronni began her commitment to volunteerism with the League of Women Voters, the Nature Conservancy, the Capital Community Citizens, and many other organizations. Ronni spent countless hours managing her husband's

judicial campaigns.

She finally realized her lifelong dream for herself in 1983 when she entered the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Ronni graduated from the U.W. Law School with high honors in 1985. Upon graduation she stayed on at the law school as a research assistant, working with Professor Frank Remington. In 1986, she accepted a position with the Wisconsin Supreme Court Office of Judicial Education. Her responsibilities were divided between educating municipal judges and editing the Wisconsin Judicial Bench Books. Upon Chuck's retirement in 1999, Ronni and Chuck built their dream home in Spring Green. Ronni was looking forward to joining Chuck in retirement in January of 2003.

Ronni is survived by her loving husband of 40 years, P. Charles; two daughters, Meghan (Steve) Owens, and Brenna Jones, both of Madison; the newest love of Ronni's life, her granddaughter, Caitlynn Owens.

Memorials may be made to the Ronni G. Jones American Players Theatre Children's Fund, Box 819, Spring Green, WI 53588. Ronni's fund is established to introduce children to classical theatre and the arts.

New Judges/New Courts/Resignations

The **Town of Union** has joined the existing **City of Evansville** Municipal Court to form the Evansville-Union Municipal Court. Judge **Thomas Alisankus** will preside over this new joint court.

Leon Franzke has been appointed to

replace **Allen Knurr** in the City of Omro. Judge Knurr resigned upon moving outside of the city limits.

Derek Mosley has been appointed to replace **Louis Butler** in the City of Milwaukee. Judge Butler was successful in his bid for election to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Cynthia Vopal has been appointed to replace **Robert Parent** in the Town of Bellevue.

Nancy Bekx, past municipal judge for the Town of Buchanan, has been appointed as an Outagamie County Reserve Judge.

Herman Lee King, resigned as the Municipal Judge for the Village of Bellville upon moving outside of the village limits. No replacement has been appointed.

Welcome to our new judges and congratulations to Judge Bekx and Judge Butler!

Seminars

The last seminar for the May 2002 – April 2003 seminar reporting year will be the Traffic Seminar on March 27 & 28, 2003, at the Heidel House in Green Lake.

Information & registration materials will be mailed out in early January 2003. Based on our records approximately 70 judges need to attend this seminar in order to obtain their credits for the current reporting period.

Approximately 170 clerks attended the Municipal Clerks' Seminar held November 7 & 8, 2002, in Wisconsin Rapids at the Hotel Mead. Topics covered at the seminar included; New

Laws/New Cases, Reading Driver
Records, GDLs, Juvenile Potpourri and A
Discussion with the DOT.



The schedule for the 2003/2004 Seminar year is as follows:

May 7, 2003 – Municipal Judge Orientation – The Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids
May 8 & 9, 2003 – Municipal Judge Institute – The Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids
June 26 & 27, 2003 – Trial Seminar, Lake Lawn Lodge, Delavan
September 4 & 5, 2003 – Traffic Seminar, Chula Vista Resort – Wisconsin Dells
October 23 & 24, 2003 – Municipal Court Clerks' Seminar, Ho Chunk Hotel & Casino, Baraboo
March 11 & 12, 2004 – Special Topic, Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton

Increase in Court Fees

With the passage of the State Budget, the Fees for Court Support Services set forth in Sec. 814.634 of the State Statutes have increased by 30%. The *only* impact this increase has on Municipal Courts is that it increases the cost of an appeal from a municipal court judgment by \$12.00. Because many local newspapers reported that the 30% increase applied to municipal ordinance violations, there was some confusion about whether this increase applied to all citations "across the board." This increase only applies to a municipal ordinance violations heard in Circuit Court. It does not apply to municipal ordinance violations heard in municipal courts. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding this change in court fees.

Practice Pointer

Wis. Stats. 800.095(6) states that defendants subject to commitments can be held in the county jail, house of correction in the county where the cause of action arose or, if the defendant has been committed to the Wisconsin state prisons, to the prison in which the defendant is an inmate. Make sure your warrants provide all relevant options. This avoids any confusion/problems for releasing defendants ordered to prison to serve time on the commitments. That way the jail doesn't have to communicate with

municipal court to straighten anything out for transfer to prison.

Supreme Court adopts code of ethics for court interpreters

By Marcia Vandercook
Office of Court Operations

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has adopted a code of ethics for foreign language and sign language interpreters working in the Wisconsin courts, new chapter 63 of the Supreme Court Rules. The code recognizes that qualified interpreters are skilled professionals who help judges conduct hearings justly and efficiently when communication barriers exist.

Provisions of the code include:

- Interpreters shall render a complete and accurate interpretation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to the meaning of what is stated, and without explanation.
- Interpreters shall be impartial and unbiased, and shall disclose any possible conflict of interest to the judge and the parties.
- Interpreters shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information, and shall not publicly discuss or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they have been engaged.
- Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting and shall not give legal or other advice, express personal opinions, or provide other services while serving as an interpreter.

In addition, interpreters are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court, accurately represent their training and experience, report impediments to their performance, report ethical violations, and continue their professional education.

The court interpreter code of ethics became effective on July 1, 2002. The

full text can be found on the court website at:

<http://www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/CourtInterpreter.htm>.

Questions regarding the code should be directed to Marcia Vandercook in the Office of Court Operations at (608) 267-7335 or at marcia.vandercook@courts.state.wi.us

Reminder

The Municipal Court Benchbook Committee interprets Sec. 885.37, Wis. Stats. to state that Municipal Courts are currently only *required* to appoint interpreters in Juvenile cases and in cases involving the hearing impaired (*see* Benchbook pages 3-7 & 3-8). However, a Municipal Judge *may* appoint an interpreter in other cases where there is a language difficulty.



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Happy Holidays!

