

Judge Hurt's abilities and talents to assist us on these important committees.

Judge Hurt was a tremendous asset as a faculty member and as a mentor to his fellow Judges. It was not uncommon, when reviewing seminar evaluations to see the comment: "Bring Judge Hurt Back!"

We will miss Mike for many reasons, but most significantly, we will miss him as a thoughtful and caring friend.

ANOTHER LONG TERM JUDGE STEPS DOWN

Judge Frank Willkom, of the City of Sun Prairie, retired from the bench this past April after **38** years on the bench. Judge Willkom joins a number of long-serving municipal judges who have retired this past year.

Best of luck to Judge Willkom! We hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHANGES

Judge Derek Mosley, City of Milwaukee, was appointed by the Wisconsin Municipal Judge's Association as their representative on the Municipal Judge Education Committee. Judge Mosley replaces Jim Gramling who served for many years as the association's representative. The Education Committee couldn't be more pleased to welcome Judge Mosley. We are looking forward to the upbeat and fresh perspective he

will undoubtedly bring to the planning table.

The committee is sad to announce that **Nancy Bekx** has resigned from her status as a reserve municipal judge and as a member of the Judicial Education Committee. Judge Bekx served as the municipal judge for the Village of Buchanan until the court was abolished and then served as a District VII Reserve judge. Judge Bekx was an invaluable member of the committee in so many ways. She was an extremely knowledgeable faculty member, always receiving outstanding reviews regardless of what topic she instructed. Her background as a prosecutor and a professor of criminal justice was a tremendous asset to the committee and we will miss her dearly at our meetings. We couldn't be more pleased that Judge Bekx has offered to continue instructing at our seminars when needed.

NEW JUDGES, NEW COURTS & RESIGNATIONS

District I: **Phil Chavez**, former Mt. Horeb Municipal Judge, was elected to branch 3 of Milwaukee Municipal Court replacing Judge **Jim Gramling** who retired. **J.D. Watts** was elected in the Village of Fox Point taking the seat left when the Honorable **William Padway** passed away in November 2006.

District II: **Fred R. Ekornaas** was elected in the Town of Bristol replacing **Daniel Homeier**. **John W. Knuteson** was elected in the Village of Wind Point replacing

John Schoeffel.

District V: **Beth Cox** was elected in the Town of Oregon replacing **Dan Floeter**. **Thomas Hebl** was elected in the City of Sun Prairie replacing retiring Judge **Frank J. Willkom**. **Frank Remington** was elected in the Village of Shorewood Hills replacing **Sandra Tarver** who resigned.

District VI: **Scott L. Drew** was elected in the Village of Port Edwards filling the vacant seat left by **Don Carl**. **Kenneth J. Peters** was elected for the City & Town of Beaver Dam replacing **Judy Johnson** who did not seek re-election. **Robert Rowe** was elected in the City of Nekoosa replacing **Pete Steinhafel**. **Ken Thompson** was elected as judge for the newly created Village of Wild Rose Municipal Court.

District VIII: **Cletus Hubers** was elected to the recently created Brown County Joint Municipal Court. **Michael Kroll** was appointed judge of the newly created Town of Athelstane Municipal Court. **Frank J. Lipp** was elected to the City of Seymour filling the vacant seat left by Judge **Fran Gerl**. **Carl D. Mercier** was elected in the City of Marinette replacing **Nancy Gustafson**. **Clifford L. Patz** was elected in the Village of Coleman replacing **Stephen J. Schindler**.

District IX: **John McManus** was elected in the Town of Presque Isle to replace **Margaret Johnson-Wiessner** did not seek re-election.

District X: **Mindy Carothers-Harycki** was elected in the City of Cornell replacing **Glenford Logan**.

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 31**. A couple 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.

FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY & MUNICIPAL COURT CONVICTION FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING/DRUG RELATED OFFENSES

A discussion came up at this past May's Municipal Judge Institute regarding whether a conviction for underage drinking would disqualify a student for federal financial aid. At the time of the discussion there were varying opinions among those present as to whether underage drinking was a disqualifier or whether only drug related offenses jeopardized eligibility for federal financial aid.

Judge Rändi Othrow of the Village of McFarland looked into this issue after the seminar and received the following information from the McFarland High School Assistant principal and the guidance counselor:

- The application for student financial aid only contains one question that refers to losing eligibility. That question states:

“31) **Do not leave this question blank**. Have you ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs? If you have, answer "Yes," complete and submit application, and we will send you a worksheet in the mail for you to determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid.”

- There is no reference to any underage alcohol charges.

- The guidance counselor contacted the university office for federal aid and was advised that the worksheet that is sent to students who answer "yes" asks detailed questions about the charge. A determination is then made regarding the severity of the charge. In some cases students are completely denied any aid permanently.- In less severe cases, there is a process where a student can get back onto "good standing" and receive either partial aid or at least re-gain the opportunity to apply for aid after some time of proven good behavior.

Thanks to Judge Othrow for researching this issue.

CHIEF JUDGE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL COURTS UPDATE

The Chief Judge's Subcommittee on Municipal Courts is pleased to announce that the Hon. Jill Mitchell of the Town of Waterford and the Hon. Daniel Koval of the City of Madison have joined the committee. The committee felt it would benefit from the input of a judge from both a large and a smaller community. Thank you to Jill and Dan for volunteering their time to work on this important committee. The next meeting of the Chief Judges Municipal Court Subcommittee is scheduled for August 2, 2007. Among the topics that will be discussed are the Wisconsin Municipal Judge's Association's proposed amendments to Chapters 755 & 800 and potential changes to Supreme Court Rules. For background information on this committee see the December 2006 edition of the Muni View or contact Karla.

CHANGE IN RULE REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE INSTITUTE

Historically, the Municipal Judge Institute has been open only to municipal judges from courts with fewer than 2,000 cases annually and all new and relatively new judges. The reason for this restriction is because the Institute's main objective is to provide legal updates and a review of the legal basics addressed by municipal courts. It is for this reason that the Institute agenda

does not change from year to year. In the past, the number of times a new judge or a judge who heard 2,000 cases or fewer annually, could attend the Institute was unlimited.

After much discussion, the Municipal Judge Education Committee has determined that this policy should be amended to limit the number of times a municipal judge may attend the Institute for credit. The committee has concluded that it is important for judges to take advantage of the more advanced information offered at the Trial, Traffic and Special Topic seminars as well. Accordingly, beginning with the May 2008 Institute the number of times any municipal judge may attend this seminar, and receive judicial credit) is limited to two (2) times during the first 4 years on the bench. Any municipal judge who feels they have a compelling reason to attend the Institute more than twice may request permission from the Education Committee to do so.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Judicial Education if you have any questions regarding this new policy.

CLERK'S PROCEDURE MANUAL REWRITE

A committee has been formed to completely rewrite the current *Clerk's Procedure Manual* in hopes of making it more informative and user friendly. The committee consists of Village of Deerfield Court Clerk, Liz McCredie, Village of Shorewood Hills Court Clerk, Sue Heller, City of Marinette Court Clerk, Christine Pecard, City of New Berlin Court Clerk, Mary Ann Rozman, Hon. JoAnn Eiring, Town of Brookfield, Hon. Derek Mosley, City of Milwaukee, Program Assistant Carol Koschel and Education Manager Karla Baumgartner.

The deadline for completing this rewrite is October, 2007. Please note that the Clerk's Procedures Manual update enclosed with this issue of the Muni View is **NOT** the rewrite but merely an update of the current procedures manual.



IN MEMORIAM

Don Carl, Retired Municipal Judge of the Town of Port Edwards passed away on Feb. 9, 2007. Judge Carl served as municipal judge for 47 years.

Elmer Braun, municipal judge for the Village of Brodhead passed away on June 27, 2007. Judge Braun served as municipal judge since 1996.

MID-YEAR CREDIT REPORTS

Reports giving your credit status for the seminar year beginning 5/1/07 and ending 4/30/08 will be mailed to your court address following this month's Trial seminar in Racine. If you haven't yet earned the required 4 Judicial Education Credits, you will still have two opportunities to do so at either the September 13 & 14 Traffic seminar in the Wisconsin Dells or at the March 6 & 7, 2008, Special Topic seminar at Elkhart Lake. Announcements for the Traffic Seminar will be mailed very soon.

Muni View

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