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Clark is Clerk of Supreme Court/Court of Appeals



Cornelia G. Clark

In early April, the Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Cornelia G. Clark to be clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Clark had been acting clerk since the retirement of Marilyn L. Graves, who stepped down in January after serving as clerk for 23 years (see story in *The Third Branch*, winter 2000).

The clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals is the custodian of all Wisconsin appellate court records and is responsible for the supervision and

processing of matters from the time that they are filed with each court until their ultimate disposition. The clerk also supervises a staff of 15 employees.

Clark's tenure with the court system began in 1976 when she joined the Director of State Courts Office as a receptionist and then became the judicial assignment assistant. Clark transferred to the Clerk's Office in 1980, serving first as a deputy clerk from 1980 to 1991 and then as chief deputy from 1991 until Graves' retirement when Clark was named acting clerk.

Clark received her bachelor's degree (*cum laude*) from Upper Iowa University and is currently enrolled in the Certified Public Manager Program through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. ♦

Legislature Acts on Crime Prevention Donations

by: Sheryl A. Gervasi
Legislative Liaison

The word most commonly used to describe the state of the 1999 Legislature was 'gridlock'. The regular session ended with very few bills passing both houses. As of late April, there were 105 laws enacted and another 84 Senate and Assembly bills awaiting the governor's signature. That compares with 338 laws enacted in the 1997 legislative session. Among the bills recently signed by the governor are the following:

AB 211 (Act 58) provides that all crime prevention donations be received and disbursed by the clerk of court, that the organizations file annual reports with the court, that charges not be amended or dismissed in lieu of a donation, and that the court, when assessing a donation but not a fine or forfeiture, state on the record the reasons why no fine or forfeiture is being imposed.

AB 387 (Act 69) defines "crime prevention organization" as either a non-profit organization that has as its primary purpose preventing crime or a law enforcement agency that has a crime prevention fund that the contribution could be credited to and used for crime prevention purposes.

AB 671 (Act 71) prohibits collection of fees in harassment, child abuse, or vulnerable adult restraining order and injunction actions if the petition alleges conduct that is similar to stalking under Wisconsin Statutes Section 940.32.

Foster, Troy Are New Chief Judges

The Supreme Court on April 26 appointed Judge Kathryn W. Foster, Waukesha County Circuit Court, and Judge Joseph M. Troy, Outagamie County Circuit Court, as chief judges of their respective districts. Foster will serve in the Third Judicial District, which encompasses Jefferson, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties. Troy will serve in the Eighth Judicial District, which encompasses Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, and Waupaca counties.

Foster replaces Chief Judge Mark S. Gempeler, who has served the maximum six years, and Troy replaces Chief Judge Philip M. Kirk, who also has served the maximum term.

In addition, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge Daniel R. Moeser, Dane County Circuit Court, who has led the Fifth Judicial District since 1994. The Court extended his service beyond the regular three-term limit to permit him to continue leading negotiations on the siting and construction of a new Dane County Courthouse.

The Court also re-appointed the following circuit court judges to two-year terms: Michael J. Skwierawski, Milwaukee County (District I); Barbara A. Kluka, Kenosha County (District II); James Evenson, Sauk County (District VI); and James B. Mohr, Vilas County (District IX).

Wisconsin is divided into 10 districts for purposes of judicial administration, and each district is led by a chief judge, a deputy chief judge (appointed by the chief judge), and a district court administrator. The judges handle their administrative duties in addition to their regular caseloads. ♦

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Supreme Court Set to Act on Proposed BAPR Rules

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is reviewing comments submitted on the proposed Supreme Court Rules (SCRs) concerning the state lawyer regulation system and plans to meet in open conference on May 19 to discuss the proposed rules. The deadline to submit comments was May 3.

SCR Chapters 21 and 22 were redrafted at the request of the justices after they reached unanimous agreement on a tentative new framework for an attorney discipline system to replace the Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility (BAPR). These draft rules—which have not been adopted by the Supreme Court—were released for review and comment by interested persons.

The Court has specifically called attention to the following provisions of the proposed rules:

- the size of the probable cause body (it would sit in panels of three);
- the definition of “probable cause;”
- the procedure for treating a grievance made against a person working in the lawyer regulation system; and
- the review of dismissals of grievances at request of a grievant.

The proposed rules do not include specific provisions for an intake function, which would make use of alternatives to discipline in cases where the infraction did not rise to a level warranting formal discipline. These matters will be addressed in rules to be proposed by BAPR Administrator James Martin and presented at a public hearing.

District investigative committees would be made up of lawyers and members of the public. In the order adopting the final rules, the Court will direct the newly created Board of Administrative Oversight to review the district investigative committees within three years and submit a recommendation for continuing those committees, modifying them, or terminating them. The order adopting the rules will also provide for a formalized orientation of district investigative committee members and uniform guidelines. ♦

The proposed rules and related documents are available on the Wisconsin court system’s Web site at www.courts.state.wi.us/bapr/baprproprules.htm, or may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court by calling (608) 266-1880.

In Brief: New Lawyer Regulation Framework

In January, the Wisconsin Supreme Court voted to pursue a new framework for attorney discipline that would divide the responsibilities of the current Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility between two 12-person boards—the Probable Cause Body and the Board of Administrative Oversight. The following diagram outlines the framework of the lawyer regulation system based on proposed Supreme Court Rules Chapters 21 and 22.

Office of Lawyer Regulation: The office would be responsible for screening, investigating, and prosecuting cases. The director, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Court, would investigate attorney misconduct and medical incapacity allegations and present results to the Probable Cause Body. Staff would include intake and investigative staff and staff counsel.

District Investigative Committees: Sixteen Court-appointed committees, each composed of at least one-third non-lawyers, would investigate certain cases.

Probable Cause Body: A 12-person Court-appointed body made up of at least one-third non-lawyers. The body would review results of investigations to determine probable cause for the director to proceed.

Referee: A court-appointed panel of attorneys and reserve judges who would make findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for Supreme Court review and appropriate action.

Wisconsin Supreme Court: The Supreme Court would determine attorney misconduct or medical incapacity and impose discipline or appropriate action.

Intake Process: BAPR Administrator James Martin will propose an intake function that would use alternatives to discipline in cases of minor infractions.

Board of Administrative Oversight:

A 12-person board appointed by the Supreme Court and composed of at least one-third non-lawyers. The Board would monitor the fairness and efficiency of the attorney regulation system, and would propose substantive and procedural rules related to the system for consideration by the Court. The Board also would be charged with reviewing the operation of the district committees and submitting a recommendation to the Supreme Court concerning their continuation.

Election Results

Voters Place Seven New Circuit Judges on the Bench

The 19th century writer and politician Benjamin Disraeli observed that finality is not the language of politics. In spite of the well-documented advantages of incumbency, Disraeli's words rang true in at least two races on Election Day 2000. Voters denied one appointee a full term, and returned an incumbent to the bench by a margin of 65 votes. The results in all the contested races are listed below.

Justice Diane S. Sykes Wisconsin Supreme Court



Justice Diane S. Sykes

Justice Diane S. Sykes, whom Governor Tommy Thompson appointed to the Supreme Court in September 1999 (*see story in The Third Branch, fall 1999*) won a decisive victory on April 4, taking every county in the state in spite of the fact that most of the state's major daily newspapers endorsed her opponent, Milwaukee Municipal Judge Louis Butler.

Both Sykes and Butler were widely praised for running dignified campaigns. The cost of this election was drastically lower than others in recent history, because both candidates took public financing and abided by the spending limits.

Judge Mark A. Warpinski Brown County Circuit Court



Judge
Mark A. Warpinski

Judge Michael G. Grzeca, Brown County Circuit Court, was defeated by challenger Mark A. Warpinski, a Green Bay Municipal Court judge. Warpinski garnered 68 percent of the vote; the final tally was 26,058 votes for Warpinski to 12,002 for Grzeca. Governor Tommy Thompson appointed Grzeca, a former Brown County court commissioner, in July 1999 to replace Judge Vivi Dilweg, who retired in March 1999 after a long illness.

Warpinski has been in private practice for 27 years. He has also served as Green Bay city attorney for more than 18 years, and has been on the Green Bay Municipal Court bench for the last eight and a half years.

He is a member of several Brown County committees, including the Courthouse Security Committee, the Truancy Task Force, and the Teen Court Advisory Board. Warpinski is currently vice chair of the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association. He is involved in the Notre Dame Academy Board of Education, and organizes and coaches youth sports.

Warpinski earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970 and his law degree from Notre Dame Law School in 1973. He and his wife, Sue, have three children: Matt, Anna, and Ted.

Judge Jon M. Counsell Clark County Circuit Court



Judge Jon M. Counsell

Judge John M. Counsell, whom Governor Tommy Thompson appointed to the Clark County bench in September (*see story in The Third Branch, fall 1999*), handily won election to the seat. Counsell was opposed by Charles Senn, a Thorp attorney who had applied for the appointment as well. Senn garnered 2,453 votes to Counsell's 4,807.

Following his appointment, Counsell undertook an energetic public outreach campaign that included holding court proceedings in a high school located 30 miles from the county seat.

Judge-Elect D. Todd Ehlers Door County Circuit Court



Judge-Elect
D. Todd Ehlers

Court Commissioner D. Todd Ehlers beat Attorney Philip L. Johnson by a vote of 4,347 to 4,087 in the race to replace Judge John D. Koehn, who will retire July 31 (*see separate story*).

Ehlers has been a judicial court commissioner in Door County since 1997. He also works in private practice, handling family law matters, civil litigation, real estate, and probate work. Ehlers does *pro bono* work for the Legal Aid Society and serves as counsel for Door County Habitat for Humanity. He is also a mock trial coach.

Ehlers is a 1978 honors graduate of St. Norbert College and a 1982 graduate of Marquette University Law School.

Born and raised on a dairy farm in the Door County community of Sevastopol, Ehlers is married to Cindy Zellner-Ehlers, developmental disabilities coordinator for the Door County Department of Community Programs. They have two children, Cameryn, 8, and Benjamin, 6.

Judge-Elect Lisa K. Stark Eau Claire County Circuit Court



Judge-Elect Lisa K. Stark

Attorney Lisa K. Stark rose to the top in a race that began with a primary of three candidates, two of whom shared the same name—Michael O'Brien. The general election pitted Stark against Michael D. O'Brien, an administrative law judge and former Rock County prosecutor.

Stark beat O'Brien by a vote of 9,217 to 6,197 in the race to fill the seat of retiring Judge Thomas H. Barland, Eau Claire County Circuit Court. Barland will retire July 31 after serving 33 years on the bench in Eau Claire (*see story in The Third Branch, winter 2000*).

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Election Results

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Stark is a partner in the Eau Claire law firm of Misfeldt, Stark, Richie, Wickstrom & Wachs. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1979 and her law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1982.

Since then, she has practiced in Eau Claire, concentrating primarily in the areas of civil and business litigation, insurance defense work, and family law.

Stark has served as an Eau Claire County court commissioner since 1992, and also served nine years on the State Bar of Wisconsin Standing Committee on Professional Ethics.

Judge-Elect Guy D. Reynolds Sauk County Circuit Court



Judge-Elect
Guy D. Reynolds

Attorney Guy D. Reynolds, a partner with the law firm of Quale, Hartmann, Reynolds, Pulsfus & Groeneweg, beat Sauk County District Attorney Patricia Barrett by a vote of 5,438 to 3,214 for the seat being vacated by retiring Judge Virginia Wolfe. Wolfe will step down July 31 in order to devote more time to her volunteer work in Haiti (*see story in The Third Branch, fall 1999*).

Reynolds has been in private practice since 1976. He represents a variety of municipalities and also handles family law matters, estate planning, and business and commercial litigation. Prior to this, he spent three years as an assistant Sauk County district attorney.

Reynolds earned his bachelor's degree from Macalester College in 1970 and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1973.

He and his wife, Mary, a social worker who provides home health care in Sauk County, have lived in Baraboo for more than 25 years. They have two grown daughters.

Judge Robert J. Kennedy Walworth County Circuit Court



Judge Robert J. Kennedy

Judge Robert J. Kennedy, on the bench in Walworth County since 1988, won re-election to his seat by a margin of 65 votes on April 4. Kennedy garnered 7,623 votes to Municipal Judge Henry Sibbing's 7,558.

Sibbing also ran unsuccessfully against Walworth County Circuit Court Judge James L. Carlson in 1998.

Judge-Elect Andrew T. Gonring Washington County Circuit Court

Attorney Andrew T. Gonring, a partner in the West Bend law firm of O'Meara, Eckert, Poulos & Gonring, was elected without

opposition to replace Judge Leo F. Schlaefter, who is retiring July 31 at the end of his term (*see story in The Third Branch, winter 2000*).

Gonring returned to West Bend, his hometown, in 1979 and joined his current firm. Prior to this, he spent two years with the Madison firm of Bell, Metzner & Gierhardt. Since 1991, he has served on the West Bend School Board and is currently president of the Board. He is chairman of the West Bend Police and Fire Commission and director of the West Bend Economic Development Commission. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Kettle Moraine YMCA.

Gonring graduated with high honors from St. Norbert College and received his law degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Gonring and his wife, Patricia, have four children.

Judge-Elect Raymond S. Huber Waupaca County Circuit Court



Judge-Elect
Raymond S. Huber

Attorney Raymond S. Huber won election to Waupaca County's new branch of circuit court, beating Waupaca County District Attorney John Snider by a vote of 6,048 to 4,688.

Born and raised in the Waupaca County community of Clintonville, Huber opened a solo practice in his hometown after graduating from Carroll College in 1978 and from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1982 (both with honors). He represents various municipalities and practices small business and agricultural law. He also serves on the Waupaca County Court Security and Facilities Committee.

Huber lives with his wife, Joan, in Clintonville.

Judge-Elect Thomas J. Gritton Winnebago County Circuit Court



Judge-Elect
Thomas J. Gritton

Winnebago County Deputy District Attorney Thomas J. Gritton beat Frank Slattery, of Hughes, Mathewson, Carns and Slattery in Oshkosh, by a vote of 11,900 to 9,033 in the race for the seat of Judge William E. Crane, who will retire in July after serving 32 years on the bench (*see story in The Third Branch, winter 2000*).

Gritton, 36, has been with the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office for 10 years, serving first as an assistant and then as a deputy prosecutor. As deputy, he has supervised the assistant district attorneys and support staff in addition to prosecuting cases. Gritton challenged Judge William H. Carver in 1998; Carver won that race by 197 votes.

Gritton received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1985 and his law degree from Hamline University in 1988. He and his wife, Lori Sanderfoot, have two children, Melissa, 8, and Thomas Jr., 7. ♦

New Faces in Wisconsin's Courts

Judge Daniel T. Dillon Rock County Circuit Court



Judge Daniel T. Dillon

Gov. Tommy Thompson appointed Daniel T. Dillon, who practiced with the Janesville firm of Nowlan & Mouat, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Rock County Circuit Court Judge Edwin Dahlberg. Dahlberg, 76, retired effective May 1 (*see separate story*). Dillon will have to seek election to the seat in April 2001.

Dillon was a trial lawyer for 28 years, emphasizing personal injury, business, and family law. At the time of his appointment to the bench, he was chair of the Board of Directors of the State Bar's Family Law Section. Dillon also served on a district committee of the Board of the Attorneys Professional Responsibility.

Dillon has been involved in legal education, and has consulted with members of the state Legislature and governmental agencies on legislative issues. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Dillon received his bachelor's, master's, and law degrees from the University of Notre Dame.

Judge Patrick J. Faragher Washington County Circuit Court



Judge Patrick J. Faragher

Governor Tommy Thompson selected Washington County Corporation Counsel Patrick J. Faragher to fill the seat of retiring Judge Lawrence F. Waddick, who stepped down effective May 1 (*see separate story*). Faragher will have to seek election to the seat in April 2001.

Faragher had been corporation counsel (the county's attorney) since 1977. He started there in 1975 as assistant corporation counsel, and spent one year prior to that working in private practice in Kenosha County.

Faragher received his undergraduate and law degrees from Marquette University in 1971 and 1974 respectively. His undergraduate studies focused on theology, which he continues to study with a special emphasis on Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox theology and the mystical traditions of the East and West.

Faragher holds second-degree black belts in Judo and Tai Kwon Do and also enjoys doing his own plumbing, electrical, and rough carpentry work, and tinkering with electronics. His wife, Janet, is a computer consultant. They have one son, Michael, 17.

Judge Michael O. Bohren Waukesha County Circuit Court



Judge Michael O. Bohren

Governor Tommy Thompson appointed Michael O. Bohren, who practiced law with the Milwaukee firm of Marola & Bohren, to replace Judge Joseph E. Wimmer, who retired in February with four years left in his term (*see story in The Third Branch, winter 2000*). Bohren took the bench April 3 and will have to seek election to the seat in April 2001.

Bohren has worked in private practice since 1978. In 1995, he received the Outstanding *Pro Bono* Award from Legal Action of Wisconsin's Volunteer Lawyer Project. Bohren has been active on numerous committees of the Milwaukee and Waukesha Bar Associations and the State Bar, including the Interdisciplinary Committee on Mental Health Issues, the Judicial Qualification Committee, and the Committee on Delivery of Legal Services to the Indigent.

Bohren received his bachelor's degree from Ripon College in 1969 and his law degree from Marquette University Law School in 1975. He served on the Kettle Moraine School Board from 1982 until his judicial appointment, and on the Board of Directors of the Waukesha Symphony.

Bohren's wife, Mary, is a pharmacist with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. They have two daughters, Julie, a University of Wisconsin student, and Katie, a high school senior.

Most Wisconsin Judges Ran Unopposed

The following 44 judges ran unopposed for election or reelection to the bench: Ralph Adam Fine, Court of Appeals, District I; Richard S. Brown, Court of Appeals, District II; Margaret J. Vergeront, Court of Appeals, District IV; Robert E. Eaton, Ashland County Circuit Court; Edward R. Brunner, Barron County Circuit Court; John C. Albert, Patrick J. Fiedler, David Flanagan, Paul B. Higginbotham, and Gerald C. Nichol, Dane County Circuit Court; Peter C. Diltz, Door County Circuit Court; William M. Gabler, Paul J. Lenz, and Benjamin D. Proctor, Eau Claire County Circuit Court; S. Michael Wilk, Kenosha County Circuit Court; Kitty K. Brennan, Thomas R. Cooper, Mel Flanagan, Bonnie L. Gordon, Elsa C. Lamelas, Michael Malmstadt, Victor Manian, Dennis P. Moroney, Marshall B. Murray, William Sosnay, Jeffrey A. Wagner, and Lee E. Wells, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Mark A. Mangerson, Oneida County Circuit Court; John A. Des Jardins, Dee R. Dyer, and Harold V. Froehlich, Outagamie County Circuit Court; Thomas T. Flugaur, Portage County Circuit Court; Dennis J. Flynn and Richard J. Kreul, Racine County Circuit Court; James E. Welker, Rock County Circuit Court; Scott R. Needham, St. Croix County Circuit Court; Patrick J. Taggart, Sauk County Circuit Court; James J. Bolgert, Sheboygan County Circuit Court; David Resheske, Washington County Circuit Court; Kathryn W. Foster and Robert G. Mawdsley, Waukesha County Circuit Court; Robert A. Haase and Robert A. Hawley, Winnebago County Circuit Court. ♦

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Retirements

Maxine Cuculi Leaves Court of Appeals

Maxine Cuculi, assistant to Judge Daniel P. Anderson, Court of Appeals, District II, retired in April after 17 years of service.

When Cuculi was hired in August 1983, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals was just five years old and she was expected to provide record keeping and publication services for all four districts with very little automation. She worked initially for Rosemary Overstreet, administrative assistant to then-Chief Judge Burton S. Scott.

In August 1990, District II was given a fourth judge position and Anderson joined the court. Cuculi became his secretary and the two have worked together since then. "My years with the court have been very rewarding, and I have been especially fortunate to work for Judge Anderson," Cuculi said. "I have particularly enjoyed all of the people I have had the pleasure of working with."

In retirement, Cuculi planned to spend more time with her three grandchildren, and play more golf and bridge.

Her successor is Deborah Watkins, who started April 10.

After 41 years, Judge Dahlberg Steps Down



Judge Edwin Dahlberg

In 1960, Judge Edwin Dahlberg reluctantly accepted an appointment by Governor Gaylord Nelson to the Beloit Municipal Court, taking a two-thirds cut in salary and accepting his wife's advice that he could quit and return to private practice if he did not like it. Dahlberg did like judging, as it turned out. He moved to the Rock County bench in 1963, and was elected seven times without opposition. He retired effective May 1.

In a September 1997 interview for the court system's Oral History Project, Dahlberg recalled one of his more memorable cases. "Blackie Reid, who was later a circuit judge, was district attorney (and he) got into a fistfight with the defendant," Dahlberg recalled. "So he disqualified himself, and I had to find counsel to appoint as district attorney." Dahlberg eventually appointed Jack Olson, a former federal prosecutor who had only appeared in his court on one occasion, and then only long enough to file a motion for substitution. The defendant (whom Dahlberg permitted to represent himself) was convicted of rape. The case ended up at the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which affirmed the conviction in an opinion that set out the factors judges must consider when determining that a defendant has intelligently waived the right to counsel.

While the older records are incomplete, Dahlberg, 77, appears to be the second longest-serving judge in Wisconsin. Judge Frank W. Carter, Vilas County Court, served 42 years (from 1919 to 1961). The third longest-serving judge is believed to be Judge Robert Landry, who was on the bench in Milwaukee County for 39 years.

Judge Koehn Steps Down After 12 Years

Judge John D. Koehn, on the bench in Door County since 1988, will retire when his term ends on July 31. His successor is Judge-Elect D. Todd Ehlers (*see separate story*).

In retirement, Koehn plans to devote more time to his music. He plays trumpet with the Door County Peninsula Symphonic Band and the Algoma Community Band, and will perform with the



Judge John D. Koehn

Algoma ensemble during a two-week tour of Europe that will include shows in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland.

Koehn and his wife, Lois, who teaches math to seventh graders, also plan to travel more. They have a daughter and three grandsons in Denver and another daughter in Phoenix.

Koehn, who worked in private practice from 1969 until 1988 when he became a judge, anticipates helping out as a reserve judge when he is home in Door County.

Brown County Loses Decades of Experience with Ramsden's Departure

Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court Jeanne A. Ramsden, Brown County, stepped down on April 6 after 35 years on the job. She started with the Clerk's Office on Dec. 7, 1964, and was among the last county employees to be given the Civil Service Exam, which she remembers as a four-hour test of everything from grammar and math skills to shorthand and typing. Ramsden came away with the top score—and the Clerk's Office position.

Ramsden became deputy clerk in 1971. Over the years, she worked for Clerks Don Holloway (and Omar Vander Bloomen, who served under Holloway), Wayne Wolfe, Mabel Tuttle, Laverne Vander Geeten, Lynn Verheyen, and Paul Janquart (the current clerk). Although she had opportunities to move into the clerk's position, Ramsden decided to remain as deputy. "I didn't want to be in the fish bowl," she said.

In retirement, Ramsden and her husband plan to spend more time in their new condominium in Palm Springs. She will also help manage the couple's rental properties and plans to volunteer at the library. Ramsden has two sons, ages 18 and 30.

Judge Waddick Looks Forward to More Time with Family



Judge Lawrence F. Waddick

Judge Lawrence F. Waddick, who had served in Washington County since 1990, retired May 1. Governor Tommy Thompson appointed Washington County Corporation Counsel Patrick J. Faragher to replace Waddick (*see separate story*).

Waddick, 62, announced his plan to retire in a brief statement issued in January. In the statement, Waddick expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of the county and his wish to spend more time traveling with his wife.

Waddick worked in private practice from 1964 until 1990, when he became a judge. In 1998, the Wisconsin Judicial Commission filed a complaint against Waddick, alleging that he had engaged in judicial misconduct. Waddick admitted to charges that he delayed decisions on matters that came before him and filed false Certifications of Status of Pending Cases. In February, the Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended him from judicial office for six months. ❖

New Committee Appointments



Judge Karen E. Christenson



Judge Donald J. Hassin

The Supreme Court and the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference recently made a number of appointments to fill vacancies on various committees.

The Executive Committee appointed circuit court Judges William D. Johnston, Lafayette County, and Dennis C. Luebke, Outagamie County, to its ranks. They replace circuit court Judges Karen E. Christenson, Milwaukee County, and Robert R. Pekowsky, Dane County. The Executive Committee has general charge over the affairs, policies, and activities of the Judicial Conference (the Conference is comprised of all Wisconsin judges) and includes the following members: the chief justice (chair); the next senior justice (first vice-chair); a second vice-chair; a secretary; and five other Conference members including: one appellate judge, one reserve judge and three circuit court judges.

The Court also appointed three circuit court judges to sit on the Judicial

Education Committee, which approves educational programs for judges and court personnel. The appointees are Judges Karen E.

Christenson, Milwaukee County; Donald J. Hassin, Waukesha County; and Annette K. Ziegler, Washington County. They replace the following circuit court judges whose terms have ended: Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County; Elsa C. Lamelas, Milwaukee County; and John R. Storck, Dodge County. The Court also re-appointed Judge William Griesbach, Brown County, to a second term on the committee.

Finally, the Court appointed two members of its Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee to additional terms. This committee assists judges in complying with letter and spirit of the Code of Judicial Conduct by giving formal advisory opinions and informal advice to judges who request guidance. Judge Neal P. Nettesheim, Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District II, will serve a second, three-year term on the committee. Professor Eric P. Godfrey, Department of Sociology, Ripon College, will also serve a second, three-year term. In addition, the Court asked Judge Thomas Barland, Eau Claire County Circuit Court, to continue as committee chairman. Barland has been chairman since 1997, when the Court created the committee. Questions the committee has received, and the answers it has provided, can be viewed on the court system Web site at www.courts.state.wi.us/WCS/jud_cond.html.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson also appointed Judge John A. Damon, Trempealeau County Circuit Court, to a three-year term to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc. Damon will replace Judge Thomas P. Donegan, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, whose term expires in June. ❖

Court of Appeals Hears Arguments at Beloit College



Judge William Eich

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District IV, held oral arguments on the campus of Beloit College again this spring, marking the Court's fourth visit to the campus. This time, the panel included Judges David G. Deininger, William Eich, and Margaret Vergeront. The Fourth District court regularly sits in La Crosse and Stevens Point, and has for the past several years traveled to other cities within the district as a means of bringing the Court

of Appeals closer to its constituents. The judges also have held arguments at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

The idea for the court to convene at Beloit College on a semi-regular basis grew out of discussions several years ago between college President Victor E. Ferrall, Jr., a former practicing lawyer, and Eich, a 1960 Beloit College graduate.

Court personnel send copies of the briefs to Ferrall, who conducts a seminar with interested students on the appellate process and the issues in the case. Following the arguments—which are held in the President's Lounge on campus—the judges, attorneys, interested faculty, and students meet for coffee and refreshments at the historic President's Residence.

Judges and lawyers who have participated in the program in the past have been uniformly enthusiastic about the event, as has the college community. ❖

Supreme Court Program Assistant Honored

Karen Leone de Nie, program assistant to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, was one of seven people honored at a state Capitol ceremony on May 4 with an honorable mention in the prestigious Seventeenth Annual Virginia Hart Recognition Award competition. There were 66 nominees.

The competition recognizes the “unsung heroines” of state service whose work is excellent, and who regularly perform beyond their job duties. The award is named for Virginia Hart, Wisconsin's first woman cabinet member. Hart's friends and

colleagues established a fund to give awards in recognition of the exemplary performance of employees like Leone de Nie.

Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson nominated Leone de Nie for the award, noting her broad array of skills and talents, her work ethic, and her unflagging good humor.

She coordinates the Volunteers in the Courts initiative and assists with many court outreach projects, including *The Third Branch*. Leone de Nie joined the Supreme Court staff in 1997. ❖

Supreme Court Takes Show on the Road



Justice William A. Bablitch listens as Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson addresses a group of media, county board supervisors, sheriff's officials, judges, and others at a Kenosha press conference on April 4.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court heard nine oral arguments in Kenosha in April as part of its Justice on Wheels program.

About 800 people turned out to watch the Court's proceedings in Branch 3 of the Kenosha County Courthouse. The oral arguments were also broadcast gavel-to-gavel on the local cable access station. Before the start of each argument, local attorneys who had studied the briefs gave short presentations.

In addition to hearing cases, the Court held a press conference and participated in a courthouse rededication ceremony and a memorial service for deceased Kenosha County attorneys. The justices also attended various luncheons with senior citizens, foster parents, and students and faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Taking the Court's work on the road is never without a few "Murphy's Law" moments. This trip was no exception. One morning, the justices boarded their van and departed the hotel without realizing that a colleague was missing. As they neared the courthouse, one of them realized Justice William A. Bablitch was not on board. As taxi service from the hotel was not available, a member of the maintenance staff drove Bablitch to the courthouse. He was reported to have maintained excellent humor about the oversight.

On another day, all seven justices arrived to give a presentation at the luncheon meeting of the Kenosha Senior Action Council, a group of about 200 senior citizens. They were seated at a head table, and then learned that they would be sharing the podium with another speaker, a proctologist. As the justices dug into mashed potatoes and gravy, the speaker gave a lecture on recognizing the signs of colon cancer, which included descriptions of stool samples and polyps. Given the unenviable task of finding a segue between the proctologist's lecture and a question-and-answer session with the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson thanked the doctor for sharing life-saving information, and asked the justices to raise their hands if they had undergone a colon exam. When not all hands went up, she reminded her colleagues that they are all over 40 and suggested that they be examined upon returning to Madison.

This was the Court's eighth Justice on Wheels trip and the first time it had ever sat in Kenosha. The Court began the outreach effort in 1993 and has also sat in courthouses (in chronological order) in: Green Bay, Eau Claire, Wausau, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Superior, and Janesville. Planning for the Court's next trips, to Baraboo on Oct. 3, and to Rhinelander on April 11 and 12, 2001 is now underway. ❖

PPAC Makes ADR Information a Click Away

*by: Dan Wassink,
senior policy analyst,
Director of State Courts Office*

More than three-quarters of circuit court judges in Wisconsin recommend the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in civil cases, and mediation is the most common method recommended. Judges who use ADR report that the attorneys are overwhelmingly supportive of it.

This information—and much more—was gleaned from a recent survey of Wisconsin circuit court judges on how they are using ADR in their courtrooms. Information from this survey is now available on the Wisconsin court system Web site in a new ADR Clearinghouse section that is designed to evolve and expand over time. To access the Clearinghouse, go to www.courts.state.wi.us/circuit/Alternative_Dispute_Resolution.htm.

ADR is a term used to describe the many methods employed to resolve disputes early in the legal process, without a judge or jury deciding the case. Wisconsin Statute 802.12 provides for its use; however, ADR use varies widely from courtroom to courtroom and, until now, there has been no formal mechanism to obtain and share information. That is why a subcommittee of the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) created the ADR Clearinghouse.

This new page on the court Web site was designed for judges, attorneys, court managers, court users, and groups with a general interest in ADR, or who may be looking to implement or modify an ADR program in their jurisdictions. Hopefully, it will lead to more sharing of information and an understanding of this case management tool and its many benefits.

Within the next month or two, selected attorneys will receive a survey asking about their experiences with ADR. Keep an eye on the Web page for those survey results. ❖

Pro Se Working Group Seeks Funding To Design Model Projects

Building on the momentum of the National Conference on *Pro Se* Litigation held in November 1999, the *Pro Se* Working Group has focused on two main activities:

1. developing a grant proposal to seek project funding from the State Justice Institute (SJI), and
2. drafting a report outlining potential responses to the growing number of *pro se* litigants in the court system.

The Director of State Courts Office submitted a concept paper to SJI on March 15. The proposal requests funding to: standardize forms that *pro se* litigants frequently use in family cases; establish three model *pro se* programs around the state; and provide technical assistance to counties interested in establishing a response to *pro se* litigation. If SJI accepts the concept paper at its May 15 meeting, a formal application will be due in June with a funding decision to follow in late July.

In developing its report outlining potential state and local responses to the challenge of *pro se* litigation, the committee is reviewing successful initiatives used in other jurisdictions and the growing base of research. It is anticipated that the report will be completed by July. ❖

For more information on the Working Group, contact Executive Assistant to the Chief Justice John Voelker at (608) 261-8297.

Wisconsin Teams to Attend Pro Se Conference

Two Wisconsin teams were selected to participate in a Justice Management Institute workshop on developing effective *pro se* litigation programs. The workshop was scheduled for May in Minneapolis.

Teams from Judicial Administrative District X and Waukesha County will study the Hennepin County Self-Help Service Center in Minnesota and brainstorm ideas for local *pro se* programs.

The District X team includes: Family Court Commissioner George Glonek, Douglas County; Judge Eugene D. Harrington, Washburn County Circuit Court; Clerk of Circuit Court Clara Minor, Dunn County; District Court Administrator Gregg T. Moore (team leader), District X; Attorney Timothy O'Brien; Deputy Chief Judge Benjamin D. Proctor, Eau Claire County Circuit Court; Janet Rubenzer Pike, a former clerk of circuit court; and John Voelker, executive assistant to the chief justice. The Waukesha County team includes: Judge Kathryn W. Foster, (team leader); Clerk of Circuit Court Carolyn Evenson; Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court Diane Burd; Patricia Koppenhoefer of the Legal Aid Society; and Cathy Warmington and Holly Patzer, of Wisconsin Correctional Service's Mediation Center of Waukesha County. ❖

Focus Groups Identify Public Trust and Confidence Issues

The Public Trust and Confidence Steering Committee is conducting focus groups in Milwaukee, La Crosse, and Outagamie counties to solicit information from the public on issues affecting public trust and confidence in the justice system. The committee—a joint project of the chief justice, the director of state courts, the League of Women Voters, and the State Bar of Wisconsin—is developing a plan for improving public trust and confidence in the state justice system.

Laura Hartman, professor of business ethics at the University of Wisconsin, is facilitating this second phase of the project. The focus groups were expected to wrap up their work by May 15.

Phase one of the committee's work consisted of reviewing state and national research on public opinions of justice system. This phase concluded with the identification of 12 issues the committee believes to be important to addressing public trust and confidence in the justice system.

The third and final phase of the project is drafting a plan. The committee will use the information collected during the first two phases to produce an action plan for improving public trust and confidence in the justice system. It is anticipated that this plan will be completed by fall. ❖

For more information on the Public Trust and Confidence project, visit the court system Web site at www.courts.state.wi.us/media/pdf/pubtrst.pdf, or contact Executive Assistant to the Chief Justice John Voelker at (608) 261-8297, or State Bar Public Affairs Coordinator Trina E. Haag at (608) 250-6025.



Chief Judge Barbara A. Kluka (left) and Judge Mary Kay Wagner Malloy, both of Kenosha County Circuit Court, were among approximately 35 judges and court staff who attended the Child Abuse & Neglect Specialty Seminar held in Madison on March 1-3. The seminar covered what judges should know about child development and family dynamics before they make placement decisions, and explored the role of judicial leadership in achieving the standards set by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. To review the materials from the seminar, contact Michelle M. Jensen in the Office of Court Operations at (608) 266-1557.

Conference Promotes Public Trust and Confidence

by: Gregg Moore, District X court administrator

“Next to doing right, the great object in the administration of justice should be to give public satisfaction.”

—John Jay, first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court



District Court Administrator Steve Steadman and the “Wisconsin Team” discussing public trust and confidence issues.

Although Wisconsin courts received generally positive evaluations in a 1997 survey of court users, national surveys over the past 23 years have often rated courts poorly in the areas of cost, timeliness, and treatment of minorities. In an effort to develop strategies for promoting public trust and confidence, the National Association for Court Management (NACM) sponsored a four-day conference in Kansas City in March.

In lieu of the annual Clerk of Court Institute sponsored by the Office of Judicial Education, and with additional funding from the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association, many clerks of court were able to attend the NACM conference. Chief judges and their deputies, district court administrators, and Director of State Courts Office staff also participated. Most attendees rode on a chartered bus in order to minimize transportation costs. With 53 of the 350 registrants, Wisconsin distinguished itself as being second only to Kansas in the number of conference participants.

The conference provided an opportunity for Wisconsin court leaders to learn more about the issues of public trust and confidence, to exchange ideas with peers from around the country, and to strengthen our state-district-county team approach to problem-solving and organizational improvement. I am confident that Wisconsin citizens and the judicial branch will benefit greatly from our participation in this national conference.

Conference faculty included Dan Straub, Ph.D., who facilitated the 1990 Wisconsin Judicial Conference in Stevens Point; Dale Lefever, Ph.D., nationally renowned speaker on court management; Barry Mahoney, Ph.D., president of the Justice Management Institute; and Arthur Lange, Ed.D., an expert on effective executive teams who will be the keynote speaker at the 2000 meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference (*see separate story*). Three community leaders representing business, social service, and religious organizations provided feedback about public trust and confidence issues and strategies raised at the conference.

Thanks to innovative electronic technology that creates an opinion poll of participants from each state, the Wisconsin Team was able to identify the following five issues as having the most significant effect on public trust and confidence:

1. access to justice for all;
2. prompt and affordable justice;
3. equal treatment in the justice system;
4. effective judicial leadership; and
5. public understanding of the courts and impact of the media.

When balancing the importance of issues with the feasibility of results, two other strategies emerged: improving customer service and improving the treatment and use of jurors.

In addition to a workshop organized especially for Wisconsin, other conference breakout sessions focused on issues identified in earlier national surveys and conferences. To learn more about the 1999 national survey on public views of state courts, conducted by the National Center for State Courts, visit www.ncsc.dni.us/PTC/ptc.htm. See the story on page nine for information on the Wisconsin Public Trust and Confidence Initiative.

Many people deserve special thanks for making this conference possible, including David Hass, director, Office of Judicial Education; Gail Gentz, clerk of circuit court, Kenosha County; J. Denis Moran, director of state courts; Pam Radloff, fiscal officer, Office of Management Services; and Steve Steadman, court administrator, District VII. ❖

Questions may be directed to John Voelker, executive assistant to the chief justice, at (608) 261-8297; Steve Steadman at (608) 785-9633; or me at (715) 839-4826.

Clerks' Conferences Planned

The summer 2000 Clerk of Court Conference will be June 13-15 at Lakewoods Resort in Cable. The agenda includes a primer on the legislative process, collections information from Dane and Waukesha counties, a class on management and leadership, and more.

Additional Clerk of Court Conferences are scheduled as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Fall 2000: | Oct. 11-15, Black Wolf Inn, Wisconsin Dells |
| Summer 2001: | June 27-29, Radisson Hotel, Milwaukee |
| Fall 2001: | Oct. 3-5, Mead Inn, Wisconsin Rapids (tent.) ❖ |

Information on Use of Court Interpreters Being Collected

by: Carolyn Olson, clerk of circuit court, Iowa County, and Marcia Vandercook, Office of Court Operations

The Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts is creating a three-month snapshot of how and when language interpreters are used in state courts. The clerks of circuit court in seven counties have agreed to collect information each time an interpreter is requested, used in court, used at the counter, or ordered by the court for a psychiatric exam, mediation, etc. The counties were chosen for their varying language groups and caseloads. Participating counties are: Dunn, Kenosha, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, and Waushara.

The study will track the use of foreign language interpreters, sign language interpreters, and other accommodations for deaf and hard-of-hearing court users. It will show how often the courts get their interpreting services from professional interpreters, family members and friends, or other court participants such as attorneys, social workers, and law enforcement. It will record how often hearings are delayed or rescheduled when interpreters are not available.

In April, the committee distributed a statewide survey on the hourly rates each county pays interpreters, what languages are commonly requested, and how much each county spends for interpreter services and travel. ❖

Obituaries

Judge Richard Harvey Jr. Racine County Circuit Court

Judge Richard Harvey Jr., known for his tough-on-crime approach and penchant for attracting controversy, died at Racine's Lakeshore Manor on Feb. 24. He was 89.

Harvey served in Racine County from 1968 to 1980, retiring (as was mandatory at the time) when he turned 70. In retirement, he served as a reserve judge and enjoyed spending time at his northern Wisconsin cabin.

Harvey was a large man, and had a reputation for being fearless.

Legislature

continued from page 1

AB 668 amends 1997 Act 84 to make second and subsequent offenses of operating a motor vehicle after revocation misdemeanors rather than felonies.

SB 125 (Act 209) increases penalties for operating while intoxicated based upon the level of alcohol in the blood and increases the driver improvement surcharge. This drunk driving bill also contains language about immobilization and ignition interlock of vehicles.

The following bill is waiting for the governor's approval:

SB 106 allows a court to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a court appointed special advocate (CASA)

Wisconsin Connects to the World

In February, Judge **Michael N. Nowakowski**, Dane County Circuit Court, spent eight days in Cuba as part of a delegation bringing humanitarian aid to Camaguey, Madison's sister city. The 30-person delegation included lawyers, doctors, business owners, city officials, and others from Madison. The group arrived with 1,100 pounds of medical supplies for the local children's hospital, just in time to replenish the hospital's supply of antibiotics. Nowakowski and the others painted the hospital and worked on other improvements during their stay. He hopes to return to Cuba, and possibly meet with a judge or prosecutor, next February.

Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge **Ralph M. Ramirez** was selected by the Waukesha Sister City Association to represent the City of Waukesha on a trip to Kokshetau, Kazakhstan in April. While there he gathered information on their justice system and shared how Wisconsin's system operates.

In May, Clerk of Circuit Court **Donna J. Seidel**, Marathon County, traveled to the Ukraine as part of a delegation from North Central Technical College, where she serves on the Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the trip is to continue support for the democratization of governmental agencies, to help establish and sustain non-governmental agencies to help the poor, to encourage entrepreneurial efforts, and to establish a North Central Technical College Ukrainian Alumni Association. ❖

When a divorce proceeding over which he was presiding turned into a fistfight between a woman's estranged husband and her boyfriend, Harvey leaped from the bench, overpowered the husband and subdued him.

Harvey performed hundreds of weddings, and because he preferred not to have to travel, he would invite the couples to be married in his own home or garden. Often, the brides and grooms changed into their wedding attire in the Harvey home.

Surviving him are his wife, Carolyn, two sons and a daughter, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ❖

program through the chief judge and specifies the advocate's duties and qualifications.

Among the many bills that were not adopted: **AB 536**, which created six additional judgeships; **AB 380**, which codified the recently promulgated Supreme Court Rule 75; **AJR 64**, a joint resolution that increased clerk of circuit court terms from two to four years; and **AB 465**, which contained the criminal code reclassifications and sentencing guidelines that the Criminal Penalties Study Committee recommended to help with the implementation of Truth in Sentencing.

It is not known if the Legislature will call itself back into extraordinary session to take up key issues such as Truth in Sentencing that were left unresolved. ❖

The Supreme Court Hearing Room Restoration and Renovation Project

by: Roxanne Nelson, East Wing project liaison
to the Wisconsin Supreme Court



A view of the Supreme Court Hearing Room from the bench, circa 1920.

Francis Millet was on his way to the United States to meet with the Wisconsin Capitol Commission and Architect George B. Post regarding the painting of the murals in the Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing Room when he perished on the Titanic in 1912. The murals were instead executed by artist Albert Herter and are now the focus of conservation work in the Supreme Court Hearing Room as the state Capitol's East Wing renovation project moves forward.

The four oil-on-canvas murals, each 9 feet by 18 feet, were painted off site and shipped to Madison for installation in 1915. The justices of the Court at the time determined that the murals should depict the four sources of modern law. The murals represent the appeal of the Legionary to Caesar Augustus, the signing of the Magna Carta, the signing of the U. S. Constitution, and the trial of Chief Oshkosh by Judge James Duane Doty.

The Wisconsin State Capitol was constructed between 1906 and 1917. After housing a continuously evolving state government for nearly nine decades, the building was showing signs of age and inefficiency. The immense task of restoring the Capitol's original character, while adapting to the technological and space needs of

present state government, began in 1990. The East Wing project started in 1999 and its completion is anticipated in late 2001.

The East Wing has been home to the Wisconsin Supreme Court since the Capitol was built. This article highlights the most celebrated of the Court's spaces, the magnificent Supreme Court Hearing Room.

The Supreme Court Hearing Room is square with a 30-foot ceiling. It is lit by a large central ceiling light of low-toned leaded glass set in a flat coffered ceiling to prevent reverberation. The walls are finished in Italian Botticino marble that runs 10 ½ feet high and holds large panels of selected golden veined Formosa marble quarried in Germany.

On entering the room, a visitor cannot fail to be impressed by its dignified character with its solid mahogany furniture and woodwork. It is a masterpiece, chaste in style, and indescribably beautiful in its pure simplicity. It has been regarded by thousands of visitors as the most beautiful room in the Capitol, and one of the most beautiful courtrooms in America.

Historic documents reveal that the Supreme Court was actively involved in the design and furnishing of its Capitol spaces at the turn of the century. Just as Chief Justice John B. Winslow represented the Court's interests then, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson guides the restoration of the Court's spaces today. The Court works in concert with the Department of Administration and a highly skilled team of architects, engineers, consultants, and contractors to implement the comprehensive scope of work developed for the courtroom.

At the time the Supreme Court vacated the East Wing in July 1999 to make way for the project, many original courtroom elements had survived, including:

- Original leather, which still clung to the six swinging doors surrounding the Hearing Room. Dry and brittle, the old leather will be replaced with select hides from Scotland where they are scar-free and large enough to cover the tall doors.



Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson consulting with Field Superintendent Steve Young of JP Cullen & Sons, Inc. in the Capitol.



Rebecca Garland, of Garland Guild in Indianapolis, restoring the gold leaf finish of the Hearing Room ceiling.

- Original courtroom furniture, which remained in place with the exception of a few chairs. Leather upholstery had been replaced with vinyl, and the once rich mahogany finishes had become marred and lackluster. Except for the bench, which will be restored on site, all the existing original furniture has been transported to Milwaukee for expert restoration. The seven historic ceremonial chairs and all guest seating will be reupholstered in fine Scottish leather to match the leather doors.
- The stained glass skylight, which remained intact with minor visible damage. The cement that secured the glass within the copper frame had deteriorated, and leaded joints had weakened over time. Artificial lighting fixtures had been added to the space above the stained glass to supplement the natural sunlight. The fixtures created shadows and hot spots and were a maintenance nightmare. The entire skylight has been carefully removed and transported to an art glass studio where it is undergoing a stabilization and conservation process. When the resplendent skylight is reinstalled, illumination of the courtroom will be improved with a new lighting source above the skylight.

- The carpet, which was the original wool Wilton purchased in 1911 from Gimbel Brothers of Milwaukee. Albeit faded and worn threadbare where countless attorneys stood at the lectern during oral argument, the carpet survived. It has been carefully removed and placed in storage. Segments of the historic carpet will be preserved by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; other sections will be bound for area rugs and placed in the justices' chambers. The new carpet designed for the courtroom is an authentic reproduction of the original—color-matched, 100 percent wool Wilton, 27-inch loomed widths, hand-sewn seams.
- Gold leaf, which has been meticulously cleaned and consolidated. An elaborate scaffold provided a platform from which the decorative finishes team performed this conservation work. In addition, original paint colors were determined through chemical analysis and have been reinstated at the ceiling and frieze levels of the Hearing Room.

In addition to restoring the magnificent room, the project has focused on updating it to meet current and future needs. New heat, ventilation, and air conditioning systems will enhance comfort in the courtroom, and courtroom technology will be facilitated by a complex infrastructure of under-floor conduit. The maze of conduit will house wires and cables for the new audio system; telephone, power, and data services; broadband television signals, and a compressed two-way videoconference system.

The level of success achieved with the Hearing Room restoration and renovation will be measured by your inability to recognize the changes that have occurred. On your next visit to the Supreme Court Hearing Room you will enjoy its 1917 grandeur which belies the state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology designed to serve Wisconsin's citizens and its Supreme Court into the new millennium. ❖

Roxanne Nelson is the Supreme Court's liaison for the Capitol renovation project. She can be reached at (608) 267-4477 or roxanne.nelson@legis.state.wi.us.

Registers, Clerks Host Continuing Education

by: Kay Morlen, Washington County register in probate

The spring conference for registers in probate featured *A Judge's View of the Office of the Register in Probate* presented by District X Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner, Barron County; and District X Judges Eugene Harrington, Washburn County; and James Taylor, Burnett County.

The conference, held in the Burnett County community of Siren, also included an update by Deputy Director for Court Operations Patrick Brummond on the progress of mandatory forms. A panel of registers from across the state led a discussion on daily office operations and representatives of the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) fielded questions as they updated the registers on implementation, goals for 2000, and the progress on JAVA, a programming language designed to develop applications that can operate on different platforms. Marilyn Kooiker, of the University of Wisconsin Extension, gave the registers insight into "The Joy of Stress."

Association officers for 2000 include: President Sherry Masephol, Wood County; Vice President Kay Morlen, Washington County; Secretary Carol Thompson, Green County; and Treasurer Suzanne Ohman, Oneida County. Ohman and register Mary Lou Bloch, Oneida County, will host the fall conference on Sept. 13-15.

Sheboygan to Host Juvenile Court Clerks

Plans are underway for the annual fall educational conference of the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Clerks. Juvenile Court Clerk Marge Halbach, Sheboygan County, will host the conference on Oct. 4-6.

Topics under consideration include: Teamwork in the Juvenile Office, Interstate Compacts, Crime Victims' Rights Act, and Mandated Forms. The complete agenda and conference information will be mailed to clerks in early summer.

Current officers are: President Barbara Kaiser, Rock County; Vice President Karin Heldmann, Door County; Secretary Kay Morlen, Washington County; and Treasurer Ericka Nelson, St. Croix County. ❖

It's Construction Season

Editor's note: Remodeling and brand new construction have turned a number of Wisconsin courthouses into hard hat zones over the last five years. The following counties report that they have building or remodeling projects that are either recently completed, currently underway, or in the planning stages: Adams, Barron, Bayfield, Calumet, Clark, Dane, Dodge, Door, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Iron, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Racine, Rock, Rusk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Vilas, Walworth, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago. The scale of the courthouse projects varies greatly. This article highlights some of the larger projects.

RENEE STEVENS, ADAMS COUNTY TIMES AND FRIENDSHIP REPORTER.



The Adams County Courthouse construction project, June 1997.

Adams County Courthouse 402 Main St., Friendship

In late 1996, a \$3 million project to renovate and expand the Adams County court facilities got underway. The project added a 20,000-square-foot second story onto the courthouse annex. The new space houses the county's offices, which created space in the 1912 courthouse to consolidate all court-related functions. The courthouse itself was also remodeled, creating an additional non-jury courtroom and updating the law library, district attorney's space, judge's chambers, clerk's office, and more. The move back into the renovated courthouse took place in December 1997.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT KAY L. CEDERBERG.



The addition to the Bayfield County Courthouse, completed in 1996.

Bayfield County Courthouse 117 E. Fifth St., Washburn

In 1996, the Bayfield County Courthouse was remodeled and given an addition with new offices for the judge, judicial assistant, court reporter, and district attorney. The remodel carved out a new courtroom for family matters, a new law library, and bathrooms on the main floor.

Calumet County Courthouse 206 Court St., Chilton

After years of talking, listening, and studying the options, Calumet County took stock of its existing, 1978 court facility (a one-story wing not capable of holding additional levels, and in need of a new heating system and roof) and decided to tear it down and rebuild. The project began in mid 1995 and was continued through 1996.

The two courtrooms, the judge's chambers, the jury room, the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, a conference room, and public spaces were demolished.

During the construction, court was held in an old room on the third floor of the main building. A temporary wall was built to hide a refrigerator, stove, sink, and cupboards that ran along the front wall of the interim courtroom. A small conference room next door served as a jury room. When juries deliberated, the hallway was declared off-limits because the jury room was not soundproof. The District Attorney's Office and the Register in Probate's Office were also moved to the third floor, and offices that had been in these spaces were moved to the basement of the jail.

The Clerk of Circuit Court's Office remained in the construction zone, directing visitors through the maze, running files up to the third floor, and keeping watch over the project through peepholes. The temporary accommodations were used for approximately 18 months. In January 1997, the courts and related offices moved into their new quarters, which are spacious, secure, and accessible. The innovative design includes a step up to the witness box that easily converts to a ramp when necessary.



The newly renovated Clark County Courthouse, October 1999.

CHIEF DEPUTY MATT DEL FATTI,
CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT.

Clark County Courthouse 517 Court St., Neillsville

After eight years of debate, construction on Clark County Courthouse started in December 1998 and wrapped up in October 1999. The renovated courthouse was re-dedicated in April.

The addition included a new county jail, attached to the courthouse, and a tunnel and separate entrance to bring inmates to

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VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS: _____

A Partnership for Justice

by: Karen Leone de Nie
program assistant to the Supreme Court

Impact Panel Cuts Drunken Driving



Judge
John A. Des Jardins

A new study shows that Outagamie County's Victim Impact Panel is decreasing recidivism rates for drunken driving offenses.

While it is well known that alcohol impairs a person's ability to drive safely, drunken driving remains a serious problem. Wisconsin Department of Transportation statistics show that alcohol figured into the vehicle-related deaths of almost 400 people in the state in 1998. Victim Impact Panels (VIPs), an alternative sanction that was

made available to Wisconsin courts in 1993, are one way to address this persistent problem.

In Outagamie County, where VIPs have been operating for four years, the court orders second-offense drunken drivers to attend a VIP. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) helps the Outagamie program identify potential volunteer panelists. In some counties, law enforcement agencies, hospital staff, and district attorney's offices, among others, help find panelists.

During the one-hour session, victims of drunken driving accidents talk about how a drunken driver changed their lives. The sessions, which are very emotional, allow victims to share their personal stories without accusing or directing anger towards the offenders. According to *Victim Impact Panels: A Reference Manual*, a VIP can be beneficial to the victims as it helps them express their feelings, and may make them feel less helpless. The goal is to overcome anger and denial and get the offenders to take responsibility for their actions.

Leona Whitman, an independent evaluator and former research assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, compared the

recidivism rates of second-offense drunken drivers in Outagamie County with those in neighboring Winnebago County, which does not have a VIP program. Volunteers in Offender Services contracted with Whitman to conduct the study. To maintain her role as an unbiased evaluator, Whitman did not attend any VIP sessions.

The study compared subsequent drunk driving arrests of 150 two-time offenders in Outagamie County who attended a VIP with arrests of 175 two-time offenders in Winnebago County. In the Outagamie group, 22 people, or 14.7 percent, were convicted of a third offense, while 69 people, or 39.4 percent, in the Winnebago group were convicted on a third offense.

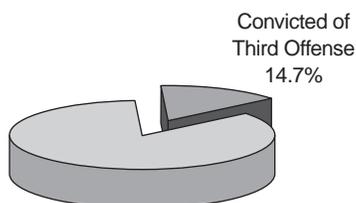
Although Whitman recommends additional evaluations of the program to confirm these findings, she agrees that VIPs seem to be working in Outagamie. "[The Victim Impact Panel] adds a component of ethical/social responsibility, which is intended to enhance and supplement current conventional sanctions," Whitman wrote in her report.

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge John A. Des Jardins started the Outagamie VIP program in 1996. He sees the program as a form of restorative justice, where offenders are held accountable to their victims and their communities. "The goal is to share the pain and anguish of what has happened [with the offenders]," Des Jardins said.

Evaluations of offenders who have participated in a panel show a realization of the potential consequences of their actions, a new understanding of the impact they can have on other people, and an appreciation of the panel members for candidly sharing their tragic stories. "I think everyone who has a OWI should attend," said one participant.

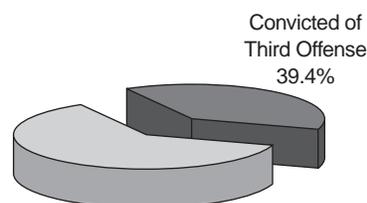
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Outagamie County: Second-time DUI Offenders Participate in Victim Impact Panels



Of 150 second-time DUI offenders who participated in a Victim Impact Panel, 22 people were convicted of a third offense.

Winnebago County: Second-time DUI Offenders Do Not Participate in Victim Impact Panels



Of 175 second-time DUI offenders, 69 were convicted of a third offense.

Volunteers in the Courts

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Victim Impact Panels are also active in Marquette, Monroe, Oneida, Sauk, and Waukesha Counties. Jefferson County will start its VIP program in June and Barron County plans to include VIPs in their Restorative Justice Project. ♦

For more information about Outagamie County VIPs, contact Des Jardins at (920) 832-4727. Contact Whitman at (920) 739-7456 with questions regarding study methodology and results. Victim Impact Panels: A Reference Manual was published by the University of Wisconsin Law School Resource Center on Impaired Driving in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. To request a copy, contact the Resource Center at (800) 862-1048.

The Man in the Red Shirt

*by: Judge Marianne T. Becker
Waukesha County Circuit Court*

Be prepared for some failure, but don't let that stop you. In the first Waukesha County VIP, 39 individuals were ordered to attend the program. On the night of the program, 11 of them failed to appear. However, 52 people filled the room, 28 court ordered and 24 others who had heard of this program. We began promptly at 7 p.m. As judge and moderator, I joined the victims at the table. In front of me sat a roomful of serious minded offenders and interested individuals. They appeared to listen intently to the victims. As the stories were told, some offenders cried openly.

A man in a red shirt caught my eye . . . He was very blond, and while his vivid red T-shirt was striking, it was his facial expression and body language that were remarkable. His arms were folded across his chest, and his eyes were fixed on a spot behind the victims. His expression never varied. His demeanor suggested that while he was physically present in the room, his mind was somewhere else. He could not have appeared less involved. I concluded that for him the program was a failure.

The victims told their stories, and when they were done, I asked if there were questions. There were a few. In closing, I made a brief announcement, including, "Change your behavior, do not drink and drive."

The offenders handed in their evaluations and most left. A few lingered to greet the victims and to offer personal condolences. I was transfixed, absolutely stunned, when the first person out of his seat to come to the victims was the man in the red shirt. I stayed within earshot to hear what he said. He expressed to both victims his sadness at their loss, said he also had daughters, and stated his new resolve never to contribute to the loss of a child as had happened in both the victims' lives. He told them how personally sorry he was. He hugged one of the victims and left. ♦

Edited excerpt from Victim Impact Panels: A Reference Manual, 1995.

Dane County Proclaims CASA Day



Judge Michael N. Nowakowski, joined by Dane County District Attorney Diane Nicks, speaks to CASA supporters outside the Dane County Courthouse.

Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk proclaimed April 6 Dane County CASA Day. The event was in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

CASAs, Court Appointed Special Advocates, are volunteers who serve as the eyes and ears of the court. They observe the environments and relationships of children who allegedly have been abused or neglected and report their findings to the court. The CASA does not replace the guardian *ad litem* (GAL) or social worker, but instead serves as another source of information for the GAL, social worker, and judge.

The Dane County program started in 1995. Dane County Circuit Court Judge Michael N. Nowakowski, who spoke at the ceremony, said: "I now wonder how we got along without [them]."

For more information about the Dane County CASA, contact Director Marcia L. Varvil-Weld or Assistant Coordinator Elaine Creager at (608) 221-3511 ♦

Volunteer Opportunities

The National Teen Court Conference will be held Oct. 22-24 in Albuquerque. In addition to providing participants an opportunity to network with teen court staff and leaders from around the country, the conference will offer more than 30 workshops on topics such as volunteer training and recruitment, and teen court evaluation. Adults and teens are invited to attend. For more information visit the National Youth Court Center's Web site at www.youthcourt.net or call (606) 244-8209.

Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul. A new book is being added to the best-selling series *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and others. The book will be a tribute to people who volunteer their time and talents to help others. The authors welcome submissions of stories, poems, and cartoons. For more information, contact co-author Arline T. Oberst by mail at PO Box 247, Essex Fells, NJ 07021-0247; by fax at (973) 226-8825; or by e-mail at Arline_O@aol.com. ♦

People in the News



Justice Jon P. Wilcox talks with Wisconsin Senior Statesmen.

In March, Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** and Justice **Jon P. Wilcox** spoke to participants in the Wisconsin Senior Statesmanship Program, sponsored by the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups and the Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The program gives older people the opportunity to learn about and participate in state government. The participants attended a legislative floor session and committee hearings, and visited state agencies to learn how to be effective advocates on the issues that concern them. In meeting with Wilcox, they asked questions about the work of a Supreme Court justice and talked about judicial campaign finance reform.



Brunner Rink: Bob Tillman, Chief Judge Edward R. Brunner, Bob Brunner, and Tom Vonasek

Chief Judge **Edward R. Brunner**, Barron County Circuit Court, took to the ice in March to help his team win the Rice Lake Curling Club Tournament. The team's victory was attributed to its uniforms.

Justice **David T. Prosser Jr.** met with 14 exchange students from Meander College in the Netherlands. Prosser explained the state court system and answered questions. The group spent two weeks in Wisconsin visiting representatives of government and private industry. Meander College is a secondary vocational and adult education institution. Fox Valley Technical College arranged the exchange.

Winnebago County Courthouse has started a six-month project to improve security according to *The Oshkosh Northwestern*. The more than \$500,000 project may include a "welcome center,"

which will act as a security checkpoint, and security cameras on all floors. The courthouse, built in 1938, was one of the last Works Project Administration construction projects. It is built in the Modern style and features around the entrances stone carvings of faces symbolizing law, order, justice, freedom, and happiness. Architects plan to meld security improvements carefully into the historic character of the building.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on Madison's tougher truancy ordinance. Madison city officials amended the ordinance to allow police to ticket truants 12 years and older after just one absence. The previous law applied to students 15 years and older after they were absent for five consecutive days. Municipal Court Judge **Shelley Gaylord** is pleased with the age change, saying, "Speeding up intervention when it involves kids is a good idea."

An article in the *Wisconsin State Journal* found that students do not think the revised ordinance will change anything. The teenagers they interviewed said the penalties are not harsh enough to deter truancy and that the root of the problem is students believe that school is pointless and that no one cares about them. "I think if the teachers asked the students what would make the class more interesting, they'd go to class more often," said **Guy Georgeson**, a former East High School student.

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Courts to Volunteers: Thank You!

The Wisconsin court system is fortunate to have more than 5,000 volunteers assisting in the work of justice. Volunteers make more services possible. They give a child a voice in a crowded courtroom. They teach young people about responsibility and about being good citizens. They guide unrepresented litigants to the forms they need. They help victims heal. They direct people to the right courtroom or office. They help resolve conflicts. They tutor young people and help adults get their high school equivalency diplomas. They advocate for positive changes in the justice and corrections systems. They provide research assistance for judges. They help the courts better serve their communities.

The Volunteers in the Courts initiative was started in 1996 to promote awareness of the work of volunteers in the court system, to help volunteer groups network with one another, and to encourage the replication of successful programs throughout the state. Since that time, more than 150 court-related volunteer programs have been identified. Each issue of *The Third Branch* highlights a new or thriving program with the hope that new programs will emerge and established programs will be rejuvenated by fresh ideas and renewed interest.

The Wisconsin judiciary greatly appreciates the work volunteers do each day in helping the state court system better meet the needs of the people. Thank you. ❖

People in the News

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In 1994, **Scott R. Needham** entered an eight-person race for the St. Croix County Circuit Court bench. He was victorious and, this time, ran unopposed. "There isn't a day I don't get up and look forward to coming to work," he told *The News* (New Richmond).

Dane County Circuit Court Judges **Angela B. Bartell**, **Sarah B. O'Brien**, and **Maryann Sumi** addressed the Legal Association of Women in December. The presentation, *Views from the Bench: Practice Tips for Advocates*, was featured in a three-part series in *The Daily Reporter*. Bartell shared her observations on motions for summary judgment, while O'Brien talked about *voir dire* as a way to get to know the prospective jurors.

The Legal Aid Society's Guardian Advocacy Instruction & Networking (GAIN) program received the 2000 JC Penney Golden Rule Award. The GAIN program recruits, trains, monitors, and assists volunteers to act as guardians for individuals whom the courts find to be incompetent. GAIN was an early member of the Supreme Court's Volunteers in the Courts initiative. Legal Aid Society Executive Director **James A. Walrath** attributed much of the program's accomplishments to Coordinator **Catherine Doyle** and Assistant Coordinator **Diane Pitkaranta**. The Golden Rule Award recognizes the commitment and service of volunteers in non-profit organizations, and the value that volunteers add to an organization's ability to serve the community.

The new municipal court in Horicon held its first session in January, with newly appointed Judge **Laura Reynolds** presiding. Reynolds was a former city council member, according to the *Daily*

Citizen (Beaver Dam). In December, Dodge County Circuit Court Judge **Andrew Bissonnette** administered the oath of office, saying, "Reynolds has the intelligence, stamina, and work ethic to do the job."

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** was honored with Tempo International's Leadership Award at the group's annual meeting in Arizona. Abrahamson was the second recipient—the first award went to **Elizabeth Dole** in 1998. Recipients are chosen for their professional/career achievements, commitment to the community, and leadership ability. Tempo International, organized more than 20 years ago, works to support, mentor, and empower women leaders with the theory that enriching individuals benefits the entire community.

District X Chief Judge **Edward R. Brunner**, Barron County Circuit Court, was appointed to the Judges Advisory Committee of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Project. The Project, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, works with jurisdictions nationwide to improve juvenile justice policy and practice. The Project's "community justice" model strives to involve and meet the needs of victims, offenders, and communities. Brunner will help to identify the role of judges and obstacles associated with the Project.

Carla Hazlewood walked 55 miles and raised \$4,000 in pledges for breast cancer awareness, according to the *Herald Times Reporter*. Her husband, Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judge **Fred H. Hazlewood**, and their dog, **Sadie**, helped her train for the three-day walk. "We were walking with people who were faced with such a huge challenge—living every day with breast cancer. I thought if they can do this, there's no reason I can't do this," said Hazlewood.

Barb Clausen and **Jeff Welhouse**, volunteers with Outagamie County's Volunteers in Offender Services, received awards for their efforts. Clausen was given *The Post-Crescent* (Appleton) award for her work with Volunteers in Probation (featured in *The Third Branch*, winter 2000). Welhouse was honored by the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin, Inc. for leading weekly 12-Step support groups for jail inmates.

Monroe is piloting a program for truant middle school students, reported the *Monroe Times*. Truant students have a choice of attending a morning or afternoon three-hour session of computer-guided education in addition to performing 12 hours of community service. They are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. Green County Circuit Court Judge **James R. Beer**, who may see students who do not adhere to the new program's policies in his court, supports the program.

District III Court Administrator **Michael Neimon** is taking part in the Institute for Court Management's fellowship program. Participants in the three-week, intensive course conduct research and present information on a topic of their choice. Neimon is studying the use of videoconferencing in the courts.

"Waupaca County eyes a teen court," was a recent headline in *The Post-Crescent* (Appleton). Waupaca County is establishing an advisory board that will decide how the court, where young offenders appear before a jury of their peers for sentencing, might best operate in the community. "The purpose, in part, is to have a person respond more positively to a jury of his peers," said Circuit Court Judge **John P. Hoffman**. The board will apply for a two-year grant from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. The Wisconsin Teen Court Association (WTCA) also hosted a workshop and mock teen court trial in Waukesha County for interested groups

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Braving the worst snowstorm of the winter, 30 high school teachers from around the state came to Madison on Feb. 18 and 19 to participate in the first-ever Wisconsin justice teaching institute at the Concourse Hotel. Here, a group of the teachers discusses strategy in a moot court exercise with Atty. Thomas Balistreri, Wisconsin Department of Justice, who volunteered as a resource person for the institute. The teachers also took part in a sentencing exercise, analyzed actual Supreme Court petitions for review to determine whether they had been granted or denied, learned how to pick "teachable" appellate court cases, heard a panel discussion on judicial independence, and much more. The Institute was made possible by a grant from the Constitutional Rights Foundation and was programmed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the State Bar of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Justice N. Patrick Crooks, and circuit court Judges Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County; Joseph M. Troy, Outagamie County; and Steven W. Weinke, Fond du Lac County; all served as faculty.

Clerk Adamski Strikes Gold Every Spring



After Langlade County Clerk of Circuit Court Victoria Adamski closes the office, she heads for the woods where she and her husband and son have 2,300 maple trees tapped on 120 acres.

In the early spring, sugar maple trees throughout northcentral Wisconsin sprout the blue bags and plastic tubing of the maple syrup industry. Warm, sunny afternoons and freezing nights create perfect conditions for sap to run, and when it does, Clerk of Court Victoria Adamski, Langlade County, just tries to keep up.

Adamski, with her husband, Gary, and their son, Jim, is one of the state's roughly 3,000 maple syrup producers. They tap the same stands of trees that their ancestors used a century ago to provide their yearly supply of sweeteners. The family tradition had fallen by the wayside until 15 years ago when, as a project for the Future Farmers of America, son Jim tapped 15 trees in his grandfather's sugarbush and built a fire under the flat pan his great-grandfather

had used to boil down syrup. Five years ago, Jim purchased modern equipment, including a sap holding tank and a large evaporator that boils off 200 gallons of sap per hour. Then, he dragged his parents (who both have full-time jobs) into the business of sugaring.

This year, Alice in Dairyland Amy Fischer performed the ceremonial first tapping of the season on one of the Adamskis' trees. "It was a great surprise to us that we got asked," Vicky said. "We don't really feel our sugarbush is large compared to many of them." It is large enough, however, to keep them working around the clock during the six-week season. Six hundred of the 2,300 taps are hooked up to tubing that runs to a holding tank in the woods, but the rest of the taps flow into bags that must be emptied by hand into 5-gallon buckets. The Adamskis start collecting the sap after work, and run the evaporator 24 hours a day, taking turns feeding the wood fire, drawing off syrup, and sleeping. In one night, they can collect 1,900 gallons of sap, which will yield about 43 gallons of maple syrup.

Adamski Sugar Bush Syrup—which the Adamskis bottle and package in their kitchen—is sold in Wisconsin and also shipped to Florida, Idaho, Montana, and Texas. It retails for approximately \$40 per gallon.

At the end of the season, hundreds of feet of tubing have to be rinsed, disinfected, and packed away along with the bag hangers that collect the sap. In addition, each of the 2,300 taps is removed with a claw hammer and cleaned, and every drop of sticky residue is scrubbed off the evaporator. "By the end of the season, we're definitely ready for a break," Vicky said, "but by Christmas time, we're anxious to get back out and do it all over again." ❖

Navigating the Internet: Useful Web Sites

by: *Connie Von Der Heide, reference/outreach services librarian, Wisconsin State Law Library, and Karen Leone de Nie, program assistant to the Supreme Court*

Harvard Law School Forum

www.law.harvard.edu/studorgs/forum/index.html

The Harvard Law School Forum strives to develop civic responsibility by encouraging awareness of current issues. To that end, the Forum invites individuals from all fields to make presentations on a broad range of current ideas. Its first program, a discussion of the war crimes trials, was presented in 1946. Since that time, presenters have included Henry Kissinger, Eleanor Roosevelt, Scott Turow, Edwin Meese III, Jimmy Hoffa, Ralph Nader, Elizabeth Dole, and many others. Several programs have been recorded and can now be heard on the Forum's Web site. More programs are being added as they become available.

History of the Federal Judiciary

air.fjc.gov/history/index_frm.html

This site, created by the Federal Judicial Center, offers a biographical database of more than 2,800 federal judges, a history section for every federal court (including legislative history), full text of 21 landmark statutes in judicial legislation, and a

photograph exhibit of 35 federal courthouses with brief histories of their construction and use. Established in 1967, the Federal Judicial Center is the research and education agency of the federal judicial system. It provides continuing education for the federal judiciary, develops recommendations about the operation of the federal courts, and promotes research on federal judicial procedures, court operations, and history.

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information

www.calib.com/nccanch/

The Clearinghouse is a national resource for professionals seeking information on a variety of child welfare issues, including the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Although this Web site was featured in the winter 1999 edition of *The Third Branch*, it warrants revisiting as the Child Abuse and Neglect 1999 State Statutes Series has recently been added. The Series is a compilation of relevant civil and criminal statutes for professionals working with mistreated children. The Clearinghouse maintains the State Statutes Series in cooperation with the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse (NCPA). The series is updated annually and is also available in print for a copying fee.

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People in the News

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in March. More than 90 people attended, including representatives from the Milwaukee schools.

Teen court has also caught the attention of legislators. Rep. **Barbara Gronemus**, D-Whitehall, wrote guest columns for the *Augusta Area Times* and *The Blair Press* on the teen court movement. She cited statistics from the Trempealeau County Teen Court, which, under the direction of Circuit Court Judge **John A. Damon**, has an 81 percent compliance rate and has sent teens to perform 323 hours of community service.

Pictured in the *Cudahy Reminder-Enterprise* was Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Kitty K. Brennan**, or “Judge Kitty” as the caption read, explaining trial procedures to fourth-grade students.

Gloria Brown, deputy clerk for Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Lee E. Wells**, has been dubbed “Queen of Pound Cakes” by her colleagues. Court Reporter **Joanna Koepp** nominated Brown as “Best Cook at the Office,” saying: “Gloria is well-known throughout the . . . Milwaukee Courthouse for her baking abilities.” When asked by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* to share a favorite food memory, Brown recalled baking with her great aunt, **Fannie Hardy**. “She made her layer cakes in a cast-iron skillet. When she made the batter, she’d always make a sample—put a little batter in the skillet—and we’d eat the sample to make sure it tasted right before she made her layer cake.”

At the February district Judges’ meeting in Baraboo, **James E. Seidel**, District IX court administrator, was awarded a plaque for his service in District VI during the four-month absence of a trial court administrator. **Scott Johnson** is now on board.

Connie Von Der Heide, reference/outreach services librarian for the Wisconsin State Law Library, is an instructor for the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Advanced Internet Legal Research workshop. The workshop offers an overview of federal resources available on the Internet. Sessions are being held through June.

Langlade County Circuit Court Judge **James P. Jansen** was named the Antigo Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the

Year, reported the *Antigo Daily Journal*. “A single person’s good works help to define the individual, but they also bring credit to the wider community,” **Lee Dinsmore**, 1998 award recipient, said during the ceremony.

Will Fleischman, director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Marathon County Area, shared a success story of the Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) program with the *Wausau Daily Herald*. The Marathon County Juvenile Court referred a young girl to VIP for underage tobacco possession. Her case plan included talking to elementary school students about the consequences of smoking. With her mother and guidance counselor, she developed a presentation using two plants—one healthy and one wilted and dying—to illustrate the effects of smoking. She then had the children use their own bodies to mimic the healthy and unhealthy plants. “Her impact was a positive contribution to the learning of others and increased her self-esteem,” Fleischman said. He recognized the support of the Marathon County Department of Social Services, Juvenile Court Services, Marathon County Circuit Court Judge **Gregory E. Grau**, and the Community Asset Builders Consortium.

Debra Rochon is “part lecturer, part mother hen, part payroll clerk and part listener,” according to *The Capital Times*. Rochon is the jury clerk for the Dane County Circuit Courts. Rochon determines how many jurors are needed each week, sends summonses to jurors, and provides orientation when they arrive at the courthouse. Sometimes jurors wait all day and are not called for a case. “I explain to them that without them being here, the cases wouldn’t have settled,” Rochon said.

At a February National Conference of State Trial Judges Conference, Dane County Circuit Court Judge **Michael N. Nowakowski** suggested that the organization needed to find a way to share information and innovations with members around the country. He used *The Third Branch* and the work of Court Information Officer **Amanda K. Todd** as examples of effective ways to network good ideas.

Wisconsin’s “Judicial Emissaries” were recognized for their public service in the February *Wisconsin Lawyer*. Featured in the article were: Circuit Court Judges **Jean W. DiMotto** and **John J. DiMotto**, both Milwaukee County; **Frederic W. Fleischauer**

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Navigating the Internet

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Report of the National Task Force on Court Automation and Integration www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/177601.pdf

The Report of the National Task Force on Court Automation and Integration (requires Adobe Acrobat to view) is the result of a multi-year effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The task force examined a 1998 “snapshot” of state and local court automation and integration and developed recommendations based on its findings. The Report, available online, provides practical resources for courts to automate and integrate their information systems within a court, between courts, and with justice agencies such as law enforcement and corrections. *A print copy of this report is available at the Wisconsin State Law Library (WSLL) and circulates to eligible borrowers. For more information, call the WSLL Reference Desk at (608) 267-9696.*

Tribal Court Clearinghouse www.tribal-institute.org/

The Tribal Court Clearinghouse site offers links to the codes and constitutions of several tribes in the United States. The site provides notices of funding opportunities, links to related federal agencies and Native American sites, and articles by professionals who specialize in tribal law and policy. The Clearinghouse hosts a “Message Forum” that allows users to share ideas and answer each other’s questions, and a “Mentors Circle” where volunteers with expertise in specific areas of tribal law answer questions posted to the site. The Clearinghouse was developed by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, an Indian owned and operated non-profit corporation organized to develop education, research, training, and technical assistance programs to promote the enhancement of justice in Indian country. ❖

It's Construction Season

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court. Additional space was created for the District Attorney's Office and the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office. The clerk's office had been operating with eight employees in an area designed for three.

The five-story, 1966 courthouse was remodeled in 1978, but the courts' portion of the building was not updated at that time. The latest remodel gave the courts an opportunity to re-work a quirky system that gave the Register in Probate's Office responsibility for traffic and misdemeanor cases. This system was set up in the 1930s when the county's two judges sought to equalize the workload between them. Clark County now has just one judge.

Dane County Courthouse

Madison

After years of debate, the Dane County Board voted to build a new courthouse. Architects are conducting a feasibility analysis of whether a courthouse can be built on the site that has been tentatively selected (one block from the existing City-County Building) for \$27 million, which includes converting the second floor of the City-County Building into a juvenile detention facility.

Dodge County Legal Services Building

105 N. Main St., Juneau

Dodge County is spending \$38 million for a new, 350-bed jail, Huber facility, and courthouse. The jail will be attached to the three-story courthouse, which will house four jury courtrooms. The targeted completion date is November.

The new courthouse will replace the existing Legal Services Building, which was completed in 1985.



The Dunn County Judicial Center, 1998.

Dunn County Judicial Center

615 Parkway Dr., Menomonie

The new, \$12 million Dunn County Judicial Center was dedicated in December 1998. The building was built on a parcel of land near an industrial park after residents of the affluent eastern Menomonie neighborhood of Shorewood Heights protested the original plan to build it close to their homes.

The 115,000-square-foot facility houses law enforcement, county government, and court-related offices. The building

includes four courtrooms, chambers for four judges (the county currently has two judges), three jury deliberation rooms, the Clerk of Circuit Court's and Register in Probate's Offices, and the Child Support and District Attorney's Offices.

On the ground floor, with the Dunn County Sheriff's Department, there is a 34,000-square-foot jail with 80 cells and room for 56 Huber inmates.

Florence County Courthouse

501 Lake Ave., Florence

Florence County—named for the wife of an early mining expert who helped to establish iron mining in northeastern Wisconsin—still uses its original 1889 courthouse. The courthouse was remodeled in 1908, 1915, and 1921. In 1992, it was placed on the Ten Most Endangered List by the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation.

The people of the county voted to rehabilitate the old building and build a compatible addition and, in March 1996, the remodeled building was dedicated.

Kenosha County Courthouse

912 56th St., Kenosha

The remodel of the 1925 Kenosha County Courthouse, budgeted at just under \$6 million, began in late 1997 and is nearly complete. The building was re-dedicated on April 4. Work remains to be done on signage and security, as well as restoration of an original stained glass ceiling in Branch 3 (this project depends upon availability of grant funds).

The project included a new Kenosha County Administration Building for a variety of county offices that once were located in the courthouse. The courthouse now houses just the courts, the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, and the Division of Information Services.

During the 20-month period of construction, the courthouse remained open to the public, a challenge that required cooperation among the judges, clerk of courts, and the contractors.

La Crosse County Law Enforcement Center

333 Vine St., La Crosse

Construction began on a new courthouse in La Crosse County in 1996. The building, a state-of-the-art facility, wired for video-conferencing in every courtroom and fully accessible to people with disabilities, houses the courts, the District Attorney's Office, and the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, and adjoins a new jail. It was completed in August 1997.

Lincoln County Courthouse

1110 E. Main St., Merrill

The Lincoln County Board has approved a building site across the street from the existing courthouse and next to a 19-year-old safety building. As of March, the board had not agreed on whether a justice center, a jail, or both should be built on that site.

The existing Lincoln County Courthouse was opened in 1903. The gutters and valleys of the building's roof are copper, and the walls are constructed of a million bricks. Mosaic or tile flooring covers 5,000 square feet and the clock contains a 48-inch bell, which weighs one ton. The existing courthouse will continue to house administrative offices if a new justice center is built.

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It's Construction Season

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Rock County Courthouse

51 S. Main St., Janesville

The Rock County Courthouse addition includes five jury courtrooms, a jury assembly room, offices of the clerk of circuit court, holding cells for 72 prisoners, and offices for the judges, judicial assistants, court reporters, and bailiffs. Problems with the design of some courtroom furnishings, including the judges' benches, have extended the project.

The building has a central security screening system, a parking ramp, and more space, but the biggest improvement is the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, which is now centralized rather than scattered among offices in two cities.

The addition was built onto the existing 84,000 square foot courthouse that was constructed in the mid-1900s. Final work on the seam between the buildings was set for completion in April.

Rusk County Courthouse

311 Miner Ave., E., Ladysmith

Construction was completed in December 1997 on a \$5 million building and remodeling project in Ladysmith. The 1904 courthouse—which housed a large number of bats, leaked terribly, and shed pieces of its brick exterior on a regular basis—was torn down, but the newer additions that were connected to its north and south sides were left standing. A new, three-story courthouse was built in place of the old courthouse and connected to the existing additions.

The third floor of the new courthouse is home to the judge, the large courtroom, and the Register in Probate's Office. The two floors beneath the court-related offices house various elected county officials, Human Services, and Veterans Affairs.

The Law Enforcement Center, which sits behind the courthouse and is attached to it, received a third level which now houses the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, a small courtroom, Child Support, and the District Attorney's and Corporation Counsel's Offices.



Branch 1 of the Sauk County Courthouse, where Judge Patrick J. Taggart presides, before and after renovation.

Sauk County Courthouse

515 Oak St., Baraboo

The Sauk County Courthouse underwent a \$2.4 million renovation in 1996 to expand the courtrooms, jury facilities, Child Support, the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management, and the District Attorney's Office.

The project, which preserved the historic character of the 1906 building, was coordinated with construction of the new, 94,000-square-foot Sauk County West Square Building, which houses a variety of government offices. A pedestrian tunnel connects the two buildings. Prior to the 1996 renovation, the courthouse was expanded and rededicated in 1989.

Taylor County Courthouse

224 S. Second St., Medford

The Taylor County Board has approved expanding the jail to 97 beds and, because the new jail will take over the current court space, new court offices and courtrooms will also be built.

The court space will be situated in a new level above the current jail. The new jail will encompass the lower level and current first floor of the courthouse, as well as the parking lot. The plan will also, for the first time, bring the District Attorney's Office and Clerk of Circuit Court's Office into the same space as the court.

Construction will begin in August with full occupancy of the new facilities in August 2001. It will add about 45,000 square feet of new construction and remodel another 22,000 square feet. The cost estimate is \$7 million.



Trempealeau County's large courtroom, where Judge John A. Damon presides, before and after remodeling.

Trempealeau County Government Center Whitehall

The \$3.85 million renovation of the Trempealeau County Government Center was undertaken in February 1996 and the
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Poeple in the News

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Portage County; **Barbara A. Kluka**, Kenosha County; and **John R. Storck**, Dodge County. District I Court of Appeals Judge **Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.**, and Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** were also featured. Talking about her trip to China, Jean DiMotto recalled: "We had a passionate discussion about how much they envied the fact that we have (judicial) independence."

The Wisconsin Supreme Court's outreach and education initiatives were identified as successful programs to enhance the public image of the justice system in a survey of more than 300 court administrators nationwide. Conducted by American University's Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project (sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance), the survey identified Justice on Wheels, Court with Class, the Law Day Kit, the Wisconsin survey measuring court customer satisfaction, and the Volunteers in the Courts initiative as valuable tools to increase public understanding of, and confidence in, the courts.



Chief Judge
James B. Mohr

In January, Vilas County Circuit Court Judge **James B. Mohr** transformed the Northland Pine High School auditorium into a courtroom for the county's first *Critical Life Choices* program. Mohr heard two cases, an alleged burglary and obstruction of a police officer, as high school sophomores watched. The defendants in both cases pleaded no contest. Following the cases, Mohr facilitated a discussion panel with five people who linked their run-ins with the law to drugs and alcohol, reported *The Lakeland Times*. "No situation is so bad that drugs and alcohol can't make it worse," a panelist told the students. This panelist later relayed to University of Wisconsin Extension Agent **Nancy Anne Livingston**, who helped organize the program, that one of the students who participated in *Life Choices* in January had

New Faces

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Personnel Specialist Kay Hallanger

Senior Personnel Specialist Kay Hallanger has joined the Office of Management Services. Hallanger spent the last two and a half years in human resources with the Famous Footwear Distribution Center in Sun Prairie.

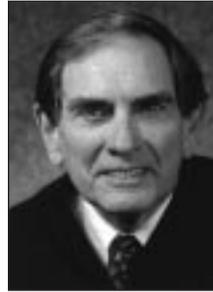
It's Construction Season

continued from page 22

building was rededicated in a ceremony on Feb. 8, 1998. The remodel brought the facility into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and wired it for videoconferencing. For approximately seven months during the reconstruction, the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office operated out of the basement of the building.

The project was financed entirely through a one-half percent county sales tax.

admitted himself to a drug and alcohol treatment program that day. The student said that he realized he could do something about his bad choices.



Judge William D. Dyke

Iowa County Circuit Court Judge **William D. Dyke**, the former host of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Law Talk show, was honored with the State Bar's Law-Related Education Attorney of the Year award, along with Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Carl Ashley**. In an interview for *The Daily Reporter*, Dyke talked about the importance of continuing education efforts. "When you're in the legal profession, you understand how much it is capable of being misunderstood," he said.

"As an example, people's concern about sentencing has led to passage of Truth-in-Sentencing," Dyke continued. "I think that, had there been a greater public awareness of the system... perhaps some of the current controversy over Truth-in-Sentencing might have been avoided."

Milwaukee Municipal Court judges, along with the city attorney and the Legal Aid Society, are conducting a six-week course, which began in April, on how a municipal court operates. Classes will be held at the La Farge Institute.

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** has been selected by the National Conference of Chief Justices to be the liaison to the American Bar Association's Center for Professional Responsibility.

SafeStart, Inc., and the Junior League of Racine recently produced the play, *The Yellow Dress*, a one-woman show that provides a dramatic account of a young woman whose dreams are cut short when a relationship turns violent. Reserve Judge **Nancy Wheeler** had seen the show elsewhere and led the effort to bring it to Racine. Following the performance a panel answered questions about ways to prevent relationship violence. SafeStart aims to help girls who have experienced violence or abuse. ❖

Prior to moving to the Baraboo area in 1997, Hallanger held various positions in state government in Indiana, the last as deputy director for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Hallanger has bachelor's and master's degrees in health education from Indiana University and has done post-graduate work in program development. ❖

Vernon County Courthouse

Viroqua

In July 1998, the Vernon County Courthouse opened the courthouse doors to welcome the public to the fully restored and renovated facility. The project cost \$1.6 million.

The courthouse basement is now equipped for records storage, the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office is expanded, security is improved, and the facility meets Americans with Disabilities Act standards. In addition, original architectural details and art once hidden by changes made in the 1950s are restored. ❖

The Third Branch

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Farnum Honored for Lifetime Achievement

Reserve Judge Mark J. Farnum is the recipient of the State Bar of Wisconsin's 1999 Jurist Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The Bench/Bar Committee presents this award to an outstanding judge who has exceeded the call of judicial office and who has improved the judicial system," said Bench Bar Committee Chair Maria Lazar. We are very pleased to honor Judge Farnum. He has always been known to be a fair and impartial judge; one who is honest and well versed in the rules of law."

Farnum served on the Rock County trial bench for 25 years, spending five of those years as the deputy chief judge of the Fifth Judicial District. He also served as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility.

Farnum received his bachelor's degree from Milton College in 1949 and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1952. He has since guest-lectured at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Prior to taking the bench in 1962, he was in private practice with Farnum & Sutherland, and served as welfare counsel, assistant district attorney, and later as Rock County district attorney.

The Jurist Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a jurist with at least 12 years' experience as a trial judge who has demonstrated outstanding, long-term judicial service. Previous honorees include: Judge John A. Decker, Milwaukee County Court and Court of Appeals, District I; Judge Peter G. Pappas, La Crosse County Circuit Court; and Chief Judge Patrick T. Sheedy, Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Jon P. Wilcox will present the award to Farnum on June 28 at the State Bar President's Reception to be held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. The reception begins at 5:00 p.m. ❖

Lange, Conference Keynote Speaker

Arthur Lange, Ed.D., noted speaker and author of several books on leadership, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Judicial Conference in Appleton.

Lange specializes in leadership in times of competition and rapid change; removing the barriers to creativity, innovation, and risk-taking; effective management skills; and managing change and transitions.

Lange has authored several books and teaches at the University of California's Los Angeles and Riverside campuses, and the University of Washington.

The Meeting of the Judicial Conference will be held October 25-27, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. The Office of Judicial Education will distribute more information for judges and court staff in July. ❖

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Wisconsin Supreme Court

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