

# The Third Branch



A PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN JUDICIARY

Vol. 6, No. 3

www.courts.state.wi.us

Summer 1998

## Longtime Deputy Director Steps Down



Former Deputy Director of State Courts Kathleen M. Murphy

**K**athleen M. “Kassie” Murphy, an administrator in the Wisconsin court system for 20 years and deputy director of state courts for the last 12 years, resigned on June 8 to work with her brother, a Minneapolis-based television and movie producer best known for his *Mystery Science Theater 2000* comedy series, on a new venture.

Murphy “left many an indelible mark on a good court system which has been made

far better by her unselfish and unstinting contributions,” according to her boss and good friend Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran. “We will be diminished,” he wrote, “by her departure.” At press time, Moran had not appointed a replacement for Murphy.

Of her many contributions, there are two that stand out. As deputy director of state courts, Murphy played a lead role in starting the Circuit Court Automation Project and helping it become

a program that today is widely considered the best of its kind in the nation.

She also, long before it became the mantra of quality improvement gurus, championed a team approach to solving problems—bringing judges, clerks and court administrators together to figure out the best way to make a new law, procedure, court decision or Supreme Court rule work. “Working with teams to solve a problem and implement a solution is probably my favorite part of the job,” she said.

Murphy got a taste of politics early on, when her service to the courts nearly ended before it began. Shortly after she accepted the position of administrative assistant to the chief judge for the Second Judicial District (Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties) and quit her previous job, Governor Martin Schreiber froze the state payroll—leaving her unemployed.

She spent four months working part-time jobs and did some traveling before she finally told Chief Judge John Ahlgrimm she was going to take a job as a ski lift operator in Telluride, Col., if he could not find a way to bring her on board.

Ahlgrimm called Chief Justice Bruce F. Beilfuss, who issued an order requiring the Governor to permit Murphy to join the court

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## Dane, Milwaukee Judges Join Sentencing Committee

**T**he Wisconsin Supreme Court has appointed Judge Patrick J. Fiedler, Dane County Circuit Court, and Judge Lee E. Wells, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, to the Criminal Penalties Study Committee created within the truth-in-sentencing bill.

The committee’s first meeting was set for Friday, August 14, in the state Capitol.

Fiedler, who has served on the bench in Dane County for five years, is a former secretary of the state Department of Corrections.



Judge  
Thomas H. Barland



Judge  
Patrick J. Fiedler



Judge  
Lee E. Wells

He has also been a U.S. attorney, an assistant district attorney and an attorney in private practice. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Criminal Law Section.

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# Judge Decker Honored for 'Lifetime Achievement'

Reserve Judge John A. Decker, who served in Milwaukee County from 1955 to 1978 and on the Court of Appeals, District III, from 1978 to 1984, was awarded the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lifetime Achievement Jurist Award at the spring convention in Lake Geneva.

Decker is the first person to receive this new award, created to honor judges who have demonstrated high ideals, personal



Judge John A. Decker receiving the Lifetime Achievement Jurist Award.

character and judicial competence. Only those who have served on the bench for at least 12 years and who have affected the judicial system in a "unique and positive manner" qualify to be considered for the award.

Decker, 83, is known as an expert in special verdicts and jury instructions as well as evidence and tort law. He was an innovator in supplying complete, written copies of jury instructions to juries in civil cases and was secretary to the commission that revamped the Wisconsin Rules of Evidence to conform to federal rules.

During his years in the trial court, he built a national reputation for his mediation skills. He remains today one of the most requested mediators on the Wisconsin panel of Resolute Systems, Inc.

When he became the first chief judge of the newly created Court of Appeals in 1978, he showed himself to be a talented administrator. During his tenure, he led the effort to apply technology to case management, budgeting and word processing. "He organized the Court and gave it traditions, processes and procedures that have lasted beyond his tenure and have become models for other states," Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson said.

Decker has also been very active in the Milwaukee community, serving as director of the Milwaukee Legal Aid Society and teaching at Marquette University Law School, where he won the Outstanding Law School Teacher award. ❖

## New Chief Judges Take Office



Chief Judge  
James Evenson

Judges James Evenson, Sauk County Circuit Court; James B. Mohr, Vilas County Circuit Court, and Michael J. Skwierawski, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, became chief judges for their respective judicial administrative districts on August 1, following appointment by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Wisconsin is divided into ten districts for purposes of judicial administration. Each district has a management team consisting of a chief judge, a deputy chief judge and a district court administrator. The chief and deputy chief judges handle administrative duties in addition to a full caseload (except in Milwaukee, where the chief judge is a full-time administrator).

Evenson, of District VI, served as deputy chief judge and presiding judge in Sauk County. He has been on the bench for 12 years and replaces Chief Judge Dennis D. Conway, who served the maximum term allowed for a chief judge. Conway will continue to sit on the trial bench in Wood County.



Chief Judge  
James B. Mohr

Mohr, of District IX, has been on the bench for 15 years and replaces Chief Judge Earl W. Schmidt, Menominee/Shawano County  
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## Cane Leads Court of Appeals



Chief Judge  
Thomas Cane

Judge Thomas Cane, District III Court of Appeals, has taken over as chief judge of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, replacing Chief Judge William Eich, who served as chief judge for nine years—longer than any of his predecessors. The Wisconsin Supreme Court appointed Cane to the chief judgeship, which is a rotating position.

Eich, a judge on the Court of Appeals for 13 years, will continue to serve on the bench in District IV, headquartered in Madison. He will also serve on the Judicial Education

Committee, as Cane's designee.

In addition to his new role as administrator, Cane will participate fully in deciding cases. He will also continue his work as chairman of the Gender Neutrality Committee. He is also a frequent instructor at seminars for judges and lawyers.

Prior to joining the Court of Appeals in 1981, Cane served as a judge in Outagamie County Circuit Court for nine years. He was also a captain in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate's Office in Okinawa and worked in private practice and as a deputy district attorney in Outagamie County.

The chief judge of the Court of Appeals handles all administrative matters for the four districts of the court (Madison, Milwaukee, Waukesha and Wausau). He or she also chairs a panel which reviews all Court of Appeals opinions to decide which should be published. In Wisconsin, published Court of Appeals opinions may be cited as law. ❖

# The Creation of the Court of Appeals: 'It Was Tough Politics'

*Editor's note: The Wisconsin Court of Appeals is 20 years old this year. In honor of this milestone, each 1998 issue of The Third Branch will feature a story about the Court of Appeals and the people who work there.*

Ever wonder how the District II Court of Appeals came to be headquartered in Waukesha, just down the road from District I in Milwaukee? In a word: politics.

After voters ratified a constitutional amendment on April 5, 1977, court reorganization got underway. An integral part of that effort was the creation of an "intermediate" appellate court—the Wisconsin Court of Appeals—to hear appeals from circuit courts around the state.

Since the Court of Appeals was divided into four appellate districts, the Legislature had to decide which four cities would serve as district headquarters. Madison and Milwaukee, with their large populations and heavy caseloads were obvious choices. But Waukesha?

"There was no logic. The logic should have been one (district) in Green Bay and Eau Claire," Reserve Judge Frederick P. Kessler said. ". . . To get Ed (Jackamonis, a Democrat and speaker of the Assembly at the time) we have got to give him a building. And Ed represented the City of Waukesha. And so they told me to draw a district that makes Waukesha the logical place to put a Court of Appeals. . . and Ed went down from the floor of the speaker chambers and he pushed that bill through."

Kessler, a former member of the state Assembly, was a judge in Milwaukee County Court at the time of court reorganization and sat on the committee that worked on the many issues that arose from this difficult change. He worked closely with now-Supreme Court Justice William A. Bablitch, who, as majority leader of the state Senate at the time, shepherded court reorganization through the Legislature.

Kessler and Bablitch, along with Judges Thomas H. Barland and James W. Rice, provided a group interview on the subject of court reorganization as part of the Supreme Court's Oral History Project. In the interview, they recalled the art of the deal that made Waukesha and Wausau home to two districts of the Court of Appeals.

"Stevens Point was my hometown, and I figured in any bill of this magnitude there must be something for Stevens Point," Bablitch recalled. "Now I didn't really want it in Stevens Point, but I just had that. . . instinct that someday that chip might be worth something. . . I rounded up the votes (and) I had a majority to make Stevens Point—again, another relatively illogical choice—as the head of (District III).

"Well, Wausau just exploded because Wausau had been led to believe that this was theirs. . . They had the building, they had everything there," he said.

Governor Martin J. Schreiber was facing an uphill battle (which he lost to Lee Sherman Dreyfus) for re-election at the time. Bablitch recalled that Schreiber called him into his office and there they laid the groundwork that gave Wausau the Court of Appeals headquarters and Stevens Point funds for the renovation of its downtown. Everybody was happy, "except the western part of the state," Barland recalled. "La Crosse and Eau Claire really should have been in the same district, maybe even Superior."

But the trade-offs got the job done, and an important job it was. Today, the Court of Appeals handles nearly 4,000 cases a year, a figure that is growing all the time. Like the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals takes no testimony. Cases are decided based on the trial court record and written briefs and, in a limited number of cases, oral argument. Any citizen may appeal a final order or judgment of a circuit court to the Court of Appeals. Appeals of non-final orders, those not finally disposing of the case at hand, are taken at the court's discretion.

Prior to court reorganization, the Supreme Court handled all appeals in the state, a caseload that forced people to wait two or three years for a decision.

The Supreme Court has been able, because of the existence of the Court of Appeals, to focus on law development rather than error correction—and that serves all the people of the state. ❖



*The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, 1979 [left to right, back row: Judges W. Patrick Donlin, John P. Foley, William R. Moser, Harold M. Bode, Richard S. Brown, Martha J. Bablitch, Charles P. Dykman. Left to right, front row: Judges Robert W. Dean, Robert C. Cannon, John A. Decker (chief judge), Clair H. Voss, Paul C. Gartzke].*



*The Wisconsin Court of Appeals, 1998 [left to right, back row: Judges Harry G. Snyder, Patricia S. Curley, Charles P. Dykman, Daniel P. Anderson, Charles B. Schudson, David G. Deininger, Michael W. Hoover, Patience D. Roggensack, Ralph Adam Fine. Left to right, front row: Judges Ted E. Wedemeyer, Jr., Thomas Cane (chief judge), Margaret J. Vergeront, William Eich, Richard S. Brown, Gordon Myse, Neal P. Nettesheim].*

# CCAP Leader Returns to Consulting; Bousquet Appointed



*Interim Director  
of CCAP  
Jean M. Bousquet*

**R**ichard L. "Rick" Godfrey, director of the court system's Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP) since December 1, 1995, stepped down July 17 to return to independent contracting.

Jean M. Bousquet, implementation and client support manager for CCAP, has taken over as interim director.

In appointing Bousquet, Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran wrote: "Jean is a tireless worker with an in-depth knowledge of CCAP and the environment in which it operates as well as the ability to

motivate staff under sometimes trying circumstances. I am pleased and we are all, indeed, fortunate that she has agreed to accept this additional challenge.

"We continue to press the search for a permanent successor to Mr. Godfrey and I am optimistic that that task can be accomplished without undue delay."

Godfrey, who has 28 years of experience in the information technology field, said CCAP has been a "great experience" for him, but

he is looking forward to "picking and choosing my own projects." Most of those projects, he said, will involve helping public agencies develop requests for proposals, acting as an advocate for agencies dealing with multiple contractors and administering contracts.

Godfrey did consulting work for CCAP in 1991 and was brought on board as director when Dean Ziemke moved to a policy-making role. Ziemke later stepped down to be a full-time dad.

Godfrey said CCAP is facing two critical issues, both related to its funding. First, he said, its budget does not allow the program to meet the basic needs of its existing client base. Second, the exploding market for information technology talent has made it extremely difficult to keep good people.

The problems are related because CCAP's funding comes out of one pot. "If the funding remains static," Godfrey said, "you start borrowing from Peter to pay Paul." Godfrey's summer departure allowed him to remain in office to draft the CCAP budget request which, he said, will leave the program in good health if it remains intact.

Godfrey lives in Madison with his wife of 25 years, Beth, and two daughters, Katie, 13, and Claire, eight. ❖

## Hartman Returns to OITS

**J**ohn Hartman has returned to the court system as director of the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS).

Hartman was a member of the OITS management team for nine years before he accepted a managerial position with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority a year ago. At the time of his departure he was serving as the acting director of OITS.

His return coincides with a decision to de-couple the court system's information technology functions. This latest

restructuring returns information technology services to the two distinct units, OITS and the Circuit Court Automation Program (CCAP).

In announcing Hartman's hire, Director of State Courts J. Denis Moran wrote that his experience with OITS "will be extremely beneficial as we, as required by statute, re-evaluate the Information Technology Strategic Long-Range Plan."

Hartman assumed his new duties on July 6. ❖

## Town Municipal Court Goes High Tech



*Judge Len Kachinsky*

**W**hen the Town of Menasha Municipal Court in Winnebago County moved into the new municipal building, it made good use of the opportunity to experiment with computer technology in court operations.

The court recently notified local attorneys that not guilty pleas which do not include a jury trial demand (for which a jury fee must be paid) could be entered by e-mail.

In addition, Municipal Judge Len Kachinsky issued a briefing order in a case permitting electronic filing of legal memoranda. The order required a hard copy be provided to a party that did not have e-mail capability.

The Town of Menasha web site now features the entire code of town ordinances and the court information sheet given to defendants during initial appearances. When he speaks to school classes, Kachinsky encourages the students to visit the court's web site at: [www.town-menasha.com/court.htm](http://www.town-menasha.com/court.htm)

Municipal Court Manager Sue Hermus and Kachinsky frequently communicate between court sessions by e-mail to avoid telephone tag. "Our modern information systems make our municipal court as user-friendly as it can be under the circumstances," Kachinsky said.

Kachinsky admits he was a "computer ignoramus" prior to being ordered to active duty as an Army legal officer during the Persian Gulf War. "They put me in front of a computer screen with a pile of legal memos to write for the commanding general and no secretary so I had little choice," he recalled. "If I could learn it, anybody can." ❖

# Retirements

## Dane County's Senior Judge Retires

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Michael B. Torphy, who in his 30 years on the bench built a reputation as one of the state's best trial judges and was admired by prosecutors and defense attorneys alike, stepped down June 21.

"Mike Torphy is a judge's judge," Chief Judge Daniel R. Moeser told the *Wisconsin State Journal*. "And has been a mentor to all of us, especially in the area of criminal law. He has served with distinction and dedication for 30 years, and Dane County is very fortunate to have had a judge of his quality."

Torphy's knowledge of criminal law comes, in part, from the many murder trials in which he has presided. At one point from the mid-1970s into the 1980s, he drew all of the county's murder cases—more than a dozen—in the random lottery.

Of the numerous high-profile trials Torphy has conducted, the Barbara Hoffman murder case of 1980 may be the best known. That case, the first in the state to be broadcast live on television, centered on a massage parlor worker, Hoffman, accused of killing two men with cyanide in order to collect insurance money. She was convicted and remains in prison.

Torphy also presided in the longest murder trial in the county, the five-week trial of three members of the Ghost Riders motorcycle gang who were convicted of killing a woman by setting fire to a bar near Stoughton.

In his resignation letter to Governor Tommy Thompson, Torphy, 68, wrote that he had found his years on the bench "challenging, at times frustrating, but, throughout, rewarding. It is, therefore, with some sadness that I take this step but, there is a time for everything and my time to relax with wife and family is now."

Torphy and his wife, Maureen, recently remodeled a cabin in Minnesota and plan to spend time there. He will also serve as a reserve judge.

At this writing, there were four finalists vying for the appointment to replace Torphy: Sun Prairie Attorney John Albert, Attorney Thomas Dixon of the State Public Defender's Office, Assistant District Attorney Gretchen Hayward and Assistant Attorney General Maryann Sumi. The Governor is expected to make the final pick sometime this summer. ❖

## Dunn County Says Goodbye to Longtime Judge



Judge  
Donna J. Muza

Judge Donna J. Muza, 71, who spent 19 years as a circuit court judge in Dunn County and another 30 years as a court commissioner, retired July 31.

Muza, who received her law degree from Marquette University in 1949, was initially appointed to the judgeship by Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus in 1979. She won election to the bench in 1980, 1986 and 1992.

She was replaced by Judge Bill Stewart, a former district attorney in Dunn County who has also served as deputy corporation counsel and child support director/enforcement attorney.

Stewart has also been a consultant/adviser/trainer in the areas of disability, vocational rehabilitation and special needs educational programs. ❖

## Milwaukee Bids Farewell to Two Veteran Judges

Judge Arlene D. Connors and Chief Judge Patrick T. Sheedy retired from the bench in Milwaukee County Circuit Court as of July 31.

Connors became the first woman ever elected without first being appointed to the Milwaukee bench in 1980. She has been replaced by Judge Karen E. Christenson, a former Milwaukee County assistant district attorney and English teacher.

In endorsing Christenson over opponent Dennis Cimpl, a Milwaukee County court commissioner, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* called her "low key, thoughtful and compassionate."

Sheedy, who at 76 was the eldest judge in Milwaukee County Circuit Court, also came on the bench in 1980. As the county's chief judge, Sheedy was well known for his dedication to securing resources for the Milwaukee County courts to ensure prompt adjudication of cases.

He often noted the disparity in the money that counties and states allocate for roads and parks and their funding of the courts. "In the state of Texas," Sheedy said during a public hearing in Milwaukee, "they spend more painting lines on the highways than they spend on their judicial system."

As chief judge, Sheedy presided over numerous changes in the operation of the Milwaukee courts, including the speedy trial project, the creation of Milwaukee's specialty courts and court automation. He also led an effort to improve service to court customers, ordering all judges, bailiffs, court clerks and court reporters to undergo customer-service training.

Sheedy was replaced by Judge Mary Kuhnmuensch, who prosecuted cases for eight years in the Milwaukee City Attorney's Office. She also spent a number of years with the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools working on labor and employment matters. ❖

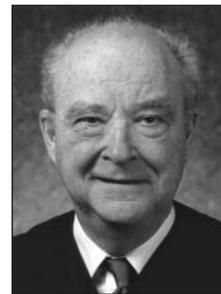
## Williams Steps Down in Winnebago County

Judge Thomas S. Williams, who served on the bench in Winnebago County for 24 years, retired July 31.

Williams, 65, a former chief judge known for his quiet, unassuming manner, worked in private practice for 15 years before becoming a judge.

He is the former chairman of the Judicial Council and a former delegate to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

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Chief Judge  
Patrick T. Sheedy



Judge  
Thomas S. Williams

He has been replaced by Judge Barbara Hart Key, a former Winnebago County court commissioner.

Key was president of the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center when she ran for election and sat on the board of directors of the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. ❖

### Charles, Gram Will Both Retire After 25 Years



Judge Lewis W. Charles

Judges Lewis W. Charles, Columbia County Circuit Court, and Judge Laurence C. Gram, Jr., Milwaukee County Circuit Court, both announced that they will not seek re-election. Their terms expire July 31, 1999.

Charles, 59, has been on the bench in Columbia County since 1974. Prior to becoming a judge, Charles worked as city attorney for Portage, village attorney for Pardeeville and ran a private law practice.

Charles said he "more than likely" will be a reserve judge and may work in mediation and/or join a local law firm.

The only person who had announced, at press time, her intention to run for the seat was longtime Family Court Commissioner Ann C. Krummel (daughter of Reserve Judge Paul C. Gartzke).

Gram, on the bench in Milwaukee County since 1974, worked in private practice for many years prior to becoming a judge. Gram presided in the trial of Jeffrey

Dahmer, a proceeding that has become a national model for conducting high-profile trials.

Gram said he intends to do some mediation and sit as a reserve judge after he retires. He and his wife also look forward to traveling in Mexico and Europe and spending time on their 37-foot sailboat.

Carl Ashley, an attorney in private practice who is a member of the Supreme Court's Commission on Judicial Elections and Ethics, has announced that he will run for election to Branch 33, Gram's seat. ❖

### Myse Announces Intention Not to Run



Judge Gordon Myse

Judge Gordon Myse has decided to end his career on the bench after 13 years on the Court of Appeals, District III. He announced in May that he will not seek re-election. His term expires July 31, 1999.

Myse, 63, who was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1986 by Governor Anthony S. Earl, and has been elected twice since then, also spent 11 years on the circuit court bench in Outagamie County. He has

been very active in court administration, serving as vice-chairman of the Supreme Court's Planning and Policy Advisory Committee.

Judge Thomas Cane, who served with Myse in Outagamie County and worked closely with him on the Court of Appeals, told the *Wausau Daily Herald* the court will miss Myse's quiet, thoughtful approach to analyzing cases. "One of the most important things on the appellate court is to be able to agree to disagree. Gordy has a good legal mind, and our philosophy is not necessarily the same, but I think that's good. It gives the court diversity."

Myse intends to spend part of his retirement working as a mediator and arbitrator both here and in Florida, where he has completed many of the requirements for certification. He also plans to travel with his wife, Judy, and work on his golf game.

"I intend to be busy," he told the *Herald*. "I don't regard retirement as doing nothing. I want to participate in the system, help, and do what I can do to make it better." ❖

### After 26 Elections, Municipal Judge Retires

Cornell Municipal Judge Jack Dickenson, 85, retired in June after 51 years on the bench.

Dickenson told the *Cornell & Lake Holcombe Courier* of the many changes he witnessed in his half-century of service. For example, there was only one volume of Wisconsin Statutes when he became a municipal judge. Now, there are five.

Dickenson retired, he said, due to health problems that made it difficult to travel for judicial education. ❖

### Court Reporters Have 68 Years of Service Between Them

Mary R. Henricksen, court reporter to Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Arlene D. Connors, and David L. Hanson, court reporter to Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Vincent K. Howard, retired July 31.

Henricksen, with 36 years of service, started as a court reporter in Fond du Lac County, then moved to Milwaukee, where she worked for Judge Robert C. Cannon until he went to the Court of Appeals, and then for Judges Leah Lampone, Ralph Gorenstein, the Milwaukee reserve judges and, finally, Connors.

Henricksen, who has been seen in numerous theater productions including "Gegi" and "Annie," hopes to spend more time on stage in her retirement. She acts, sings and dances with the Milwaukee Players and Dale Gutzman Productions.

Off-stage, she intends to take some classes to improve her computer skills.

Hanson has worked for five Marathon County judges during his 32 years of service—including now-Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, who told the *Wausau Daily Herald* how much she enjoyed working with him.

Hanson plans to spend his retirement doing volunteer work. He told the *Daily Herald* he and his wife hope to work with Habitat for Humanity and help troubled youth. "I've seen a lot of how the real world lives," he was quoted as saying. "It sure makes you appreciate your own life. I go home and count my blessings, my wife and my children, every day." ❖

# Court Improvement Program Awards \$135,694 to Improve Courts' Family Services

In southeast Asia, coining and cupping are practices designed to improve health. In America, the marks these practices leave may be mistaken for abuse.

The La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) just received a grant of \$17,803 through the Court Improvement Program to educate judges, attorneys and child welfare workers about practices such as these to help bridge the cultural divide.

Education will be provided on the cultures of Native Americans, African Americans and Hmong. Participants will learn, for example, that coining and cupping are both traditional pain-relief practices of the southeast Asian community. Coining involves rubbing a coin dipped in ointment on a sore throat or other body part and cupping is setting a lit candle, under glass, on the forehead to relieve pain and appease ancestors.

This program is one of 14 statewide that have received grants from the Court Improvement Program, a federal grant that has allowed the Wisconsin court system to assess and improve its handling Children in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) cases. The program awarded a total of \$135,694 in grant funds this May.

The grants—ranging from \$1,870 to \$25,000—were provided to programs in the following counties: Burnett, Dane, Door, Dunn, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Racine, Sawyer, Vernon and Waukesha.

The grants are an effort to be responsive to the unique needs of individual communities. A synopsis of the projects, along with contact people, follows:

- \$25,000 to the Milwaukee County Children's Court to link the District Attorney's Office, Guardian ad Litem's Office, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)/Adoption Unit and the Children's Court to one database. The database will improve communication among agencies and resolve case processing barriers throughout the CHIPS process, creating a "fast track" to finding permanent homes for over 600 children in foster care. *Liz Finn Gorski, Children's Court coordinator: (414) 454-4189*
- \$17,803 to the La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) to educate local child welfare workers on the cultures of Native Americans, African Americans and Hmong. *Denis Tucker, executive associate director, Cultural Competency Certification Program: (608) 781-5744*
- \$15,000 to Fond du Lac County to produce a videotape and handbook designed to educate parents, children and the community about the juvenile court process. The materials will be distributed free to every county in the state. *Ed Schilling or Diane Hausinger, project directors: (920) 929-3410 or (920) 929-3433*
- \$13,127 to the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families to conduct two intensive, one-day conferences on the effects of trauma (from abuse or neglect) on children's brains. The conference will help professionals who work with these children in the court system to better understand their treatment needs. *Anne Arnesen, executive director, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families: (608) 284-0580*

- \$11,053 to the Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services to assess the handling of cases where parental rights are terminated and develop an action plan for improving this process. *Paul Moeller, supervisor, Kenosha County Division of Children and Family Services: (414) 605-6500*
- \$10,000 to Family Resources of La Crosse to run an education program that will teach parenting skills and provide support groups and connections to other community resources for parents in La Crosse County. *Debra Suchla, executive director, Family Resources of La Crosse: (608) 784-8125*
- \$8,153 to the Special Needs Adoption Network to develop a program to move Kenosha, Racine and Walworth County children out of foster care and into permanent homes more quickly. *Colleen Ellingson, executive director, Special Needs Adoption Network: (414) 475-1246*
- \$8,071 to the Door County Department of Social Services to develop a mentor program for families involved in court proceedings with children who need protection or services. *Bev Knutson, project director: (920) 746-2300*
- \$7,820 to Vernon County to fund a new program to provide mentors for parents whose children have been identified by the courts as needing protection and services. *Sandra Favor, project director: (608) 634-3104*
- \$6,300 to the Dane County courts to hire a professional researcher to evaluate a new approach to monitoring children in foster care. The new approach involves more frequent reviews of the progress of children in foster care. *Jim Moeser, Juvenile Court commissioner: (608) 266-9130*

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## Statewide Conference Will Follow Up on Wingspread

The Wisconsin Supreme Court's Judicial Education Committee has approved sponsorship and judicial education credit for *Promoting Safe and Stable Families*, a conference slated for November 2 and 3 in Madison.

The conference will follow up on *A Coordinated Approach to Family Law Cases*, held in November 1997, at the Wingspread facility in Racine. That conference brought together people representing a broad range of disciplines to ensure that all who work with families and children in the courts have an opportunity to help improve the system.

Space will be limited. For more information on attending, call Michelle M. Jensen at (608) 266-1557. ❖

## Booklet Details Judges' Obligations Under International Law

When a citizen of a foreign country is detained in the United States, that person must be made aware of his right to have his embassy or consul notified of the detention. Depending upon the country of citizenship, this notification may be mandatory whether or not it is wanted by the detainee. When a guardianship is being considered for a foreign national who is a minor or incompetent, notification of the consul is always mandatory.

While law enforcement officers often meet this requirement, the U.S. State Department is encouraging judges to inquire about consular notification whenever foreign nationals appear before them.

A new publication of the State Department gives judges and other law enforcement officials detailed information on their obligations under international law. The publication, *Consular Notification and Access*, contains a suggested statement

of this right, translated into 13 languages. It also provides phone and fax numbers for all foreign embassies.

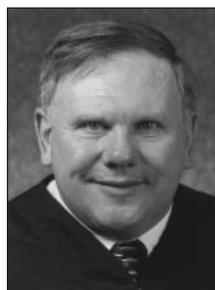
The State Department will send the publication to every circuit court judge, register in probate and clerk of circuit court this summer. Anyone else who would like a copy should call (202) 647-4415. The State Department's website, [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov), posts the full text of the booklet. ❖

## Judges Win Scholarships

Judge John A. Des Jardins, Outagamie County Circuit Court, was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship by the State Justice Institute (SJI). He attended the *General Jurisdiction* conference at the National Judicial College in late July.

Judges Jean W. DiMotto and Dennis P. Moroney, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, received SJI scholarships to attend the *Constitutional Criminal Procedure* conference at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev., in mid July.

Moroney, who transferred into Milwaukee Drug Court on August 1, said the in-depth analysis of search and seizure issues would be beneficial to him. ❖



*Judge  
Dennis P. Moroney*



*Judge  
John A. Des Jardins*



*Judge  
Jean W. DiMotto*

## Forum will Bring State, Federal, Tribal Courts Together

The Wisconsin Supreme Court, in cooperation with the federal judiciary and the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association, will convene a *Forum of State, Federal and Tribal Courts* to address civil and criminal jurisdictional issues relevant to each court system. These meetings will take place over a two-year period.

The first meeting of the Forum, slated for March 10-12, 1999, at the Radisson Inn in Green Bay, will focus on educating members and interested observers about the formation and current functions of the various courts and on identifying topics of mutual interest, which will be addressed in detail at later meetings of the Forum. It is anticipated that the Forum will lay the foundation for increasing communication and cooperation among the court systems.

On the evening of Wednesday, March 10, 1999, the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association will host a traditional ceremonial dinner to begin Forum activities. The Thursday and Friday sessions, still in the planning stages, will build on the theme of cultural and legal education and improving intersystem relationships.

For additional information call the Office of Judicial Education at (608) 266-7807. ❖

### Did you know. . .

- Eleven Indian tribes call Wisconsin home.
- The highest concentration of Native Americans in Wisconsin is in metropolitan Milwaukee.
- Tribal courts now handle civil matters in some counties, creating concurrent jurisdiction with circuit courts.
- Some counties are negotiating with tribes to transfer jurisdiction in CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) cases involving Native American families.
- Tribal courts have used Restorative Justice for decades. The concept—a community-based response to crime which attempts to repair the damage done to victims and the community while helping the offender understand the impact of crime—has recently generated great interest in the state courts. ❖

# VOLUNTEERS IN THE COURTS:

## A Partnership for Justice

by: Karen Leone de Nie

Administrative Assistant to the Supreme Court

### Supervised Visitation Program Gearing Up in Dane County



Judge  
Sarah B. O'Brien

A mother wanted to see her daughter, but a court order required they meet only with supervision. She called county, state and private agencies looking for someone who could help. Supervised visitation services were

available, but she could not afford their fees. Eventually, she found Leslie Bryant Frisinger at Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (CSSW).

She explained to Frisinger that she had not seen her daughter for some time. She lost custody during her divorce

when she was accused of hitting her. Frisinger said the woman was matter-of-fact in describing the situation, she just needed a place to see her little girl.

Frisinger could not provide immediate help, but may work with the mother in September when the new Dane County Supervised Visitation Pilot Program is up and running. Frisinger (former assistant coordinator of Dane County's Court Appointed Special Advocate—or CASA—program) is the project's director.

The mother's situation is not uncommon. "There has been a crying need for this for so long," according to Circuit Court Judge Sarah B. O'Brien, presiding judge in Dane County Family Court.

Acting in the best interest of children or parents, a court may order parent/child

visits to take place in a supervised setting or require a neutral location for child drop-off/pick-up (a neutral exchange). Once in operation, the program will provide these services at the Children's Choice Learning Center, 1132 Morrairie View Dr., near Madison's Elver Park.

Families participating in the program may be dealing with custody and placement issues or allegations of neglect or abuse. Referrals to visitation services will be made through court orders of the county Family Court and also the Juvenile Court, which will work with the Dane County Department of Human Service (DCDHS). Neutral exchange referrals will come from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, DCDHS and duty judges handling restrain-

*continued on next page*

### Judges Offer Reasons to Volunteer



Judge Patrick J. Madden

Judges play an important role in the community from the bench, but some equally important contributions happen when they take off the black robes. Judges throughout the state volunteer their time in numerous court-related programs. For example, Municipal Judge Ronald Ziwicki served as judge for Watertown's first session of Teen Court, Reserve Judge Arnold Schumann is presiding judge for Jefferson High School's *Real Life: Marriage and Divorce* program and Dodge County

Circuit Court Judges Andrew P. Bissonnette, Daniel W. Klossner and John R. Storck roll up their sleeves to help with the Responsibility Adjustment Program.

Outside the courts, judges volunteer in their communities to help solve problems, prove they are human and make friends. A recent survey distributed by the Volunteers in the Courts program asked judges, "Do you volunteer your time? If so, why?" A few of the answers follow:

• "I work with youth because preventing problems is better than solving them. I've been a little league coach for eight years. I'm on the executive counsel of the Boy Scouts. I'm an assistant high

school wrestling coach." —Judge Patrick J. Madden, Iron County Circuit Court

- "I volunteer in community organizations as a way to give back to and enrich the community, to provide role modeling, and in gratitude for the community's support. I volunteer in bar associations to maintain contact with a broad network of attorneys and to support the organized bar. I volunteer in an annual musical skit for bar members to demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt that judges are indeed only human." —Judge Jean W. DiMotto, Milwaukee County Circuit Court
- "I currently do volunteer work through my membership in Kiwanis International which (involves), among other activities... serving meals to the poor; (I also) volunteer at St. Monica's Senior Citizen Home and Homeward Bound, a shelter for homeless women and their children. Such volunteer work sustains this community and provides assistance to those in need." —Judge Richard J. Kreul, Racine County Circuit Court
- "I like being an active, productive citizen participating in civic/community life (serving on the boards of various organizations and doing community service work with the Kiwanis Club and Roadside Clean-Up Project). I've met many good friends and learned a lot." —Judge Edward E. Leineweber, Richland County Circuit Court ♦

ing orders. Each month, the program expects to provide visitation services to 24 families and exchange services to an additional 24 families.

"This is only going to fulfill a tiny part of the need," said O'Brien. "Frequently judges in juvenile court order weekly visits, but it just doesn't happen," often because of limited resources.

Service fees will not be charged during the eight-month pilot. Kathleen Jeffords, director of Dane County Family Court Counseling Services and a member of the program's advisory committee, said the intent was that this program "be available to all regardless" of financial status.

The program will provide a place where non-custodial parents and children can visit under the supervision of a volunteer. Before the first visit, the parent will meet with Frisinger. She will explain the program and have them sign a contract agreeing to abide by certain rules and expectations. The visits will last two hours at least once a month; the frequency will be decided on a case by case basis. The volunteer will supervise the meeting, but will not necessarily take part in the activities between parent and child.

Another component of the new Supervised Visitation Program will be a neutral exchange location. A child can safely be left at the program's facility, staffed by volunteers, and about 15 minutes later the other parent can pick up the child. Such a system avoids unnecessary confrontation.

Often when disputing parents meet to pick up or drop off their child as part of the custody arrangement, fear, anger or hostility may be played out before the child, Jeffords said. The emotions that either parent experiences are also felt by the child and can have a negative impact. Remarking on the present practice, Jeffords said: "It's difficult finding a place that's neutral and safe other than the police parking lot... or the McDonalds." The new program will change that by offering "a setting where (Center employees) can welcome the child by name," she said.

The key word is neutrality. Frisinger said it is most important that she and the volunteers maintain neutrality in their work with the children and adults. "Our job is to ensure the child's safety, not get involved in the dispute," she said.

Learning to maintain neutral relationships will be part of the 15 hours of

volunteer training. The Rainbow Project, Inc., a Madison-based non-profit that offers counseling and support services for children and families, will work with CSSW to train volunteers using role playing and videotaped supervised visits, along with other training tools.

A volunteer's unbiased observations may also benefit judges when reviewing court orders. "We need the neutral feedback of supervisors," said O'Brien. She hopes volunteers will be willing to appear in court, sharing information on the parent/child interaction they witnessed as trained observers. O'Brien credits the local CASA program for building judges' trust in using volunteers in the courts; they have proven their worth.

It is undetermined how visits will be documented, but Frisinger is considering maintaining a detailed log on each family. She plans to work with liaisons from family and juvenile courts and Family Court Counseling to exchange information prior to visits and throughout the process. Reports generated by the program will be available to other professionals through signed releases or through the courts.

About 20 to 25 volunteers are needed to staff the program. At present, Frisinger has received nine volunteer applications, which will be carefully screened. Interest is growing slowly, but she is certain volunteers will come forward.

This spring, CSSW successfully applied for an eight-month state Access and

Visitation grant to fund this pilot program. They received \$17,125 in June. Frisinger said they were "optimistically encouraged" that funding may be available for up to two years.

Leadership Greater Madison (LGM) encouraged CSSW to apply for this grant. LGM, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, selects a cross-section of community members each year to be educated on the issues and needs of the public. The 1997-98 class, realizing the need for this type of program, helped round up letters of support for CSSW's application. One of the letters was from Chief Judge Daniel R. Moeser, Fifth Judicial District.

The program's purpose recently became obvious when Frisinger witnessed a monitored visit with a mother, who had an alcohol problem, and her 10-year-old son. They were playing air hockey at the Wausau YMCA (a service offered by the local visitation program also operated by CSSW), spending quality time together. But she said it was sad because the time was so short. "People make mistakes. And losing a child because of it is really hard," Frisinger said, "It's hard on everybody." ❖

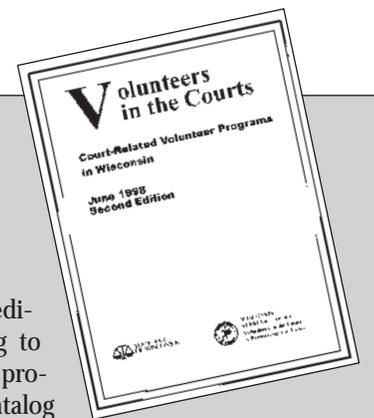
*If you would like more information on the Dane County Supervised Visitation Program, please contact Program Director Leslie Bryant Frisinger at (608) 221-3511.*

## Volunteers in the Courts Catalog— Second Edition

Preparations are underway to send the second edition of the Volunteers in the Courts catalog to judges, district court administrators and volunteer program coordinators throughout the state. The catalog serves as a directory of volunteer opportunities, a listing of court-related services and a reference for starting similar programs. It contains program descriptions, funding and volunteer sources and contact names and telephone numbers for programs in 58 Wisconsin counties.

The catalog is on the court system's web site at [www.courts.state.wi.us](http://www.courts.state.wi.us) and the State Bar's web site at [www.wisbar.org](http://www.wisbar.org). To order a copy, call the State Bar at (608) 257-3838 or (800) 362-8096. The cost is \$10.

We need your help to keep the catalog up-to-date. Please report new court-related volunteer programs in your area to Karen Leone de Nie at (608) 266-1298. ❖



# DCA Lands in Dublin Courts

by: **Kerry Connelly**  
*District Court Administrator, District II*

Most people do their best to get as far away (mentally, if not physically) from the office as possible when they vacation. I try to do the same. However, on a recent trip to Ireland, I found that a little work-related time can make for a good learning experience. I had an opportunity to visit the court system in Dublin, an experience that was educational and enjoyable.

With the assistance of the National Center for State Courts I was put in contact with administrative staff of the courts in Dublin. I spoke with Terence Agnew, head of training for the courts, and indicated that I was interested in sitting in on court proceedings and speaking with some of the judges and clerks, especially those who work in children's court. He was more than willing to show me around, allow me to sit in children's court and speak with staff.

The Dublin courts, known as the Four Courts, were a short walk from my hotel. After a brief discussion with Agnew and an exchange of some literature describing our respective courts, I was taken to the juvenile court. There I met Judge Collins. She had a busy morning so there was not much time to talk.

Children's court proceedings are in many ways very similar to ours. However, there are some differences. The juvenile sits at a separate desk, apart from his/her family and attorney. Of the half dozen hearings I sat in on, most were what we consider detention hearings (most were not in detention). The police officer accompanies the juvenile to court and presents the judge with information on the circumstances of the juvenile's arrest.

Most juveniles are returned to their parents. It is rare that a juvenile would be detained outside his home. There are few detention facilities for juveniles and it is unlikely that more facilities will be created. I spoke to the judge after court and asked her about the use of detention for children. She said it is only used for the most serious offenses, such as murder.

The most familiar feature I found in court was the look on the participants faces. The boys and girls had that quiet nervousness, shuffling their feet when asked why they did what they were accused of. Parents wore looks of embarrassment and disappointment. In a truancy case (the truant officer brought the child to court) the judge asked why the girl was not attending school. The father quickly indicated that one of the boys at school was making fun of his daughter because of her weight. He also told of a recent death in the family and some financial problems.

That is when I saw that expression. The expression so many judges wear when confronted with these problems. The expression that acknowledges the lack of a magic wand, the inability to provide a tidy solution to a sticky problem. The judge looked at the child for an answer, then suggested that the parent go back to school and speak with the principal to see if something could be worked out. It had a familiar ring to it.

After a brief lunch I sat in on adult intake court and then resumed my vacation. I left with a feeling that I know a little more about Ireland and its people, a little more about how our system in Wisconsin works (comparisons are beneficial) and a lot more about Ireland's courts. ♦

## Bablitch Teaches at NYU



Justice  
**William A. Bablitch**

Justice William A. Bablitch recently returned from teaching at the Institute of Judicial Administration at the New York University (NYU) School of Law. While there, he acquired a new nickname—The Dean—

courtesy of a fellow faculty member, Special Prosecutor Kenneth W. Starr.

Bablitch conducts NYU's week-long seminar for newly appointed or elected state and federal court of appeals and supreme court justices every summer. When Starr introduced Bablitch for the opening remarks, he called the justice "the Dean" of the educational series.

The longtime educator's new moniker stuck, and his pupils referred to him as The Dean for the remainder of the session. ♦

## Gonzalez Appointed Associate Dean



Judge  
**Ramona A. Gonzalez**

Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez, La Crosse County Circuit Court, was appointed an associate dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College by Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. The appointment begins on the last day of the fall Judicial College Seminar.

Gonzalez, who also sits on the Supreme Court's Judicial Education Committee, will serve a three-year term. She replaces Judge Edward F. Zappen, Jr., who is finishing his second, and final, term.

Other associate deans are: Circuit Court Judges Gary L. Carlson, Taylor County; John J. Di Motto, Milwaukee County; Kathryn W. Foster, Waukesha County; Mark A. Frankel, Dane County and Barbara A. Kluka, Kenosha County.

Judge Robert G. Mawdsley, Waukesha County Circuit Court, is dean. ♦

## Moore Elected to NACM Board

Gregg Moore, district court administrator for District X, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Court Management (NACM).



District Court  
Administrator  
**Gregg T. Moore**

Members from around the country vote for directors at the annual conference each July. NACM is the largest organization of court management professionals in the world, with 2,500 members from all

levels and types of courts. As one of the 13 NACM directors, Gregg will help guide the association's various educational efforts to improve the administration of justice. ♦

## ***Our Turn***

# Capitol's East Wing Restoration and Renovation

**by: Karen Leone de Nie**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**to the Supreme Court**

Last year, oil portraits of Chief Justice Edward G. Ryan (1874-1880) and Justice Roujet D. Marshall (1895-1918) returned home to the Wisconsin Supreme Court after an eagle-eyed preservation specialist spotted them at an estate sale. They were hung in the Court's reception area, surrounded by laminate desks, false ceilings, temporary walls and vinyl chairs.

While the Supreme Court Hearing Room and Conference Room have been spared remodeling for the last 80 years, the reception room and chambers have not been as fortunate. Much of the original furniture has been replaced with modern pieces and the architectural details and decorative finishes on the walls are worn or have disappeared under many coats of paint.

Justices Ryan and Marshall might be pleased to know their home will soon be returned to its original grandeur, thanks to the State Capitol Restoration and Renovation Project.

Designed by Architect George B. Post & Sons of New York, Wisconsin's current Capitol (the third constructed in Madison) was built between 1906 and 1917 at a cost of \$7.25 million. In 1980, it was valued at \$120 million.

After nearly 20 years of planning and seven years of construction on other wings, it is finally the Supreme Court's turn. The programming phase of the East Wing Restoration and Renovation Project, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court Hearing Room, chambers and staff offices, began this June. As part of this phase, the justices, director of state courts and court staff completed questionnaires detailing their needs and wants.

While the east wing is scheduled to be vacated by early July 1999, the Supreme Court will leave the Capitol contingent upon the

completion of a permanent and suitable home for the Wisconsin State Law Library on the Capitol Square. Discussions are underway to determine its location.

Because it was designed to meet the needs of state government as it existed in 1906, the Capitol required a renovation that would take into account the changed role and size of government, but also with an eye to preserving the original character and historic value of the building. "By today's standards, it is an irreplaceable structure," according to Roxanne Nelson, restoration project liaison for the Supreme Court (and the savvy shopper who found Ryan and Marshall).

On loan from the State Senate, Nelson has been working on the south wing project, which is scheduled for completion this November. "It was like going to boot camp with the south wing," she said, recalling the on-the-job training she received. "It's a privilege to now apply that knowledge on behalf of the Wisconsin Supreme Court," Nelson said.

As the Court's point-person for the restoration, Nelson will serve as the liaison between the Court and its staff, and the architects, engineers and construction crews. She will attend project meetings and review floor plans, artwork conservation, data systems design, ergonomic re-adaptation of original furniture, audio/visual technology, decorative finishes and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to name a few.

During the project, the Supreme Court and Director of State Courts Office will most likely relocate to 119 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., the same building that houses the District IV Court of Appeals and where the Senate and Assembly convened during the restoration of the west and south wings. The Governor's Office will be temporarily located in the south wing and it is undecided where the Attorney General's office will be housed.

Completion of the east wing is scheduled for January 2001. ❖



***Roxanne Nelson, restoration project liaison for the Supreme Court, reviewing Capitol floor plans.***



## Courthouse Posters Available

A poster featuring selected historic county courthouses has been produced by the State Historical Society's Historic Preservation Division in cooperation with the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Sesquicentennial Committee. The poster features photographs of, and brief information on, courthouses in the following counties: Brown, Douglas, Florence, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Langlade, Milwaukee, Oneida, Pepin and Racine.

The State Historical Society is exploring ways to produce a series of posters in the future so that all of the state's historic courthouses can be highlighted.

In the counties featured, the clerk of circuit court or the district court administrator, depending upon the county, will receive a stack of the posters free of charge for distribution to people who work in the courts.

Anyone else who would like a copy of the poster may call (608) 266-1298. They are free but limited to one per person and will be sent out on a first-come, first-served basis. The posters will be folded for mailing unless a mailing tube is provided at the time of the request. ❖



*Pepin County Courthouse, Durand, is now used as the county historical society.*

## Glover/Booth Video Will be Available for Black History Month



*Joshua Glover*

A videotape documentary of the fugitive slave case involving Joshua Glover, who escaped from a Missouri farm in 1852 and found freedom in Racine, will be available for purchase on January 15, 1999, in time for Black History Month in February. Wisconsin Public Television, which is filming the documentary, will air it before the end of the year.

In 1854, Glover was arrested and imprisoned under the federal Fugitive Slave Law and then broken out of the

Milwaukee Jail by a band of abolitionists led by newspaper publisher Sherman Booth. These events sparked the legal battle which pitted the federal and state courts against one another for the next seven years. The dramatic story will be told through interviews and historic documents and images.

Those interviewed for the documentary include: Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson, Milwaukee Attorney Carl Ashley, Historians Michael McManus and Ruby West Jackson, and University of Wisconsin Professors Zachary Cooper and Richard Ralston.

The documentary is made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission, with assistance from Wisconsin Public Television and the Director of State Courts Office. To receive more information on ordering a copy, call Karen Leone de Nie at (608) 266-1298. ❖

# People in the News

by: **Karen Leone de Nie**  
*Administrative Assistant  
to the Supreme Court*

Municipal courts “enforce the quality-of-life stuff locally—stuff that is important to the community,” **Ronni G. Jones**, municipal courts coordinator for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, told the *Wisconsin State Journal*. These courts, 216 in Wisconsin, handle traffic tickets, building code violations, minor juvenile matters and other neighborhood violations. Cross Plains Municipal Judge for **Jerome Geurts** said, “For many people, their only exposure to the court system is through a municipal court. We generally are not as crowded and can take the time and talk to people and explain what’s going on.”

The *Wisconsin State Journal* found Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** “nearly engulfed by students from Madison’s Jefferson Middle School” at the sold-out showing of *Rope of Sand* on Statehood Day, a play commissioned by the Wisconsin Supreme Court and written by **Marc Kornblatt**. Kornblatt has submitted the script to theaters across the country for possible future performances.

Outagamie County Circuit Court Judge **Joseph M. Troy** was recognized by *The Post-Crescent* for founding the Juvenile Diversion Program, an “award-winning program [that] also throws in an adult mentor for good measure.” The program aims to bring parents and kids together to talk and listen. After six months of community service, counseling and personal improvement (tae kwon do or music lessons) the juvenile offender graduates from the program. A parent of one participant said, “It has definitely had a positive effect on our family. We can sit down and talk.”

The star witness in a trial on a misdemeanor battery charge “was so definite, so consistent, so unflappable. And, worst of all, the guy was a judge,” reported the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The “guy” was Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge **Dennis P. Moroney**. After Moroney gave testimony that he saw the defendant “pummel” another man, the defendant changed his plea to no contest.



*Circuit Court Judge  
Donald A. Poppy*

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge **Robert A. Haase** (chief judge of District IV) and Calumet County Circuit Court Judge **Donald A. Poppy** were pictured in the *Chilton Times-Journal* at the dedication of the Calumet County Courthouse addition. The project, costing almost \$7 million, was unveiled this spring.



*Circuit Court Judge  
John A. Damon*

Trempealeau County received a second year federal grant of \$8,300 to continue its juvenile victim-offender mediation program, according to *The Arcadia News-Leader*. “This program gives us another resources in dealing with juvenile offenders,” according to Judge **John A. Damon**, Trempealeau County Circuit Court.

When he is not on the bench, La Crosse County Circuit Judge **Michael J. Mulroy** can be found at the track. Ever since his daughter

ran for Onalaska High School, Mulroy has developed an interest in track and field. In June, he was the backup timer for the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association state track and field meet, according to an article in the *La Crosse Tribune*.

The Manitowoc County Courthouse is equipped with an X-ray machine and three walk-through metal detectors, but has no one to operate them, reported the *Herald Times Reporter*. Bailiffs operate the equipment in “perceived risk situations,” said Circuit Court Judge **Fred H. Hazlewood**, but it is the county board’s decision whether to hire a full-time operator.

Dunn, Barron and Pepin Counties will get some help from the new Mediation Center in Menomonie which opened this spring. Currently, the center mediates child custody disputes and parenting issues, but plans to expand to handle landlord-tenant and other civil disputes, reported *The Elmwood Argus*.

While Racine County Circuit Court Judge **Gerald P. Ptacek** admits there are “some significant issues to be decided,” he voiced his approval for videoconferencing technology in the courts to a reporter from *The Journal Times*. “We like it. It works. And we want to expand it,” he said. “It’s aided in bringing the east end of the county to the west end,” said Racine County Executive **Jean Jacobson**. This technology links Racine County buildings, including the courthouse, to places like the Lincoln Hills School, a correctional center. This means juveniles no longer need to be taken on a 13-hour round-trip drive to appear in court.

Judge **Edward R. Brunner**, Barron County Circuit Court, brought court to the classroom, reported the *Rice Lake Chronotype*. He presided over three misdemeanor cases in the Rice Lake High School auditorium. Two defendants were convicted and escorted from the school in handcuffs. Brunner hoped the students would realize how their choices today can impact the rest of their lives. While some students thought the event was just a scare tactic, others said the program was “very beneficial.”

The Beaver Dam Municipal Court celebrated its fifth year in June. “Along with helping alleviate the heavy caseload at Dodge County and taking in money for the city, the municipal court also helps create a more effective police force,” according to the *Daily Citizen*.

Judge **Charles D. Heath**, Marinette County Circuit Court, and District VIII Court Administrator **Jane A. Schetter** were chosen to be volunteers at the U.S. Women’s Open in Kohler in July. After two days of training, Heath and Schetter spent a week at the championship for women’s golf. This Open will go down in the history books because of a snaking, 40-foot putt made by amateur Jenny Chuasiriporn to force a playoff. The putt was so amazing that the crowd’s cheer could be heard in Two Rivers. Keeping the crowd quiet and under control was one of the jobs Heath and Schetter were given.

“Is justice swayed by emotion?” led an article in the *Wausau Daily Herald* that considered the impact of victims’ statements in sentencing hearings. There is a fear that judges may make their rulings based on the pain they see in the faces and hear in the voices of the grieving relatives and friends. “That is a danger,” Judge **Gordon Myse** said. “It requires a judge to exercise a lot of caution and insight to keep a balance.”

“I’ve always felt the courthouse was very much the center of the county,” Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice **N. Patrick Crooks** told  
*continued on next page*

# Obituaries

## Judge Herbert A. Bunde Wood County Court

Retired Judge Herbert A. Bunde, who in the 1960s ruled Plainfield murderer Edward Gein incompetent to stand trial, died May 24. He was 96.

Bunde served on the bench in Wisconsin Rapids from 1951 to 1969. He presided in the 1952 trial of Edward Kaneski, who was eventually convicted of killing Clara Bates, an elderly tavern owner. Kaneski, who maintained his innocence throughout, served nearly 20 years in prison before an appeal to the state Supreme Court resulted in a ruling that he had been convicted on insufficient evidence. The case was chronicled in two books published this decade, *Please Pass the Roses* by Colleen Kohler Kaneski and *The Tangled Web* by John Potter, who prosecuted the case.

Bunde was an author in his own right, publishing a book in the 1980s on his childhood years in the now-extinct Ashland County town of Shanagolden. ❖

## Judge Joseph H. Riedner Pepin County Court

Retired Judge Joseph H. Riedner, who once made waves by ordering restitution (at a time before it was an accepted sentencing option) in a pig theft, died June 9. He was 93.

## People in the News

*Continued from page 14*

the audience at Marinette County's sesquicentennial kickoff in May. Crooks, guest speaker for the event, highlighted the history of Wisconsin judiciary and praised the level of professionalism in the county's circuit court, reported the *Eagle Herald*.

**Steve Meyer**, a Rock County court commissioner for more than six years, uses a "lively vocal patter that makes a listener believe [he] could double as a baseball announcer," according to the *Beloit Daily News*. Meyer handles intake court and preliminary hearings in criminal charges, approves search warrants, authorizes temporary restraining orders and presides over paternity cases and small claims court.

As Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** congratulated the graduates of Lawrence University at their May commencement, she also issued a call: "I hope each of you will ask what the world needs from you." Abrahamson was given an honorary degree from the university, reported *The Post-Crescent*.

In May, 500 Green County second graders heard the case of State of Wisconsin v. **Goldi Locks** as part of Law Day festivities. The hung jury, visibly moved when Locks explained why she ate the porridge, forced Circuit Court Judge **James R. Beer** to dismiss the charges, according to the *Monroe Evening Times*.

*The Representative* of Fox Lake instructed readers to "look no further than Wisconsin's Supreme Court for a bona fide Law Day hero." The newspaper was speaking of Justice **Janine P. Geske** and her decision to leave the court in September so that she can work in mediation, "which will give [her] the opportunity to touch peoples' lives." Geske's decision, judging from the correspondence she has received, has inspired many people to re-assess their lives.

Riedner served on the bench in Durand from 1944 until 1974, except for an early 1960s term when he lost the election to the district attorney.

Shortly before his death, Riedner sat for an oral history interview conducted by Judge John A. Damon, Trempealeau County Circuit Court. Of his first campaign, he recalled: "In the southern part of the county, it was all Scandinavian, and they told me directly that I was in. . . They told me, 'You needn't worry, because we'll take care of you.' They took care of me and voted for me."

When he took office, Riedner said, his salary was \$125 a month. He was the last judge to sit in only Pepin County; its court was joined with Buffalo County Court by an act of the Legislature after Riedner's retirement.

Riedner is survived by five children. His legacy also includes a quarter-million pine trees he planted and nurtured during his lifetime. ❖

## Judge Gerald Svedja Village of Lena Municipal Court

Municipal Court Judge Gerald Svedja died of cancer in June. He was 58. Svedja was first elected to the court in Lena (Oconto County) in 1994. No other information was available. ❖

In an attempt to make first-time juvenile offenders into one-time offenders, Watertown started its own Teen Court, reported the *Watertown Daily Times*. This pilot program, part of Project J.O.I.N and financed by a state grant, offers first-time juvenile offenders who admit their guilt an opportunity to have their peers determine a sentence. Watertown's Teen Court is one of eight in the state.

"Municipal Judge **Tom Bitter's** day on the bench is no day at the beach," according to the *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*. For the past 22 years, the South Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge has taken the bench two mornings a month to listen to people accused of drunk driving, shoplifting, drug possession, battery and disorderly conduct. Known for his "colorful courtroom style," Bitters told one defendant, "For a guy that has never had a driver's license, you've got a driving record that reads like the Old Testament."

Kewaunee County Circuit Court Judge **Dennis J. Mleziva** was honored by his hometown, reported *The Luxemburg News*. He received the Luxemburg-Casco High School Alumni award at this year's commencement ceremony.

Everyone loves the Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square on Wednesdays. . . except when the vendors take premium parking spots. On Wednesdays some state employees, including District IV Court of Appeals Judge **Charles P. Dykman**, are assigned alternative parking spaces to accommodate the vendors, but this has not completely solved the problem. "Interlopers found my assigned space a wonderful place to park while they attended the market," Dykman was quoted in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

Kenosha judges voiced their approval of the recently passed truth-in-sentencing law in the *Kenosha News*. "The new law provides certainty, and that's important for everybody, especially the victims," said Circuit Court Judge **S. Michael Wilk**. ❖

# Court-Related Web Sites Abound

The World Wide Web is full of sites that pertain to the courts, judicial education and other topics of interest to those who work in the justice system. The Wisconsin court system web site—up since March—has already received thousands of visitors. It can be found at: [www.courts.state.wi.us](http://www.courts.state.wi.us)

Here are a few addresses to check out, courtesy of the Judicial Education Reference, Information and Technical Transfer Project (all addresses start with <http://>):

- **National Judicial College:** [www.judges.org/](http://www.judges.org/)
- **National Center for State Courts:** [www.ncsc.dni.us/](http://www.ncsc.dni.us/)
- **American Judicature Society:** [www.ajs.org/](http://www.ajs.org/)
- **National Association for Court Management:** [www.aginet.com/nacm/](http://www.aginet.com/nacm/)
- **Bureau of Justice Assistance:** [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja/)
- **Bureau of Justice Statistics:** [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs)
- **National Criminal Justice Reference Service:** [www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)
- **Violence Against Women Office:** [www.usdoj.gov/vawo/](http://www.usdoj.gov/vawo/)
- **FindLaw-Supreme Court, Federal Court, Codes:** [www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html)
- **Hermes Project-Supreme Court Decisions:** [supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/](http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/)
- **U.S. House of Representatives Federal Law Library:** [law.house.gov/2.htm](http://law.house.gov/2.htm) ❖

## Jansen Heads for the Ukraine

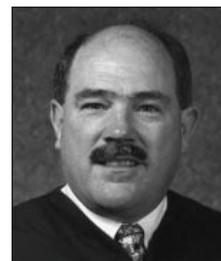
Judge James P. Jansen, Langlade County Circuit Court, will travel to Lutsk, Ukraine, at the end of August for a 10-day program during which he will live with Ukrainian participants.

Jansen is one of 11 people chosen by Northcentral Technical College for the Community Connections exchange. He and the other delegates are representing the Wausau area to the Ukrainians. The United

States Information Agency is sponsoring the trip.

The goal of the conference is to further economic development and strengthen global understanding. During his stay, Jansen will participate in seminars on the Ukrainian economy and financial/banking systems and will give a presentation. Each person in the group will give a talk on his or her area of expertise.

Jansen will also spend five days job-shadowing Ukrainian professionals who have already participated in the Community Connections program in Wausau. ❖



Judge  
James P. Jansen

## Court Improvement Program

*Continued from page 7*

- \$4,637 to the St. Croix Chippewa tribe to smooth the transition of court cases involving child abuse and neglect from the state to the tribal courts. *Gloria Merrill, human services facilitator: (715) 349-2195*
- \$4,520 to the Dunn County Department of Human Services to implement a program to use trained mediators to improve communication between child protective services workers and parents accused of child abuse or neglect.

*Larry Rhead, Family & Children's Services supervisor: (715) 232-1110, x224*

- \$2,340 to Wisconsin Family Ties, Inc. (WFT) to train family advocates statewide to act as mentors to parents and other family members involved in court proceedings related to child protection or services. *Margaret Mezera, project director, Wisconsin Family Ties Mentoring Program: (608) 267-6888*
- \$1,870 to Sawyer County to train a family court educator who will be a resource for CHIPS parents and families as they go through the juvenile court process. *Patricia Acheson, project director: (715) 634-4806, x326* ❖

## New Chief Judges

*Continued from page 2*

Circuit Court. Schmidt, too, served the maximum time allowed and will continue to sit as a trial judge in both counties he serves.

Skwierawski, of District I, has been on the bench in Milwaukee County for 20

years. He replaces Chief Judge Patrick T. Sheedy, who has been the district's chief judge since 1990. Sheedy retired July 31 after serving 19 years in Milwaukee County Circuit Court (*see retirement story, page 5*).

In addition, Chief Judges Mark S. Gempeler, Waukesha County Circuit Court; Daniel R. Moeser, Dane County Circuit

Court; Philip M. Kirk, Waupaca County Circuit Court; Barbara A. Kluka, Kenosha County Circuit Court and Gregory A. Peterson, Eau Claire County Circuit Court, were re-appointed. Chief Judges Robert A. Haase, Winnebago County Circuit Court, and Robert W. Radcliffe, Jackson County Circuit Court, also continue to serve. ❖

# Vernon County Courthouse has New, Old Look

About three and a half years ago, it was decided that the Vernon County Courthouse in Viroqua needed new wiring and a coat of paint. As the project progressed it became obvious that more work was necessary to meet the needs of the court. On July 11, Vernon County Circuit



*Vernon County Courthouse opens its doors to the public*

Court Judge Michael J. Rosborough opened the courthouse doors to welcome the public to a restored and renovated facility.

The courthouse basement is now equipped for records storage, the Clerk of Circuit Court Office is expanded, security is improved, the facility meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and original architectural details and art once hidden by changes made in the 1950s are restored, to name some of the improvements.

Getting from a few gallons of paint to a major renovation required a vision for the future—a vision the county board and the courts needed to share. “Over a relatively long period of time you have to develop a relationship with the county board. . . gaining their trust,” Rosborough said.

He worked closely with the county building committee, the county board chair and other members of the community interested in historic preservation. “The county courthouse is often the single

historic building in the entire county,” Rosborough noted, making it particularly valuable to historic preservationists.

The U.S. Marshal Service conducted a security study of the building (free of charge) which recommended improving security measures. The county board was also receptive to the idea of complying with ADA standards. As plans developed, the project grew. “Gradually. . . everyone (thought) bigger,” Rosborough said.

The Vernon County Board thought big when they approved a \$1.6 million dollar renovation/restoration project in 1996. The project was completed this spring.

In 1852, a year after Bad Ax County (now Vernon County) was organized, electors chose Viroqua as the county seat. The first courthouse was a log building constructed in 1850. A second was built in 1856, but quickly became obsolete. The current courthouse was built in 1880 for \$23,168. ❖

## Children’s Law Scholarships Available

In July, the Judicial Education Committee authorized a limited number of scholarships for Wisconsin judges to attend the 21st National Children’s Law Conference, *Serving the Needs of the Child Client/Keeping Pace With the Practice of Law for Children*. Sponsored by the National Association of Counsel for Children, this year’s event will be held October 10-13 (Saturday through Tuesday) at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee.

Sessions will cover such issues as: mental health aspects of delinquency, syndrome evidence, diagnostic imaging of child abuse, the legal rights of foster parents and much more.

National and international experts will teach at the conference. Donna E. Shalala, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services, will give the keynote address and Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson will welcome the group to Milwaukee. In addition, the following Wisconsin judges will be faculty: Thomas P. Donegan, chief judge, Milwaukee County Children’s Court; Charles B. Schudson, District I Court of Appeals, and Michael P. Sullivan, chief judge, Milwaukee County Courts’ Family Division.

Judges interested in attending the conference should contact the Office of Judicial Education at (608) 266-7807 for information. Funds are limited and certain restrictions apply. Applications, including conference registration materials, must be filed with the Office of Judicial Education no later than September 3, 1998. ❖

## Education Survey Results Compiled

Criminal procedure was the topic rated of greatest interest in a recent survey of circuit court judges.

In March, the Office of Judicial Education mailed all Wisconsin circuit court judges a survey requesting their assistance in planning future judicial education programs. Judges were asked to indicate their level of interest with respect to 58 topics. The survey had a 52 percent response rate.

Survey results will assist the Judicial Education Committee and the Office of Judicial Education in planning programs to emphasize specific judicial skills.

Of the ten topics of greatest interest to judges, evidence issues led all others, occupying five of the top ten spots. Although the survey method may not suffice for evaluating all areas of judicial practice, it does provide a valuable tool to assess the practice-related education desires of the judiciary.

The top ten topics ranked in descending order of interest are: criminal procedure, evidence-general provisions, sentencing, evidence-hearsay, judicial decision making, contempt powers of court, evidence-relevancy, search and seizure, evidence-privileges, evidence-authentication and identification. ❖

## Murphy Steps Down

*Continued from page 1*

staff. Because there was no fiscal impact (at the time, the position was called “administrative assistant to the chief judge” and was funded by a federal grant), the move was allowed.

Murphy finally joined the court system on January 2, 1979—five months after she was hired—as one of three court administrators in the state.

Based in Racine, she handled judicial assignments, freelance court reporter assignments, grant writing and much more. She also served on the interview panel that hired court administrators for the rest of the state. They ranged in experience, she recalled, from lawyers to people with graduate degrees in court administration to former court reporters and secretaries. “There was some confusion over what the court administrator should be doing. That became clearer over time,” Murphy said.

Court administrators needed a certain set of skills to handle records and jury management, assist with budget requests, make political contacts, coordinate with agencies such as the public defender and local bar associations and work with judges and clerks of court. That has not changed much, Murphy said, although the explosion of technology has required district court administrators to be much more skilled. Today, they bring an impressive mix of academic credentials and court management experience to the positions.

“If I were applying today with the kind of credentials I had in 1978, I wouldn’t even get an interview,” Murphy said.

The lack of knowledge of the role of a court administrator led to some suspicion about what she would be doing. “Some saw me as a resource and a help; some saw me as a clerical person of some sort and others saw me kind of as an auditor for the state, there to check up on everybody. . . a fox in the hen house.”

Her gender fed the assumption made by some that she was a clerk/typist. “A woman, unless you had the black robes on, was assumed to be clerical. It’s remarkable how much that has changed,” she said.

In spite of the obstacles she sometimes faced, Murphy said a number of judges and clerks of court—and especially the Director—mentored her. They gave her information on how each judge worked and provided tips on how to work with, and talk to, judges. “It requires an acknowledgment right up front of the accomplishment of being in that position. Some deference to that, and the very hard work that they do, in order to communicate effectively with judges,” she recalled being told. “It was very, very good advice that has served me all through my career.”

While court administration is no longer her primary focus, Murphy intends to stay close to the courts and is hoping to consult on court projects around the country. She looks forward to watching the courts adapt to meet the changing needs of society over the next couple of decades. ❖

## Judges Join Sentencing Committee

*Continued from page 1*

Wells, on the bench in Milwaukee County for 17 years, has been a deputy district attorney and an associate professor at Marquette University Law School. Wells is former chairman of the Wisconsin Sentencing Commission.

Judge Thomas H. Barland, Eau Claire County Circuit Court, is the committee chairman. Barland was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson. Also named to the committee: State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas; Professor Walter J. Dickey, University of Wisconsin Law School; Attorney General James Doyle; Greg T. Everts, Quarles & Brady, Madison; Sheriff Bradley Gehring, Outagamie County; Professor Thomas J. Hammer, Marquette University Law School; Senator Joanne B. Huelsman, R-Waukesha; Stephen Hurley, a criminal defense attorney in Madison; William I. Jenkins of Aurora Health Care; Judges Elsa C. Lamelas, Michael G. Malmstadt and Diane S. Sykes, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann; Correctional Center Superintendent Barbara Powell; Linda Pugh, Milwaukee Women’s Center, as a representative of crime victims, and Department of Corrections Secretary Michael Sullivan.

The committee’s charge is to design a uniform classification system so that each felony and class A misdemeanor is grouped



**Judge**  
**Elsa C. Lamelas**



**Judge**  
**Michael G. Malmstadt**



**Judge**  
**Diane S. Sykes**

with crimes of similar severity. The committee will recommend how best to consolidate all felonies into a single criminal code, determine how to set up a sentencing commission that will develop sentencing guidelines, and propose ways to set up temporary sentencing guidelines to bridge the two systems. They will also consider proposing changes to the administrative rules of the Department of Corrections to ensure that a person who violates a condition of extended supervision is returned to prison promptly and for an appropriate period of time.

The committee’s report is due by April 30, 1999. ❖

# WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

## 1999 Judicial Education Program Calendar (tentative)

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>  <b>Elder Law</b> February 17-19 Holiday Inn, Madison	<b>MARCH</b>  <b>Clerks of Circuit Court</b> March 16-18 Radisson Hotel, Madison <i>(For clerks, chief &amp; deputy chief judges &amp; district court administrators)</i>  <b>Municipal Judge Trial Seminar</b> March 25-26
<b>APRIL</b>  <b>Prison Tour</b> April 9 <b>Evidence Workshop</b> April 14-16 Valley Inn, Neenah	<b>MAY</b>  <b>Civil Mediation</b> May 2-7 <i>(Judges only; limited enrollment)</i> <b>Law &amp; Humanities</b> May 6-7 Lake Lawn Lodge, Delavan <b>New Municipal Judge Orientation/Institute</b> May 5-7 Heidel House, Green Lake <b>College Faculty Development Follow Up</b> May 10 The Pointe, Minocqua <i>(By invitation only)</i> <b>Traffic Seminar</b> May 18 <b>Criminal Law &amp; Sentencing</b> May 19-21	<b>JUNE</b>  <b>Domestic Violence Seminar</b> June 16-18 Ramada, Wausau
<b>JULY</b>  <b>Municipal Judge Special Topic Seminar</b> July 15-16 Valley Inn, Neenah	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>Judicial College</b> September 13-17 Wagon Trail Resort; Ellison Bay, Door County <i>(Judges only)</i>  <b>Municipal Court Clerks Seminar</b> September 16-17
<b>OCTOBER</b>  <b>Municipal Judge Traffic Seminar</b> October 14-15 Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva <b>Civil Law</b> October 27-29 Paper Valley, Appleton	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>  <b>Juvenile Law</b> December 1-3 Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva

\* A Bench/Bar Conference will be held January 26-28, 2000 at the Midwest Conference Center (formerly the MECCA) in Milwaukee. The judiciary will be lodging at the Milwaukee Hilton.

*More information will be forthcoming. ❖*

# The Third Branch

## Chief Justice

Shirley S. Abrahamson

## Director of State Courts

J. Denis Moran

## Editor

Amanda K. Todd

## Associate Editor

Karen Leone de Nie

## Contributing Writers

Kerry Connelly, David Hass,  
Judge Len Kachinski

## Editorial Committee

Hon. Michael J. Rosborough  
Vernon County Circuit Court

Gregg T. Moore

District 10 Court Administrator

Gail Richardson

District 5 Court Administrator

Carolyn Olson

Iowa County Clerk of Circuit Court

*The Third Branch* is a quarterly publication of the Director of State Courts office, providing news of interest to the Wisconsin Judiciary. Send questions and comments to: Amanda K. Todd, Court Information Officer, P.O. Box 1688 Madison, WI 53701-1688. Phone (608) 264-6256. E-mail: atodd@itis.com

# The Third Branch

Wisconsin Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 1688  
Madison, WI 53701-1688

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Federal Judicial Center Looking for Leaders

The Federal Judicial Center is collecting information from federal and state judges on leadership. The information may be used to develop a seminar and/or handbook, but the project is still taking shape.

Examples of leadership in opinions and decision making, in chambers, in the legal profession and beyond the courthouse doors are all needed.

Judges who would like to contribute their examples of leadership should write to: Leadership Project, c/o James Apple, Interjudicial Affairs Office, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002 or fax (202) 273-4019.

Any judge who contributes a leadership example is also encouraged to submit it to *The Third Branch* at the address below. Selected ideas may be reprinted in upcoming issues. ❖

## Judicial Conference to Feature "Healthy Pleasures"



*Dr. Marvin O. Kolb*

The 1998 Meeting of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference is slated for October 21 through 23 at the Holiday Inn-Holidome in Stevens Point.

The conference will begin with Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson's State of the Judiciary address. The Friday morning plenary session, called Life's Healthy Pleasures, will feature Marvin O. Kolb, M.D., M.S. Kolb, senior vice president of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, will discuss the health benefits that appear to come from pleasure itself, a prescription filled by the internal pharmacy of the brain.

The remainder of the conference will include a broad range of workshops. Judge Michael W. Nowakowski, Dane County Circuit Court, is this year's conference chairman. ❖

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