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Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson leads a joint informational meeting of members of the Court and two state legislative committees that handle justice-related topics. Seated next to the Chief Justice are Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend, and Rep. Jim Ott, R-Mequon, chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Court greets new legislators, committee members

By Nancy Rottier, Legislative Liaison

As part of its ongoing inter-branch relations program, the Wisconsin Supreme Court met in January with new legislators and members of two legislative committees that work on justice-related issues.

On Jan. 22, the Court held an informational and “get acquainted” session with the members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee.

The hour-long meeting was designed to discuss issues of mutual concern and to allow members and justices to ask relevant questions. Issues discussed included the expected agenda for the committees, the role of treatment courts, regulation of attorneys and the diploma privilege.

Additional meetings are being scheduled with other relevant standing committees.

On Jan. 8, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson led a briefing session for

see [Legislators](#) on page 7

Statewide approach to coordinating problem-solving courts taking hold

The Director of State Courts Office, in an effort to implement recommendations included in the *Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin: A Report of Findings and Recommendations* report, recently hired a statewide problem-solving court coordinator and was awarded a grant to engage in a project to develop and implement statewide drug court performance measures.

Shelly Cern, former PPAC policy analyst, was hired to serve as the state problem-solving court coordinator in the Office of Court Operations. The Office of Justice Assistance awarded the Director of State Courts Office grant funding to provide for this position. Building on the findings of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) report *Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin* and the Treatment

Alternatives and Diversion evaluation report, the problem-solving court coordinator will be a resource to local problem-solving courts and will work to advance statewide initiatives. Specifically the coordinator will work to encourage adherence to best practices for local treatment courts; assist local courts to develop their current programs and launch new treatment courts as needed; help to ensure accurate, effective data collection efforts; and otherwise help establish Wisconsin as a leader in the treatment courts community.

In partnership with the NCSC, the Director of State Courts Office applied for and received a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance to develop standard performance

see [Problem-solving](#) on page 6

Roggensack, Fallon advance to spring election

Justice Patience Drake Roggensack and Marquette University Law Professor Ed Fallon advanced from the Feb. 19 primary and will compete in the April 2 spring election for the Supreme Court. Roggensack received 231,822 votes, compared to Fallon's 108,490. Milwaukee Atty. Vince Megna was eliminated in the only statewide race on the primary ballot with 22,391 votes.

Primary elections also were held for circuit court seats in three counties on Feb. 18.

In Dodge County, Family Court Commissioner Joe Sciascia and Watertown Atty. Joe Fischer are moving on to the spring election for the Branch 3 seat being vacated by Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette, who announced his retirement (see related story). Atty. Dawn Klockow of Beaver Dam was eliminated in the primary.

In Manitowoc County, District Atty. Mark Rohrer and Manitowoc Municipal Court Judge Steve Olson will compete on April 2 for the Branch 1 seat vacated by Judge Patrick L. Willis, who retired last fall. Private practice Atty. Steven Weber and Assistant District Atty. Bob Dewane were eliminated in the primary.

In Milwaukee County, Circuit Court Judge Rebecca G. Bradley and Assistant District Atty. Janet Protasiewicz advanced to the April 2 spring election, eliminating Atty. Gilbert Urfer from the ballot for the Branch 45 seat.

In all, the names of 29 candidates will be on the ballot for circuit court seats in 21 counties. ■



Director's column: Budget lapse would hamper courts

By A. John Voelker, Director of State Courts

As I stated in my speech at the Judicial Conference, I think the courts provide great value to the people of Wisconsin. The courts play a crucial role in the quality of life and the economic health of all Wisconsin communities. There are myriad reasons for this, but let me name just three.



A. John Voelker

First, businesses are attracted to places where the courts are able to fairly and timely resolve their disputes and the disputes of their employees and customers.

Second, independent, non-partisan courts contribute to the welfare of all the people and the political health of the state.

And third, the courts help keep our communities safe and peaceful by resolving criminal cases and settling disputes, including family disputes that cannot be resolved independently - all this for less than one percent of the state budget. As a third branch of government, our responsibilities are great, but our budget is small.

Unfortunately, the courts' ability to continue to provide this level of value could be significantly limited if the budget pending before the legislature is approved. The 2013-15 budget currently being considered by the Legislature includes a \$17 million reduction to the courts' budget, which would be the largest reduction in court system history. We are in the process of determining how these cuts could be implemented, but I don't think any of the options are desirable.

The \$17 million reduction would cut deep. There is very little flexibility in our budget because it is heavily driven by personnel and other fixed costs. For example, at \$189 million over the biennium, the circuit courts' budget is 70 percent of total court system funding, and is primarily made up of elected judges and other statutorily mandated positions that can't be cut.

Also included in the 70 percent are payments to the

counties. In our current budget we had to reduce county payments by an additional 10 percent to meet our lapse requirement. We may need to make additional reductions to counties' payments; the reductions being considered by the Legislature are two and a half times greater than the current budget.

We are asking the Joint Committee on Finance to delete \$10.3 million of this lapse requirement. Let me explain why and how this large reduction in our budget occurred. Provisions of 2011 Act 10 required judges and employees to contribute more toward their own retirement and health insurance coverage. For court system employees, this added up to \$10.3 million. Because we initially received that amount from the general fund to cover the costs in the 2011-13 budget, we ended up with a surplus of that amount. As a result, we will return these excess fringe benefit savings to the general fund by June 30 to close out the biennium.

Moving into the 2013-15 state budget being considered, employees will continue paying these added costs on their own, and accordingly, the court system will not receive that amount from the general fund. However, the 2013-15 budget under consideration would require the court system to continue lapsing the \$10.3 million.

It is this \$10.3 million additional reduction in the 2013-15 budget that really causes significant concern. The other \$6.7 million reduction is considerable, but manageable.

The court system has taken numerous lapses and cuts over the last 14 years, and each time we have met our commitment. This has not occurred without sacrifice. But the lapse being considered is unprecedented and of a larger magnitude. As the Joint Committee on Finance and the Legislature begin budget deliberations in the coming weeks and months, it will be imperative that they understand the extent of the negative impact that these cuts will have on the operation of the courts around the state. No matter how capable our judges and staff, they cannot be effective unless adequate resources are provided. This communication effort, combined with on-going efforts with the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association to increase judicial compensation, will make for a very busy next couple of months. A critical next couple of months. ■

Stark appointed to Court of Appeals



Judge Lisa K. Stark

On Feb. 13, Gov. Scott Walker announced the appointment of Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge Lisa K. Stark to the District III Court of Appeals. Stark will take office on April 23, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gregory A. Peterson last November.

She is running unopposed for the seat in the April election.

"I have been honored to serve and really enjoyed my time on the

bench in Eau Claire County and have been privileged to be involved in many activities that I believe have really enhanced the effectiveness of the justice system," Stark said. "However, I am looking forward to this new opportunity."

Stark was first elected to the Eau Claire County Branch 1 bench in 2000. She currently serves as dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association, as presiding judge for the Eau Claire County Drug Court, on the Eau Claire County Treatment Court Advisory Board, and as president of the Eau Claire County Restorative Justice Project. ■

RETIREMENTS

**Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette
Dodge County Circuit Court**

When he first ran for the Dodge County Circuit Court Branch 3 bench 24 years ago, Judge Andrew P. Bissonnette said he ran on a platform of hard work and respect for those who appeared before him.



Judge Andrew P.
Bissonnette

“It was easy for me to select that platform because I had had the good fortune to practice a number of years in the courtroom of Henry G. Gergen here in Dodge County,” Bissonnette said. “What experts are now recommending that judges do, Henry Gergen was already doing over 30 years ago. . . looking people in the eye, making a connection with the people he was dealing with, treating them with respect, etc.”

As he plans for his retirement at the end of his current term this July, Bissonnette said he is proud

of the fact that he has stayed true to those campaign promises.

“I never took the path of least resistance,” Bissonnette said. “I took the longer path that gave me the opportunity to have the most impact with the people appearing before me.”

Bissonnette said he believes in order to make a positive difference in the lives of those in his courtroom, it took patience, time and effort, and a willingness to invest himself in each case and to make a connection. He remains inspired by the idea of procedural fairness, which was emphasized during a session at last year’s Judicial Conference.

Looking back on his judicial career, Bissonnette said one of his more memorable and high-profile cases involved a prison inmate on a hunger strike. The inmate complained that the restraint chair the Department of Corrections was using to hold him in place while force-feeding was causing pain and swelling in his wrists. Bissonnette ordered the chair in question to be brought in to the courtroom, and then asked to be strapped in. In his 64-page ruling, Bissonnette ordered the Department of Corrections to stop force feeding Warren Lilly. The case was reported on by state, local and national media.

Bissonnette said he has also tried throughout his career to handle each plea and sentencing as if it were his first. One sentencing that has always stood out to him involved what was described as a mercy killing of a mentally ill woman committed by the victim’s husband. After killing his wife in her sleep, the husband cleaned her up, changed her clothes, and then put her in bed in a comfortable position. He turned on their favorite music and then collected the items they had on loan from the public library. He left the items in the kitchen with a note asking the police to return them so they would not be late, before he went to the police station to turn himself in. At his sentencing, the victim’s family asked Bissonnette to ensure that he be let out as soon as possible, because he was a kind man, who had truly loved and had always cared for his wife.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Wyoming Law School, Bissonnette worked in

private practice before his election to the circuit court in 1989. He has served on the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, Wisconsin Judicial College faculty, Juvenile Jury Instruction Committee, Judicial Conference Legislative Committee, the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Commission, and is a past president of Restorative Justice for Dodge County.

Bissonnette said he hopes to continue to be involved in the judicial system, through mediation, reserve judge work, or as a guardian ad litem. He also plans to travel with his wife, spend time with his grandchildren, and to spend more time biking and kayak fishing.

**Judge Jacqueline R. Erwin
Jefferson County Circuit Court**

After serving as assistant district attorney and district attorney for Jefferson County, Judge Jacqueline R. Erwin said she was surprised by how much she enjoyed her time in the family and children’s court while serving on the Jefferson County Circuit Court Branch 3 bench.

“I didn’t expect to feel that way with a criminal law background,” she said.

Erwin retired from the bench on Jan. 7, after almost 23 years.

According to the *Watertown Daily Times*, she is the longest serving circuit court judge in the county’s history. She said she is proud of her hard work and how much she learned, and enjoyed serving the people of the county and state.

“Here, I helped families through a difficult time, at critical tipping points in children’s lives and those are the cases that I will take with me,” Erwin told the *Daily Times* of her time in the family and children’s courts.

During her time on the bench, Erwin said she noticed a decrease in the county’s crime rate. Unfortunately, she said she also was aware of the increase in the number and severity of child abuse and neglect cases before the court.

A graduate of UW-Madison and Gonzaga Law School, Erwin was first appointed to the circuit court in 1990. She has served on the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Judicial Conference Executive and Planning Committees, and the Reducing Recidivism Jail Project.

“I always tried to hold myself and the lawyers to a high standard,” Erwin told the *Daily Times*, “so we got a good outcome and I always believed it was best to do the right thing the first time so I was pretty persnickety on the rules. I always tried to meet a high standard and do it right the first time.”

“A retired colleague told me that he misses doing good,” Erwin said. She said she believes she’ll find that to be true. But she will pass the time by playing more tennis, fly fishing, auditing courses and volunteering, and the arrival of her first grandchild this spring should also help keep her busy. ■



Judge Jacqueline R.
Erwin

OBITUARIES

**Judge William J. Duffy
Brown County Circuit Court**

Former Brown County Circuit Court Judge William J. Duffy passed away on Feb. 25. He was 96. Duffy was first elected to the circuit court in 1968, and served until his retirement in 1992. He continued to serve as a reserve judge after he retired.

A graduate of St. Norbert College and UW Law School, Duffy served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was stationed in the South Pacific during World War II, according to an obituary. After the war, he worked in private practice in Green Bay. He was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1948, and served until 1951.

While on the bench, Duffy served as chief judge for the Eighth Judicial District. He also served on the faculty at UW-Green Bay from 1970-75, teaching labor law, and was the first president of the Green Bay Voluntary Commission on Human Rights and a member of the Governor's

Commission on Human Rights.

"He was a man of great integrity and probably one of the kindest and gentlest human beings I have ever had the privilege of knowing," Chief Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder, Brown County Circuit Court, told the *Green Bay Press Gazette*. "He was especially attuned to the average man and woman, and he went out of his way to be sure his courtroom was the people's court.

I learned much from him, and as a judge, I hope to live up to his standard."

Duffy is survived by his five children and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth. ■



Judge William J. Duffy

CCAP upgrades call center phone system

By Jean Bousquet, Chief Information Officer

Don't be alarmed the next time you call the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) support line and you don't hear a familiar voice on the other side saying, "CCAP support, how may I help you?"

Instead, you'll be greeted with an automated message: "Thank you for contacting the CCAP Call Center. For software related calls please press 1. For hardware related calls please press 2. If you are unsure, press 0. For training purposes, this call may be monitored or recorded."

Simply press the appropriate number, and you'll be quickly routed to your friendly CCAP support person.

During the month of March, the CCAP Call Center phone system is being upgraded to help us provide even better customer service. An important component of a successful call center is the ability to quickly match callers with a staff member with the proper skills to assist them. The new interactive voice response phone system automatically routes calls and streamlines the process of getting you to the CCAP support staff who can best solve your problem or answer your question.

The new system delivers many benefits for CCAP and CCAP customers. For example, the system automatically identifies the caller based on the caller's phone number. Callers no longer need to identify themselves and their county or office each time they call. A new call ticket is automatically created in the call tracking system, saving call center staff time and allowing them to quickly focus on call resolution.

In addition, when a customer calls, a log of any previously unresolved calls is available to call center staff to provide a complete picture of all issues the caller has been experiencing. Callers do not need to write down call ticket numbers for reference, and call center staff have all available information at their fingertips as they assist callers.

One of the biggest challenges any call center faces is accurately predicting call volume. Without the right tools, determining staffing requirements based on call volume and a required technical skill set can be a complex and, oftentimes, flawed process. The new system provides CCAP management with additional statistics and metrics to

ensure we meet call demands without under- or over-staffing the call center. The ability to quickly add staff as demand increases is another feature this system brings to the call center.

An effective communication tool for widespread system outages is another exciting component of the phone system upgrade. These types of outages cause a high volume of calls, as many users simultaneously call in to report the same problem. Call center staff become overwhelmed as they respond to the increasing number of calls, while at the same time trying to address the outage, as well as other calls unrelated to the outage. The new system allows CCAP to create a location-specific voice message to inform callers that we are aware of a county-wide outage and to provide our anticipated resolution time.

Our singular goal for the new phone system is to save you valuable time by helping CCAP resolve your problem more efficiently. If your experience with the new system doesn't meet your expectations, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Customer Services Manager Andrea Olson at (608) 264-6908 or andrea.olson@wicourts.gov. ■



CCAP Senior Business Process Analyst Mary Hellenbrand working in the CCAP Call Center, which is now using an automated prompt to more directly route calls.

LEADERSHIP

Judicial college sets foundation for judges

By Hon. Lisa K. Stark, Eau Claire County Circuit Court

Harvey Firestone, founder of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, once said: “The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.” As judges in Wisconsin we have the opportunity to embrace that calling through our participation in judicial education, particularly at the Wisconsin Judicial College.

The Wisconsin Judicial College has been in existence for 45 years. It is unique among judicial education programs nationally in several ways. First, the college is offered live, allowing the participants to learn in an interactive, stimulating environment with immediate feedback provided on topics of interest to all involved. Judge Jennifer D. Dorow, who joined the Waukesha County Circuit Court bench in 2012, indicates she particularly enjoyed the breakout session discussions and the hands-on experience offered in the family law and maintenance sessions at the college.

Second, new and experienced judges participate together. We have found judges learn best when they learn from each other as well as from instructors. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mel Flanagan has taught at the Judicial College since 2004 and is currently an associate dean. She notes, “I enjoy working with a mix of excited new judges and experienced judges. The interplay is fun and challenging as you work to draw out the new judges and allow the experienced judges to share some of their vast knowledge.”

Finally, the college is managed by deans and taught by faculty comprised of Wisconsin judges. As a result, the college provides timely information to the participants on issues that confront Wisconsin judges on a day to day basis.

“The dean and associates all work closely together to ensure that we provide the best week of programming and



The Judicial College class of 2012 included: front row: judges Barbara W. McCrory, Rock County Circuit Court; Carolina M. Stark, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Ellen K. Berz, Dane County Circuit Court; Tammy Jo Hock, Brown County Circuit Court; Rebecca Rapp St. John, Dane County Circuit Court; Jon M. Theisen, Eau Claire County Circuit Court; James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court; Jennifer D. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court; Thomas B. Eagon, Portage County Circuit Court; John P. Zakowski, Brown County Circuit Court; Phillip A. Koss, Walworth County Circuit Court; Mark A. Sanders, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; and John M. Yackel, Lincoln County Circuit Court; back row: judges Jason A. Rosell, Kenosha County Circuit Court; JoAnne F. Kloppenburg, District IV Court of Appeals; Timothy B. Boyle, Racine County Circuit Court; Lindsey Grady, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Michael J. Piontek, Racine County Circuit Court; Frank D. Remington, Dane County Circuit Court; and Michael H. Bloom, Oneida County Circuit Court.

activities possible to give the new judges a solid foundation to their judicial careers, and remind the experienced judges just why they took on this difficult and demanding job in the first place,” said Flanagan.

Dorow found “it was evident the faculty cared very much about our profession and they inspired us to achieve greater competence as well as to become involved all aspects of being a judge.”

There is a flow to the courses presented which is designed to help judges learn to live life on the bench. The college starts with a discussion on comprehensive topics such as case management, ethics and making a record, and transitions into more substantive areas such as criminal pretrial problems and procedure, evidence, jury issues and sentencing.

Throughout there is as much emphasis on how judges do

things as what they decide.

Of course, we have some fun along the way. Each year the new judges must prepare some form of entertainment for the attendees on “graduation” night. This year was no exception. The “Class of 2012” is shown above after providing their renditions of “Stupid Judge’s Tricks” and “The Top Ten Reasons People Know You Are a New Judge.”

One final benefit achieved through Judicial College participation is opportunity to form and nurture lifelong professional relationships and friendships. Many judges over the years have remarked that they formed close friendships with others in their first “class” as a new judge at the college. This year’s new judges have formed a listserv to exchange ideas and information. Many judges act as mentors and all are resources to one another as a result of their college interaction, thus assisting with our continued growth and development. ■

State Bar seeks volunteers for Law Day

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the State Bar of Wisconsin is seeking volunteer lawyers, including judges, to connect personally with Wisconsin students on [Law Day](#), May 1.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, and this year’s theme, selected by the American Bar Association, is *Realizing the Dream: Equality for All*. The occasion provides an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact it has had in promoting the

ideal of equality under the law.

Law Day is a great opportunity for lawyers to share their experiences with kids, said YLD board member and Law Day coordinator, Tony Turchik.

“This year we hope to increase the number of classrooms that participate. We need you to help us – Do you know a teacher? Do they want a lawyer to come and talk to their classroom? Do you want to volunteer?” Turchik said.

Lawyers and judges interested in participating should

see **Law Day** on page 14

AWARDS

Ashley, Gonring named 'Leaders in Law'

Two circuit court judges were among legal professionals recognized with Leaders in Law awards, presented by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* at a dinner in Milwaukee on Feb. 6. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Carl Ashley was honored for his work with the domestic violence court, a topic that he has frequently spoken about to other judges



Judge Carl Ashley

nationally. The *Law Journal* also recognized his work on the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee and as chair of the Effective Justice Strategies subcommittee.

"A good judge is someone who takes the time to learn what's really going on in cases, from all perspectives, and then structures a sentence that uses the most current research on how to address the various facets," Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court,

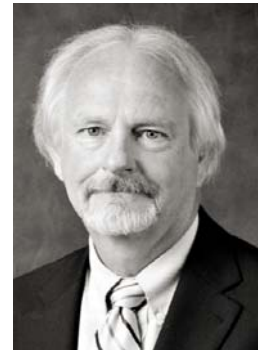
told the *Law Journal*. "A great judge not only does that himself, but also teaches and mentors other judges. That would be Carl."

"If you make your living off the community," Washington County Circuit Court Judge Andrew T. Gonring told the *Law Journal*, "you have an obligation to give back."

It's that commitment to the community he serves that the

Law Journal cited when honoring him. Gonring, who told the *Law Journal* he has tried to find a balance between community obligations and judicial duties since taking the bench in 2000, serves on the West Bend Full Shelf Food Pantry, the Cedar Community Foundation, and works with a local theater.

"I am still part of this community, and I try to give back to the community to the extent I can as judge," Gonring was quoted as saying. "People have to know that the person sitting on the bench, who is going to drastically affect their life, is a person who lives in their community and has the same concerns they do and not just someone reading a law book."



Judge Andrew T. Gonring

Also recognized with a Leader in Law award was UW Law School's Pro Bono Director Ann Zimmerman, who previously served as executive assistant to Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. Since joining the law school in 2011, Zimmerman has coordinated the Veterans Law Center, the Pro Bono Society, and the Indian Wills Caravan Alternative Winter Break project.

"My goal is to get more students involved," Zimmerman told the *Law Journal* about her role at the law school. "I want to reach all students. So I keep trying to come up with different ideas that will appeal to different groups." ■

Problem-solving *continued from front page*

measures for Wisconsin's drug and hybrid courts. This is a two-year award which began in October 2012. The primary goal of this project is to establish a functional and effective performance measurement system for Wisconsin drug and hybrid courts.

In January the NCSC staff brought together members of the PPAC Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee and a group of Wisconsin drug court stakeholders to begin the work to identify and define performance measures.

The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) is currently drafting model drug court standards. These standards lay out key components for the state's treatment courts regarding their treatment court teams, training, screening, assessment, case management, and management of courts in Wisconsin. These two efforts go hand in hand and will provide local drug courts with valuable tools to assess program effectiveness. The

measures will provide a method for assessing compliance with the model standards. Once the measures and standards are developed, the NCSC will sponsor a series of regional trainings to teach local courts how to implement the performance measures and model standards in their local drug court. ■



The Wisconsin Supreme Court and Committee of Chief Judges met to discuss issues of mutual interest during their annual joint meeting on Jan. 15 in Madison. Topping this year's agenda was problem-solving courts. Here, Chief Judge Randy R. Koschnick makes a point about how problem-solving courts may affect judicial workload.

Legislators *continued from front page*

more than 20 new legislators who were participating in the Legislative Council's New Legislator Orientation. Justices David T. Prosser and Michael J. Gableman also attended the briefing session in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.

The Chief Justice discussed the court system's interaction with the Legislature and ways in which court system personnel can assist legislators, and introduced court staff. Director of State Courts A. John Voelker outlined the administrative structure of the court system, and Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier reviewed the role of her office in presenting the court's position on pending legislation and in helping legislators answer questions they may receive from constituents.

Legislature Begins Session

The new Legislature was sworn in for its 2013-2014 term on Jan. 7. Republicans hold the majority in both houses: 18-15 in the state Senate; 60-39 in the Assembly.

A Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) profile of the Legislature indicates there are 24 men and nine women in the Senate, including two African-Americans. The average age of a senator is 57, making this the oldest Senate since at least 1943, with ages ranging from 32 years to 85 years. Twenty-six senators have prior service in the Assembly, and 17 senators have served as elected officials in local government.

The Assembly is made up of 75 men and 24 women, including three African-Americans and one Hispanic. Nearly half, or 48 representatives, have had experience in local elected office, according to the LRB.

Of the 132 members of the Legislature, there are 27 who are new to the Legislature, and nearly one-half of the members are in either their first or second session. It is the first state Assembly since 1985 in which a majority of members are in their first or second terms, only the second time this has occurred since 1973. Three senators and 11 representatives hold law degrees, although not all have been active in practicing law. ■



Justice David T. Prosser discusses the work of the Supreme Court during the Legislative Council's orientation program for new legislators with Legislative Council Staff Atty. Anna Henning and Rep. Debra Kolste, D-Janesville, as Legislative Council Staff Atty. Jessica Ozalp looks on.



Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson swears in Rep. Debra Kolste, D-Janesville, during a Jan. 3 ceremony in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.



Supreme Court Justice Patience Drake Roggensack swore in new members of the state Senate during a ceremony in the Senate Chambers at the Capitol on Jan. 3.



Among new members of the Legislature sworn into office by Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson (right) during January was Rep. Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (center), son of court system Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier (left) and husband Gary Goyke. Also pictured is Evan's girlfriend Gabriela Leija.



Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson discusses the work of the Supreme Court and the judicial branch with new legislators during the Legislative Council's orientation program for new legislators.

PPAC identifies funding, access among priorities

By Shelly Cern, Court Operations

At its November meeting the Wisconsin Supreme Court's Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC) gave the following issues its top priority for the 2012-14 biennium, based on the Planning Subcommittee's report *Critical Issues: Planning Priorities for the Wisconsin Court System 2012-2014*:

- Court System Funding
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Access to Justice
- Public Confidence

Four major themes continue to pervade each of the critical issues: budget constraints, technology, outreach and education, and collaboration. At its January meeting PPAC participated in a prioritization exercise to consider each recommended action within the report in regards to the feasibility of implementation and its importance to the court system. The initial list of recommended steps was included in the *Critical Issues 2012-2014 Report*. Below is the final list of priorities as adopted by PPAC.

Items considered very important to the court system and with available resources to implement:

- PPAC should reconvene a PPAC subcommittee on court funding to coordinate with the Chief Judge Subcommittee on Budgetary Planning, move forward with county audit information, determine how changes in court fees and surcharges have impacted other funding sources and analyze the list of unfunded court system needs.
- PPAC should identify effective strategies to improve communication about court system funding with the other two branches of government.
- The PPAC Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee should disseminate the inventory of offender service programs available to the courts that was contained in the *Enhancing Public Safety: Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin* report, and update the inventory annually.
- PPAC should collaborate with the Director of State Courts Office to provide technical assistance and continued training for judges on evidence-based practices.
- PPAC should collaborate with the Office of Judicial Education to train the judiciary, staff, and system partners on applying evidence-based practices in criminal, juvenile, children, and family court cases.

The following are important to the court system and resources may be available to implement them:

- PPAC should conduct a statewide survey that

measures public knowledge and perceptions of the court system.

- PPAC should publicize existing outreach programs and provide all judges and justices with accessible, up-to-date information on outreach programs.
- PPAC should increase the reach and effectiveness of outreach programs with court-system partners.

Items considered important to the court system but resources are not likely available to implement:

- PPAC should collaborate with the Wisconsin State Law Library to build on the public library partnership initiatives.
- PPAC should document and evaluate county level programming for self-represented litigants.

PPAC works with its subcommittees and the Director of State Courts to implement these priorities. The next meeting of PPAC will be joint with the Supreme Court. This meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon April 16 in Madison. The *Critical Issues 2012-2014 Report* and further information about PPAC, its subcommittees and initiatives can be found at:

www.wicourts.gov/about/committees/ppac.htm

PPAC Limited Scope Representation Subcommittee

In November, the Limited Scope Representation Subcommittee presented its Phase II recommendations to PPAC in the form of a draft Supreme Court rule petition and supporting memorandum. Specifically the subcommittee proposed rules on how a lawyer can provide limited legal services including the service of court documents, communications with opposing counsel, and assistance with drafting court documents. The rules provide guidance and help to ensure that limited scope representation supports and protects the interests of the client and the lawyer, both procedurally and ethically. PPAC expressed concerns about how the proposed rules apply in some criminal areas and felt the subcommittee's proposal needed to address this. The subcommittee is working with members of the criminal bar to further research these areas and to develop a recommendation for consideration by the subcommittee and PPAC. A revised petition will be presented to PPAC at its April meeting. ■

Questions about PPAC and its subcommittees may be addressed to Bonnie MacRitchie in the Office of Court Operations, (608) 261-7550 or bonnie.macritchie@wicourts.gov.

Milwaukee court begins scanning project

The Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court Office is embarking on a massive project scanning more than 7 million records contained in 350,000 court files. The project will include scanning of small claims, civil and family case types. John Barrett, Milwaukee County clerk of circuit court, submitted a proposal under Supreme Court Rule 72 and received the approval of the Director of State Courts Office to scan files into the county record keeping system called OnBase. The Milwaukee County Board included the funding for the project in the 2013 budget.

The scanning project is an archival project. The office of

the clerk of circuit court continues to update its records by scanning current documents into the CCAP system. This first phase should be completed by mid-summer.

The project will reduce costs for storage and retrieval of files. It will also help make room for the expansion of the Milwaukee Justice Center. The Justice Center serves self-represented litigants navigating the courts in Milwaukee. It is a private-public partnership among Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Bar Association and Marquette University Law School. Last year it served almost 11,000 individuals. ■

NEW FACES

Bonnie MacRitchie has been hired as a policy analyst in the Office of Court Operations. MacRitchie staffs the Supreme Court's Planning and Policy Advisory Committee and its related subcommittees, as well as the State-Tribal Justice Forum. She also works on *pro se* issues and manages the grants information center. MacRitchie replaces former Policy Analyst Shelly Cern, who has accepted a new position in Court Operations as the first statewide problem-solving court coordinator.

MacRitchie was previously employed as the program coordinator for Dane County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), where she trained and supervised community volunteers who work as advocates for abused and neglected children. Prior to her work with CASA, MacRitchie worked in the office of former Gov. Jim Doyle

as the assistant to the legislative director and as a constituent services caseworker. MacRitchie also spent a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer where she developed a volunteer program focused on developing pre-literacy skills in preschool-aged children. She holds a master's degree in public service management from DePaul University and a bachelor's degree in political science and legal studies from the UW-Madison. ■



Bonnie MacRitchie

Milwaukee opens Veterans Treatment Initiative

Milwaukee County marked the opening of the new Veterans Treatment Initiative and Treatment Court with a courthouse ceremony on Dec. 5, 2012.

The Veteran's Treatment Initiative (VTI) links justice-involved veterans with evidence-based services to address their needs and divert them where appropriate from the traditional criminal justice system and to provide them with the tools they will need to lead productive and law-abiding lives.

The VTI combines programming provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other veterans organizations with court oversight and accountability all tailored to the risk and needs of the veteran. Successful completion of the program allows the veterans to address their needs and often avoid the stigma and hardship of a criminal conviction and associated penalties.

The VTI is a collaborative effort involving the State Public Defender, Milwaukee County District Attorney, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, VA, Center for Veterans Issues, Dryhootch, Justice 2000, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Wisconsin Department of

Corrections, Milwaukee Police Department and the Center for Applied Behavioral Health Research at the UW-Milwaukee.

In a press release announcing the VTI, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Glenn H. Yamahiro, who presides over the court, said "these collaborative efforts will assist veterans in their struggle to overcome addiction, enhance mental health, and ensure that they successfully access the assistance available to them that they have earned through their service to the country."

Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, said the collaborative team "found a way to acknowledge the special challenges many of our veterans face by linking the benefits of Drug Treatment Court with services available from the VA. It is a small measure of the appreciation we owe our veterans for the service they have provided to our country."

Milwaukee County District Atty. John Chisholm and the head of the State Public Defender's Milwaukee Trial Office, Tom Reed also lauded the new VTI. ■

Grants boost First District partnership on supervised visitation and safe exchange

The city of Milwaukee's Office of Violence Prevention received a nearly \$400,000 grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) for a Safe Exchange/Visitation program. The partners are the city of Milwaukee, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Children's Hospital of Milwaukee-Community Services and the First Judicial District.

Deputy Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Dwyer and First Judicial District Deputy Court Administrator Beth Bishop Perrigo are members of the core planning group for the grant. "We are grateful to the city of Milwaukee for pursuing this funding and allowing the Milwaukee courts to be a partner," said White. "We do not currently have access to such services and we have a large need."

This first year is a planning process and it is the hope of

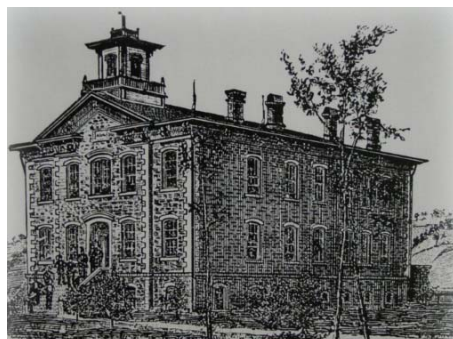
the city of Milwaukee to begin providing visitation services in the fall of 2013. With expertise gained through the assistance of OVW, a strong development team, and the ability to leverage resources in the future, the city hopes to replicate safe exchange sites in other Milwaukee County locations.

Additionally, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services has received total funds of nearly \$50,000 primarily from the Children's Trust Fund for safe exchange of children in family cases. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin has more than a decade of experience administering supervised visitation services for families involved in the child welfare system in Wisconsin. The program site is located within the Parklawn Family Resource Center, where services were implemented in February. ■

Crawford County Courthouse remodel reveals deep history of local justice

By Nancy A. Dowling, Register in Probate/Juvenile Court Clerk, Crawford County

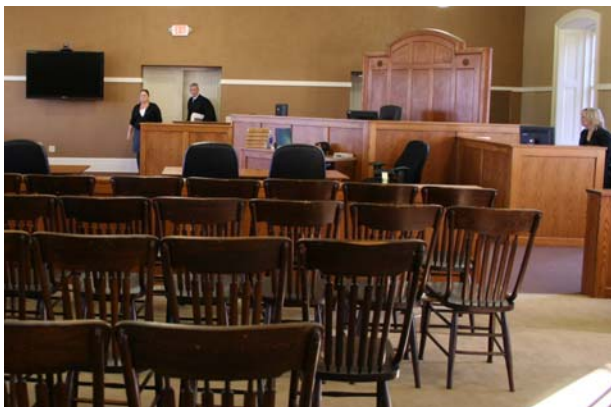
In October 2011, Crawford County (one of Wisconsin's original counties) began the process of remodeling their historic courthouse, the oldest section having been erected in 1867 and an addition evoking a distinctly Georgian quality added in 1930. Established in 1818 as one of three territorial counties (comprised of present-day Wisconsin and portions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Minnesota), Crawford County precedes statehood by 30 years. The 1867 courthouse (built for \$23,000) was constructed in the center of an expansive tree-filled lawn (purportedly on the foundation of an 1843 structure) and combines the distinctive rectilinear formality of the Italianate style with the warm color and rough texture of dolomitic limestone, which was hauled from the nearby village of Bridgeport.



Although the Crawford County Courthouse recently underwent interior remodeling, the exterior remains similar in appearance to this drawing from 1867.

The most dramatic feature of the building is hidden in the basement of the old structure—the “dungeon,” which was built in 1843 and served as a territorial prison. Built in catacomb-like fashion with low vaulted ceilings, thick limestone walls, and poor natural illumination, the jail is composed of a series of squat cells with heavy iron bars and doors. The dungeon was used as a jail until 1896 and reflects an era when prison conditions were rarely more than dark, dank cells incongruously housed only a short distance from the grandeur of the courtroom—a visible reminder in 19th century Crawford County of the swift process of justice and the intricate connection between the judges and the judged. This rare example of a mid-19th century penal facility still exists today and the cell cubicles and chains make it apparent that only the hardy could have survived this manner of confinement.

In 2005, the county's administrative offices moved from the courthouse to the new Administration Building. At this time, the Public Property Committee asked to have a space needs study completed of the courthouse and a proposed timeline



Crawford County Circuit Court Judge James P. Czajkowski and Court Reporter Carol Hobart enter the newly remodeled main courtroom, where Family Court Clerk Lisa Miller is seated (right). The old gallery chairs, built in the late 1800s, were retained and still serve as seating.

for the remodel; this was updated in 2011 and at that time the process for the courthouse remodel was initiated. With the last major upgrade having been completed in 1930, the courthouse no longer met the needs of our civil and criminal justice system—the boiler was archaic, the

electrical system was no longer reliable in supporting modern technology, the building was cooled by window air conditioners, the original windows were drafty and cold during the winter, lighting was inefficient, and ADA facilities were limited or nonexistent. The goal of the remodel was to strengthen security, improve public accessibility, upgrade energy performance/efficiency, and enhance the functionality of the court. At the same time, the county wanted to retain the aesthetic character of this veteran building, which is listed in both State and National Registers of Historic Places.

After numerous department and public property meetings with the architect and engineer, a \$2 million budget (\$300,000 for the boiler and \$1.7 million for the courthouse remodel) was approved in May 2011; plans were adopted in August and bids were let, but came in over budget. The architect worked with the low bidder to cut costs, the County Board approved borrowing an additional \$375,000,

see **Remodel** on page 17



Jail cells that were used to hold inmates during territorial days remain intact in the basement of the Crawford County Courthouse after a recent courthouse remodeling project. Informal jail tours in an area known as “the dungeon” have become popular, especially on Halloween.

WISCONSIN CONNECTS

Judges help celebrate award winners during Mission Week

Milwaukee judges were among those who helped celebrate Opus Prize humanitarian award winners as part of Marquette University's Mission Week.

The Opus Prize is a \$1 million faith-based humanitarian award established by the chairman of a Minneapolis construction firm to recognize those who have helped to combat social ills anywhere in the world. For the first time, eight living recipients of the Opus Prize and relatives of two deceased winners were gathered in one place to reflect on their lives and missions.

One of the stops on their visit was the Milwaukee County courts where Dr. Jo Lusi and Nadine Lusi, the husband and daughter of deceased Opus prize recipient Lyn Lusi, met with Chief Judge Jeffrey Kremers, victim advocates and assistant district attorneys. The group also observed court proceedings in Presiding Judge Mary Triggiano's Domestic Violence Court and met with Deputy Chief Judge Maxine A. White to discuss family court operations.

Lyn Lusi received the Opus Award in 2011 for her work along with her husband in establishing the Heal Africa Hospital, which provides primary care, post-rape and sexual violence counseling and safe houses in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where mass rape continues to be used as a weapon of war.

White, along with the advisory board and directors of the House of Peace in Milwaukee, co-sponsored a reception and program for the 2008 Opus Prize recipient Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse, a woman who has seen the best and worst of humanity in Burundi, where civil war has claimed the lives of over 300,000 since 1993.

Barankitse founded Maison Shalom (which means House of Peace), a multifunctional service agency helping to heal and support 30,000 young people and families who are



From left to right: Deputy Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Nicole Camelli, a law student and Student Coordinator for the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic; Opus Prize Winner Maggy Barankitse from Burundi; Atty. Julie Darnieder, Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic Director; and Christine Ngomirakiza from Burundi.

emerging from two decades of civil war through the establishment of children villages around the country of Burundi. This model is also being replicated in Rwanda and the Congo. In 2008, she opened a hospital in eastern Burundi.

"Despite all of their amazing work, Ms. Barankitse and Nadine Lusi were interested in and toured the legal clinic and the nursing clinic at the House of Peace in Milwaukee to learn more about how to bring these services to the communities that they serve in the war-torn Congo and Burundi," White said.

White added that Marquette law student volunteers and professors, the UW-Milwaukee nurses, the Capuchin clergy, administrators and House of Peace board members expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to share their works with world visionaries and tireless servant leaders. ■

Grant helps Milwaukee move ahead with evidence-based practices

The Milwaukee County Community Justice Council (MCCJC) has been approved to submit a formal application for up to \$300,000 in technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to continue development and implementation of evidence-based practices in the justice system.

"This award secures Milwaukee County's position as one of the leading jurisdictions in the development of evidence-based practices in the United States," said Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers, Milwaukee County Circuit Court. "Sound

professional judgment has always been at the heart of any justice system. Research shows that when such judgment is augmented with the latest research it results in the best outcomes for victim safety, offender accountability and the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

The MCCJC is focusing on four areas for improvement: universal screening of all individuals booked in the County Correctional Center Central; mental health/crisis intervention training for police; diversion/deferred prosecutions; and dosage sentencing. The intended outcomes are that the system will become more effective, fair and efficient while improving public safety.

The MCCJC was established by Milwaukee County Board ordinance in 2007 to ensure a fair, efficient and effective justice system that enhances public safety and quality of life of the community. ■



Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers

Jackson County targets effective justice strategies

Judy A. Luttio, Juvenile Court Clerk/Deputy Register in Probate, Treatment Court Coordinator, Jackson County

Jackson County utilizes several alternative court programs in an attempt to lighten court dockets and to find more effective solutions for dealing with offenders.

Since its inception in 2000, Teen Court has heard more than 500 cases. During 2012, 34 teens served as jurors and seven adults volunteered as judges. As part of the program, Jackson County youth are provided with an alternative to appearing in court and paying a fine. They are required to return to Teen Court and serve on the panel as part of their sanction. Instead of parents being solely accountable, each teen is being held responsible for his or her actions, and this is demonstrated to the community through sanctions, such as community service.

In 2009, Small Claims Mediation was introduced. All contested cases go through mediation immediately following court with volunteer mediators who have settled approximately 75 percent of those cases. Also implemented in 2009 was the Adult Community Service Program. Created to help develop a meaningful way to save tax dollars, address jail overcrowding, and improve the community, it is primarily used as a sentencing option for ordinance violations, as well as some minor, non-violent criminal sentences in lieu of paying fines when a genuine hardship exists.

The Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program, or IDIP, provides intervention and monitoring to help break the pattern of drinking and driving. In addition to IDIP, also offered are Intoxicated Driver Programming and Underage Alcohol Violation Programming. The flagship of the alternative court programs is the Treatment Court, which was implemented in 2008.

Jackson County's newest venture is the Jackson County Collaborative Justice Coordinating Council. A \$50,000 grant in August of 2012 provided for a coordinator to assist in the council's mission to provide coordinated leadership to establish and foster innovative and effective programs and

design an integrated early intervention model that targets the needs of families affected by offenders' actions. An important goal of the council is to preserve the family unit whenever possible. It will work to address domestic violence through immediate intervention in the court system and speed permanency for the children involved.

Headed by an executive committee, the council has eight subcommittees, covering topics from workforce development, juveniles and families to resources and funding. Each monthly meeting is attended by people from interested departments and agencies. Several projects and initiatives are underway, including implementation of the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) assessment tool to measure risks and needs. Consideration is being given to the use of a Law Enforcement Proxy tool that can be used in arrest and detaining decisions by law enforcement as diversion referrals for low risk individuals.

A collaborative Welding Institute began in 2012. Expansion of the welding lab at the high school is taking place in order to accommodate up to 16 students. The welding institute is a collaborative effort of Black River Falls High School, Western Technical College, the state Department of Corrections and the county treatment court program, headed by Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Thomas E. Lister.

A steering committee is working toward implementation, policy and resource development and the associated needs assessments and volunteer pool needed for a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children program. Transitional and sober housing options are being addressed as well as transportation needs to help improve employment options. The collaborating council requires no county funding and is able to apply for another \$50,000 grant for implementation. ■

Court clerks and jurors alike to appreciate new Jury Management software

By Jean Bousquet, Chief Information Officer

Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) recently completed development of the new Jury Management software. Jury Management is a major rewrite of the current application and a migration to the new CCAP 3.0 web application framework. This is the fourth major system rewritten to this new web environment, following Bulk Scanning, Judicial Dashboard and 18 Case and Financial Maintenance applications. The new software offers users many new and modern features, built on a framework using advanced tools available to software developers. This translates to an application with a modern and intuitive look and feel.

The Jury home page provides jury clerks with up-to-date information about their jury pools, panels, jurors, expenses, cases and summary

information. While some of this information is available in the current application, the new application presents

see **Software** on page 17

Legislative study committees complete work

By Nancy Rottier, Legislative Liaison

While the Legislature was out of session, several Legislative Council study committees were at work. Four of the nine study committees were charged with investigating issues that will affect the court system. The committees met through the summer and fall to develop legislative proposals.

All of the study committees have completed their work, and the full Joint Legislative Council has recommended for introduction the bill drafts from the four committees dealing with issues affecting the court. Those bill drafts will be introduced as bills before the Legislature and must proceed through the entire legislative process in order to become law.

The four study committees affecting the courts are listed below, along with links to the website where the committee reports, drafts of legislation and other committee materials can be found.

Special Committee on Permanency for Young Children in the Child Welfare System

This committee, chaired by Rep. Samantha Kerkman, R-Powers Lake, was directed to study laws relating to permanency for children under the age of eight. Its goal was to determine whether modifications could be made to reduce the length of time it takes to achieve permanency and to improve outcomes. The committee completed its work on Jan. 24 at a marathon meeting during which it approved 12 bill drafts that have been packaged into three different bills.

Among the issues the committee approved were: provision of counsel for parents in Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) actions, including State Public Defender representation if the parent is indigent; elimination of jury trials in CHIPS and termination of parental rights (TPR) cases; revisions to TPR grounds based on continuing CHIPS; approval of certain post-termination agreements; and revisions to the “no reasonable efforts required” statutes.

Judge Christopher R. Foley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was a member of the committee.

Here is the link to the committee’s webpage:
www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/WELFR/index.html

Special Committee on Legal Interventions for Persons With Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias

This committee, chaired by Rep. Dan Knodl, R-Germantown, was directed to review and develop legislation to clarify the statutes regarding guardianship, protective placement, involuntary commitment, and involuntary treatment as they apply to vulnerable adults with a dementia diagnosis. The committee focused primarily on a response

to the case of *Fond du Lac County v. Helen E.F.*, 2012 WI 50.

The committee completed its work in December 2012 and has recommended a bill that creates a new subchapter in ch. 55, Stats. titled “Psychiatric and Behavioral Care for Individuals With Dementia.” The new subchapter applies to the provision of behavioral and psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis, services and treatment and the involuntary administration of psychotropic medication to individuals with dementia to address or alleviate symptoms or conditions associated with dementia, mental illness, and other psychiatric conditions.

Judge William E. Hanrahan, Dane County Circuit Court, was a member of the committee.

Here is the link to the committee’s webpage:
www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/ALZ/index.html

Special Committee on Supervised Release and Discharge of Sexually Violent Persons

This committee, chaired by Rep. Pat Strachota, R-West Bend, was directed to review the current process for granting supervised release and discharging persons who have been committed as sexually violent persons under ch. 980, Stats. Its finished product has been recently introduced as Assembly Bill 28.

The bill would, among other provisions, assign the burden of proof regarding supervised release criteria to the petitioner; extend the timelines within which a court must hold a supervised release hearing or discharge trial; alter the criteria that a committed person must show

before a court may grant supervised release; and repeal s. 980.075, Stats., and relocate other statutory sections.

Judge Michael O. Bohren, Waukesha County Circuit Court, and Judge Rebecca F. Dallet, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, were members of the committee.

Here is the link to the committee’s webpage:
www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/SVP/index.html

Special Committee on Reporting Child Abuse and Child Neglect

This committee, chaired by Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, was directed to recodify s. 48.981, Stats., Wisconsin’s child abuse and child neglect reporting requirements, in order to consolidate related provisions, modernize language, and resolve ambiguities in language. It also was charged with recommending changes to the current mandatory reporting law.

The committee’s final report recommended a bill that



Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael O. Bohren discusses the process that governs supervised release of sexually violent persons with members of a Legislative Council study committee that examined the topic. Bohren served as a committee member and provided testimony on the topic.

Couples head to courthouses for easy-to-remember anniversary date

Couples across the state headed to local courthouses to be married on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012 (12-12-12), a date that occurs only once every 100 years.

Brown County Clerk of Court Julio Garcia told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that five couples were wed in the Brown County Courthouse on that special date.

"I'm not a superstitious guy, so when I first agreed to perform the service, I was admittedly, completely oblivious to the significance of this date for some people," said Dane County Circuit Court Judge William E. Hanrahan, who performed one of the 20 12-12-12 weddings in Dane County.

"Since the crowd was buzzing in anticipation, I wanted to make sure that I didn't screw it up, yet, despite the couple's obsession with the date and time, they hadn't considered whether the service should start at 12:12 p.m., whether the vows should be exchanged at that precise moment, or whether I should pronounce them husband and wife at that time."

According to WISN-TV, Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County courthouse typically hosts about six weddings on a



Deputy Chief Judge Maxine A. White officiates one of many weddings that took place on 12-12-12.

weekday afternoon. On 12-12-12, almost 30 couples were wed there.

"Very exciting and very different from an ordinary day in my courtroom," said Deputy Chief Judge Maxine White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, who performed several of the weddings.

White, the presiding judge in the Family Division, is far more likely to preside over a complicated family case

than officiate at a wedding. She said it was a very happy day at the Milwaukee County courthouse to see so many people committing to each other.

According to First Judicial District Deputy Court Administrator Beth Bishop Perrigo, the tradition of "special" wedding days began in the Milwaukee County courts over a decade ago when staff decided to donate decorations, cookies and candy to make it a special day for those marrying on that day.

"It is also a favorite day of the local media who seem to enjoy covering a happy event and are often waiting for the courtroom door to open," Perrigo said. "On Valentine's Day, 2013, 38 weddings were scheduled, a new record." ■



Peggy Spencer of the Supreme Court's Office of Management Services and Brad Andrew (a/k/a Shutterbox the Clown) were married on Feb. 16 during a ceremony in the center ring at the Zor Shrine Circus at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Madison. Bill Weigel of the Office of Lawyer Regulation, who is also a municipal judge, performed the ceremony.

Law Day *continued from page 5*

contact Turchik by e-mail at LawDayWI@gmail.com.

ABA-sponsored Law Day activities are just part of the court outreach and education resources available to judges and lawyers who want to help improve students' understanding of the judiciary, courts and legal system.

The website iCivics.org makes available a wide assortment of curriculum-aligned educational games and teaching materials, including classroom volunteer guides,

that also could be used on Law Day. Many judges and lawyers have created their own lessons and activities, such as mock trials with students, to promote understanding of the law and legal system on Law Day.

Additional resources for teachers and anyone else interested in helping teach about the courts can be found on the Wisconsin court system's website www.wicourtgs.gov under the [educational resources](#) link. ■

PEOPLE

A Dec. 2, 2012 editorial in the *Wisconsin State Journal* encouraged state leaders to embrace the idea of more treatment to keep offenders with drug and alcohol addictions and mental illness out of prison.

Accompanying the editorial was a photo of Racine County Circuit Court Judge **Gerald P. Ptacek** applauding the success of a participant in that county's alcohol and drug treatment court program.



Judge Gerald P. Ptacek

"The latest call for more treatment to keep offenders with drug and alcohol addictions and mental illness out of prison is welcome," the editorial read. The newspaper cited a recent report by a group of churches touting more treatment as the best way to reduce Wisconsin's prison population and save money.

"The report proposes spending \$95 million a year on treatment and support services. That's a lot of money. But if successful, the group's plan could save twice that amount by keeping more people off drugs and alcohol and out of prison," the *State Journal* opined.

A Jan. 29 *Boston Globe* article chronicled some of the challenges faced by District II Court of Appeals Judge **Mark D.**

Gundrum and his wife, **Mary**, as they welcomed their new son, **Dominic Pio Gundrum**, into the world.

Dominic was diagnosed before birth with two rare medical conditions. About 20 weeks into the pregnancy, an ultrasound showed what appeared to be an



Judge Mark D. Gundrum

encephalocele, a portion of the brain outside the skull. Doctors told the Gundrums that the baby might not make it to birth, may die soon after, or may be severely disabled, the *Globe* reported.

After researching online, the Gundrums connected with Dr. **John Meara**, the plastic surgeon in chief at Boston Children's Hospital who had successfully operated on a Haitian child with the same condition. Meara told the Gundrums things would be OK, but he said the ultrasound also revealed that Dominic had a Tessier facial cleft, in which the sides of the head and face do not properly fuse.

Dominic was born June 18 at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee with both conditions evident. About four months later the Gundrums decided that Meara would perform surgery to address the conditions. However, the family (now with eight children) first had to find a way to make it all work logistically – in Boston – during the holidays.

Thankfully, a suburban Boston family with whom Gundrums connected through a home-schooling network offered their home for a month. Other families provided meals and brought groceries to help the Gundrums.

Doctors were thrilled with the initial result of a

complicated surgery — the encephalocele turned out to be mostly filled with fluid, and the halves of Dominic's face were successfully brought together, according to the *Globe's* report. However, complications ensued and Dominic remained in the hospital a month, including three weeks that were spent in intensive care. Dominic is now home with the rest of the Gundrums, along with a robot that Meara sent to help monitor Dominic's progress.

Problem-solving court programs in Brown County have helped delay a costly jail expansion, according to a *Sheboygan Hub* article. Programs such as the drug court and veterans court have helped to keep the jail population lower, allowing the county to put off plans to spend an estimated \$34 million on expanding the 11-year-old facility, the article states. According to the article, almost two dozen offenders have been diverted from jail since the drug court program began operating in 2009. The veterans court program has already had 12 participants and 10 in the referral process since it began less than a year ago.

Chief Justice **Shirley S. Abrahamson** urged legislators to support more problem-solving court programs for individuals battling addiction and mental illness at a recent meeting with Senate and Assembly judiciary committees, the *Superior Telegram* reported.

"They reduce prison time and jail time and keep people safe, and safer maybe than prison because these people don't repeat crimes as frequently," Abrahamson is quoted as saying.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. **Glenn Grothman**, West Bend, said he thinks the committee will address treatment programs, but the main priority this session is family issues, like child support and domestic violence.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* recently reported that

see **People** on page 16



On Feb. 6, Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson addressed members of the Wisconsin Counties Association during the group's 2013 Legislative Exchange in Madison. The financial partnership between Wisconsin counties and the state court system provides a justice system with a high rate of return on investment for the people of Wisconsin, Abrahamson said. The state invests less than one penny of every state tax dollar to support the judicial branch of government, including trial courts in all 72 counties and two levels of appellate courts.

PEOPLE *continued from page 15*

Racine County received a \$116,000 grant for its Second Judicial District's Veterans Treatment Court. The grant comes from the Office of Justice Assistance and will be used for staffing, testing and monitoring of participants and program evaluation. The veterans court program launched Nov. 14, 2012, and serves veterans in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties by pooling resources from all three counties.

Two of Wisconsin's problem-solving court programs were highlighted in the National Association of Drug Court Professionals All Rise Weekly Media Round-up newsletter. Brown County was featured in a *Green Bay Press Gazette* article that focused on three graduates' success stories. The newsletter also highlighted a column by David Wallace in the *Wausau Daily Herald* supporting an initiative to create a OWI court in Lincoln County.



Judge Timothy B. Boyle

Two Wisconsin judges recently made the news with their creative sentencing of men who were repeatedly delinquent on child support payments.

The *Racine Journal Times* reported on Racine County Circuit Court Judge **Timothy B. Boyle's** sentencing of a father of nine who owes almost \$100,000 in back child support. In addition to three years of probation, Boyle ordered the man not to have any more children until he could prove that he could support that child in addition to the nine he already has.

"Common sense dictates you shouldn't have kids you can't afford," Boyle said, according to the *Journal Times*.

In a similar case, the *Duluth News Tribune* reported that



District Court Administrators (DCA) Andrew M. Graubard (middle) and Michael Neimon (right), along with a local friend (Dr. Emon Das (left)) promoted public trust and confidence by joining the masses at the 2013 Polar Plunge down at Bradford Beach, Milwaukee for a quick swim in Lake Michigan on New Year's Day. The air temperature was a balmy 12 degrees, wind chill at 3 degrees and the temperature of the water was 42 degrees. Both DCAs survived the chilling swim with all limbs intact. As you can see in the picture, Neimon even brought his Wisconsin Supreme Court Director's Cup to show his pride in the Wisconsin court system. Also noteworthy is that Graubard did not receive any harm for wearing Philadelphia Eagles garb.



Judge Eugene D. Harrington

Washburn County Circuit Court Judge **Eugene D. Harrington** not only ordered a man not to procreate until all of his back child support has been paid, but also ordered him to reveal that he is a convicted felon and owes back child support within three minutes of meeting any female. In addition, the other conditions of the man's two-year probation require him to maintain full-time employment, keep up on his child support payments, and seek treatment and counseling.

In its 2001 ruling in *State v. Oakley*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court found that a judge can order a defendant not to procreate until he or she can support the child, since the condition does not eliminate the constitutional right to procreate.

"Something as important as a courthouse remodel or a new courthouse is something that should be looked at carefully and judiciously," Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge **Michael O. Bohren** told the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. The *Law Journal* reported that the county has agreed to spend money on a study to determine if the county's current courthouse, which was built in 1959, needs to be remodeled, or if a new one should be built. Bohren, who has served as chair of PPAC's Subcommittee on Court Security, says the current building is outdated and poses some security concerns.

Deputy Chief Judge **Lloyd V. Carter**, Waukesha County



Judge Michael O. Bohren

see **People** on page 18



Dubbing themselves "Monty Python's Flying Circuits," circuit court judges James D. Babbitt (Barron County), Jeffery L. Anderson (Polk County), Jennifer L. Weston (Jefferson County), and Craig R. Day (Grant County), cast themselves into the frigid waters of Half Moon Lake in Eau Claire on Feb. 24. The Eau Claire event raised a record \$190,000 for Special Olympics and is one of many Polar Plunge events around the state. A total of \$1,475 was donated to the Special Olympics, exclusively by Wisconsin judges.

Software *continued from page 12*

information to the users rather than making them hunt for it. The home page provides a single screen for clerks to view and manage their essential information about juries and jurors. Jury clerks not only see how many jurors are scheduled to appear on upcoming jury panels, but they can also verify summonses were sent to those jurors. Along with easier navigation from the home page, hyperlinks are available throughout the system, allowing jury clerks to view and edit information throughout Jury Management without having to open multiple windows.

New features have also been included in the rewrite. For example, text messaging and e-mail reminders have been incorporated. Prospective jurors completing their jury questionnaire online can provide e-mail and cell phone information as part of the process. Jury clerks can then easily send a text or e-mail message to these prospective jurors reminding them when to report for jury duty. Another new feature is a new “all-in-one” process that allows jury clerks to select and send jurors to *voir dire* in a single step. A jury clerk simply selects the number of jurors for a specific case, and all forms including the preemptory challenge, panel member list, *voir dire* list, and seating chart are automatically generated and ready to send to the courtroom along with the jurors.

Jury clerks throughout the state were active in this year-long redesign process. CCAP used webinars and surveys to guarantee this new approach would meet the business requirements and processes used throughout the circuit courts. Clerk expertise was invaluable as a fresh approach was taken to the design and information flow of this application. In October, most jury clerks made a trip to Madison to participate in a day-long classroom training session where they had a hands-on opportunity to “kick the tires” on the new system. Overall the feedback from the

clerks was very positive, and they helped to reengineer processes in the software that needed improvement.

“These training sessions were invaluable not only for the jury clerks but also the CCAP staff who had an opportunity to hear about the various nuances that make up jury management throughout the state,” noted Tim Duggan, CCAP project supervisor. “Taking the time to work with jury clerks during the development process should result in a product that doesn’t need major refinement as we implement statewide.”

Jury Management software was piloted in Winnebago County on Feb. 22. During the first week, Winnebago staff had an opportunity to use many of the features in the system while CCAP staff were on site to assist. Clerk of Circuit Court Melissa Konrad said “Jury 3” will be a great tool in streamlining jury duties for the clerk.

“The system is very user friendly and will save time and money. The system is working wonderfully. Our first time using Jury 3 we had three trials go off without a hitch. The CCAP support was fantastic. New and experienced users agree the new jury software was much easier to use, more intuitive, and we’re glad to be the pilot county!”

CCAP will continue to roll out this new application throughout the state and staff will be on-site in each county to offer training and assistance. Because jury trials will not always be calendared during the implementation, CCAP staff will also be available to work remotely with jury clerks after implementation to ensure a smooth transition for each county. A second Jury Management release is currently underway and includes new features, enhancements and bug fixes. CCAP will continue to commit resources to this project to ensure that a successful migration can occur in each county. ■

Remodel *continued from page 10*

and demolition actually began in December 2011. After staff was relocated, the remodel was accomplished in phases. Of note, although change orders were costly and the project was delayed because new plaster was very slow to dry (due to the dolomitic stone walls), the county saved an estimated \$32,000 in sales tax on direct owner purchases, received a Focus on Energy Grant of approximately \$10,000, and saved on labor expenses by utilizing the Highway Department, prison work crews, and jail inmates.

We take great pride in the finished remodel project. Entering through the main entrance on the first floor, the public may take either the elevator or the stairs up to the second-floor courtroom. This is the main courtroom and comprises the top floor of the 1867 building—it is simple and elegant, with the judge’s bench dominating the room. The flavor of the 1800s is retained in the original tin ceilings, the oak woodwork and the gallery seating (chairs also from the late 1800s). The original gallery was large enough to allow for the construction of two conference rooms at the public entrance to the courtroom and a secure walkway on the north side of the courtroom for escorting prisoners in and out.

The video conferencing television and cameras were wall-mounted and speakers installed in the jury box and

throughout the courtroom. A private doorway was installed behind the bench to allow secure access/egress to and from the courtroom for the judge. The second floor of the 1930 building, which is accessed from the front of the courtroom or from the south stairway of that building, has been made a secure area and provides space for chambers and a private washroom, as well as space for a visiting judge, court reporter, judicial assistant, and the jury room with adjacent restrooms.

Down the hallway, the public will find all other offices (Clerk of Court, Register in Probate/Juvenile Clerk, Juvenile Court Worker, District Attorney, Victim-Witness Coordinator, and restrooms) on the first floor, which are now easily accessible. In addition, there is a smaller courtroom and two conference rooms on the first floor. Added security measures include an alarmed door on the first floor at the base of the south staircase (restricting public access to the second floor), numerous ceiling security cameras on both floors (being viewed at the Sheriff’s Department at all times), as well as duress buttons located in offices and courtrooms on each floor. The remodel successfully combined the gentle dignity and quiet repose of a 145-year-old building with the needs of today’s court system, elevated security, and fast-paced technology. ■

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Judge Lloyd V. Carter

Circuit Court, agrees in the article that security issues need to be addressed, particularly where the security screening takes place. Currently, the metal detectors and scanners are in the courthouse's lobby. "If there's a security breach, it's already in the building," Carter said. Another issue that needs to be addressed, according to the article, is the number of levels of access. Right now, there is one area accessible by the public, and one area the judges, court staff and inmates share. Ideally, there would be areas for judges and court staff separate from the inmates to access the court rooms.

Heightened security measures means longer lines to get into the Milwaukee County courthouses, according to an article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Milwaukee County Clerk of Court **John Barrett** recommends people plan to arrive 30 minutes early to allow time for the screenings. The *Journal Sentinel* reports that the new security measures are a result of a failed test, where a deputy posing in plain clothes was able to pass through security screenings with a concealed weapon.

"The security check has become an exercise in going through the motions," the paper quotes from a news release from Milwaukee Sheriff **David A. Clarke Jr.**

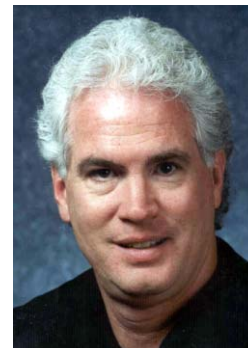
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would add probation agents and parole agents, plus certain school (including college) employees and volunteers to the list of professionals who are required to report suspected child abuse and neglect; improve training courses; and amend the definitions of "physical injury" and "neglect" for the purposes of reporting child abuse or child neglect. This proposal has been introduced as Senate Bill 18.

Judge Mary Triggiano, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, was a member of

Individuals entering the courthouses must now remove their shoes and belts, and show their waistbands.

Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge **Philip M. Kirk** has been featured in the book *67 Conservatives You Should Meet Before You Die*.



Judge Philip M. Kirk

While Kirk said he has never used that label to describe himself, the book's author, **Burt Prelutsky**, cites Kirk's comment while sentencing a man convicted of sexually assaulting other men. Kirk told the defendant, who insisted he was not gay, "I think you were born gayer than a sweet smelling jock strap." Also featured in the book are U.S. Rep. **Paul Ryan**, Journalist **Bernard Goldberg**, actor **Gary Sinise**, former U.S. Rep. **Newt Gingrich**, and political commentator **Charles Krauthammer**.

Gov. **Scott Walker** announced plans for a proposed Family Justice Center in Milwaukee to serve those families and victims who are dealing with domestic violence, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported in February.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and Sojourner Family Peace Center are partnering on the center which will provide coordinated services in a proposed 78,000-square-foot facility to be built at 619 W. Walnut St. The building would include an on-site 56-bed shelter for families, the newspaper reported. ■

the committee.

Here is the link to the committee's webpage:

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/ABUSE/index.html. ■

For more information or to submit suggestions to the Judicial Conference's Legislative Committee, please contact Nancy Rottier, legislative liaison, at nancy.rottier@wicourts.gov or (608) 267-9733.