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Summer 2010

John E. Wallace Jr: Jurist, Coach, Family Man *Reflects on His Life and Five Decades as a Lawyer, Judge and Supreme Court Justice*



John E. Wallace Jr

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

John E. Wallace Jr. had one request of then-Gov. James E. McGreevey when the former governor told him of his intention to nominate him as a justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court.

McGreevey had summoned the veteran jurist to Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion, in April 2003 to interview him for a seat on the state's highest court.

At the end of the interview, Wallace asked McGreevey when he would make a decision.

"I asked how soon are you going to make your decision," Wallace said. "He said, 'I made it and it's you.'"

Then Wallace asked McGreevey a favor: Could the governor announce his decision so that it would not coincide with a Little League baseball game he was scheduled to coach.

The governor honored Wallace's request. Following his confirmation by the state Senate, Wallace was sworn in the following month.

"I had such high regard for our Supreme Court," Wallace recalled. "To think I was going to be part of that made me the happiest guy in the world."

Wallace, 68, stepped down from the Supreme Court on May 20, capping a legal career that began as an attorney after his graduation from Harvard Law School and included stints

as a Municipal Court, Superior Court and Appellate Division judge.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner spoke about Wallace's commitment to family and public service in remarks to the New Jersey State Bar Association in May.

"Justice Wallace's service to the court was grounded by all of those things, marked by scholarship that appears in the body of work and the opinions that he leaves behind, which speak for themselves, by a deep sense of respect for litigants, by the wisdom that he consistently displayed in his handling of challenging issues that came before him as a judge and a justice, and anchored at all times by a sense of grace with his hallmark smile and touch of humor," the chief justice said. "His civility is but one part of a life of integrity and character that have made him a role model for so many."

A native of Pitman, Gloucester County, Wallace decided to become a lawyer when he was a junior at the University of Delaware. A friend who graduated from Pitman High School a year before him encouraged Wallace to apply to Harvard Law School, prompting him to reject a job offer in labor relations at Chrysler in Newark, Del.

"I had a chance to get a paycheck or go to law school," Wallace said. "I thought it would be a tremendous benefit to get a law degree. I could always get a job later."

Following his graduation from law school, Wallace worked as associate at the Philadelphia law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhodes and as an attorney for the trustees of the Penn Central Transportation Co. Wallace

Continued on page 2

Law Day 2010: 21st Century Traditions and Challenges

Editor's Note: Instituted by the American Bar Association (ABA) 51 years ago, Law Day (May 1) is observed each year throughout New Jersey by the Judiciary in partnership with county bar associations.

A special day set aside to focus on the American heritage of liberty under law, Law Day was officially designated by a joint resolution of Congress in 1961.

The event has grown over the years, with many counties hosting activities throughout the month of May. This year's theme

Continued on page 3

Justice Wallace Reflects on a Life of Service to New Jersey

Continued from page 1

served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970, attaining the rank of captain.

In 1976, he and three other attorneys formed the law firm of Atkinson, Myers, Archie & Wallace.

Wallace was just 30 when he was appointed municipal court judge in Washington Township, Gloucester County.

He said he was not daunted by his young age.

"I didn't think of it in those terms," Wallace said. "I just thought of it as an opportunity to be fair. There were important local decisions, and I didn't think about my inexperience. I was confident I could do a good job."

Wallace was appointed to the Superior Court in 1984 and was elevated to the appellate division in 1992. As a trial judge, Wallace sat in the criminal, civil and family divisions. He was assigned to the Gloucester/Cumberland/Salem vicinage and served



Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr. shares a light moment with Judge Glenn A. Grant, (left), acting administrative director of the courts, and Associate Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto (center) after the Supreme Court honored Wallace for his years of service.

on special assignment for two years in the Camden vicinage.

Wallace said he always judged each case on its merits and never second guessed his decisions.

"You just try to do your job in each case," he said. "You didn't have time to rethink what you did. Overall, I didn't think about the case once I went home."

When Wallace was nominated to serve on the Supreme Court, he thought back to his days as a student at Harvard Law School, when he read opinions rendered by the New Jersey Supreme Court. He said he realized that future law students would be studying and citing opinions he rendered.

"To think I was going to be part of the decision-making process, that was something that really made me proud," he said.

Wallace said he's never had second thoughts over a decision he's made as an associate justice.

"There are very few easy decisions," Wallace said. "You go through them and you make your best call. I felt very comfortable on all the decisions I've addressed."

Wallace said he was pleased with the

caliber of attorneys who have appeared before him over the years because it has made his job easier.

"The better the lawyer, the easier it is to decide the case, even if it's a difficult case," Wallace said.

During his 26 years as a judge, Wallace served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Task Force for Minority Concerns; the New Jersey Ethics Commission; the Judiciary Advisory Committee on Americans with Disabilities Act; the Supreme Court Special Committee on Matrimonial Litigation and the Appellate Division Rules Committee. He also served as chairman of the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Admissions.

Among the awards Wallace has received from respected civic and legal organizations, including the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey; the Orient of New Jersey Dedicated Service Award from the Valley of Camden; the Washington Township Board of Education Appreciation Award and the Van J. Clinton award from the Garden State Bar Association.

Continued on page 3

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The chief justice is Stuart Rabner. The acting administrative director of the courts is Judge Glenn A. Grant.

Please send short news articles, photos and suggestions to Mike Mathis, Editor, *Judiciary Times*, Office of Communications and Community Relations, PO Box 037, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton NJ 08625-0037 or via e-mail at Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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Law Day Celebrated in New Jersey With Lectures and Contests

Continued from page 1

was "Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges."

The following are but a few of the many high points of this year's observances

Atlantic/Cape May

On April 26, the court and the Atlantic County Bar Association honored the Holy Spirit High School Mock Trial team at the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building. Four days later, the court and the Cape May County Bar Association hosted Law Day activities at the Cape May County Superior Courthouse. Cape May County activities included an award ceremony and reception for Lower Cape May County Regional High School, the 2010 Cape May County High School Mock Trial champions; a law fair for the public with information booths staffed by court personnel and agencies and departments of Cape May County government and information sessions.

The following presentations were available to the public:

- Cyber safety and bullying by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office
- Seniors, alcohol and Medicare by Cape Assist
- Offenders with developmental disabilities by The Arc of New Jersey/Cape May
- Attorney Jeffery April of the law office of April & Maudsley spoke about presenting small claims cases in court.

On May 1, Criminal Division Manager Ramona Howze and Administrative Specialist Jeanne Seymour were at the Shore Mall in Egg Harbor Township to provide court information to the public. Included was an e-learning tutorial on how to navigate the Judiciary website, njcourts.com, and the Atlantic and Cape May counties' vicinage



Bergen Vicinage Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne addressed the audience during the Law Day ceremony in Hackensack. Doyne administered the Oath of Citizenship to 33 new citizens during the ceremony, which featured Associate Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto as keynote speaker.

Web pages.

An exhibit of historic photographs and other artifacts were displayed at the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building in Atlantic City.

Vicinage Training Coordinator Ellen Procida developed an online Bingo challenge for staff and judges to assess their knowledge of Judiciary facts and Law Day trivia.

On May 13, Judge Mark H. Sandson of the family division presided over a mock trial with Atlantic City Uptown Complex eighth grade students at the Atlantic County Civil Courthouse.

Judge Bernard E. DeLury of the criminal division presided over a mock trial with sixth grade students from Brigantine Elementary School on May 18 at the school. The Brigantine students won first place in the New Jersey Bar Association's mock trial competition with their entry, "Double Dose Disorder."

Bergen

Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto was the keynote speaker for Law Day on May 3. Rivera-Soto was keynote speaker at Bergen's

Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne welcomed the attendees and expressed appreciation for Rivera-Soto's return to the courthouse, referring to the justice as "a friend of the vicinage."

Continued on page 4

Justice Wallace Reflects on Long Legal Career

Continued from page 2

Wallace said he plans to spend his retirement with his wife Barbara, the couple's five children and four grandchildren.

He said he might consider performing mediation and arbitration work, but he will continue to be a presence on the diamond and on the gridiron.

Wallace also coached Little League baseball since 1970 and has volunteered on the football coaching staff at Washington Township High School since 1991.

"It's a nice exposure to young people I get to experience every year," he said.

Challenges of the 21st Century Focus of Law Day Activities

Continued from page 3

Rivera-Soto emphasized the importance of understanding the past as we move into the future. He described the history of Law Day and the questions regarding our rights to freedom and privacy in this digital era and changing times.

Doyle swore in 33 new U.S. citizens from 18 different countries, saying that "some might consider this the most important part of Law Day." He stressed the importance of voting as "a citizen's right, privilege and even obligation."

The moderator of the program was Judge Joseph Conte, who has adopted this role for the past 11 years.

Laura Lee Kreminski of the operations division sang a beautiful rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." Songs also were performed by the Ridgefield Park High School chorus.

Burlington

A total of 150 students descended on the Olde Courthouse to interactively participate in the Burlington Vicinage's growing Law Day program, Juror For A Day.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from seven schools were summoned to Burlington County to serve as jurors. Students who were not impaneled assumed courtroom roles such as defense attorney, prosecutor, sheriff's officers,

court clerks, and judge.

Participants attentively listened to the jury orientation given by Brenda Monaco from the jury management office. The most popular question was, "Do we get to keep the \$5 juror fee?"

Family Presiding Judge John L. Call, Jr. presided over the trial, which was written by law clerks. Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore served as moderator.

The case involved a student charged with criminal mischief in an alleged act of graffiti on a school building. Participants hailed the success of the program, and students left the courthouse saying they couldn't wait to be old enough to be 'really' summoned to jury duty.

A highlight of this year's celebration was a program coordinated by the Burlington County Bar Association Criminal Practice Committee that commemorated the judicial legacy of a Burlington County native, the late Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes.

Members of the Hughes family shared anecdotes. Superior Court Judge Paul W. Armstrong of the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage and Seton Hall Professor John B. Wefing discussed the famous Karen Ann Quinlan right-to-die case, a landmark of the Hughes Court.

Other events included Fun Fest at the Burlington County College's Pember-

ton campus;

A senior exposition; a Law Day dinner sponsored by the bar association; a panel discussion hosted by the Association of Black Women Lawyers; a landlord and tenant seminar sponsored by the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns; the shadowing of judges and court staff by high school students and a ceremony to honor the winners of the Law Day art contest.

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage developed two programs that focused on Technology and the Law. Superior Court Judge Darryl Fineman presided over a special court session in recognition of Law Day on April 27.

Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio recognized mock trial participants who received their certificates of appreciation.

Fineman spoke about the challenges those in the legal profession face because of technological developments.

His presentation was followed by a presentation by Dianna Casner, a forensic scientist with the New Jersey State Police. Casner discussed how technology is used to investigate crimes. She showed actual pictures of crime scenes.

On May 24, Superior Court Judge Harold U. Johnson Jr. visited Salem High School, where he led a discussion that focused on privacy issues regard-

Continued on page 5



Participants in Burlington Vicinage's program on the judicial legacy of Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes were (from left) Kevin Walker of the Burlington County Bar Association; Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder; Judge Paul W. Armstrong of Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage; Helen Hughes Patterson; Judge John J. Hughes and John B. Wefing.

Editor's Note

The deadline for the fall 2010 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Sept. 3.

Feature stories about court programs and newsworthy profiles about judges and court staff are welcome.

Current stories and information about court staff and events and submissions of awards, honors, promotions and appointments are sought for *JT Briefing*, the Judiciary's monthly e-newsletter.

Speeches, Seminars and Expos Mark Law Day 2010 in N.J.

Continued from page 4

ing e-mail, texting, computer cameras, and phones equipped with cameras in school and in the workplace.

Essex

In its 14th consecutive year of celebrating Law Day, Essex Vicinage continued its tradition of educating the future leaders of our community with its annual mock trial program, student awards ceremony and poster and writing contests.

Essex County judges, attorneys and sheriff's officers visited 43 schools to lead students through a mock trial on April 21.

Members of the Law Day committee wrote an original fact pattern about a high school student who falls down a manhole while texting and sues the company that she alleges negligently caused her injuries. This fact pattern allowed participating students to think about the legal implications of this year's Law Day theme.

For the second year, Professor Laura Cohen and her students from Rutgers Law School-Newark joined Anthony J. Frasca, presiding judge of the municipal courts, in conducting a mock trial for the students at the Essex County Youth Detention Center.

The Law Day committee also held its art and writing contests in which local students created posters, poems and essays inspired by the Law Day theme.

The winning entries were showcased in the Law Day calendar, which begins with May 2010 and ends with May 2011.

The calendar also features the technology and law focused theme with important historical dates and court cases involving the Internet, cell phones, social networking sites and illegal downloading.

Law Day festivities concluded on the afternoon of April 21 with the student awards ceremony. Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello and representatives from the Essex County Bar Association recognized the students who submitted

the winning posters, poems and essays.

The judges, attorneys, students, teachers and court staff in attendance also received copies of the Law Day calendars.

Hudson

This year's Law Day activities kicked off with 10 high schools that participated in a Mock Trial competition at the courthouse. Students heard a fictitious criminal case involving a kidnapping. The winner was McNair Academy in Jersey City. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner presided over the final round.

Students submitted artwork, rap, essays and poetry relating to this year's Law Day theme. The artwork was displayed on the second floor of the administration building for the month of April. The winners were formally recognized at the Law Day Award Ceremony.

The 2010 Court Night Program, which was held on April 28 consisted of seven free legal workshops covering topics such as internet fraud prevention, immigration; landlord/tenant issues, juvenile offender prevention; divorce; child support and expungement of a criminal record.

The Law Day awards ceremony was held on May 3 in the rotunda of the Justice William J. Brennan Courthouse.

Winners of the mock trial competition, art, photography, essay, rap, poetry contests and Liberty Bell Award were formally recognized. Earlier in the day, the Vicinage EEO/AA Committee hosted a mini Mock Trial and a historic courthouse tour.

The keynote speaker was Det. Neil Reynolds of the Bayonne Police Department's Internet Fraud Squad. Reynolds spoke about internet safety, predators, and legal responsibilities for texting other students.

The final event in celebration of Law Day was the juror education/appreciation program on May 11.

A total of 300 jurors had an opportunity to be part of this event, which included guest speakers, a PowerPoint presentation, continental breakfast, songs by the Judiciary Voices in Unity and educational games.

Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli discussed the importance of the legal system and the important role that jurors fulfill in the legal process.

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, made a guest appearance and expressed his appreciation for the role of jurors in the legal system.

Continued on page 6



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Judge Mark A. Baber preside over the final round of the Hudson County Mock Trial competition. McNair Academy of Jersey City bested Weehawken to advance to the regional semi-finals in New Brunswick.

Law Day is Celebrated in Courthouses Around the State

Continued from page 5

Mercer

More than 100 students participated in the Law Day program, which was held on May 7 at Trenton Central High School West.

Assignment Judge Linda Feinberg explained the rules and responsibilities of judges and addressed the importance of technology and diversity in the courts.

Nick Travisano, vice president of the Mercer County Bar Association, was a big hit with his presentation of the "Hey, I'm 18!" program, which explored many legal areas of significance at age 18, including drinking and driving laws and credit card and contract agreements.

Students participated in an interactive game, "Going Green," which focused on educating and promoting awareness of ongoing global challenges and environmental concerns.

Student teams consisted of the G7 countries, (United States, United Kingdom; Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and France), and BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China).

Middlesex

Middlesex Vicinage held its Law



Morris/Sussex Vicinage Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis and Associate Justice Jaynee LaVecchia participated in Law Day activities in Morristown.

Day event on May 1 in conjunction with the closing plenary session of the 2010 National Conference and Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. The event was hosted by the New Jersey Judiciary.

The event was highlighted by a formal recognition of Lenworth Gunther, whose keynote address at the Middlesex Vicinage Law Day event two years ago earned him the American Bar Association's 2008 Judge Edward R. Finch Law Day Speech Award. Gunther spoke on the significance of the rule of law in conflict resolution.

He emphasized to the students and conference attendees that no matter how much society changes, the rule of law remains the important ingredient that brings order to society.

Superior Court Judge Nicholas Stroutmos delivered the proclamation address. Students selected as winners in the Creative Expression contest on the theme "Exceptions to the 4th Amendment to create global safety for air travelers" presented their work and received awards during the Law Day ceremony.

Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage joined the

Monmouth Bar Association for a formal Law Day ceremony in the restored general equity courtroom in the Hall of Records in Freehold.

Speakers included Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Monmouth Bar Association President Robert A. Honecker Jr.

"This year's Law Day theme charges us with balancing two converse principles," Lawson said. "Besides renewing our commitment to the legacy of the rule of law, we must also bring about its transformation to keep pace with modern times."

State Sen. Sean T. Kean delivered the keynote address.

Award presentations included the Daniel J. O'Hern Mock Trial Award to Colts Neck High School as winners of the Monmouth County High School Mock Trial Competition, and the Abraham J. Zager Professionalism Award to Richard T. O'Connor.

Lawson and Kean presented plaques to the student winners of the Law Day 2010 poster and essay contest, which was sponsored by the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The highlight of the celebration was the unveiling of a portrait of the late Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. O'Hern by his former law clerks. The Office of the Ombudsman and Self-Help Resource Center hosted several community outreach seminars in May.

A seminar on pro se divorce was presented in conjunction with Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services.

The seminar provided the public with information on the steps involved in preparing and filing divorce complaints and on the divorce process. The center also offered two workshops on filing post-judgment divorce motions.

Morris/Sussex

Morris/Sussex Vicinage celebrated Law Day in both counties with

Continued on page 7

Vicinages Celebrate Law Day with an Array of Activities

Continued from page 6

traditional ceremonies honoring the freedoms and protections of our American legal system, as well as the vital interconnection between the court and the community it serves.

In Morristown, the public, judges, court staff, and county and bar officials enjoyed the sunshine on the courthouse lawn during noontime ceremony on May 30. The Morristown High School Vocal and String Ensemble, directed by Norma Davis, delighted the audience with various musical selections, including the national anthem at the start of the program.

Associate Justice Jaynee LaVecchia spoke on the Law Day theme by focusing on intolerance as a never-ending threat to our founding principle of liberty.

LaVecchia reminded the audience that “it is easy to take for granted the blessings that flow from the liberties we enjoy,” but that “disrespect for individual rights not favored by the majority” and “reluctance to provide for the equal treatment of persons who have been made to feel differently by society” challenge our system of law and justice.

LaVecchia urged the audience to meet the challenges of the 21st century by living up to “the standard of conduct that our constitutional documents evoke: respect for the spirit of liberty, personal freedom, and justice for all.”

Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, Morris County Freeholder Douglas R. Cabana and Debra Weisberg, president of the Morris County Bar Association, also addressed the audience.

Alan Iskra, president of the Morris County Bar Foundation, recognized the five-time county Mock Trial winners, West Morris Mendham High School, and noted that they have won the state competition and are now moving on to the nationals this month.

The Law Day celebration in Sussex County was held on May 29 at the historic Sussex County Courthouse in Newton. The program included a performance by the Law Day Brass Band



Judges William A. Daniel and Lisa F. Chrystal, Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Judge Frederic R. McDaniel pose with Melissa Perez, Taylor Andrews and Avril Thrlik, winners in the poster and poetry/spoken word/rap contests. .

and recognition of the Sussex County Mock Trial winners from Kittatinny Regional High School.

Judge N. Peter Conforti was awarded the 2010 Law Day Award by the Sussex County Bar Association for his years of distinguished service on the bench.

Passaic

Excitement filled the room on Law Day in the Passaic Vicinage as U.S. District Court Judge Jose L. Linares administered the Oath of Citizenship in County Administration Building in Paterson.

“Law Day provides us with an opportunity to teach the importance of the Rule of Law, to strengthen our country’s heritage of liberty and justice by promoting a knowledge of and appreciation for the law,” Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr. said.

“As we combine our Law Day activities with the annual naturalization ceremony, it provides us with an opportunity to be mindful of our heritage and thankful to be citizens of this great nation,” he said.

Law Day activities began with an essay, poster or photo contest for middle school and high school students as part of the vicinage Law Day contest.

All schools represented in the contest also were invited to participate in the Law Day Mock Trial, which focused on

cyberbullying. Students who submitted winning entries to the contest and schools deemed outstanding in the mock trials were invited back to the Law Day celebration on May 7.

The May 7 program included speakers on cyberbullying, participation in the naturalization ceremony.

Municipal Court judges, prosecutors and members of the Passaic County Bar Association visited schools throughout the county in May to talk to students about the Judiciary while highlighting this year’s Law Day theme.

Union

Union Vicinage held its Law Day celebration on May 12 in Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy’s courtroom.

Judge Frederic R. McDaniel, co-chair of the Minority Concerns Advisory Committee for Union Vicinage and chair of the Law Day program, presided over the celebration along with Cassidy.

The keynote speaker was Arnold Djondo of the New Jersey Orators, who delivered an original speech titled “The Difference a Belt Can Make.”

Andrew J. Gibbs, a member of the Union County Bar Association, presented the Mock Trial Award to Oratory Preparatory High School in

Continued on page 8

Drug Court Conference Features Workshops and Testimonials

By **Maurice Hart**

Statewide Drug Court Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts

The third annual New Jersey Drug Court Conference was held in the spring at the Sheraton in Eatontown, Monmouth County.

The theme of the conference was "Drug Court, the Winning Team."

A total of 417 Drug Court team members from adult, family and juvenile Drug Court programs as well as judges, prosecutors, public defenders and treatment providers attended the conference.

The conference faculty included New Jersey and national experts in the fields of treatment, legal issues and science-based interventions.

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, encouraged those in attendance to continue doing the work necessary to make Drug Court successful.

West Huddleston, CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, spoke about the great work of Drug Courts on a national level.

He revealed for the first time a personal story that inspired him to fight to ensure that there is a Drug Court within reach of any American in need.

New Jersey Public Defender Yvonne Smith-Segars moderated a panel of Drug Court graduates who spoke about where they were before Drug Court, where they are now, and the role Drug Court played in their success.

Conference evaluations showed that hearing from the graduates inspired team members to continue their work and dedication to the Drug Court program.

Steve Wilkins, chief of the Organizational Development and Training Unit, equated the work performed by Drug Court team members are doing with the work of missionaries.

He said those in attendance were saving lives as well as saving money.

The 25 workshops covered topics such as the continuum of care in treatment, confidentiality and ethics and toxicology.

Carol Venditto, statewide Drug Court manager and Kevin M. Brown, assistant director for probation services, presented the adult, family and juvenile Drug Court teams in each of the state's 21 counties with awards of appreciation. The program was developed by the New Jersey Drug Court Training and Professional Development Committee.

New Jersey Courthouses Host Law Day Activities

Continued from page 7

Summit, winners of the Union County Mock Trial Competition.

Union County schools competed in essay, poetry/spoken word/rap and poster contests on the Law Day theme. The winning schools were Charles J. Hudson School 25, Elizabeth High School, Nicholas Murray Butler School 23 and St. Genevieve's School, all in Elizabeth. The Charles Hudson School Band opened the event with a number of musical selections, including "The Star-Spangled Banner." Judge Lisa F. Chrystal led the assembled crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

As part of the Law Day outreach, an informational fair was held. Staff from civil, criminal, family, human resources, the Union County clerk, Union County surrogate and the Union County Board of Elections provided information to guests and court users.

The vicinage sponsored the event with the Union County Bar Association; Union Vicinage Minority Concerns Committee; Bar Foundation of Union County; Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association; Garden State Bar Association and Hispanic Bar Association.



Pictured at the Drug Court conference are Christine Thomas; Steven Wilkins, chief of the Occupational Training and Development Unit at the Administrative Office of the Courts; April Watson; Dannetta White; Carol Venditto, Maurice Hart and Harvey Bailey.

This story was written and reported by Lawrence Bethea; Jane P. Carey; Cheryl Cohen; Sandra Lopez; Donna Mazzanti; Kathleen Obringer; Janie Rodriguez; Theresa Romano; Shazeeda Samsudeen; Linda Wiggins; Ida Jackson Woods and

Did You Know?

The Judiciary uses Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to communicate the work of the courts to the public and court staff?

The Judiciary uses RSS feeds and SMS text alerts to inform users about court news, closings and Supreme Court decisions.

To sign up for these services, go to njcourts.com and look for the icons under "Here's the Latest" on the right side.

Showing Librarians How to Navigate the Judiciary's Website

By **Mike Mathis**

Judiciary Times Editor

The Judiciary and the New Jersey State Library have joined forces to provide training to librarians to help them assist patrons to find information about the court system on the Internet.

"Libraries and the Judiciary – Partnering to Promote Access to Justice" is designed to enhance access to justice and promote cost effectiveness at libraries by offering information, tools and materials.

Four regional training sessions were held in June in Clark, Union County; Cherry Hill, Camden County; Parsippany, Morris County and Shrewsbury, Monmouth County for librarians and library staff.

Among the topics covered were the roles of public libraries in the access to justice movement; the Judiciary ombudsman program; navigating the Judiciary's website, njcourts.com; using Judiciary law libraries as resources, the basics of conducting legal research and navigating the Web to better serve patrons with legal questions.

These library training programs are the first of their kind in New Jersey," said Nancy L. Gramaglia, manager of Litigant Services at the Administrative Office of the Courts.



Linda Wiggins, ombudsman in Union Vicinage, demonstrates how to navigate the Judiciary's website during a session at the Cherry Hill Public Library.

"Never before have we brought together the Judiciary, the state library, the Office of Legislative Services Library, Legal Services of New Jersey and county and local libraries," Gramaglia said. "This unique collaboration created the opportunity for us to share information, tools and materials and to work as partners to promote access to justice."

Gramaglia and Tom O'Malley, supervising librarian of the New Jersey State Library, attended a conference in Austin,

Texas earlier this year. The conference focused on providing tools and training that will help public libraries serve as gateways to justice and governmental institutions, with a focus on collaboration with courts, law libraries and legal aid programs.

Funding for the Texas conference and the regional training conferences was provided through a grant from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

Judiciary Hosts Conference on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

By **Yolande P. Marlow** and

Lisa R. Burke

Minority Concerns Unit

Administrative Office of the Courts

The National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts held its 22nd national conference and annual meeting from April 28 through May 1 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

The New Jersey Judiciary, one of the four founding members of the consortium, served as host for the 2010 event.

The 2010 conference drew more than 300 people from 31 jurisdictions, including Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner delivered the opening address.

Hosting the 2010 conference enabled the Judiciary to continue to advance its work relating to the 12 original Supreme Court Task Force on Minority Concerns recommendations addressing cultural competency education and training for judges, court staff, and the general public.

Plenary sessions addressed broad national themes. Attendees heard from internationally known speakers who shared up-to-date information and insights on a number of key issues, including exploration of judges' roles outside the courtroom in fostering access to justice, an examination of whether "race" is still an issue for legal institutions in today's society, an analysis and exposition of the constitutional promise of equality and

enhancing court-community partnerships.

A total of 35 concurrent sessions were designed as seminars in order to maximize the opportunity for in-depth engagement between faculty and attendees. Three of the four breakout timeslots offered visits to specific Middlesex Vicinage court programs and facilities.

Of the 35 concurrent seminars, 24 courses included a presenter from the New Jersey Judiciary and/or Committee on Minority Concerns, and 12 concurrent seminars focused specifically on a New Jersey Judiciary program, service, or initiative.

The planning process for the confer-

Continued on page 10

Justice William Brennan Stands Tall Outside Essex Building

By **Kimberly Cicala**
Criminal Division
Essex Vicinage

The Essex County Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Memorial Statue was dedicated on June 3 in front of the Hall of Records in Newark.

The statue, which was created by Jay Warren of Oregon, will stand as a permanent tribute to Brennan, a Newark native who served on the Superior Court, state Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner described the statue as a “tremendous addition” to the complex.

“Erecting this statue in front of the Hall of Records is an appropriate tribute to Justice Brennan, who had such close ties to Essex and had great influence over our legal system and the civil liberties we enjoy today,” Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. said.

Essex Vicinage Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello said the statue was a fitting memorial to Brennan, whose roots were planted in Essex County but whose influence during his years of

service to the courts has had a profound effect and influence throughout the nation.

During his 34-year tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court, Brennan wrote more than 1,300 opinions. He is recognized as one of the most influential justices to have served on the court.

“The unveiling of this statue should serve as a reminder of the lovable human being Justice Brennan was, but also the strong convictions he had,” said Harvard Law School professor Laurence H. Tribe, a friend of Brennan’s who was keynote speaker. “To him, laws were not just commands, they were the promise of equal justice.”

Brennan was born in Newark in 1906. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928 and from Harvard Law School in 1931. He practiced law and served in the U.S. Army as a judge advocate general he was appointed to the Superior Court in 1949.

Brennan was elevated to the appellate division prior to joining the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1952. President Dwight D. Eisenhower nominated Brennan to the U. S. Supreme Court in

1956. He retired in 1990.

The statue was financed through more than \$100,000 raised through corporate contributions and individual donations.

The ceremony marked the first time a statue was dedicated at the Essex County complex since the 1911 installation of Gutzon Borglum’s “Seated Lincoln.”

Conference on Fairness in Courts Held in New Jersey

Continued from page 9

ence began more than a year ago. The 2007-2009 executive board of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns in consultation with the chief justice and Judge Glenn Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, served as the local planning steering committee.

The Minority Concerns Unit provided primary staff support, with additional staff support provided by the practice area SCCMC subcommittee staff from the family and criminal divisions and EEO/AA.



The Essex County Justice William J. Brennan Memorial Statue was dedicated in front of the Hall of Records in Newark on June 3. Brennan was a Newark native who ascended from the Superior Court bench to the New Jersey Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court

Passaic Salutes Those in the Military Service

By **June Zieder**
Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

Passaic Vicinage and the Passaic County Board of Freeholders observed National Military Appreciation Month with a Memorial Day ceremony to honor our country’s veterans..

The ceremony took place on May 28 on the steps of the Old Courthouse in Paterson.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Judge Ernest Caposela, followed by Judge Michael K. Diamond; Freeholder Director Bruce James; Vietnam veteran Anthony Vancheri; Passaic County Veterans Affairs representative Tom Miller and Passaic County Sheriff Jerry Speziale.

The program concluded with a wreath presentation on the top steps of

the courthouse, where an American flag and a POW MIA flag were displayed.

This ceremony was the first in Passaic Vicinage.

It was clear from the words of the speakers that this event should continue.

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution in 1999 designating May as National Military Appreciation Month.

The month gives our nation a time to honor the current and former members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

National Military Appreciation Month includes Loyalty Day, May 1; VE Day, May 8; Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 7; Armed Forces Day, May 15 and Memorial Day, May 30.

Passaic Hosts Ceremony for Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Grads

By June Zieder
Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

Graduates from the Passaic Vicinage Juvenile Drug Treatment Court were honored at a special ceremony on June 10.

Gov. Chris Christie addressed the 10 graduates. Christie was a former board member of Daytop Village, a drug rehabilitation program in Mendham, Morris County.

Other speakers were Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr. Family Division Presiding Judge Michael K. Diamond, Passaic County Freeholder Director Bruce James and Youth Services Commission Administrator

Wayne E. Cozart.

"It is well accepted that most drug users started abusing drugs and alcohol when they were juveniles," Volkert said. "Drug Courts are addressing the reality of juvenile drug abuse through the collaborative efforts of the judicial system, the drug treatment providers, the families of the offenders and the community at large."

Participants in the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court must follow a strict program that includes remaining alcohol and drug free, demonstrating improvement in school, be gainfully employed or engage in other educational or vocational training and remain crime and delinquency free.

Parents and guardians must cooperate

and become involved in the treatment process by attending family therapy group sessions and court proceedings. Juveniles also must attend intensive outpatient treatment and aftercare services.

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court started in October 2002 with a grant from the New Jersey Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program.

The Passaic Vicinage Juvenile Drug Treatment Court is one of three juvenile drug treatment courts in New Jersey.

More than 250 referrals have been made since the inception of the program.

To date, 56 participants have graduated from the Passaic Vicinage program.

Monmouth Vicinage Holds Regional Brainstorming Sessions for Municipal Courts

By Sharon Astorino
Administrative Specialist 4
Monmouth Vicinage

The Monmouth Vicinage municipal division recently implemented a program called "Regional Brainstorming."

This effort unites the municipal division with municipal court staff to showcase procedures, share ideas, develop best practices, address facility issues and expand professional development.

The division expects that this program will help the municipal courts improve service and increase efficiency in case disposition. The division meets regularly with staff from each of Monmouth County's municipal courts.

On some occasions, representatives from multiple courts assemble for training clusters to encourage the exchange of information and views.

One facet of the program includes presentations by guest speakers who address topics and issues of interest to the respective court.

Because sessions are small and informal, they have sparked procedural changes and standardization of policies.

"Brainstorming is so much more personal," said Fran Pastoriza, municipi-

pal court administrator in Red Bank. "It is a smaller group and everyone has a chance to be heard. Everyone attending is truly learning from each other and with each other as we share our combined knowledge."

In March, Highlands Municipal Court hosted speakers from the Administrative Office of the Courts, which led discussions on complaint entry, probable cause matters, calendaring and time management.

This session resulted in the resolution of several programming and case management issues.

In May, Colts Neck Municipal Court invited members of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office to share perspectives and initiate procedural improvements.

Regional training accomplishes a number of goals and fulfills part of the Judiciary's vision statement: to "acknowledge and enhance the potential of every person in our organization to contribute to the administration of justice through participation, training, and technology."

Some sessions also could fulfill continuing education requirements for municipal court administrators.

Judiciary Records Big Drop in Criminal Backlog

A 13 percent decrease in backlogged criminal cases during the past court year is only part of the good news to be found in the Judiciary's annual statistical report, Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, said.

The report, available at njcourts.com, shows an overall 1 percent reduction in backlog.

"This report demonstrates how hard our judges and staff have worked to maintain high-quality justice in a very difficult economy," said Judge Grant. "That we have been able to reduce our backlog even as we operate with 450 fewer staff members reflects the commitment of Judiciary employees to do their jobs well.

"We have also capitalized on the expansion of information technology and on our relationships with other agencies to deliver justice that is not only fair, but also efficient and timely," Judge Grant said.

The number of criminal cases in backlog was reduced from 7,252 on June 30, 2009 to 6,289 on June 30, 2010, a 13 percent decline.

Committee is Helping Keep Burlington Green and Clean

By John Italiano
 Operations Division Manager
 Burlington Vicinage

Burlington Vicinage Green Committee hosted an Office Supply Exchange Day in the spring to coincide with Earth Day. Employees were able to recycle unwanted office supplies so that others could use them. A commissary was set up for employees to shop for donated supplies that could be used in their divisions.

The committee felt this innovative concept was a great way to kick-off its initial venture into recycling.

“We were looking for an idea that was both energy- and economy-conscious as well and a way for the court to save money and conserve resources,” said Judge Jeanne T. Covert, who chairs the committee. “The response was overwhelmingly successful.”

In keeping with the Earth Day theme, staff who attended the event were eligible to win plants.

The committee also sponsored an employee contest to create a vicinage “green symbol” that will be used as the committee’s logo. The winning entry was submitted by Marianne Shimer of the finance division.

The committee was established in 2009 to identify, advance, and promote strategies, policies and practices within the vicinage’s operations to minimize negative environmental impact and maximize environmentally responsible behaviors.

The committee plans to work with Burlington County on participating at a shredding day for personal and home documents at the county courts facility, a household waste collection and an energy audit of court buildings.



Marianne Shimer of the finance division and Judge Jeanne T. Covert, chair of Burlington Vicinage’s Green Committee, pose with logo that Shimer designed for the committee.



Some of the unused office supplies that were collected during Burlington Vicinage’s Office Supply Exchange Day. A commissary was set up for employees to shop for donated supplies for use in their divisions.



Law Day 2010

Law Day was celebrated in courthouses throughout New Jersey in the spring. Some of the observances took place on a single day, while others occurred over several weeks. Judges and court staff in all 15 vicinages visited schools, hosted community outreach events and provided the public with valuable information about the Judiciary.

Judge Harold U. Johnson Jr., (left) who sits in the family division in Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage, spoke to students at Salem High School in Salem County. A summary of Law Day events in New Jersey begins on Page 1.



Mission Statement of the New Jersey Courts

We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.