

Judiciary Times

Summer 2008

The newsletter of the New Jersey Judiciary

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Superior Court Judge Glenn A. Grant of Essex Named Next Acting Administrative Director of the Courts



Superior Court Judge Glenn A. Grant has been named the next acting administrative director of the courts. Grant, the presiding family division judge in Essex County, will succeed Philip S. Carchman, who has served as acting administrative director since September 2004. Carchman will return to the Appellate Division on Sept. 1

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced his appointment of Superior Court Judge Glenn A. Grant of Essex Vicinage as acting administrative director of the courts. He will begin his assignment on Sept. 1.

Grant will succeed Appellate Judge Philip S. Carchman, who has served as acting administrative director of the courts since September 2004. Carchman will return to the Appellate Division on Sept. 1.

Grant, who is African American, will be the first minority administrative director in the history of New Jersey's Judiciary.

He was sworn in as a Superior Court judge on Aug. 20, 1998 and was reappointed with tenure on June 20, 2005. He is presiding judge of the family division in Essex County and chair of the Conference of Family Presiding Judges. He has served in the Essex Vicinage family division since his appointment and was named presiding judge on Sept. 1, 2003.

Grant, 56, of West Orange, Essex County, earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Lehigh University, a law degree from Catholic University and studied executive management at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In 1978, he was admitted to practice law in New Jersey and in United States District Court. Grant began his legal career as corporate counsel for the City of Newark. He then was appointed business administrator for the city, where he was responsible for managing more than 4,000 employees and a budget of more than \$500 million. Grant served in that position for six years, until his appointment to the bench.

"Judge Grant stands out as a leader among his peers, a thoughtful, passionate and innovative jurist and a strong manager. His colleagues in the Essex courthouse and around the state have been enriched by his service as family division presiding judge," Rabner said.

"I am grateful to Judge Grant for accepting this new assignment and look forward to working together on the challenges that lie ahead," Rabner said.

As chair of the Conference of Family Presiding Judges, Grant is a member of the Judicial Council, an advisory body to the Supreme Court that includes the Judiciary's assignment judges, judicial conference chairs, administra-

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Glenn A. Grant Named Next Acting Administrative Director

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tive director and deputy director.

In addition to his policy-making role on the council and his work on the family division bench, Grant is a member of both the national and state Councils of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns and co-chair of the Essex County Youth Services Commission. He has served on the Supreme Court Committee on Domestic Violence and has been an instructor on family law issues for judges and for attorneys at conferences and seminars

Judiciary Times is prepared by the Office of Communications and Community Relations, the Administrative Office of the Courts, for employees of the Judiciary and volunteers who work with the court system.

The chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court is Stuart Rabner. The acting administrative director of the courts is Judge Philip S. Carchman.

Please send short news articles [saved as Word documents in plain text without formatting](#), as well as photos and/or 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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throughout the state.

Grant is married to Roslyn Holmes Grant, a Newark municipal court judge. They have two children, Taylor, 14 and Glenn, 12.

“My experience has taught me that New Jersey’s judges and court staff are among the most dedicated and caring public servants in the state. I will succeed only with their continued commitment to justice and the rule of law,” Grant said

“I am grateful to Chief Justice Rabner for this opportunity and humbled by the enormity of the task ahead – to continue the rich traditions of the finest court system in the nation, while we face the great challenges before us.

“Even in the face of budgetary constraints, we must continue to expand our outreach to the diverse citizenry of this state and continue to provide a forum for each and every citizen to receive a timely and fair resolution of their issues before the court.

“It is in this context that I will ask my colleagues on the bench and in the offices in every courthouse in the state and here in Trenton to work with me and alongside me for every citizen who needs our assistance,” Grant said.

“And, of course, I cannot step into this new assignment without offering thanks to Judge Carchman. We are all grateful to him for his willingness to step down from the appellate bench and lead us through extraordinary times of change. I wish him well and am proud to take on the tasks he so deftly managed,” Grant said.

Rabner praised the outgoing administrative director.

“Judge Carchman has guided the day-to-day operations of the court system for the past 3½ years with a unique blend of skill, judgment and wisdom,” Rabner said. “He has served the entire Judiciary, including three chief justices, with distinction. It has been a remarkable opportunity for all of us to work with such a gifted and inspiring leader.”

On the appointment of the new act-

ing administrative director, Carchman said, “I congratulate Judge Grant and I wish him all the best. I am confident that his tenure will be marked with success and accomplishment. He will have the unique opportunity to work with an extraordinary chief justice and Supreme Court to chart the direction and the policies that will continue the tradition of excellence that is the hallmark of the New Jersey Judiciary.”

About his own tenure as administrative director, Carchman said, “I know that Judge Grant will find what I did when I first stepped out of the familiar world of the courtroom and into the day-to-day operation and management of hundreds of judges, thousands of staff, hundreds of thousands of dollars and millions of cases.

“I know that he will accomplish great things because he will be managing a workforce dedicated to greatness.

“I am looking forward, certainly, to returning to the relative calm of appellate chambers, but not without reflecting on the most extraordinary assembly of people I have ever had the good fortune to call my colleagues. My life has been enriched by knowing and working with all of them.”

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1966, Carchman served in the part-time position of municipal court judge in Princeton Township and Princeton Borough.

In 1981, he was named Mercer County prosecutor, where he served until he was appointed to the bench in 1986.

In 1995, Carchman was named assignment judge of the Mercer Vicinage. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz assigned him to the Appellate Division in 1997.

He has sat in every judicial assignment, including a temporary assignment to the Supreme Court.

Carchman and his wife, Jo Ann have two daughters and four grandchildren..

Longtime Deputy Administrative Director Ted Fetter Retires

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

It was not Ted Fetter's intention to work for the Judiciary.

But difficulties in landing a job in academia inadvertently led to a career with the courts that lasted more than 30 years, giving Fetter the opportunity to serve as an architect of New Jersey's judicial system.

"There's no doubt I am proud I have worked for a generation in the New Jersey courts along with others," said Fetter, 60, a Lawrence, Mercer County resident who retired in April as deputy administrative director. "A lot of that work makes me very proud. I have high regard for the integrity of the system and the ability to maintain an independent judiciary working with the rest of government and not getting involved in politics."

Embarking on a career in public service paid big dividends for Fetter, a Philadelphia native who earned the respect of his colleagues for his dedi-

cation and service to the Judiciary.

"Having served under four administrative directors, Ted has been a critical participant in the history of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the New Jersey Judiciary," said Judge Philip S. Carchman, acting administrative director.

"His wealth of knowledge, wise counsel, and commitment to the excellence that is the New Jersey Judiciary cannot be understated. We thank him for his many years of service to us all," Carchman said.

Fetter, a graduate of Lafayette College, intended to become a college professor after he received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Fate dealt Fetter a different hand.

"It was very difficult to get a tenure track position and teach," Fetter recalled. "There were far too many PhDs and far too few positions."

Fetter said he sought a position in the public sector because he was fascinated with public administration. He said he landed his first posi-

tion in court administration simply by answering an advertisement and submitting his resume.

From August 1974 through December 1978, Fetter held several positions with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), first as a generalist assigned to state-level projects as they arose, then as a specialist on how to manage courts in rural areas.

Fetter moved on to become a top official in Wyoming's court system, ascending from managing federal grants and projects to a position akin to the administrative director's post in the New Jersey Judiciary.

Fetter joined the New Jersey Judiciary in 1982.

Because of his tenure and position in the Judiciary, Fetter played a pivotal role in the transformation of the court system over the last 2½ decades, including the period of statewide unification in the mid-1990s that transferred responsibility for court funding from the counties to the state, reorganization of the vicinage structure and the introduction of information technology.

Those outside New Jersey also have recognized Fetter's contributions to the courts. In 2006, he was inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society of the NCSC.

The society, named for the late Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who helped establish the NCSC in 1971, honors individuals who have improved the administration of justice in the United States through their exceptional contributions to the NCSC.

"I was delighted to join the Warren E. Burger Society, since it gave me a chance to join many other judges and court managers whom I respect and admire, and since it recognized a lot of the work I had done over the years," Fetter said.

Fetter wrote a book on the history of the Conference of State Court Administrators, chronicling the development of the conference from its inception in 1955 through its 50th anniversary



Philip S. Carchman, acting administrative director of the courts, and Chief Justice Stuart Rabner congratulate Ted Fetter on his retirement as deputy administrative director. Fetter worked for the New Jersey Judiciary for more than 25 years.

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The Secrets of Closed Captions and Subtitles

By Bill Mecca
Video Production Coordinator

You pop in the training videotape or DVD and hit play.

The image comes onto the screen, but there's no sound.

Is that training valuable to you? Did you gain anything from it?

The answer is quite clear.

This is what a person who is hearing impaired experiences if a training video is not closed captioned or, in the case of DVD, subtitled.

The solution is quite simple: Close caption or subtitle the program.

And it's not just a good idea; it has legal ramifications as well.

Ernest Comer, chief of court access services, said the Judiciary's Internal ADA Committee determined that any video produced for public or employee audiences should be closed captioned or subtitled.

This subject arose after complaints were filed against the Judiciary, alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

This has been further buttressed by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2004 decision in *Tennessee v. Lane and Jones*, which holds that government agencies can be sued for monetary damages for failing to comply with the ADA and for not providing access.

The New Jersey Judiciary has for a number of years closed captioned its

videos for the hearing impaired.

Closed captions are text on the screen, usually in a black box, containing the spoken language of the scene (below left)

Subtitles (below right) are slightly different. There is no black box, and the color and font can be changed.

The process of captioning a video is simple in its basic form. The audio portion of the program is transcribed and the text is encoded in line 21 of the video signal.

There are 525 lines of video in each frame in the form of television used in the United States.

All televisions manufactured after 1993 have the ability to open those captions and display them on the screen. Those built prior to 1994 require an external decoder box.

There are subtleties to the captioning process that make it a more complex job.

The captioner decides, using conventions, how many words are on the screen at one time. They also use special characters to let the hearing impaired viewer know music is playing.

By shifting the position of the captions on the screen, they can indicate which character is speaking.

In the case of what we in the business lovingly refer to as a "talking head," the captions will be moved to the top of the screen so as not to block

the lower third identifier graphic, and then moved back to the usual position after the graphic is gone.

This is all controlled by time code in the video. Each second of video is composed of 30 frames, and each one of those individual frames has a unique time address on the tape.

As we move into DVD distribution, we change to subtitles, which are commonly used in foreign films.

Closed captioning and subtitling have the same premise but are different processes.

Captions are encoded and hidden in the video signal, but subtitles are separate entities that are added when authoring a DVD.

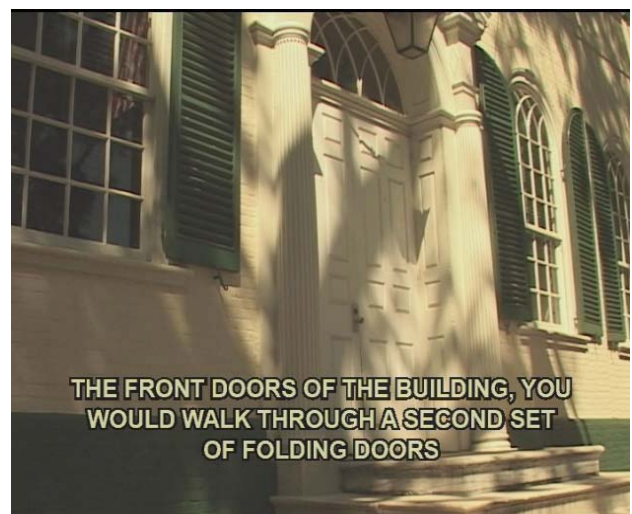
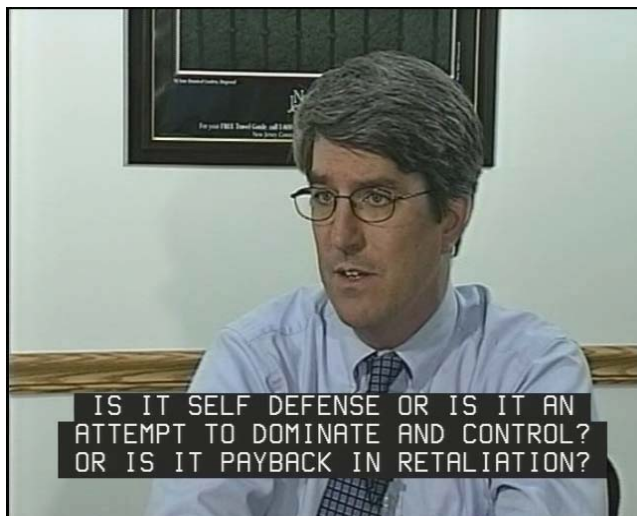
They are similar in the fact that they are tied to the time code.

If, for example, you take a video that is closed captioned and edit it later, the captioning for that section is lost.

When working with a DVD, as long as you have not changed the length of the shot you removed, and still have the original subtitle file, you can re-author the DVD and the subtitles will remain intact.

The Video Production Unit in the Office of Communications and Community Relations produces instructional and training videos for the Judiciary.

The cost of closed captioning/subtitling programs is borne by the requesting office.



Monmouth Vicinage's IT Division Boots Up Two New Databases

By Bradd Kemerley
IT Analyst 3
Monmouth Vicinage

The Monmouth Vicinage is excited about the development of two new databases by its information technology division.

The Civil Law Arbitration Database (CLAD) and the Probation Officer Case Assignment (POCA) system were created to automate some of the functions performed by the civil and criminal divisions.

CLAD is a Microsoft Access-based program developed to assist the civil division's CDR/arbitration team.

The application provides for recording of arbitration history and includes a valuable scheduling feature. Staff can manually schedule arbitrators or they can allow CLAD's auto-scheduler feature to match arbitrators with assignments.

The feature selects an available

arbitrator for a given date by running through a complex set of criteria. It ensures that arbitrators will be chosen and scheduled on a fair and regular basis so that staff can focus on other tasks.

The CLAD database has evolved to include a wide range of capabilities.

For example, CLAD generates the notices and letters that are mailed directly to arbitrators and arbitration applicants.

It also maintains a database of law firms, tracks the status of arbitrators and calculates annual expenses within three budgets.

Using CLAD, civil division staff can run reports with the ease of a key stroke.

The system can even create reservation signs for arbitration rooms and will soon be expanded to include the ability to generate arbitrator invoices. In conjunction with this database, the civil division is using technology to

further enhance the level of customer service.

A monitor has been installed outside arbitration hearing rooms to provide information on the arbitration program.

It will soon be set up to run an arbitration "case ready" list, specifying the cases in queue, so litigants and attorneys can determine when their case will be heard.

The criminal division also will benefit from a new application to automate the assignment of probation officers to cases for the completion of PSI and PTI reports.

Currently, cases are manually assigned using a dry erase board.

Building on technology available to us, the POCA system will use built-in parameters to evenly distribute cases among officers.

Various reports will be incorporated into the program so that managers can easily evaluate specific case details. POCA promises to be a tremendous improvement over the manual case assignment process currently in place.

The Monmouth Vicinage IT division offers extensive support on a daily basis.

In addition, the division will maintain its focus on strengthening and streamlining vicinage operations through the use of cutting-edge automation techniques.

Court services supervisors Maureen Kelly, Kristy Smith and Barbara Baxter contributed to this story.

Camden Vicinage Recognizes Efforts of Staff

By Gil Velasquez
Assistant Chief Probation Officer
Camden Vicinage

Camden Vicinage's Probation Child Support unit recently acknowledged the outstanding contributions of its staff in collecting and enforcing support orders.

The following individuals were honored:

Best attendance

Peggy Blakeslee- Investigator
 Dorothy Ross- Judicial Clerk 3
 Ann Panichello- Judicial Clerk 3

Most scheduled court cases for enforcement

Debbie Wilson- Investigator
 Phyllis Custis- Investigator
 Mike D' Amato- Investigator

Highest paying caseload

Donna Tier- Investigator
 Tom Tweed- Investigator
 Darlene Easley- Investigator

Above and beyond

Chrissy Granato- Judicial Clerk 3
 Charon Naone-Carter- Investigator
 Sandy Funk- Investigator

Most diligent worker

Chris Batejan- SPO
 Isaias Munoz- Investigator
 Karen Welden- Judicial Clerk 3

For the last two years, the unit, with the support of supervisors, has engaged in various activities to embrace and enhance team building to show employees that they are valued.

Activities include an International Day, Halloween party and a spring fling.

Did you know?

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) now serve in every vicinage, with nearly 1,000 volunteers serving more than 1,800 children in out-of-home placement.

The first CASA program in New Jersey was established in Morris County in 1985 and expanded statewide last year with roll-outs in Burlington and Passaic counties.

Technology Helps Move Mugshots into the 21st Century

By **Mary McGinty Flanagan**
Administrative Specialist 4
Juvenile Probation Services

Thanks to collaboration between the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office and the New Jersey State Police, probation officers now have desktop access to the State Police mug shot repository.

Through a link on the Infonet, officers can view mug shots taken following an arrest to confirm that the person reporting for probation is the person who was adjudicated.

This will also ensure that when a client is transferred to another officer or to another county, probation staff can quickly verify that the correct person is reporting.

In larger counties where a probation officer other than the supervising officer often performs drug testing, clients will not be able to send someone else to give a sample.

Nicholas V. DeLuca, project manager of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and chair of the CJIS committee in the Attorney General's Office, suggested the idea.

Based on his experience as a state trooper, DeLuca knew the value of positive identification and thought it should be possible to provide probation officers the same easy access to mug shots as troopers.

Anna Marie Chiofalo, ITO project manager and a CJIS member, agreed to take on the project.

Working with Jim Rustemeyer, Greg Robinson and Laks Kattalai, the Judiciary team met with State Police IT staff and supervisors to address technical and procedural issues.

In a little more than a year, programming was completed and tested, policy issues in both agencies were resolved and 1,000 probation officers and supervisors were trained.

The Electronic Mug Shot Feature, or "eMUG", went live in April.

Previously, Probation Services had one designated probation officer who had access to the CJIS terminal.

Confidentiality was ensured by having probation officers submit their requests to the terminal agency coordinator or "TAC."

This staff person provided the rap sheets and mug shots to all probation

officers in the county.

Because the mug shots have fewer restrictions on distribution than the rap sheets, more staff has access to them.

TACs will continue to provide the rap sheets to probation staff.

John Fuhrman, vicinage chief probation officer in Bergen County, remembered the first probation link to the State Police repository in 1990.

"Construction of a locked office site was necessary to meet (the) State Police's confidentiality requirements," Fuhrman recalled.

"Probation officer requests were written in log books, approved by supervisors, and then initialed when the probation officer received it," Fuhrman said.

In the past, requests for rap sheets and mug shots were written on a clipboard, sent to the sheriff's office once a week and then returned to probation the following week.

Probation Services continues to identify new technology that can automate probation work.

"Desktop access to mug shots is another tool that allows our probation officers to perform their work more efficiently," said Robert Sebastian, assistant director of Probation Services.

"We want to reduce errors in case processing and to maximize the time our officers spend in working directly with clients," Sebastian said.

The CJIS committee regularly reviews technological issues impacting the work of the Attorney General's Office and the Judiciary.

Its multi-agency membership provides an opportunity for effective communication and efficient use of resources.

The eMug feature is the most recent example of this partnership.

"This was a collaboration between the State Police and the Judiciary," DeLuca said. "The eMug Shot project was done with existing staff and with no additional funding."



The Municipal Court Services Division's Training Team recently held a faculty development course for new instructors of the Principals of Municipal Court Administration course. The course was presented by Paul Marciano, a consultant and adjunct professor at Rutgers University.

Children of Monmouth Vicinage Employees Shadow Their Parents During Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day

By Deborah Caffyn
Administrative Specialist 2
Finance Division
Monmouth Vicinage

Embracing the theme "Making Choices for a Better World" and boasting group names like "Bail Buddies," "Los Interpreters" and "Probation Partners," the children of more than 70 employees in Monmouth Vicinage participated in the 11th annual "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" in April.

The program allows children to experience what their parents do during the work day while reminding staff that there is a new generation at work.

As children registered and were assigned to groups, they chuckled at some of the other group names which included "Judges Journeymen," "The Arbitrators" and the "Sheriff's Posse."

Children and volunteers were treated to group pictures with presiding family division Judge Honora O'Brien Kilgallen and civil division Judge Lisa Payne Thornton.

Assignment Judge Lawrence Lawson thanked the children for attending and charged them to have a productive day.

The event was coordinated by secre-

tary Jennifer Feinstein and a committee of volunteers who pulled together some fantastic activities to engage the children's interest.

The youngest children participated in the Goldilocks mock trial with court services supervisor Stacey Coder, administrative specialist Jenny Rible and secretary Roseanne Pelligrino.

Older children explored the topic of bullying in "The Case of the Bully and John."

Matthew Kemp, son of court services supervisor Sue Kemp, expanded on the subject, drawing on his experience as an eighth-grade student peer-to-peer counselor at Marlboro Memorial Middle School.

Informative tours of the courthouse were led by ombudsman Theresa Romano, probation officer Melissa White, administrative specialist Debbie Caffyn and substance abuse evaluator Melissa Garrett.

The tours included an inside look at what happens in Kilgallen's courtroom as well as hearing the story of her rise to the bench.

After lunch, the younger children were treated to a demonstration of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department canine unit.

A sheriff's officer also conducted a presentation about the Monmouth County Emergency Response Team.

The children were impressed by the skills of the various canine officers and were thrilled to try on bullet proof vests and test other emergency equipment.

Cindy Badger, a senior investigator with the Juvenile Justice Commission Gangs Unit, enforced the theme of the day with a frank discussion of juvenile gangs and New Jersey juvenile prisons.

The program was open to children 10 and older.

The day ended in Lawson's courtroom with the presentation of certificates and group photos taken earlier in the day by Kilgallen, her son, Kyle Kilgallen, Timmy Wise, son of trial court administrator Marsi Perkins and administrative supervisor Bethany Little.

Lawson closed the program by thanking the children, their parents and the volunteers for a job well done.

He also asked the children to remember what they learned and experienced, reminding them to be patient when their parents come home from work just a bit tired after a day at the courthouse.



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner answers a child's question about the courts during Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day activities at the Administrative Office of the Courts. At right, Pat Jackson, court services supervisor, argues a point during a mock trial.

Burlington Vicinage Cited for Outreach Efforts

By **Jude Del Preore**
Trial Court Administrator
Burlington Vicinage

The Burlington Vicinage Superior Court was recognized in May for “breaking down barriers” during a festive Cinco de Mayo award celebration at the Servicios Latinos de Burlington County headquarters.

Each year, Servicios Latinos, a Mount Holly-based social-service agency that offers general assistance to Spanish-speaking individuals, honors Burlington County residents and institutions that have recognized that language barriers inhibit the quality of services they provide and have taken steps to overcome those barriers.

Executive Director Angela Gonzalez said her board of directors “wanted to recognize people and institutions

that help Spanish-speaking clients acclimate to life in the United States and motivate others to get involved.”

The agency recognized the multifaceted approach that the court has taken through its EEO/AA efforts, interpreter and ombudsman programs and speakers’ bureau, or C.O.U.R.T. (Court Orientation and Understanding Resource Team).

The family division and Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns also were recognized. Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney accepted the award on behalf of the vicinage.

“Fairness is one of the core values of the New Jersey Judiciary,” Sweeney said. “Fairness is about equitable treatment of all individuals and equitable processes at work in all we do. We believe that our court and

the justice we deliver should be accessible to all.”

Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore, EEO/AA Officer Debbie Edwards, ombudsman Heshim Thomas, staff interpreter Olga Pacheco, assistant family division manager Donald Rucker, judicial secretary Danielle Mikulski and public information officer Donna Mazzanti joined Sweeney at the ceremony.

Sweeney acknowledged the 13 bilingual vicinage staff members who assist the court in breaking down barriers and extending services to everyone.

The staff members were not in attendance.

“We must maintain our focus on this area of responsibility,” Sweeney said. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with Servicios Latinos.”



Burlington Vicinage Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney, Robert Messina, president of Burlington County College and Angela Gonzalez, director of Servicios Latinos, celebrate the vicinage’s outreach efforts to Spanish-speaking individuals.

Essex Vicinage Unveils New Grand Jury Room

**By Tracy Hillsman,
Grand Jury Supervisor
and Michelle LaPread,
Jury Manager
Essex Vicinage**

The second phase of Essex Vicinage's jury assembly relocation project has been completed.

In December, petit jury offices were relocated from the north side of the fourth floor in the Veterans Courthouse to the south side of the first floor.

Once the north side of the fourth floor was empty, temporary accommodations were made for grand jury operations.

Over the past few months, the fourth floor looked more like a construction zone than an office area.

The area that houses grand jury operations has been completely renovated.

Old walls have been removed and new ones have been constructed. New lighting fixtures brighten up the space.

The walls of the new jury rooms are painted a soothing light blue, plasma televisions have been installed and

the u-shaped tables where the grand jurors used to sit have been replaced with tiered seating.

In addition, the existing sound equipment is scheduled to be replaced with a digital recording system in the coming months.

Prior to the renovations, there was only one entrance to the grand jury room, through the witness room.

There are now two additional entrances, one for the jurors and one for staff. There are also two witness rooms; the second smaller, more secure one is for victims.

Another major change is that, after many years of jury operations being the sole occupant of the fourth floor, the prosecutor's office's staff will share the area.

The prosecutor's grand jury staff will be located next door, and in one of the final phases of renovation, the office's homicide staff will occupy the north side of the building where petit jury was once located.

"I have been working on the fourth floor in jury management for the past 26 years, and there have been many structural changes on the floor,"

Vashti Hughes of the grand jury staff

said. "But this transformation has undoubtedly been the most I have ever seen."

Judiciary employee June Hunter added, "Working in a new environment is clearly an incentive that will boost the morale of the team."

New Courthouse Planned for Camden

**By Michael O'Brien
Trial Court Administrator
Camden Vicinage**

The parking lot adjacent to the Camden County Hall of Justice is slated to become the future site of a new multi-use building that will include more than 100,000 square feet of additional space for the Superior Court.

The building also will include space for county executive branch offices, the Camden County Sheriff's Department and the Camden County Prosecutor's Office.

The Camden County Board of Freeholders has been working in conjunction with Camden Vicinage to remedy the severe overcrowding at the Hall of Justice.

The vicinage, which has among the largest caseloads in the state, requires more space and security to effectively serve the community.

The Camden County Improvement Authority will develop the new courthouse and will undertake a comprehensive renovation of the Hall of Justice. The freeholders have said that early bids were several months away.

Judiciary Times Deadline

The deadline for the fall edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Aug. 22.

Several changes are under consideration, including introduction of a monthly e-newsletter and using the *Judiciary Times* to showcase feature writing and photography.



The new Camden County Courthouse will be constructed on a parking lot across the courtyard from the Camden County Hall of Justice in Camden. Camden Vicinage has one of the largest case loads in the state.

Vicinages Celebrate Law Day with an Array of Activities

Editor's note: Instituted by the American Bar Association (ABA) 50 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 was "The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity."

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

Atlantic/Cape May

What is LexisNexis and how do I use it?

Those questions were answered by law librarian Robert St. John during a demonstration of the informational resource in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinages.

All three courthouses in the vicinages now have public access to LexisNexis, a major step in the vicinages' efforts to significantly reduce law library costs while not sacrificing services.

The festivities began in the Cape May County Court House with a showcasing of the new law library. Assignment Judge Valerie Armstrong and Trial Court Administrator Howard H. Berchtold, Jr. moderated the event and spoke of the importance of the Law Day theme.

Guests included representatives of the Cape May County and Atlantic County bar associations, chambers of commerce and legal services as well as staff, the public and members of the press.

The Law Day Work Group then traveled to the Criminal Courts Complex in Mays Landing to demonstrate

LexisNexis and disseminate information about law library holdings.

The vicinages also hosted its annual volunteer recognition dinner.

Linda Best an attorney and former law clerk in the vicinages, gave a well-received presentation on the Law Day theme.

Bergen

The Bergen Vicinages Minority Concerns Committee hosted more than 100 Bergen County students for Law Day activities.

Jessica Xiao, a student at River Dell Regional High School, was the first place winner of the 2008 Bergen Vicinages Minority Concerns Law Day Essay Contest.

The theme of the essay contest was, "How Does the Rule of Law Sustain a Free Society?"

Yovany Tamargo, a student at Catherine Doyle School in Wood Ridge, was the first place winner of the 2008 Bergen Vicinages Minority Concerns Law Day Poster Contest.

The theme of the poster contest was "The Rule of Law."

The program began in Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses' courtroom, where committee chairperson Betty Williams and vice chair Margaret McLaughlin welcomed the students. The students then watched a video presentation from Chief Justice Stuart Rabner.

Vicinages volunteer coordinator Nola Steele discussed the various divisions that encompass the vicinages and Superior Court Judge Joseph S. Conte discussed the role of the Judiciary.

The Bergen County Sheriff's Department gave a presentation regarding the role of the sheriff's K-9 unit on alcohol awareness.

The students also were given a tour of the historical courthouse and the old jail by members of the Minority Concerns Committee and the vicinages EEO/AA Advisory Committee.

They also received Law Day mem-

orabilia such as pens, bookmarks, rulers and key chains.

A formal Law Day ceremony was held outside the courthouse.

Among the participants were the Bergen County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, Superior Court Judge Donald R. Venezia, who sang the national anthem and Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Ridgefield Park High School chorus sang songs throughout the program.

Supreme Court Justice Helen E. Hoens gave the keynote address and Superior Court Judge Peter E. Doyne presided over the swearing-in of new citizens.

Essex

More than 3,000 students from 46 schools participated in the 2008 Law Day Mock Trial Program.

A judge, two attorneys and a sheriff's officer were assigned to each school.

Many court employees with legal backgrounds also participated as the assigned attorneys.

They included Geoffrey Mott, law librarian; Lila Maxwell-Dasi, litigant specialist in the family division; Colin Lochner, team leader in the criminal division; Amy DePaul, assistant civil division manager; Bruce Humphreys, landlord tenant master in the civil division and Ruby Lochner, juvenile referee in the family division.

This year's case involved a pre-trial hearing in which the defendant, a high school student, argued that searches of her backpack, person and cell phone by school officials were unreasonable and violated her Fourth Amendment rights.

The case gave students an opportunity to contemplate their own Fourth Amendment rights while on school grounds.

At many schools, students voiced passionate opinions about the issue.

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Vicinages Mark Law Day with Speeches, Programs

Continued from page 10

In addition to the mock trials, 324 students submitted artwork, essays and poems that captured the spirit of the Law Day theme. Students who submitted winning posters, essays and poems were recognized at the Law Day luncheon which was held after the mock trials.

The luncheon featured opening remarks from Essex County Bar Association President Edward J. O'Donnell.

Superior Court Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., presiding judge of the criminal division, and Shoshana Schiff, Essex County Bar Association

representative on the Law Day Committee, presented the winning students with their awards.

The students, teachers, judges and attorneys who attended the luncheon also received copies of the 2008 Law Day booklet, which featured the students' artwork, poems and essays.

Each year, the members of the committee work tirelessly to organize the Law Day events and activities.

The following individuals served on the 2008 Committee: James S. Agro; Sigfredo Carrion; Kimberly Cicala; Wendy E. Deer; Gerald A. Edwards; Stacy M. Manobianca; Geoffrey Mott; Yesenia Rios; Shazeeda Samsudeen;

Shoshana Schiff and Stacie Vacca.

Essex Vicinage Law Day Facts

■ Year Essex started the Mock Trial Program: 1997

■ Individual who started the Mock Trial Program: Former Assignment Judge Alvin Weiss

■ Year the Essex Law Day program won an Outstanding Activity Award from the American Bar Association: 2006

■ Approximate number of students who have participated in the Mock Trial program since 1997: 33,000



Silvia Gonzalez, assistant chief probation officer in Hudson Vicinage (above), explains child support during Court Night in the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse in Jersey City. Below, Acting Bergen Vicinage Assignment Judge Peter Doyne administers the oath to new citizens outside the courthouse in Hackensack.

Hudson

About 200 community members attended Court Night at the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse.

It was the premier event initiated by the Law Day Planning Committee, headed by Superior Court Judge Maureen B. Mantineo, presiding family judge, and was sponsored by the Judiciary, Hudson County Bar Association, State Bar Foundation and the Hudson Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The primary goal of the program was to foster a positive relationship with the community by promoting the courts and legal system as being accessible to the public and one that need not be daunting.

The Law Day Planning Committee was convinced that through this interactive educational program and hospitality reception, it would achieve that objective.

The initiative received widespread support from the sponsors and proved to achieve that goal, as evidenced by the number of community members who attended and the high customer satisfaction rating of 91 percent in exit survey responses.

The Court Night program was comprised of six legal workshops covering child support; divorce; domestic

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A Recap of Law Day Celebrations Around the State

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violence; expungement of a criminal record; immigration and landlord/tenant disputes.

Each workshop consisted of a PowerPoint or oral presentation followed by a question and answer period with interpreters who were available to translate in Arabic, Egyptian, Italian, Punjabi, and Spanish.

Each participant received a resource packet containing information that was specific to the topic they attended, as well as general materials of interest.

Panel members consisted of both court and legal representatives to provide participants with an understanding of the independent role and functions of each group as well as the practical aspects of obtaining information, records, filing documents and fees.

Panelists for each legal workshop had expertise on the specific subject matter.

Court representatives Superior Court Judge Peter J. Vazquez, presiding criminal division judge; Superior Court Judge Lourdes I. Santiago, civil division; Rupert Haller and Dawn

Materia; family division: Colleen Fay, Mary Ann Gomez and Michelle Vicari; probation child support enforcement unit and Silvia Gonzalez and Bruce Scott.

Lawyers who participated were Gerard A. Gonzalez; Brian Neary; Anna R. Noris; Kathleen Walrod; Nadya M. Zerquera; Marcia Haber; Gregory Diebold; Jennifer Donnelly; Dianna Fuller; Karla Garcia; Bonnie McMillan and Nelida Arancibia.

In some workshops such as domestic violence and immigration, additional panelists consisted of representatives from organizations such as Women Rising, Hudson County Community Action, American Friends Service Committee and the Committee in Union with Salvadorans. Sponsors supported the efforts of this program both financially and by networking and marketing this initiative to groups with which they have contact.

They also encouraged participation by members of their organizations to serve as greeters, registrants, monitors, interpreters, coordinators, photographers and facilitators.

The success of the Court Night

program is attributed both to the cohesiveness, collaboration and support that was received from sponsors to the Law Day Planning Committee and the dedication and efforts of individuals on the committee and others.

They strongly believe this educational program is going to be an instrument to foster a positive relationship with the community and an enhanced understanding of the legal system and its processes.

A total of 98 percent of community members who attended the workshops and who had never attended any before expressed high satisfaction and asked that similar events be held in the future.

Mercer

Mercer Vicinage, in collaboration with the Mercer County Bar Association and the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, sponsored a variety of activities to celebrate this year's Law Day theme.

Members of the public and courthouse staff enjoyed commemorative displays located in each courthouse.

Mercer County first graders submitted art work, while sixth graders submitted essays and poems to express how the rule of law makes us a democratic, free and safe society.

First, second and third place winners for each category received US Savings Bonds from the Mercer County Bar Association.

Students' work can be viewed at the Mercer County courthouses.

More than 70 high school seniors and juniors attended the Law Day High School Summit at the Trenton Marriott.

The students were welcomed by Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg, who encouraged them to embrace Law Day and this year's theme as an opportunity to reflect on our democracy, freedom of choice,

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This poster was on display during Law Day festivities in Hudson Vicinage. Children from across Hudson County participated in the contest.

Vicinages Statewide Mark Law Day with Events

Continued from page 12

and liberties guaranteed by our Constitution.

A video-message from Chief Justice Stuart Rabner was shown to participants.

Students were engaged by a dynamic presentation titled "Hey, I'm 18," which covered useful information on the rights and responsibilities of adults.

This was followed by an interactive program including members of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office the Public Defender's Office and Mercer County Counsel's Office.

One teacher graciously took on the role of the defendant while students served as jurors in the intriguing case of "The Stolen iPod." Mercer County mock trial competition awards were also presented during the summit.

Superior Court Judge Audrey Peyton-Blackburn closed the program by encouraging the students to set high expectations and follow their dreams for a promising future.

A Law Day expo was held at Quakerbridge Mall.

Free 15-minute consultations with members of the bar through the Lawyers C.A.R.E. program were offered.

Ombudsman Judith Irizarry and family assistant division manager Patti Amor provided information about court services and programs.

Committee members Halima Samad and deputy County Clerk Walker Worthy assisted with the event.

Yolande Marlow and Lisa Burke from the AOC's Minority Concerns Unit visited the expo.

Self-represented litigant packets, a variety of publications and information on career and volunteer opportunities in the Judiciary also were available.

Middlesex

More than 100 students from several Middlesex County school districts participated in a Law Day

event that was highlighted by an informative and inspirational speech by Lenworth Gunther on the rule of law and the impact that citizens have to influence and change the rule of law as our country changes.

Gunther, a noted historian, discussed laws that once existed that excluded many students who were in the audience, including Jim Crow laws, voting rights for women and the civil rights movement.

Gunther's style of delivery captivated the audience of middle and high school students.

Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis read the Law Day proclamation and spoke about the rule of law.

He asked students to think about how the rule of law is defined and how it has changed in their lifetime.

Students selected as winners in the creative expression contest on the theme "rule of law" presented their work and received awards during the ceremony.

The ceremony opened with a video welcome address by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and was emceed by Eric Landskroner, evening anchor for News12 New Jersey.

Others speakers included ombudsman Sylvia L. O'Connor, Middlesex County Bar Association President Lynn F. Miller and Loretta Long, who has played the role of Susan on "Sesame Street" since the show's debut in 1969.

Long spoke to the students on the issue of self discipline and provided the students with her ABC's of becoming successful in life: A – be available, B – believe in your dream, C – be committed to your dream and D – be disciplined enough to develop your dream.

The event concluded with a mock trial given by the South Brunswick Township High School mock trial team. The team is the 2008 Middlesex County High School division mock trial champion. Superior Court Judge Deborah J. Venezia presided.

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission supported the event.

Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage, in con-

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Rebeca Rodriguez, administrative specialist in the municipal division in Mercer Vicinage, views artwork submitted by first graders. The pieces are displayed in the Mercer County Criminal Courts Building in Trenton.

Judiciary Employees Statewide Commemorate Law Day

Continued from page 13

junction with the Monmouth Bar Association, celebrated Law Day with a formal ceremony in a restored courtroom in the Hall of Records in downtown Freehold.

The celebration highlighted this year's Law Day theme. Speakers included Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr., who addressed the crowd as keynote speaker.

Appellate Judge Mary Catherine Cuff, along with Marie A. Accardi and Ronald T. Catelli, mock trial committee chairs, presented the Daniel J. O'Hern Mock Trial Award to Colts Neck High School, which won the Monmouth County High School Mock Trial Competition for the second year in a row.

Monmouth County Bar Association President Timothy F. McGoughran presented the Abraham J. Zager Professionalism Award to Martin A. Rudnick.

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

Morris/Sussex

Morris/Sussex Vicinage celebrated Law Day 2008 with its annual ceremony on the front lawn of the Morris County Courthouse during the lunch hour.

In keeping with tradition, the Morris County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard led a procession of judges, and the Morristown High School Vocal and String Ensemble delighted the audience with various musical selections, including the national anthem.

Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis welcomed the audience, which included court staff, members of the local bar, county officials and personnel and members of the community.



Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson poses with winners of the Law Day poster and essay contest.

Presiding Appellate Judge Edwin H. Stern delivered the keynote speech.

Mark A. Blount, president of the Morris County Bar Association, Debra Weisberg, president of the Morris County Bar Foundation and Morris County Freeholder Director Margaret Nordstrom also addressed the audience.

Superior Court Judge Michael Paul Wright described how the Morris/Sussex Vicinage connects to its community through the activities of the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, including the youth mentoring program and the speaker's bureau.

In Newton, Law Day was celebrated with an evening ceremony at the Sussex County Judicial Center, which included Superior Court Judge James J. Farber, Appellate Judge Ronald Graves and assistant trial court administrator Rashad Shabaka-Burns.

Members of the Sussex County Bar Association, including president Francis Koch, also addressed the audience.

Mock trial winners from Kittatinny High School were recognized along with several community members.

Passaic

In Passaic Vicinage, municipal court judges spoke at local schools on their roles and on the theme of Law Day. Some judges spoke to individual classes, while others spoke to auditoriums filled with hundreds of students.

Students had many questions for the judges. The judges and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The celebration culminated May 9 with a day of activities for about 180 high school students from eight Passaic County high schools who visited the Superior Court.

After an introduction by Superior Court Judge Miguel de la Carrera, students were invited to participate in a mock city council session or a mock trial.

Students in the mock city council session debated random locker searches, and students in the mock trial debated the concept of free speech on school clothing.

Law clerks assisted students on legal procedures.

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Workshops, Displays and Discussions Mark Law Day

Continued from page 14



Judges from Morris/Sussex Vicinage pose with Edwin H. Stern, (center) presiding appellate judge, outside the Morris County Courthouse in Morristown during Law Day festivities.

Two Paterson city council members, Ken Morris and Rigo Rodriguez, along with North Haledon Mayor Randy George and attorney Larry Pollock, assisted students on the rules and protocol of a city council session.

Elementary schools throughout Passaic County participated in a poster contest reflecting this year's theme. Winners and their classmates were invited to attend Law Day activities. At the end of the day, the students were invited to a pizza lunch.

Meanwhile, 29 immigrants from 13 countries became U.S. citizens.

One of the new citizens was 89 years old, and another took the oath on the same day her grandfather died in World War II in 1945.

Sohail Mohammed, immigration attorney and co-chair of the Law Day activities, coordinated the new citizen ceremony.

The oath of allegiance was administered by Assignment Judge Robert J. Passero.

After taking the oath, the new citizens learned about the election process, passport guidelines and jury selection.

Law Day is jointly sponsored by the Passaic Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns and the

Passaic County Bar Association.

This year's program was dedicated in memory of Superior Court Judge Stephen H. Womack, who was chair of the Passaic Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns and an active supporter of the Law Day program.

Union

Union Vicinage, along with co-sponsors 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, held its Law Day celebration in the courtroom of Assignment Judge Walter R. Barisonek.

Union County middle schools competed in essay, poster, and spoken word/rap/poetry contests revolving around the Law Day theme.

The winning schools included Blessed Sacrament School in Elizabeth, Carl H. Kumpf Middle School in Clark, Charles J. Hudson School 25 in Elizabeth, Edison Intermediate in Westfield and St. Genevieve's School in Elizabeth.

Milagros Camacho, president of the

Hispanic Bar Association, presented the winners of the spoken word/rap/poetry competition,

Geraldine Reed Brown, president of the Garden State Bar Association, presented the winners of the essay contest and Sunil K. Garg, a member of the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey, presented the winners of the poster contest.

Raymond Londa, a member of the Minority Concerns Committee and the Union County Bar Association, was on hand to present the Mock Trial Award to Bruriah High School for Girls.

Superior Court Judge Lisa F. Chrystal presented an award to the second place statewide winners of the NJSBF Law Fair Competition, Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union.

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

Jurors were invited to participate in the Law Day program and were recognized by Barisonek for performing their civic duty.

The keynote speaker was Steven Parris of New Jersey Orators, who delivered Barack Obama's speech, "Yes We Can."

Jazz musical selections were performed by the Msgr. João S. Antão School 31 Jazz Band of Elizabeth under the direction of band director Milagros Cota.

Representatives from all of the major trial divisions as well as representatives from volunteer services, human resources, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), child support and probation participated in an information fair.

In addition, the county clerk, surrogate and the Board of Elections officials also were available to provide information to guests and court users.

Probation Officers Trained in Search and Seizure

By Sandee Nole
Probation Training Officer
Passaic Vicinage

Passaic Vicinage probation officers and members of local law enforcement agencies in Passaic County recently attended a two-day Safety in Search & Seizure program sponsored by the American Probation and Parole Association through a grant provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The focus of the program was to provide safety instruction and clearly defined roles for probation officers and law enforcement as they work collaboratively in conducting searches of probationers.

The training was particularly timely given the 2006 release of

Administrative Directive # 14-06, which mandates probation officers to secure the presence of law enforcement officers to provide safety when they engage in planned searches of probationers.

The course, which was financed through a Project Safe Neighborhoods grant, was the first in the nation to include equal numbers of probation officers and law enforcement.

Among those in attendance were probation officers from Passaic and Mercer vicinages and the AOC and police officers from several municipal departments.

The two-day program consisted of one day of classroom lecture and one day of field simulations. Robert Thornton, former supervising U.S. probation officer, and Ron

Scheidt, a senior U.S. probation officer with the District of Nebraska, facilitated the training.

Thornton and Scheidt are nationally recognized for their work in community-based corrections and field safety.

Participants were given important information regarding their respective roles and responsibilities while participating in searches of probationers.

The training also provided vital information on how to safely and effectively search probationers.

The training gave local law enforcement officers the opportunity to understand the policies and procedures of the probation division and allowed probation officers to network and establish partnerships.

Lights, Camera, Action: Courthouse Film a Hit

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

It was likely the only Law Day celebration where popcorn was served. Then again, there was probably no other place in New Jersey where the annual celebration of the American legal system coincided with the premier of a film about the history of one of the nation's oldest courthouses.

The Burlington County seat was transformed into "Mount Hollywood" on May 1 with the inaugural showing of "The Historic Olde Burlington County Courthouse," a video that highlights the historical significance of the building and the bell that has hung in its tower for nearly 300 years.

The 16-minute film was produced by Bill Mecca, the Judiciary's video production coordinator, in conjunction with Burlington County historian Joseph Laufer. It was written by Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore and Donna Mazzanti, the Burlington Vicinage's public infor-

mation officer.

The Burlington County Board of Freeholders and Joanne Nestor, principal photographer for the state Division of Archives and Records, also were involved.

The video documents the early judicial history of Burlington County, including the construction of the first courthouse in Burlington City in 1693, the controversy surrounding the vote to move the county seat to Mount Holly in 1795 after the original courthouse fell into disrepair and construction of the High Street courthouse the following year.

"The video takes the viewer back in time and highlights the stories and people who made the dream of a stately courthouse building a reality," Del Preore said. "The video also illustrates the critical work undertaken to preserve the building so future generations can continue to enjoy this vital link to our county's heritage."

The courthouse is considered one of the oldest in continuous use in the nation. It was designed by architect

Samuel Lewis and is replete with interior and exterior features typical of the Federal style of architecture.

"Just walking through the courthouse, you can feel the history," Mecca said. "Looking through the old hand-written documents, like the minutes from the first case in 1796, with the fading ink, gives one a deeper sense of the history and how many lives have been touched by that building and what has taken place inside its walls.

"I've always been interested in history, and producing this video was a joy," Mecca said.

The courthouse bell, which was first installed in the Burlington City courthouse, was cast in England in 1755 and rang when the nation declared its independence in 1776, according to burlcqhistorian.com, Laufer's Web site.

The bell is still rung periodically, often to mark the start of a new court year or during a memorial service

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Olde Courthouse Film Well Received in Burlington

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for a deceased judge.

The film also showcases a major restoration project the free-holders undertook in 1993.

The vicinage plans to make the video accessible to the public. It also will be used as an educational tool when schools visit the courthouse and when the court's speakers bureau visits community groups.

The premier was followed by a presentation by the Burlington County Bar Association's criminal practice section of significant cases heard in the old courthouse.

Among the cases were those of U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Wilson, who in 1797 fell deeply in debt, the executions of nine convicted murders between 1832 and 1906 in Burlington County and the 1888 case of inventor, politician and patriarch of Smithville, H.B. Smith, involving his disputed will.

Burlington Vicinage public information officer Donna Mazzanti contributed to this story.

Did you know?

The concept of Juvenile Conference Committees (JCC) in New Jersey dates back 60 years.

JCC volunteers act as an arm of the court by hearing cases involving minor offenders and making recommendations that aid in rehabilitation.

By diverting such cases to JCC, the stigma of a court appearance is avoided.

The anniversary of JCCs was recently marked by honoring a long-standing volunteer in Monmouth Vicinage who has served the program from more than 50 years.



The Old Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly was the subject of a film that highlighted its history and architecture.

Morris/Sussex Hosts Seminar

**By Janie Rodriguez
Ombudsman
Morris/Sussex Vicinage**

The Morris/Sussex Vicinage successfully launched its Speaker's Bureau April 22 at the Morristown Neighborhood House with a seminar on landlord/tenant issues.

The public learned about the law and court procedures pertaining to landlord/tenant matters and gained knowledge of the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants, especially regarding security deposits, rent offsets, and evictions.

Michael Paul Wright, civil division judge in Morris County, and Gerald Brennan of Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, presented the engaging and interactive session.

Representatives of the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs, including Outreach Manager Rosita Carrasquillo, also were in attendance.

Many participants expressed appreciation for the useful and clear information and expressed interest in attending future sessions.

The Speaker's Bureau is spon-

sored by the Morris/Sussex Vicinage through its Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

Future sessions on other topics are expected to be held in Morris and Sussex counties.

Deputy Director Retires

Continued from page 3

While working for the New Jersey Judiciary, Fetter said he was most impressed with the outstanding quality of the state's judges and the strong, positive working relationships they have with their staffs.

He said he holds his former colleagues and coworkers in high regard.

"Throughout my career I've been lucky," Fetter told guests at his retirement dinner in April. "I've been very fortunate to have worked with so many good people for all these years and to have been part of important accomplishments."

In his retirement, Fetter said he plans to do volunteer work with community agencies, homeless assistance and literacy programs and remain active in his church.

Changes at the Helm in Burlington, Passaic

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has named Superior Court Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder assignment judge of the Burlington Vicinage. Bookbinder will succeed Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney, who will retire July 1.

"Judge Bookbinder is highly respected by judges, members of the bar and staff," Rabner said. "He is widely known as a fair-minded judge, a wise manager and a valued colleague. He takes the helm of a vicinage that has enjoyed superb leadership in Judge Sweeney, and I am confident that this will be a smooth transition for all involved."

A lifelong Burlington County resident, Bookbinder was appointed to the bench on June 19, 1990 by Gov. James J. Florio and was reappointed with tenure by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman in 1997.

He has served in every division of Superior Court.

First assigned to the criminal bench in Burlington, he was reassigned to the family bench in 1992 and in 1995 moved to the civil bench, where he served as presiding judge of the civil part from 2000 to 2002.

In 2002 he was named presiding judge of the general equity part, and has served in that capacity until becoming assignment judge.

Bookbinder has been the designated acting assignment judge in Burlington Vicinage since 2000.

The acting assignment judge oversees administration of vicinage operations during the occasional absence of the assignment judge.

"Judge Sweeney has been to me not only a fantastic boss, but a wonderful mentor and a great friend. I am honored to be given the opportunity to carry on his work," Bookbinder said. "He has set up a fine structure for transition."

Bookbinder has served on numerous committees and panels.

Since 1991, he has served on a resentencing panel for the Inten-

sive Supervision Program, an early release program aimed at helping non-violent offenders reenter society under close supervision.

He served for four years as chair of the Conference of Probate Judges, and since January, 2008, he has served as chair of the Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges.

It is through that designation that he became a member of the Judicial Council, a statewide body of leaders who meet monthly to share information and strategies on efficient and effective court management and who make policy recommendations on programs and practices to the Supreme Court.

As all assignment judges are members of the Judicial Council, Bookbinder will continue his membership.

From 1990 to 1996, Bookbinder served on the Supreme Court Committee on Model Criminal Jury Charges, and from 1995 to 2007, he served on the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Salaries and Pensions.

Since 2004, Bookbinder has served on the Judiciary-Surrogates Liaison Committee, a body charged with maintaining a collaborative relationship between the Judiciary and the county surrogates' offices.

Born July 23, 1949, Bookbinder graduated from Burlington Township High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University and a law degree from the George Washington University School of Law.



Ronald E. Bookbinder

After law school, Bookbinder worked in private practice, focusing primarily on municipal matters. During this time he represented various municipalities in Burlington County as a solicitor, a public defender and a prosecutor.

Volkert is New AJ in Passaic

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner recently announced the appointment of Essex County Superior Court Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr. as assignment judge of the Passaic Vicinage.

Volkert succeeded Robert J. Passero, who retired in June at the constitutionally mandated retirement age of 70.

As assignment judge of Passaic Vicinage, Volkert will oversee more than 500 staff members, 22 judges and 16 municipal courts.

"Judge Volkert is a gifted trial judge who has excelled in all areas. His wealth of experience – on the bench and as a manager – makes him an ideal person to head the Passaic Vicinage following Judge Passero's exceptional leadership," Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said.

Volkert, 63, was appointed to the bench on Feb. 11, 1992 and was reappointed with tenure in 1999.

He began his judicial career in the criminal division in the Essex Vicinage.

In 1999, he was assigned to the family division as presiding judge.

From Aug. 1, 2001 through Sept. 1, 2003, Volkert served as chair of the statewide Conference of Family Presiding Judges. As chair of the conference, Volkert was a member of the Judicial Council, an advisory body to the Supreme Court that includes the Judiciary's assignment judges, judicial conference chairs, administrative director and deputy director.

In September 2003 Volkert moved to the Essex Vicinage criminal division as presiding judge. He also served for

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Changes at the Top In Burlington, Passaic Vicinages

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three years as a New Jersey delegate to the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

Volkert has served as Drug Court judge for Essex; chair of the Bail Judge Subcommittee; presiding judge of the General Equity Division and on the Statewide Domestic Violence Working Group. He has served on the New Jersey State Bar Association's Family Law Executive Committee; as co-chair of the Essex County Youth Services Commission; as a member of the Supreme Court Criminal Practice Committee; and as chair of the Sub-Committee on Judicial Education of the Conference of Family Division Presiding Judges.

He also is a frequent lecturer for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Judicial Orientation, and numerous other seminars and programs.

"I am grateful for the confidence Chief Justice Rabner has placed in me with this appointment," Volkert said. This honor comes to me in

large measure because of the outstanding work of my Essex County colleagues on the bench and among the staff.

"Without their support I never could have achieved the success we did or been prepared to succeed Judge Passero, a virtual legend in the Passaic County legal community," he said.

Volkert earned his bachelor's degree in 1966 at the University of Charleston and earned his law degree in 1969 at Ohio Northern University. He was admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1969; the Supreme Court of New Jersey and the U.S. District Court of New Jersey in 1970; the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976; New York in 1982; and the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1984.

Volkert's legal career in public service began in 1972 in the federal judicial system, where he served for 10 years. First, he was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey and then became chief of the

Civil Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

At the time he was named to the bench, Volkert was a partner in the Roseland law firm of Lum, Hoens, Conant, Danzis & Kleinberg.

He is a former vice president of the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

A resident of North Caldwell, Judge Volkert is married to Susan Engelman Volkert, a partner in DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, & Wisler and councilwoman in the Borough of North Caldwell. They have six children.



Donald J. Volkert Jr.

Service Program Give Probationers a Helping Hand

By **Bouyant E. Enyiorji**
Court Service Supervisor 2
Essex Vicinage

Essex Vicinage's Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) is designed to secure compliance from non-complying probationers who have been ordered to perform community service.

Traditionally, at enforcement hearings, defendants are given stern warnings or are threatened with incarceration for non-compliance. Nevertheless, compliance has been below expectations.

In response, the probation division developed the Essex Vicinage Probation Community Service Program. In addition to performing community service, participants are given a 20-page written assignment. They

have two weeks to complete the assignment and must participate in a group discussion.

Credit is given for participation in the program.

The philosophy behind the assigned work is derived from the concepts of phenomenology, which is the study of structures of consciousness as experienced from the first-person point of view.

Proponents of phenomenology believe that by studying the human person through living experiences, we touch the core of the personhood.

As with scientific conclusions that are derived through observations, experimentation and recording of data, so also are people likely to accept conclusions based on an event that is individual and observable.

Participants are given opportuni-

ties to see where the objective (laws) and the subjective (experience) meet in a human person.

The underlying focus is in four basic questions: Who am I? How did I get here? Where am I going? And how do I get there?

The assignments are centered on the life of Hafis Mukal, a fictitious 26-year old probationer whose "true to life" experiences become observable. Participants scrutinize his probation officer, family, and social setting and examine his feelings, rational reasoning and adjustments. Effective habits geared towards acceptable norms are then incorporated into Hafis' decision making process.

Since the program's inception in 2007, participants have shown great enthusiasm to attend the bi-weekly sessions.

Staff from Two Vicinages Receive Certifications

Jurist Roscoe Pound said, "The term professionalism refers to a group pursuing a learned art as a common calling in the spirit of public service - no less a public service because it may incidentally be a means of livelihood."

Three New Jersey Judiciary employees, Giuseppe M. "Joe" Fazari, Saul Hernandez and Joan Morisky, recently completed the fourth phase of the Institute for Court Management's Court Executive Development Program, joining the ranks of 1,037 fellows from 48 states and 12 countries.

The program is sponsored by the National Center of State Courts.

Fazari is the assistant criminal division manager in Essex Vicinage, where he oversees six trial court teams comprised of 26 employees.

He joined the vicinage as jury manager in 2004.

Fazari conducted a study of criminal case management by reviewing archival and survey data to assess case management outcomes and characteristics of complex cases in the vicinage.

His excellence in education and professional development was repeatedly recognized by his ICM Fellow peers. He was referred to as "Dr. Joe" because of his ability to relate theoretical ideas in a common sense manner to participants.

Fazari received a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Seton Hall University. He is married and the father of two boys.

Hernandez, Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage operations division manager, has been employed with the Judiciary for seven years.

His research paper evaluated Spanish court interpreting services as they relate to one of the most important trial court performance standards, access to justice.

Working alongside his vicinage peer and associate ICM grad, Stephanie D. Snow, vicinage finance division manager, Hernandez expects to utilize the skills he acquired while studying to become a fellow.

Hernandez received his MBA from Rutgers University in 2005.

Since joining the Judiciary, he has completed the certified public managers program. He and his wife are the parents of a 4-year-old daughter.

Joan Morisky, human resources manager for Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage, has worked for the



Giuseppe Fazari of Essex Vicinage and Joan Morisky and Saul Hernandez, both of Cumberland/Salem/Gloucester Vicinage, recently completed a court executive development program sponsored by the National Center of State Courts. They are pictured with Geoff Gallas (third from left), dean of the program.

Judiciary since 1990.

Her research paper evaluated the effect of the federal Medical Leave Act and the New Jersey Family Leave Act on the vicinage.

She said the ICM program will elevate her Judiciary technical, interpersonal and administrative skills while expanding her knowledge of state and federal employment law.

Morisky, a graduate of the University of Portland who completed the certified public managers program, is married and the mother of two daughters.

ICM and the National Center of State Courts perform a public service to state courts by educating administrators on modern management principles and dedicating itself to the growth and development of the judicial branch.

Law Day Contributors

The following individuals contributed to the Law Day stories in this issue of the *Judiciary Times*: Lawrence Bethea; Jane P. Carey; Judith Irizarry; Janice P. Kidney; Kathleen Obringer; Priya Ramrup; Theresa Romano; Shazeeda Samsudeen; Leslie A. Santora; Laura A. Simoldoni and June Zieder.



Mission Statement of the New Jersey Court System

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.