

JUDICIARY TIMES

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Summer 2013

Law Day 2013: Realizing the Dream

Emancipation Proclamation, March on Washington Inspire Debate, Presentations

Editor's note: Instituted by the American Bar Association (ABA) 55 years ago, Law Day 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 May. This year's theme was Realizing the Dream: Equality for All.

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

Atlantic/Cape May

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage hosted a naturalization ceremony on May 1 in the Campus Center at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle presided over the ceremony and administered the Oath of Citizenship. Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez offered remarks and shared his personal experience about his own naturalization. Mendez immigrated from Cuba in 1980.

"This is truly an honor for me to participate in this ceremony in an official capacity. My heartfelt pride and



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner speaks during Bergen Vicinage's Law Day ceremony on the steps of the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack. The chief justice administered the Oath of Citizenship to 34 new U.S. citizens.

Chief Justice: Judiciary to Study Civil and Criminal Procedures

By Mike Mathis

Judiciary Times Editor

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has created two committees to help expedite cases in the New Jersey Courts.

Speaking before the annual meeting of the New Jersey State Bar Association in May, the chief justice said the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Expedited Civil Actions and the Supreme Court Joint Committee on Criminal Justice will examine how the civil and criminal courts operate.

The civil committee will focus on how to expedite litigation in actions filed in the civil part and to develop proposals to improve the current expedited jury trial program. The criminal committee will study how to reduce delays in bringing criminal court cases to trial and the issue of bail.

The civil committee will consider and make recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding the types of cases appropriate for expedited civil action practice; pretrial procedures and trial practices to expedite civil actions; incentives for the plaintiff and defense bar to use the

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Leadership Changes in Camden, Passaic and Union

By Tamara Kendig

Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

New trial court administrators have been named in three vicinages

Giuseppe M. Fazari has been appointed TCA in Union, Kelly Law is the new TCA in Camden and Robert D. Tracy was named TCA in Passaic.

The trial court administrator is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations, including financial management, human resources,

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New Jersey Celebrates Law Day with Speeches, Special Events

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understanding of this very important event in a person's life cannot be fully expressed in words," said Mendez.

Trial Court Administrator Howard H. Berchtold Jr. and his daughters, Lauren and Heather, sang the national anthem.

The celebration began with the recognition of the mock trial team from Mainland Regional High School, winners of the Atlantic County Mock Trial Competition, and the mock trial team from Middle Township High School, winners of the Cape May County Mock Trial Competition.

The vicinage hosted two other Law Day events.

An information fair was held on April 29 in the lobby of the Atlantic County Office Building. Staff from the courts and several agencies, including the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department, Atlantic County Clerk, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)



Howard H. Berchtold Jr., trial court administrator in the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, speaks to 46 candidates for U.S. citizenship at a naturalization ceremony at Richard Stockton State College. Standing (left to right) are Nieves Cardinale of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez and U.S. District Court Judge Jerome B. Simandle.

of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center, and South Jersey Legal Services, were available to answer questions and distribute information.

On May 3, the Middle Township High School mock trial team was honored by the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage and the Cape May County Bar Association at the Cape May County Courthouse.

Following the ceremony, team members shared their experience with younger students.

The mock trial team participants reenacted parts of the mock trial for the younger students.

There also was an information fair in the lobby of the courthouse. Information tables were staffed by attorneys,

Cape May County agencies and departments, CASA of Atlantic and Cape May Counties, the Cape May County Sheriff's Department, attorneys and court staff.

The Criminal Courts Complex in Mays Landing had an information fair in the lobby of the courthouse on May 3.

Law Day events were planned by the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Atlantic and Cape May bar associations, and Richard Stockton College.

Bergen

The Bergen Vicinage, in partnership with the Bergen County Bar Association and vicinage Minority Concerns Committee, joined the nation in celebrating Law Day on May 1. The ceremony was held outside the rotunda on the courthouse steps. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administered the Oath of Citizenship to 34 new U.S. citizens.

"You have every right to feel great pride as we celebrate that new bond with great pleasure," the chief justice said.

The keynote speaker, former U.S. Rep. Steve Rothman, also addressed the new citizens.

"Each of you brings the richness of your culture and your traditions and – particularly important to me – the glorious food of your native land," he said.

Judge Joseph Conte served as

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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@judiciary.state.nj.us. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

Director of Communications and Community Relations
Winifred Comfort

Editor
Mike Mathis

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Law Day Celebrated in New Jersey With Lectures and Contests

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moderator of the Law Day program for his 13th and final year, as he will be retiring in July.

Assignment Judge Peter Doyne expressed his appreciation, saying, "In light of (Judge Conte's) imminent retirement, the baton will be passed, though not without recognition of his extraordinary efforts in welcoming our new citizens every year for the last 13 years."

Conte was presented with an honorary plaque by Linda Schwager on behalf of the Law Day Planning Committee.

Christian Davakis, son of Michael Davakis of the criminal division, impressed the crowd with his captivating delivery of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and Criminal Judge Donald R. Venezia delivered a talented rendition of *God Bless America*.

Additional songs were performed by the Ridgeland Park High School chorus, including a song dedicated to Judge Conte, *The Next Best Thing*. The Bergen County Minority Concerns



A mock trial, *State of Oz v. Dorothy Gale*, was one of the many Law Day activities held in the Burlington Vicinage. Other activities included a program on Burlington County's connection to the civil and human rights movements, a history treasure hunt in the Olde Historic Burlington County Courthouse and community outreach on court programs and services.

Committee presented awards for the student essay and poster contests representing this year's Law Day theme. Michelle Foti from Lyndhurst High School read her winning essay. The Mock Trial Competition Award went to Torah Academy of Bergen County.

Burlington

Looking for treasure? Look no further than the Olde Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly.

To celebrate Law Day this year, the courthouse was opened to the public for guided tours. Children used clues to discover treasures inside and outside of the courthouse while learning about the history of the 1796 building, one of the oldest courthouses in continuous use in the country.

Burlington Vicinage also highlighted the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln issuing the Emancipation Proclamation and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech.

After Assignment Judge Ronald Bookbinder signed a proclamation designating May 1 as Law Day, the Burlington County Bar Association and the court offered a program featuring two local historians and an appearance by Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Bob Gleason of the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia.

Lincoln was escorted into the courtroom by the Pemberton Township High School ROTC unit.

Judiciary Times Wins Honors in Professional Journalism Contest

Judiciary Times, the quarterly newsletter of the New Jersey Judiciary, has received a second place ranking in newsletter writing from the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The publication, edited by Judiciary Publications and Video Production Manager Mike Mathis under the direction of Judiciary Communications and Community Relations Director Winnie Comfort, was one of only two newsletters honored in the Newsletters category.

The contest was judged by out-of-state journalism professionals.

Each quarter, *Judiciary Times* publishes statewide and local news stories about the New Jersey courts, including new programs and services offered by

the Judiciary, recent events held around the state and accomplishments of judges and staff.

The Society of Professional Journalists was founded in 1909 to encourage excellence in the journalism field. Emphasizing the critical role that journalists play in making sure that America's citizenry is well-informed, the society aims to protect the freedom of speech and freedom of the press as guaranteed in the Constitution.

The New Jersey Chapter of SPJ was founded in 1959, and its annual journalism awards program has grown steadily over the years to become one of the most competitive and prestigious in the state. This year it attracted more than 400 entries.

Judiciary Times is available at njcourts.com

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Lincoln and King Were Focus of Law Day Celebrations in N.J.

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He regaled attendees with excerpts from Lincoln's Inaugural addresses and the Emancipation Proclamation.

Historians Paul Schopp and Joseph Laufer retold the story of the Battle of Pine Swamp, which occurred in 1860 in the Timbuctoo section of Westampton Township to prevent the capture of Perry Simmons, a fugitive slave, by a southern slave catcher.

The program detailed fugitive slave trials held at the Olde Courthouse in the 1880s and Burlington's contributions to the Civil War.

Law Day programs were held throughout the month with the Courtroom to Classroom series, community outreach seminars and expositions, the Black Women Lawyers career program, and award ceremonies.

This year's Juror for a Day program had seventh and eighth grade students deliberating the fate of Dorothy in the case of *State of Oz v. Dorothy Gale*.

Law clerks drafted the fact pattern and assumed roles in this original and innovative method to educate youth on courtroom procedures and the first-hand experience of serving on a jury.

Camden

Students from Creative Arts High

School, Morgan Village Academy, Camden County Technical School's Gloucester Township campus and Haddon Township High School watched court hearings, toured the courthouse and spent time in the juvenile holding cells. Numerous schools also participated in the annual essay and poster competition.

The Association of Black Women's Lawyers sponsored the Law Day program at the Hall of Justice. The event was hosted by Administrative Law Judge Lisa James Beavers. The 40 students in attendance were greeted by Judges Charles W. Dortch, Gwendolyn Blue and Mary Eva Colaillo. The students participated in role play activities and spoke to the judges about how they ascended to the bench.

Pro se workshops and expungement seminars were held to assist self-represented litigants with basic knowledge about the court system.

Essex

In keeping with its commitment to educational community outreach, Essex Vicinage celebrated Law Day 2013 with a mock trial program, writing and poster contests, and a student awards ceremony.

As in years past, the teamwork

and dedication of all involved in its planning made for a successful program in which students from approximately 50 Essex County schools enthusiastically participated.

On May 10, Superior and municipal court judges, along with sheriff's officers and attorneys, visited 36 local schools to facilitate a mock trial with students.

This year's case focused on shoplifting and criminal mischief/destruction of property against the backdrop of relatable, contemporary facts for the students.

On May 14, Municipal Division Presiding Judge Anthony J. Frasca and Rutgers School of Law – Newark Professor Laura Cohen and her students conducted a mock trial at the Essex County Youth Detention Center. Students and teachers appreciated the time taken to help this fictional case come to life, as well as the opportunity to participate in the mock trials.

An awards ceremony recognizing students who submitted entries to the writing and poster contests was held in the courtroom of Civil Division Presiding Judge Dennis F. Carey III in the Essex County Historic Courthouse on the afternoon of May 10.

This year, students showed their creativity through the 148 essays, 65 poems, and 117 posters they submitted.

Members of the Law Day Committee, Customer Service Committee and Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns reviewed and voted on the winning

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Superior Court Judge Dennis F. Carey III speaks at an awards ceremony held to recognize students who submitted entries to the Essex Vicinage's Law Day writing and poster contests. The ceremony was held in the Essex County Historic Courthouse in Newark.

Editor's Note

The deadline for the fall 2013 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Aug. 30.

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 e-newsletter.

Speeches, Seminars and Expos Mark Law Day 2013 in N.J.

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entries.

Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello presented medals and certificates to the winning students.

Judge Dennis F. Carey III, Essex County Bar Association President Thomas F. Quinn, and Essex County Bar Association Members Donna Cameron, Amber Loughran, and Jennifer D. Talley were present to recognize the students.

Lining the halls were a gallery of the outstanding student contest entries and photos of civil rights images from throughout the Essex County Court Complex.

Essay and poem first place winners Noelia Toledo and Tanasia Ramsey-Davis recited their entries.

Hudson

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson gave the keynote speech at Hudson Vicinage's Law Day celebration, which was held in the rotunda of the Justice William J. Brennan Jr., Courthouse.

The ceremony began with the Presentation of the Flags by the Hudson County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. welcomed everyone to the celebration. Judge Bariso introduced Ralph Lamparello, president of the New Jersey State Bar Association who spoke about the artwork in the rotunda highlighting important cases in the county's history.

Sydney Royster, a third grade student at Midtown Community School in Bayonne and the daughter of Judge Martha T. Royster, chair of the Law Day Planning Committee, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judiciary Voices in Unity, a choir composed of individuals from both the state and county offices performed *The Star Spangled Banner* and *Hymn to America*.

After the video presentation by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Hudson County Surrogate Donald W. DeLeo read the Law Day proclamation.



Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson poses with the winners of the Law Day poster and essay contest, sponsored by the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The ceremony concluded with the announcement of the winner of the high school mock trial competition. Bayonne High School defeated Hudson Catholic High School, McNair Academic High School, St. Dominic Academy, The Hudson School, Union City High School, and Weehawken High School.

This year's Liberty Bell Award was presented to Earl A. Morgan, columnist for *The Jersey Journal*, for his outstanding contribution as a beat reporter and a columnist.

Morgan worked at the newspaper until his retirement in 2010, after 32 years of service. Gregory Diebold of Northeast New Jersey Legal Services in Jersey City nominated Morgan because he enjoyed and has been inspired by Morgan's columns.

Diebold said Morgan "is a gifted writer and champions the causes of persons who are disadvantaged and politically powerless in our county. He embodies the dream of equality for all and the effort to achieve equal rights for all our citizens."

The Law Day Planning Committee received 99 art entries, 25 rap entries, 300 poetry entries, and 523 essay entries for its essay, poetry, rap, art and photography contests.

Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage held its Law Day program on May 1 in conjunction with the Monmouth Bar Association.

A formal celebration took place in the

ceremonial general equity courtroom in the Hall of Records in Freehold.

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Monmouth Bar Association President James M. Newman offered remarks.

Lawson spoke about the role of the courts in upholding this year's Law Day theme of equality for all. He also explained that it is the responsibility of every Judiciary employee to fulfill this mission.

The keynote address was given by Joseph A. Greenaway Jr., judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Greenaway reflected on the importance of individual dreams and how they helped build the foundation of the country. He related his father's experiences in achieving the dream of coming to America.

In the past, the dreams of many individuals were restricted because of inequality, but everyone now has the right to dream, he said.

Greenaway said it was up to the students to believe that everyone is equal and has the same potential. He also encouraged them to pursue their dreams through hard work, even if their dreams don't come to fruition.

He spoke of his dream to become a professional baseball player and, even though the chances were slim, he did not stop working to achieve that goal.

Greenaway also shared a key life lesson with a quote from his father. He

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Law Day is Celebrated in Courthouses Around the State

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said, "I will never rest until my good is better and my better is best."

In addition to following their personal dreams, he reminded the students that they are leaders of the mission for true equality. He invited them to close their eyes each day, to dream and achieve.

Awards were presented to Colts Neck High School for winning the Monmouth County High School Mock Trial Competition.

The Abraham J. Zagar Professionalism Award was presented to attorney Peter W. Kenny.

Lawson presented plaques to the student winners of the Law Day 2013 poster and essay contest, which was sponsored by the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The Office of the Ombudsman and Self-Help Resource Center hosted two well-attended outreach seminars. Approximately 50 community members were present at the elder law seminar, which was conducted in collaboration with the Monmouth Bar Association.

A panel of representatives from the Office of the Monmouth County Surrogate, the Monmouth County

Office on Aging and members of the Bar covered topics ranging from guardianship to wills, estates, probate and trusts.

The next seminar addressed expungement of juvenile and adult offense records. Presented in collaboration with the Monmouth Bar Association and the Ocean Monmouth Legal Services, Inc. it provided procedural information on filing an expungement petition.

Morris/Sussex

In Morris County, the traditional lunchtime ceremony was held on May 1 in the Morris County Courthouse in Morristown, with a welcome by Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck and a keynote speech by Judge Jose L. Fuentes, presiding judge for Part H of the Appellate Division.

Judge Fuentes explained that "our modern understanding of equality" is quite different from that of someone in the 1800s, especially in light of the "egalitarian nature" of the Internet, with its instant, widespread, and interactive communications.

However, Fuentes also reminded the audience that a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" must by definition be

"an unfinished experiment, subject to revision by each successive generation; the quest for a more perfect union requires that our institutions of governance never stop striving to fulfill the great promise of freedom and equality."

The Morris celebration also featured speeches by Mark Weschler, president of the Morris County Bar Association, Diana Manning, bar foundation president, and Morris County Freeholder Director Thomas Mastrangelo.

The mock trial team from West Morris-Mendham High School was honored for winning the county, regional, and state competitions.

The Morristown High School Vocal and String Ensemble, under the direction of Norma Davis, performed.

The Sussex County celebration was held May 1 in the historic Sussex County Courthouse in Newton.

The keynote was delivered by Amy Gjelsvik, bar association president, and the county mock trial winners from High Point Regional High School were honored. The Law Day Brass Band entertained.

Passaic

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Helen Honas administered the Oath of Citizenship to 23 new citizens from 13 countries.

The new citizens also heard about passports, voting rights and responsibilities and jury service. They also witnessed a demonstration of a voting machine.

Judge Sohail Mohammed led the new citizen program, sharing his own experiences on becoming a naturalized citizen.

Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., U.S. Rep. William J. Pascrell Jr., Passaic County Freeholder Director Bruce James, John E. Thompson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director, and Richard Bald, president of the Passaic County Bar Association also spoke.



New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Helen Hoens speaks during Passaic Vicinage's Law Day celebration in Paterson. Hoens administered the Oath of Citizenship to 23 new citizens from 13 countries

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Vicinages Celebrate Law Day with an Array of Activities

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Middle school students submitted posters, poetry and videos that best illustrated the Law Day theme.

Winners were invited to participate in an awards program, a presentation on gangs by the New Jersey State Police, and a pizza luncheon sponsored by the Passaic County Bar Association. Classes from St. Andrew the Apostle School in Clifton and St. Mary's School in Pompton Lakes also attended the program.

Two high schools, Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls and Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne conducted a mock trial that the middle school students also observed. Passaic County Technical Institute was judged the winner by a panel of attorneys, judges, freeholders, prosecutors, and others.

A program, *Survival in the Courts*, *Surviving Motion Practice*, took place in the afternoon.

Volkert moderated the discussion, and Judges Margaret M. McVeigh, Marilyn C. Clark, John Selser, Ernest M. Caposela and Bruno Mongiardo participated.

Nearly 80 attorneys attended the session to earn continuing legal education credits.

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

The vicinage held several events to mark Law Day.

More than 100 children attended the 16th annual Bring Your Child to Work Day in April.

Activities included: a visit to the Emergency Services Training Academy; watching a police academy video, *The Elite*; a presentation, *The Evolution and Role of Correction Officers*; recruit training that included handcuffing, self-defense, and first aid/CPR; a tour of the courthouse a K-9 demonstration and a mock trial.

In Hunterdon County, Judge Hany A. Mawla presided over a mock trial.

The children toured the Hunterdon County Jail and the Historic Hunterdon County Courthouse. IDs



Bob Gleason of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia portrays Abraham Lincoln while delivering an address, *History & Life Lessons for Young People from President Abraham Lincoln*, in Union Vicinage.

were made, and the children attended a crime scene demonstration in which they participated in marking the scene of a crime, taking photos and fingerprinting for evidence. There also was a K-9 demonstration.

Children in Warren County met Judge Kimarie Rahill and saw a presentation about a bail bond company. There also was a scavenger hunt in the park, a presentation on crime scene processing and tours of the Warren Prosecutor's Office Crime Scene Mobile Unit, police cars, and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office's prisoner transportation bus.

The children also received coloring books, deputy badges, photo/fingerprint child identification cards, and "wanted posters" that included their photos and personal information.

The celebration of Law Day also included mock trial competitions in Hunterdon and Somerset counties. The case in both counties involved an alleged product liability leading to the death of a show dog.

In Hunterdon County, Voorhees High School defeated Hunterdon Central High School and North Hunterdon High School. Judges Robert B. Reed and Peter A. Buchsbaum presided over the competition.

In Somerset County, Mount Saint Mary Academy bested Hillsborough High School. Reed and New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Helen E. Hoens presided over the final competition.

Union

Union Vicinage held its Law Day celebration on May 29 in the courtroom of Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy.

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 with Cassidy.

The Charles Hudson School Band opened the event with several musical selections, including *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Andrew J. Gibbs, a member of the Union County Bar Association, presented an award to Oratory Preparatory School of Summit, winners of the Union County Mock Trial Competition.

The keynote speaker was Ayanna Brant of the New Jersey Orators, who delivered three original poems.

Brant is a seventh grader who has aspirations to be a lawyer, doctor or

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Justice Albin Addresses Drug Court Graduates in Bergen Vicinage

By Cheryl Cohen

Administrative Specialist 3
Bergen Vicinage

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Barry Albin was the keynote speaker at Bergen Vicinage Drug Court's 12th graduation ceremony on May 9.

Albin delivered a powerful speech, telling the graduates, "You have shown that determined individuals can rise above adversity. You are proof that drug court works."

"We all feel uplifted by the incredible achievements of our graduates," he said. Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne detailed the successes of the drug court program, including that "almost 90 percent of our graduates are employed at graduation, whereas only 32 percent were employed when they entered drug court."

"Your accomplishments provide proof of the strength of the human spirit," Doyne told the graduates. Judge Eugene H. Austin handed certificates to the graduates, telling them, "You are all my superstars."

The graduates were called up individually and given the chance to say a few words.

Patricia P. claimed to be shy but then offered some very moving words.

"I came such a long way. I was in such pain when I got here, I needed someone to help me," she said. "(The drug court team) saw something in me I didn't see in myself." Patricia is now an A student at Bergen Community College.

Annie G. directed her remarks to her daughter, saying, "I'm now the mom you were looking for, for so long. You got your mother back."

Eugene C. said, "This is surreal. It's been a long journey. I really wanted to change but I had no idea how... I never would have been able to do this without the drug court team."

Closing remarks were given by Presiding Criminal Division Judge Liliana Deavila-Silebi.

"It's such an honor to see you



New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Barry Albin speaks to graduates of the Bergen Vicinage Drug Court.

graduate. The drug court team – all of us – we care about you, we respect you, and we congratulate you," she said.

Drug courts are a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses non-violent drug-related cases. This rehabilitative option relies upon a unique, collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases over five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, and a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services.

This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The drug court program offers non-violent offenders with drug addiction a chance for rehabilitation instead of prison. Selected participants are strictly supervised throughout the program by the drug court team and participate in varying levels of drug treatment.

N.J. Celebrates Law Day

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engineer.

Union County schools competed in essay, poetry and poster contests that focused on the Law Day theme. Students placed first, second and third in each category.

The winning schools were Charles Hudson School #25, Benjamin Franklin School #13 and Juan Pablo Duarte-Jose Marti School #28, all in Elizabeth; Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies in Plainfield; Burnet Middle School in Union; and St. Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains.

The event was co-sponsored by the Union Vicinage Minority Concerns Advisory Committee, the Union County Bar Association, the Garden State Bar Association, and the Hispanic Bar Association.

The vicinage also hosted an information fair in conjunction with its Law Day celebration. Staff from the civil, criminal and family divisions provided information to guests and court users.

New Court Administrators Named in Camden, Passaic, Union

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information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis. Under New Jersey court rules, the administrative director of the courts appoints the trial court administrator in each vicinage.

Fazari served as assistant trial court administrator in the Essex Vicinage since 2009. His prior positions in the Judiciary include jury manager, assistant criminal division manager, and interim civil division manager. Before coming to the courts, Fazari worked for several years in higher education administration.

"This is possible because of the exceptional support that I have had over many years in Essex particularly under the leadership of Judge Costello and Collins Ijoma. I am looking forward to building on the good work and foundation established by Judge Cassidy and the prior TCA, Liz Domingo" said Fazari. "It is an honor and privilege to be given this opportunity to serve the public and work with the dedicated staff, managers, and judges of Union County."

Fazari holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Seton Hall University, where he also earned a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor of arts in criminal justice. Fazari also earned a postgraduate certificate in U.S. law and methodologies from New York University. He is a fellow of the National Center for State Courts' Institute for Court Management.

Fazari lives with his wife Maria, a speech pathologist, in Stirling, Morris County. They have twin boys, Michael and Vincent.

Law succeeds Michael O'Brien, who died in February.

Law earned a bachelor's degree from Glassboro State College, now Rowan University. She earned a law degree from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Del.



Giuseppe M. Fazari

She served as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge Donald A. Smith Jr. before becoming an assistant prosecutor with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office in 1992.

In 1998, she joined the Judiciary as the family division manager in Vicinage 15, which includes Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties. She was named assistant trial court administrator in 2000, "I have mixed emotions about leaving the



Kelly Law

wonderful people in Vicinage 15, and in particular Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio, because I am so grateful for their support and encouragement over the years," said Law. "At the same time, I am honored to be given this opportunity to join the Camden Vicinage in this role, and I am eager to keep the vicinage moving forward as my colleague Mike would have wanted."

Law lives in West Deptford, Gloucester County, with her husband, Christopher, and daughter, Dara.

Tracy joined the Judiciary in 1989 as an administrative assistant in the Bergen Vicinage.

In 1992, he became a complementary dispute resolution team leader. In 1994,

he was named leader of the finance and purchasing team.

In 1997, he was named civil division manager in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, a position he has held until now.

He has chaired the statewide Conference of Civil Division Managers and served on a number of other committees including the Administrative Council Management Committee, the Involuntary



Robert D. Tracy

Outpatient Commitments Committee, and the Morris/Sussex Civil Practice Committee.

"As someone whose entire career has been with the New Jersey Judiciary, I am extremely proud of the professionalism and dedication of our workforce," said Tracy. "I am grateful to everyone in the Morris/Sussex vicinage for their support over the years, and I look forward to working with Judge Volkert and my new colleagues in Passaic."

Tracy earned a bachelor of arts in government with a concentration on international relations from Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

He lives with his wife and son in Cresskill, Bergen County. He coaches youth soccer, basketball and baseball.

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 nj-courts.com and look for the icons on the right side of the page.

Judiciary Targets Youth To Consider Careers in Court System

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

The New Jersey Judiciary has embarked on a public education initiative to encourage high school students to consider careers in the court system.

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, developed the idea for the program, *Courts in the Community Making a Difference*, to educate students about the role of courts in society and to introduce them to career opportunities.

Grant sent the letter to more than 400 school superintendents and principals across the state.

Bobby Battle, the Judiciary's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action officer, and vicinage representatives have visited 46 schools in Bergen; Cumberland; Essex; Gloucester; Hudson; Mercer; Middlesex; Monmouth; Morris; Passaic; Somerset and Union counties since February.

"Courts are the most visible part of

our legal system, and the decisions that are made in our courts influence the lives of all New Jerseyans in countless ways," Grant said. "To handle the 7 million new cases filed each year requires a dedicated and educated staff of approximately 9,000 individuals committed to providing justice. Every staff person in every courthouse in the state plays an important role in that process."

The career paths in the Judiciary are numerous and varied and include probation officers and finance, information technology, case management and court interpreting positions.

During each presentation, Battle or representatives from the vicinage in which the school is located discuss the purpose of the courts, how the courts are structured and managed, and the numerous careers that exist.

"I tell the students they are the future," Battle said. "Large numbers of people are going to be retiring, and they must be prepared to run society."

"They had no idea the variety of

careers available in the Judiciary," Battle said.

Battle also speaks about the Judiciary's Access and Fairness Initiative, a statewide campaign that focuses on how to administer justice in the face of such challenges as the continued increase in the number of self-represented litigants, the economic pressures applied to litigants and to the courts, and the need to treat each case and each litigant with dignity and respect.

"The students really enjoyed the exposure to the inner workings of the New Jersey Courts system and they now understand the various skills one must possess in order to be successful in such a setting," Denise Galluccio, a transition coordinator at Hudson County Schools of Technology, wrote in a letter to the Hudson Vicinage; "You did an outstanding job delineating the benefits of choosing your organization as a viable post-secondary career option."

For more information about the program, call 609-292-3586.

Disaster Simulation Focuses on Data Maintenance and Recovery

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

The Judiciary's Information Technology Office in May conducted exercises to simulate how it would maintain and recover its voluminous databases in the aftermath of a natural or man-made disaster.

Four times a year, staff assemble in a predetermined location to assume the worst: Communication with the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex is gone and all of the electronic data and documents stored in the data center are inaccessible.

The assembled staff run through an exercise to bring all of the Judiciary's critical infrastructure and case management systems up at a disaster recovery site at a remote location.

The staff assigned to the disaster recovery test run through a set of

documented procedures to ensure that the systems can become available quickly.

"At this juncture, we can assume that various portions of our infrastructure are available in minutes after a disaster," said Jack McCarthy III, the Judiciary's Chief Information Officer. "Mission critical systems can be brought back online within hours, and a majority of our remaining items in days."

McCarthy said the intricacy and interdependencies of Judiciary applications have become more complex in recent years, and officials must assume that IT staff might not be available during a crisis to bring them back online.

Staff documents and re-documents the steps they must follow to ensure the complete recovery of all infrastructure and applications. The step by step documentation allows staff unfamiliar

with daily procedures to start and completely bring systems back online in worst case scenarios.

Ron Witt and Fran Daniels of the IT staff spend months preparing for each exercise to ensure that the proper equipment, access and staff are available to complete the tests, McCarthy said.

Staff from Trial Court Services, the practice divisions and the vicinages test access and ensure the applications are functioning correctly.

"Our disaster recovery plan represents a considerable amount of complex and interrelated technologies and tasks required to support our ability to recover in a worst case scenario," McCarthy said. "We have constant changes in personnel, technologies, and application systems. We need to validate that we can recover the hundreds of millions of dollars we've invested in our systems".

Passaic Salutes Veterans During Military Appreciation Month

By Donna Hoffman

Court Services Supervisor 2
Passaic Vicinage

The Passaic Vicinage, in conjunction with the Passaic County Bar, Passaic County Freeholders and Passaic County Veterans Services, participated in a Memorial Day ceremony on May 24 in the rotunda of the historic Passaic County Courthouse.

The lunch time event was attended by Superior Court judges, attorneys and courthouse staff in the newly restored, century-old building that features a stained glass mosaic dome with changing LED lights positioned to highlight the dome.

Judge Ernest Caposela welcomed the group to the fourth and final event commemorating Military Ap-

preciation Month. The first three events were the Interfaith Service, the Gold and Blue Star Mothers luncheon and the medals ceremony. The colors were presented by Passaic County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. Richard Baldi led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Passaic County Bar Association President Jeffrey Fiorello performed the national anthem.

Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert addressed the group and thanked everyone for paying tribute to those who have given so much for the country.

Volkert reminded the group of the impact of Memorial Day across the United States.

Volkert reflected on President Obama's remarks when speaking of the

fallen, noting the extraordinary willingness of those in the armed forces to risk their lives for those they never met.

Our freedoms were made possible by those in uniform willing to lay down their life in pursuit of freedom, he said.

Caposela reflected on the meaning and explanation of the Honor and Remember flag. The flag is dedicated to the fallen warriors to serve as a national symbol of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Wreaths were presented by the Passaic County Freeholders, the Passaic County surrogate, the Passaic County Clerk's Office; the Blue Star mothers and the Paterson PBA. Bob Langez, a member VFW Post 7165 in Clifton, played taps at the end of the ceremony.

Chief Justice Outlines Plans for Examinations of Civil, Criminal Courts

Continued from page 1

expedited program; case management modifications for an expedited program; and whether the court rules need to be amended or new rules adopted for such a program.

"We need to improve the pretrial process in a way that enables citizens to have their day in court and proceed to trial more promptly, that makes litigation more affordable and reduces the cost of discovery, and that enables judges to oversee cases more effectively and expeditiously at a time of strained resources," Rabner told meeting attendees.

The criminal committee will examine issues related to pretrial delay that were identified by a working group of judges who began meeting last year. Members of the newly formed committee will discuss procedures used to address those issues and suggest innovative, alternative approaches.

The criminal committee also will examine the issue of bail and the predicament of defendants accused of less serious offenses who remain incarcerated because they cannot afford minimal bail.

Factors that contribute to pretrial delay and backlog, staffing standards for criminal courts, and the establishment of pre-indictment programs also will be examined.

"There are consequences for all types of cases that don't move as quickly as they should," Rabner said. "In criminal cases, there's the human cost to defendants awaiting trial, some of whom are unable to make bail, to victims who hope to see cases resolved, and to witnesses whose memories dim with each passing day. There are similar consequences in civil cases of not resolving disputes promptly including the growing cost of pretrial discovery."

The chief justice also spoke about the Guardianship Monitoring Program, a comprehensive, volunteer statewide court program established to monitor how guardians handle the affairs of incapacitated individuals.

The Judiciary has developed a new statewide database to track all guardianships and ensure that reviews will be conducted in a timely and thorough manner.

Until now, the review of annual reports has varied from county to

county, and some reviews were minimal.

As part of the Guardianship Monitoring Program, volunteers will use a new computer program to record every court-ordered legal guardianship and track the monitoring of each case. More than 275 people have volunteered to participate in the program.

"It is our hope that this program won't simply uncover and stop ongoing problems but will deter people from even considering committing fraud. By doing so, the project can make a meaningful difference in the lives of people who cannot protect themselves," Rabner said.

The chief justice also announced that more than 200 attorneys and staff have been trained to teach in the Benchmarks program, an adult civics education program first launched in Florida and now adopted in several states, including New Jersey.

"We've launched a broad-based program," the chief said, "in response to the alarming lack of public knowledge about how government works and the role of an independent, impartial court system."

Interpreters Learn How to Deal With Trauma and Stress

By Richard Samsel

Training Coordinator
Union Vicinage

Assignments performed by court interpreters can exact a heavy emotional toll, Union Vicinage Court Interpreter Miguel Socarras told his supervisor.

They interpret in the first person, he said, and must frequently describe, in horrific detail, the commission of criminal acts that are inherently bewildering and disconcerting.

The supervisor, Dawn Mason, turned to the vicinage training coordinator for help.

The coordinator contacted Frank Mathews, a retired New York Police Department detective who is a Qigong master teacher, stress management educator and volunteer speaker at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway. Mathews has worked with personnel in the hospital's Cardio/Pulmonary Unit and has helped police officers cope with their job demands.

The course Mathews taught, *Vicarious Trauma and The Stress Effect*, was offered twice in the Union Vicinage this year.

Interpreters from nine vicinages attended the sessions.

Mathews assured the interpreters that their feelings are understandable. He guided them through relaxation meditation techniques they can use to fortify themselves before undertaking heart-wrenching assignments. He also taught them how to de-stress after a trying court event.

"The training was really eye-opening for me," said Leigh Easty, who heads the Programs and Procedures Unit at the Administrative Office of the Courts. Programs and Procedures administers the Judiciary's court interpreter program.

"While many members of our staff sit in court rooms and hear traumatic testimony, it is unique that interpreters have to convey the utterances of the victims themselves in the first person," said Easty, who attended one of the sessions. "Saying 'he hit me again and again until I passed out from the pain' while trying to remain detached from the horror is incredibly difficult."

The interpreters clearly benefitted from the training, with several noting to me how helpful it was to have someone truly understand their stress and try to help them deal with their unique role."

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Records Large Increase in Child Support Payments

By Mary Kate Soriano

Probation Division
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage

Each year, statewide child support goals are established for each child support unit in the state, and it becomes a yearlong effort to meet or exceed the goal.

All three counties met their goals, collecting a total of \$88.6 million.

Somerset County surpassed its goal of \$46.4 million, \$2.2 million more than the previous year. The goal was achieved at an obligation rate of 70.9 percent.

Hunterdon County collected 422 million, a 6.1 percent increase over the previous year. The goal was achieved with a collection rate of 79.9 percent.

Warren County collected \$19.3 million and collected 72.2 percent of obligations.

Meeting these goals begins with the after court/intake officers, supported by the clerical staff, and assisted by the bench warrant and court teams. Supervisors ensure that the reports in NJKiDS and from the Administrative Office of the Courts are monitored and that the teams function effectively.

Law Day 2013



New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson, pictured with Hudson Vicinage Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso and Judge Martha T. Royster, delivered the keynote speech at the vicinage's Law Day celebration in Jersey City. Law Day was celebrated in courthouses throughout New Jersey in the spring.



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.