

# Judiciary Times

The newsletter of the New Jersey Judiciary

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## Diamond Jubilee

### Supreme Court Marks the 60th Anniversary of the Modern Judiciary

By **Mike Mathis**  
Judiciary Times Editor

The jewel that is the Judiciary remains a shining example to those seeking justice.

That was the message delivered by several dignitaries, including Gov. Jon. S. Corzine, during a ceremony Sept. 8 marking the diamond anniversary of the Supreme Court and the modern Judiciary under the 1947 constitution.

The Supreme Court held its first session under the 1947 constitution on Sept. 15, 1948.

“Today, New Jersey ranks at the very top of judicial systems throughout our nation, under whatever measure might be applied,” Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said. “Our system has witnessed quick and ever-improving changes for the betterment of our state.”

Corzine praised the court for paving the way for social change by rendering decisions in landmark cases involving affordable housing, education funding and the right to die.

“All of these are pathfinding, not just for New Jersey, but for the nation, and we are proud of the progressive force and the balanced force that this court has brought to ensure justice for all our citizens,” Corzine said. “I’m honored to be governor of a state where you can look to the court and understand that there will be fairness, that there will be attention to the facts and the law.”

The ceremony was held in the Supreme Court courtroom in the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex.

Among those offering remarks were Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, grandson of Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt, the first chief justice under the 1947 constitution; state Sen.



Retired Supreme Court Justice James H. Coleman Jr. was among those who spoke during the ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s first session under the 1947 constitution. Coleman remarked that the New Jersey Judiciary is the nation’s premier judicial system.

Leonard Lance, whose father, Wesley L. Lance, a former state Senate president, was a leading figure in the development in the constitution; and retired Associate Justice James H. Coleman Jr., who was named to the Superior Court in 1973, elevated to the appellate division in 1981 and then nominated to the Supreme Court in 1994.

State representatives from both houses presented resolutions marking the occasion.

The 1947 constitution consolidated 17 courts into five, abolished overlapping and conflicting jurisdictions and revised an awkward procedure of multiple appeals. Judges were granted tenure after an initial term and a retirement age of 70 was established.

The 1947 constitution also gave the Supreme Court sole authority over the administration of the state’s courts, admission to the practice of law, and attorney discipline. It laid out the appellate process, the prerequisites for becoming a judge and the position of administrative director of the courts.

The Superior Court, comprising the appellate, law and chancery divisions also was created, superseding the 9-member Supreme Court, 11-member Court of Chancery and 14 Circuit Court judges.

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## Supreme Court Marks 60th Anniversary of Modern Judiciary

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Under the previous constitution, ratified in 1844, the Court of Errors and Appeals was the highest court in the state. The name of the court was derived from its function of hearing appeals and correcting previous courts' errors in judgment.

The justices of that court also presided over the lower courts. Each court had its own rules and procedures, and the jurisdictions were ambiguous and often overlapped, and litigants often were required to have their disputes resolved in more than one court.

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

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

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](mailto:Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us). Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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As New Jersey's population grew and the primarily agrarian society became more industrialized, the legal system no longer met the needs of the citizens and businesses it served.

As a result of the new constitution, the courts eliminated backlogs and dramatically reduced the time to disposition in every court.

"The disposition of equal justice is one of the fundamental ideals and visions of this great state and our nation," Corzine said. "All men and women are created equal, and when they enter a court of law, they have a right to be treated as such. It is absolutely essential our citizens have the ability to have their day in court."

Arthur Vanderbilt II said the realization of the new constitution was the culmination of a 17-year battle that pitted the state and county bar associations, the majority of sitting judges and powerful Jersey City Mayor Frank Hague against Vanderbilt's grandfather and others who brought about the constitutional convention and the new document.

"Imagine sitting here 60 years ago," Vanderbilt said. "Can you understand the pride these men and women must have felt in what they had accomplished? And can you imagine the

fear?

"But they made it happen, they made it work, with those same sitting judges who had opposed it," he said.

Vanderbilt said New Jersey's court system has served as a model for courts in other states and nations.

The hallmark of the state judicial system is that litigants are respected and treated courteously by staff and by judges who handle cases with honor and impartiality, focusing only on the facts and law of the case, not the parties and what their backgrounds may represent, the chief justice said.

"Litigants have every right to walk out of this and every courtroom our state disagreeing with the decision," he said. "But we hope that they will walk out with a sense they have received a fair hearing, a fair shake, the ultimate benchmark in any system of justice, today or in 1948, a measure that we strive to achieve in each case, in every courthouse in the state, each and every day."

Burlington, Essex, Middlesex and Ocean were among the vicinages that held events to mark the anniversary.

*For another anniversary-related story and photographs, see page 12*



Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, grandson of Arthur T. Vanderbilt, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court under the 1947 constitution, explains the long struggle advocates for change in the state's old judicial system faced. The movement to change the old system was opposed by most of the judicial establishment.

## Chief Justice Administers Citizenship Oath in Mt. Holly

By **Donna Mazzanti**

Administrative Specialist 4  
Burlington Vicinage

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administered the oath of citizenship to 30 immigrants Sept. 17 during Burlington Vicinage's celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Burlington Vicinage, in conjunction with several community partners, sponsored the naturalization ceremony as part of its weeklong activities marking the 221<sup>st</sup> birthday of the U.S. Constitution.

The new citizens hail from 18 countries.

Rabner said that the group of newly minted citizens was well represented, with individuals from "as far away as the People's Republic of China and as near as 90 miles off the coast of Florida in Cuba."

Rabner reminded the new citizens that they bring their respective cultures with them and enrich the very fabric of our nation.

"Each of you has your own story, your own journey," he said. "Today we all share a common bond. We are all Americans."

Rabner shared with the new citizens the story of noble prize winner Albert Einstein, who in 1940 became a citizen when he took his oath just a few miles from Mount Holly.

The chief justice also shared Einstein's thoughts on citizenship and democracy before presenting the new citizens with their citizenship certificates and American flags.

Candidates for citizenship must demonstrate an ability to read, write, and speak English and pass a test on U.S. history and government.

The new citizens reminded those in attendance that all Americans, whether natural born or naturalized, are united by the ideals of equal justice and the rule of law.

Among the participants in the ceremony was the New Jersey-ROTC color guard from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mount Holly.



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner congratulates one of 30 new citizens after he administered the oath of citizenship during a ceremony in Mount Holly last month. The new citizens hail from 18 countries. The ceremony was held to mark the 221st birthday of the U.S. Constitution.

## Legal Services Explained in Essex Vicinage

By **Kimberly Cicala**

Community Relations Liaison  
Essex Vicinage

The Customer Service Committee (CSC), composed of representatives from Essex Vicinage customer service areas, recently hosted representatives from Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The role of the CSC is to address customer service issues and develop vicinage-wide initiatives to better serve the public.

LSNJ provides information, advice and referrals to income-eligible individuals.

The Newark office provides direct services to Essex County residents. The Edison office produces LSNJ's resource literature and runs LSNJ's free statewide legal hotline.

Both offices provide advice on legal matters such as eviction, foreclosure, custody, visitation, child support and immigration.

During their presentations, Mary Acevedo and Deborah Fennelly, attorneys in LSNJ's Edison office, and attorney Jose Ortiz, of the Newark

office, provided information about LSNJ's services, procedures and scope of representation.

They also brought and distributed to the CSC their resources, available in both English and Spanish.

The resources included the publications "Tenants' Rights in New Jersey" and "Divorce in New Jersey" and pamphlets on disability, education, domestic violence and prisoner reentry.

The question-and-answer period that followed the presentation acted as a forum for those present to share their experiences as service providers and to discuss ways to work together to continue to provide quality customer service to court users.

All in attendance at the meeting agreed that it was positive and informative.

It allowed CSC members and their LSNJ guests to connect faces to names and gain a better understanding of each other's functions.

For additional information on LSNJ or to access some of its materials, visit LSNJ's Web site at [lsnjlaw.org](http://lsnjlaw.org).

## Turning the Calendar to Usher in a New Court Year

### By Kelly Law

Assistant Trial Court Administrator  
Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem  
Vicinage

Vicinage 15 held an Opening of the Courts ceremony in Cumberland and Gloucester counties in September.

The Opening of the Courts ceremony is a tradition that started in the early years of the courts when courts would take a recess during the summer and reopen in September. Although the courts no longer take a summer recess, some vicinages continue to celebrate this time-honored tradition.

The event marks the historic start of the court year and recognizes the accomplishments of past members of the legal profession and Judiciary.

"The opening of the courts is a wonderful way to acknowledge our rich past while celebrating the dedication of our judges, staff and members of the legal community," Assignment Judge Georgia Curio said.

### Cumberland County Ceremony

Cumberland County Court, in conjunction with the Cumberland County Bar Association celebrated its third annual Opening of the Courts ceremony on Sept. 4. The event took place in the ceremonial courtroom in the Cumberland County Courthouse in Bridgeton.

Curio presided over the special session with the following judges sitting en banc: Julio L. Mendez; Walter L. Marshall; Harold U. Johnson Jr.; John M. Waters; Michael Brooke Fisher; Richard J. Geiger; Darrell Mitchell Fineman and retired Judge Martin A. Herman.

The vicinage was especially honored by the attendance of Supreme Court Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr., who recognized the tremendous contributions of the late Judge Robert Francis, a retired member of the Judiciary who died in April.

Francis had a distinguished career

in the Judiciary which spanned more than 25 years. Members of the Francis family attended the event and were given flowers by the bar association. In addition, John F. Bacon Sr., a long-time resident of Cumberland County and the oldest living bar association member, was recognized. Bacon practiced law in Bridgeton for 65 years and died last year at the age of 95.

The event also included the presentation of an official attorney's license dating to 1894.

The license was awarded to Herbert C. Bartlett, who was one of the founding members of the Cumberland County Bar Association, which was formed June 30, 1889.

A history of Bartlett, researched by attorney and Cumberland County Bar Association historian Theodore H. Ritter, was framed and displayed alongside the restored license.

The license was donated by Barbara Sykora, a private citizen. It was discovered in the attic of the Sykora home and was valued by generations of the family.

The license was printed on sheep skin and was in need of some restoration when it was given to Curio.

The license has found a permanent home at the Cumberland County Courthouse, where it is proudly displayed.

### Gloucester County Ceremony

Gloucester County Courts, in conjunction with the Gloucester County Bar Association, celebrated its second annual Opening of the Courts ceremony on Sept. 9.

The ceremony took place in the ceremonial courtroom in the Old Courthouse in Woodbury. Judge Anne McDonnell called the special session to order. Joining McDonnell were Judges Colleen Maier; Eugene McCaffrey Jr.; Richard S. Hoffman; Mary White and Jean McMaster.

The ceremony also honored the

careers of three esteemed bar association members who passed away this year.

Judge Robert E. Francis, a long-time Gloucester County resident who died in April, was honored by friend and colleague Christopher Cona.

Members of the Francis Family, including his wife, Margaret, attended the memorial.

In addition, the passing of retired Judge Paul F. Cunard also was recognized. Cunard practiced law in Woodbury for many years prior to his appointment as a Superior Court judge. He retired in 1983 and died in April.

Retired Assignment Judge Samuel G. DeSimone recognized Cunard's accomplishments. Priscilla Elizabeth Porch traveled from Pennsylvania to share her thoughts and memories of her father, Rowland B. Porch, who died in March.

Porch practiced law in Pitman for more than 50 years and served as solicitor in Pitman.

*Burlington Vicinage marks the annual Opening of Court, Page 5*

### Probation Officer Honored

Aida Johnson, Union County senior probation officer, has received the Barbara Frank Award from the New Jersey Association for the Treatment of Sex Abusers (NJATSA).

The award is presented to a probation or parole officer who demonstrates exemplary performance in the supervision of adult or juvenile sex offenders.

Johnson was recommended for the award by her supervisor, Lawrence Haman, principal probation officer, for her commitment to juveniles on her caseload and to their families.

### AOC Holiday Party

Date: Friday, Dec. 12  
Time: 12:30-4:30 p.m.  
Place: Katmandu  
Tickets on sale Nov. 14

## Burlington Vicinage Continues a Rich Tradition

By **Donna Mazzanti**  
Administrative Specialist 4  
Burlington Vicinage

Burlington Vicinage held an opening ceremony and memorial service on Sept. 2.

Three judges and two local attorneys were remembered for their contributions to the legal community.

Opening court ceremonies are an important tradition in New Jersey's rich legal history. In the month and year when the Supreme Court celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this event became even more meaningful.

Burlington County's ceremony dates to 1972, a time when the courts would close in July and August for vacation and reopen after Labor Day.

Now, with a burgeoning caseload, the courts remain in session all year, yet the Tuesday after Labor Day is still considered by many to be the start of the court year.

There was a hiatus of several years when the ceremony was suspended, but it was brought back three years ago with the strong support of the bench and bar.

Deceased members of the bar who were memorialized this year were retired Superior Court Judge Martin L. Haines, who served as assignment judge for eight years, retired Municipal Judges Bennett E. Bozarth and Harry J. Supple and attorneys Jeffrey Mintz and Carl P. Schulze.

Newly appointed Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder presided over the ceremony.

Bookbinder spoke about beginning the court year facing the challenge of judge shortages as well as space and facility problems. The Burlington County Bar Association partnered with the court to keep this tradition alive.



A youth probationer swings for the fences during the 21st annual Judiciary Olympics.

## Probation Sponsors Youth Events

### Teens Excel at Tournament of Justice and Judiciary Olympics

By **Mike Mathis**  
Judiciary Times Editor  
and  
**Mary McGinty Flanagan**  
Administrative Specialist 4  
Juvenile Probation Services

The Judiciary's probation division was busy hosting events designed to foster positive teen behavior.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Tournament of Justice, which was hosted by Probation Services' Positive Interventions Committee (PIC), was an opportunity for juvenile probationers to play on their county's team and compete with juveniles from other counties in the state.

A total of 100 juveniles from 12 counties participated in the tournament, which was held at Mercer County Park in Hamilton. Probation officers selected the participants based on their compliance with the conditions of probation and as a reward for making progress during their supervision period.

Union County took home the tournament trophy. Essex County placed second and Gloucester County, third. Last year, Bergen County received first place honors, Mercer County came in second place and Salem

County came in third.

"Our juvenile probationers need to be rewarded for their progress during their term of supervision and to learn skills in social settings," said Curtis Hurff, vicinage assistant chief probation officer in Cumberland County who chairs PIC and considers events such as the Tournament of Justice vital to the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

"Participating in a tournament like this gives them that positive feedback and allows them to see staff working together to support their efforts," he said.

Among the probation officers who volunteered to work the event were Mercer Vicinage Probation Officer Wanda Rheaume, Mercer Vicinage Probation Supervisor Sean Haar, Monmouth Vicinage Probation Officer Yannia Dalmau and Passaic Senior Probation Officer Syreeta Pough.

The eight referees who covered the four basketball courts were Judiciary employees Ronald Benning, Anthony Campbell, Glenn McCoy, Alson Riddick and Adam Wright, all of Mercer Vicinage, Wendi Cabell and Ann Mulan of Union Vicinage and Dujuane

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## Changes on the Bench

### Longtime Bergen Assignment Judge Retires, Two New Jurists Named in Monmouth

**By Cheryl Cohen**

Administrative Supervisor 3  
Bergen Vicinage

Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses retired Oct. 1 after serving 21 years on the bench in Bergen Vicinage.

Moses made history in 1997 when she became New Jersey's first female assignment judge.

Her successor is Peter E. Doyne, who had been Bergen Vicinage's general equity presiding judge.

Following her 1987 appointment as a Superior Court judge, she sat in the civil and family divisions and then served as the presiding judge in criminal and general equity before becoming assignment judge.

To honor Moses and celebrate to her successful career, Bergen Vicinage held a luncheon in her courtroom on Sept. 17. More than 140 people attended, including judges, managers, employees, and some of Moses' former law clerks.

"Working with Judge Moses has been the most rewarding experience of my career in the Judiciary," said Bergen Trial Court Administrator Jon Goodman, whom Moses appointed 11 years ago.

"She embraced the concept of a true partnership between the assignment judge and the TCA as the executive component of the court," Goodman said. "Her integrity, courage, open communication, and vision influenced both managers and judges to strive for excellence. Judges Moses embodies all the qualities of a great leader."

Moses' legacy includes creating the first in-house child care center where parents could leave their children while in court. She also served on numerous Judiciary committees, including 11 years on the Judicial Council. She chaired the Judicial Council's Budget and Planning Committee.

"It has been a privilege for me to serve under Judge Moses both as criminal presiding judge and Bergen



Sybil R. Moses

assignment judge," Chief Probation Officer John Fuhrman said.

"Her clarity of vision, integrity, and high standards are reflected in the probation division and throughout the vicinage. Her concern for Judiciary staff and her emphasis on respecting the dignity of everyone interacting with the courts are fundamental elements of her tenure as assignment judge," he said.

Superior Court Judge Ellen L. Koblitz, presiding family part judge, referred to Moses as "a trailblazer for women in the Judiciary."

"Judge Moses has always recognized the importance of the family part by supporting our efforts to help families in crises," Koblitz said. "She created and maintained a child-care center, attended all our courthouse celebrations, and offered wise counsel and encouragement whenever needed. We will sorely miss her enthusiasm, warmth and guidance."

In addition to the luncheon, the judges honored Moses at a dinner at The Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack on Sept. 22.

The Bergen County Bar Association hosted a dinner on Oct. 16 at the Glenpointe Marriott in Teaneck.

**By Janet Slocum**

Administrative Specialist 4  
Monmouth Vicinage

Superior Court Judges Lisa Payne Thornton and David F. Bauman are the newest members of the bench in the Monmouth Vicinage.

Thornton is the first African-American female judge in Monmouth and Bauman is the vicinage's first Asian-American jurist.

"Judge Thornton and Judge Bauman bring an array of distinguished credentials to our judicial family," Trial Court Administrator Marsi L. Perkins said.

"They will play a vital role in helping us to fulfill our responsibility of serving our community's diverse population," she said.

Many others at the vicinage are also excited about the vast legal experience, keen expertise and diverse viewpoints that Thornton and Bauman will contribute.

Thornton is focusing on innovative methods of backlog reduction.

Thornton graduated from Rutgers School of Law-Newark in 1992 and interned in Monmouth Vicinage for Judge Robert O'Hagan.

Thornton served the public in various ways.

In addition to being a municipal court judge in Neptune Township, she held the position of special deputy commissioner in the state Department of Banking and Insurance from 2002 to 2006.

Thornton also worked in Gov. Jon S. Corzine's office as senior associate counsel.

She then became the chief of staff for the state Department of Law and Public Safety.

Bauman is assigned to the family division, where he hears dissolution cases.

Bauman graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University and

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## Passaic Vicinage Welcomes Judges From China

**By Sharon Kinney**  
EEO/AA Officer  
Passaic Vicinage

Judges from the Yanbian Prefectural Court in the Peoples Republic of China spent most of a summer day in Passaic Vicinage learning about the Superior Court of New Jersey.

Judges Zhoagzhe Gao, Zhenlong Jin, and Yizhu Jin traveled from Yanji City, China to be the first group in a proposed cultural exchange program with the courts in the United States.

The cultural exchange was proposed by David Chong, president emeritus of the New York and New Jersey Asian-American Law Enforcement Association, who coordinated this event for the Chinese judges.

In Passaic, the program was organized by EEO/AA Officer Sharon Kinney, Operations Manager John Krieger and Ombudsman June Zieder.

The judges first met with Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., family presiding Judge Michael K. Diamond, Trial Court Administrator Kirk L. Nixon and Family Division Manager Cindy Thomson to obtain a general overview of the New Jersey courts.

When a last minute conflict prevented their interpreter from accompanying the judges, Passaic Vicinage staff person Ying Lan Ho, a native of China, stepped in to serve as interpreter. The Chinese judges spoke both the Mandarin dialect of Chinese and Korean.

The judges then visited the family division, where they learned about the various case types and activities of the family court. They were provided with informational packets to take back to China.

A luncheon followed with the assignment judge, presiding judges and family division judges.

Also on hand were the trial court administrator, the family and operations division managers as well as the ombudsman and EEO/AA officer.

At the luncheon, the two countries' practices and procedures were



Passaic Vicinage recently hosted judges from the People's Republic of China as part of a cultural exchange program. The Chinese judges got an overview of the Judiciary and observation of a family court session.

explained.

Two of the Chinese judges advised the group that they were assigned to the criminal and civil court divisions. The third said he was the chief judge, who supervises other judges and resolves complaints.

A question and answer period followed. One interesting fact that came to light was that in China, there are no juries and that three to seven judges are required to decide each case.

The program concluded with an observation of family division court proceedings in Diamond's courtroom.

The event was covered by the North Jersey Herald News and a number of Asian media outlets, including the Korea Daily, Asia Sports Daily, and MKTV, a Korean cable TV station.

The Chinese judges expressed a strong interest in visiting on an annual basis to learn more about our jurisdiction.

## Essex Dedicates Plaza to Former Gov. Brendan Byrne

**By Michelle LaPread**  
Jury Manager  
Essex Vicinage

Essex County and court officials were on hand Aug. 18 to dedicate a new entrance linking a new juror parking lot and 1,000-spot parking garage to the Veterans Courthouse in Newark.

Brendan T. Byrne Plaza was dedicated to the former governor who served as Essex County prosecutor from 1959 to 1968, as a Superior Court judge from 1970 to 1973 and as governor from 1974 to 1982.

A plaque in the plaza details Byrne's contributions.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Gov. Jon S. Corzine, state Sen. President Richard Codey, Assignment Judge Patricia Costello, Trial Court Adminis-

trator Collins Ijoma and Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. attended the ceremony.

"Governor Byrne has become a symbol of good public service," Rabner said. "He was incorruptible as a prosecutor and governor. It is fitting for citizens and attorneys coming here to be inspired by someone of your stature."

The entrance is located on the south side of the Veterans Courthouse, where a loading dock was formerly located.

A portion of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been closed to traffic. The plaza was designed by Gregory Comito and Associates of Newark and was built by Century 21 Construction of Clifton.

## Monmouth Vicinage Develops Court Clerk Manuals

**By Janet Slocum**

Administrative Specialist 4  
Monmouth Vicinage

*"In the absence of a co-worker, I recently offered to cover court clerk functions. I was a bit worried, since it had been quite some time since I had worked in a courtroom. I was also uneasy about being unfamiliar with this particular courtroom. However, my fears quickly subsided when I found a handbook waiting for me on the clerk's desk. This book contained everything I needed to know about coverage of the proceedings that day, as well as information on where to find forms and pertinent documents. I breathed a sigh of relief and was able to accurately complete all of my duties using the handbook as a guide. I wanted to shake the hands of the individuals responsible for preparing this lifesaving tool!"*

*--Comments from a criminal division judiciary clerk in Monmouth Vicinage*

Enhanced customer service, efficiency, and judicial support were the objectives of the Monmouth Vicinage in creating court clerk manuals for each of the case management divisions.

Team leaders and court clerks forged ahead to compile, organize and record information to guide court clerks and other support staff in the performance of courtroom tasks.

A division-specific manual will be located in each courtroom. A listing of the locations of forms and documents also is included so that covering clerks can easily find them.

The completed manuals are already proving to be useful tools for training new court clerks as well as valuable resources for staff covering the courtroom.

The manual prepared by the family division contains 11 sections and includes information on sound recording, caseload for each of the specific docket types, protocol followed by each judge and proper completion of

forms and related paperwork.

Most importantly, it provides step-by-step direction for court clerks covering dissolutions, non-dissolutions, child support, bench warrants, domestic violence and juvenile and children in court hearings.

The criminal division manual contains similar procedural and data entry instructions for arraignments, pleas, bails, sentencing, jury selection, trials and other criminal proceedings. Also included is a glossary of commonly used terms and acronyms, a directory of frequently used data entry codes, important telephone numbers and copies of additional directives related to court clerk functions.

Listings or actual copies of pertinent reference materials, such as the AOC's County Correction Informa-

tion System Inquiry Guide and handbooks for sound recording equipment and infrared audio transmitters, are included in each manual.

A great deal of time and effort was given to ensure that the manuals were thorough and accurate. They will be reviewed on a continual basis to maintain current information and reflect ever-changing courtroom protocol.

Monmouth Vicinage is confident that these new resources will enable court clerks to perform their jobs in a more professional and effective manner.

*Court Services Supervisors Judith Stoveken and Susan Kemp contributed to this story.*

## Bergen's Court Care Center Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

**By Nola Steele**

Volunteer Coordinator  
Bergen Vicinage

Bergen Vicinage celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Children's Court Care Center on Sept. 26.

Opened on Sept. 23, 1996, the center was the first program of its kind in New Jersey.

Initiated by then Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses, the center was designed to provide litigants with a place to leave their children if they had to attend court. There is no charge to use the service.

To date, almost 13,000 children have been cared for in the center, which is adorned with cheerful posters, toys and books. Moses' vision of a safe haven for these children was implemented by the Superior Court with the assistance of the Bergen Bar Association, Bergen Women Lawyers and the National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen chapter.

Kathleen Andreano of the family

division manages the day-to-day running of the center with the assistance of Kerry Wotman.

The rest of the staff is composed of volunteers who are sponsored by the National Council.

## Middlesex Names New Chief Vicinage Probation Officer

**By Natalie H. Myers**

Human Resources Division Manager  
Middlesex Vicinage

Evelyn Cruz Carofilis was recently appointed vicinage chief probation officer.

Carofilis has been employed by the Judiciary since 1979.

She began her Judiciary career as a bilingual probation officer. She also was an intensive supervision officer during the formation of the Intensive Supervision Program. She was promoted to principal probation officer in 1988 and to vicinage assistant chief probation officer in 1994.



## On the Bill: An Experiential Leadership Program

The division managers in Morris/Sussex Vicinage recently participated in a unique experiential learning opportunity.

The managers attended the Morris Museum's "Black Cinema: The Vintage Years," an exhibit that provided a chronological history of the black film industry and illustrated the struggles for equality during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The exhibit consisted of posters from Separate Cinema Archives, which date from 1915 to 1957.

Curator Ann Aptaker provided a detailed explanation on the history of each poster, including the challenges that the black community in the film industry faced during that time period.

Following the exhibit, the group gathered at the Morris County Courthouse to engage in an in-depth debriefing of the tour and learning experience. The session was led by David Beverly of the Organizational Development and Training Unit at the Administrative Office of the Courts and Sandra Caicedo-Gomez, the vicinage's training coordinator.

Participants agreed that the experiential learning provided deep insights and understanding of many issues. The opportunity to understand the historical context of race in America, as viewed through the film industry, also provided participants with a better understanding of current race issues.

The learning also was applied to today's court system, Morris/Sussex clients, customers and employees, and the issues and challenges regarding diversity.

Jessica Hogan, vicinage EEO/AA officer, said a new "valuing diversity" training session will be offered to employees in the future.

Trial Court Administrator Michael Arnold was presented with a framed sheet of Vintage Black Cinema Movie Poster stamps, recently released by the United States Post Office.

Arnold also received a plaque for providing a unique approach to diversity education and his investment in developing the leadership skills of the managers.



Michael Arnold, trial court administrator in Morris/Sussex Vicinage, is flanked by participants of a recent leadership training seminar.

## Camden Hosts Child Support Town Meetings

**By Gil Velasquez**

Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Camden Vicinage

Camden Vicinage is once again holding child support town meetings.

The town meeting forum is a community outreach project that is customer service orientated.

The purpose of these meetings is to educate customers about new and improved enforcement initiatives, hear general announcements about child support services and to speak directly with a case worker regarding their individual cases.

The meetings are held in the evenings, usually from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This affords an opportunity to customers whose obligations during the day make it difficult or impossible to come in or call us to discuss their case.

The Camden child support section and the chief of probation first met with the community in 2005 to provide an orientation/roll out of the electronic payment debit card program for obligors. The town meetings were eventually discontinued.

We have held meetings in Cherry Hill, Gloucester Township, Winslow Township and Voorhees. More than

50 people attended each meeting.

In preparation for the Voorhees meeting, we utilized technology available at the Administrative Office of the Courts to handle the notification.

The central office was able to issue mass mailers based on zip codes for the area we selected.

More than 2,200 customers who resided in the selected area received a personal notice/invitation to the town meeting.

For the Gloucester Township meeting, we were able to target more than 1,800 specific customers in those communities by using the AOC mailer system.

The mass mailers sent via the AOC have proven to be very effective.

In preparation for the Cherry Hill meeting, we sent out more than 1,000 mass mailers via the AOC.

However, we are considering using local community newspapers and the Camden County Web site to advise the community of these meetings.

We make an effort to have at least one representative present from each specialized section of the child support enforcement division attend.

These teams include but are not

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*Beyond Caseflow Management***Course Caps 10 Years of Civil Division Educational Efforts**

**By Michelle Perone**  
**Chief, Civil Court Programs**  
**Administrative Office of the Courts**

In the last 10 years, the civil division has been working proactively to train and develop its staff.

This effort recently culminated in 33 students completing an advanced course titled "Beyond Caseflow Management." An additional 20 students will be completing the course in November.

In 1998, the Conference of Civil Division Managers formed an education committee. The committee, currently chaired by Mercer County Civil Division Manager Nina Thomas, began its work by developing comprehensive core curriculum programs for the civil, special civil and probate parts and general equity.

To date, all civil division staff have been trained in one or more of these programs.

The core curricula are now provided to new civil employees after they complete the Judiciary New Employee Orientation (NEO) program.

Prior to the development of NEO, however, the civil core curriculum offered all new and already-on-the-job civil staff a detailed overview of the Judiciary and ensured basic knowledge of the foundational elements of the civil division and civil case processing. Additionally, the civil education committee prepared a comprehensive development program for professional supervisors.

The program, subsequently endorsed by the Administrative Council for state-wide replication, requires the completion of 74 hours of core courses and 25 hours of professional development electives.

The core courses begin with each student completing the Management/Leadership Development Program and the following mandatory courses:

- Ethical Leadership
- Giving and Receiving Feedback
- Behavioral Interviewing and Hiring

- Fundamentals of Caseflow Management

- Using CDR as a Management Tool

- Using Statistical Data as a Management Tool

- Beyond Caseflow Management

- Leadership Pickles

- Writing 102 – Intermediate Writing Skills

- Writing 103 – Advanced Writing Skills.

The committee created new curricula for "Fundamentals of Caseflow Management," "Using Statistics as a Management Tool," "Using CDR as a Management Tool" and "Beyond Caseflow Management" and "Writing 203: Advanced Professional Skills."

The remainder of the mandatory courses are part of the Organizational Training and Development Unit's regular offerings.

The courses and the written materials combine principles of adult learning theory and can be easily adapted for use by the other case processing divisions. "Beyond Caseflow Management" requires application of all core courses and prior classroom and professional experience with students completing an advanced research and writing project and making an oral presentation.

Recently taught by Passaic Vicinage Civil Division Manager Marie Faber and Warren County Assistant Civil Division Manager Jean Del Grosso and coordinated by Donna Albanese of the civil practice division, this course is the final step in the program before a participant can graduate.

It is anticipated that more than 50 staff will graduate from the Professional Supervisor Development Program in November.

"Beyond Caseflow Management" is considered our most advanced class for the program and expectations were high," Del Grosso said. "This is an opportunity for participants to apply skills they have learned through prior classes and work experience to create an actual proposal to reduce backlog

based on real situations within their own counties."

"I am proud of the work of the committee, spearheaded by its chair, Nina Thomas, and of the exemplary job done by those who have successfully completed the program," said Jane F. Castner, civil practice division assistant director.

**Probation Celebrates Kids***Continued from page 5*

Jones of Essex Vicinage.

Edwin Lee, Mercer Vicinage assistant chief for the juvenile probation unit and other non-PIC members of the Mercer Vicinage probation staff also attended to lend their support.

At the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Judiciary Olympics, which was held at Neptune High School in Neptune, Monmouth County, Union took home the first place trophy, Mercer second place and Bergen third.

A total of 138 juveniles from 15 counties and the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) attended the event, which was sponsored by PIC to help juvenile probationers develop character, sportsmanship, and teamwork through competition in track events, football throwing and other activities.

"It gives the (probation) officers the opportunity to recognize the juveniles for their accomplishments," said Richelle Coleman, Monmouth Vicinage assistant chief probation officer. "This shows them that their officers, the judges, and whole state is supporting them and that they're on the right track."

Developing teamwork skills, camaraderie and character building weren't the only things juvenile Olympians accomplished at the event.

"I'm getting a workout," one 14-year-old boy said. Monmouth Vicinage Trial Court Administrator Marsi Perkins said she was impressed with the coordination between school and Judiciary personnel.

## Morris/Sussex Probation Officer Wins National Honor

By Kerri-Lynn Walsh

Assistant Family Division Manager  
Morris/Sussex Vicinage

Ila Shah, senior probation officer on the non-dissolution team in the family division in Morris/Sussex Vicinage, has been named the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Individual Achievement Award through the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA).

Shah was chosen from nominees across the United States in recognition of her dedication to improving child support enforcement.

The selection was made by an awards committee composed of NCSEA members in the public, private and international sectors.

NCSEA is a nonprofit organization representing professionals and organizations within the child support community that provide services to child support professionals, agencies, and strategic partners through professional development, communications, public awareness, and advocacy to promote the well being of children.

Shah received her award in August at the National Child Support Enforcement Association Conference in San Francisco.

"It was a wonderful moment, a once in a lifetime experience," she said. "I don't have the words to express all



Ila Shah

that I'm feeling."

Shah has worked in the area of child support for 26 years.

She began her career in the Office of Temporary Assistance, where she helped clients file petitions for child support.

She came to the Judiciary in 1986 and has worked as an investigator, probation officer and senior probation officer in the non-dissolution unit of the family division.

She is the leader in the office, training and mentoring other staff.

Judges, management, and staff seek Shah's expertise to get the answers to questions that arise.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Ila for the five years I was assigned to the family division," Judge John B. Dangler said.

"Her knowledge of probation issues and willingness to assist made her invaluable to my job as a Superior Court Judge. She is truly an outstanding employee and an asset to the Family Division as well as the public that we all serve."

Greg Lambard, division manager, said, "Ila Shah has always been a great example of what a public servant should be. She is extremely capable, always willing to help both the public and her co-workers, and extremely dedicated.

"In a division full of great people she still stands out," Lambard said.

### Camden Support Meetings

*Continued from page 9*

limited to case processing; uniform interstate family support act; financial intuition data match; judgment; court team; bench warrant and locate units.

We focus on listening to the concerns raised by our customers, providing follow up within a 72-hour period on cases that cannot be resolved during the meeting.

We also want to involve the family division, county welfare and legal service agencies to assist in providing information, access and awareness

## Assignment Judge Retires in Bergen; Monmouth Has Two New Judges

*Continued from page 6*

received his Juris Doctorate from Boston College Law School.

An impressive military career followed.

From 1988 through 1991, he served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, serving as a prosecutor, defense counsel, and lead trial attorney in high profile criminal matters. He later held positions in the Marine Corps Reserves, including staff judge advocate, company commander and appellate government counsel.

For his service, he was honored with several awards, including the

Navy Commendation Medal, Letter of Commendation, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, and Certificate of Commendation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines.

Most recently, he was a partner at the northern New Jersey law firm of Bressler, Amery & Ross. He specialized in general litigation with a focus on complex civil and criminal matters.

As a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, Bauman participates in numerous activities.

They include the New Jersey Supreme Court Municipal Court Practice Committee; the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee; the New Jersey Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project; the Franchise Law Committee; the NJSBA Special Committee on Military Law and Veterans Affairs; the Board of Advisors for the Criminal Justice Program at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association, which recently honored him with an achievement award.

## Essex Vicinage Marks Judiciary's Anniversary

By Kimberly Cicala  
Community Relations Liason  
Essex Vicinage

In recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Jersey Supreme Court's first session under the 1947 constitution, Essex Vicinage recently offered a series of special tours of its Historic Courthouse.

Organized by the Office of the Ombudsman and the Information and Community Relations Center, nearly 100 attendees from various community, professional and academic groups as well as court staff attended. In honor of the event the office created and distributed commemorative programs, which included historical and contemporary photographs and information. Reporter Desiree Taylor covered the event for NJN News.

The tours, which took place during lunchtime on three Fridays in September, featured guest guide Elizabeth Del Tufo, owner of Newark Tours. Del Tufo has been involved in the study and preservation of Newark history for more than 30 years and was a founding member of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee.

Del Tufo presented an overview of the vibrant history and evolution of Newark since its founding in 1666, noting the architectural significance of the Historic Courthouse as part of the City Beautiful movement that took place at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Other highlights of the tours included discussion of some of the landmark cases heard by both the New Jersey Supreme Court and the Essex County Superior Court as well as a guided walk through the Historic Courthouse.

Designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert, the century-old courthouse was recently reopened after years of renovation. It is home to the artistry of sculptor Gutzon Borglum and painters Henry Oliver Walker and Kenyon Cox, among others.

The program was well received and served the dual purpose of celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and showcasing the beauty of the Historic Courthouse against the backdrop of Newark's rich culture and history.

"It was a wonderful way to introduce people to a building that should make every resident of Essex County proud," Del Tufo said.



Ocean Vicinage staff members Gina Dean, Krystina Carlino and Lillia Lopez review an old court ledger during the vicinage's celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court and the modern Judiciary.



Among the items on display in the courtroom of Ocean Vicinage Assignment Judge Vincent J. Grasso were old photographs and a painting of the Ocean County Courthouse in Toms River and newspaper stories detailing cases that were argued there.



### 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.*