

Justice Matters

Vol. 4, Issue 1 Autumn 2000

Judicial Governance Process to Change, Council Appointed

Beginning September 1, the Judiciary will implement substantive changes in its governing structure and process. Central to this change is the establishment of a Judicial Council, which will provide active leadership for the Judiciary's many committees and statewide initiatives.

The Council, which will replace the Executive Committee, will be chaired by Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and is a representative body comprised of court system leaders. He also created a "Judicial Cabinet" consisting of the State's five top leaders (including the Chief Judges of the Court of Special Appeals, the District Court of Maryland, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the State Court Administrator) to work closely with him. The Council itself consists of 16 members (for a membership roster, see p. 12).

Chief Judge Bell has said, "For some time now, I have been interested in how to enhance the governance of the Judiciary. A work group consisting of Judicial leaders, formal and informal, was established to consider that issue. Out of their deliberations came an idea for improving our governance structure. It was thought that, by making the structure more participatory, the effectiveness of the Judiciary would increase, and from that, the Judicial Council was born."

Drug Treatment Courts

With an estimated 60,000 drug addicts in Baltimore City alone, and a high rate of recidivism for offenders, the horrors of addiction seem insurmountable. However, an innovative program, Drug Treatment Court, is offering hope, and a chance for a new life, to the most hardened addicts. In jurisdictions where this form of rehabilitation is currently offered—Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel and Harford Counties—the results have been dramatically positive. National studies have proven that treating drug offenders, rather than simply incarcerating them, ultimately saves tax dollars and cuts crime rates.

Baltimore City's Circuit and District Courts each have their own Drug Court. Both have excellent track records in turning lives around, and are very popular options to imprisonment for criminal addicts. In fact, the circuit court's program, headed by Judge Thomas E. Noel, was forced to stop admitting new inmates last December because it was over capacity. This moratorium was lifted on August 1, and now, 16 slots will be available each month for new referrals. This program, which currently boasts more than 500 graduates, allows offenders to trade jail time for up to 3 years of intensive monitoring. It will be expanded early next year.

(cont. on p. 5)

Inside

Probate Programs 2

Clarence Mitchell Courthouse 3

Judge Strausberg 3

Co-Occurring Disorders Program 4

Employee Benefits 6

News from the Bench 7

Congratulations 8

Judges in History 9

Profile: Pamela Ortiz 10

Judge Young 13

Judges Off-Hours 14

Employees on the Move 15

probate gets Legal Assistance Programs

Editorial Board

- Judge Dennis M. Sweeney
Chairman, Howard County
Circuit Court
- Judge William H. Adkins, III
Talbot County District Court
- Judge Ralph M. Burnett
Garrett County District Court
- Judge John Carroll Byrnes
Baltimore City Circuit Court
- Judge Alice P. Clark
Howard County District Court
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Baltimore City Circuit Court
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Orphans' Court
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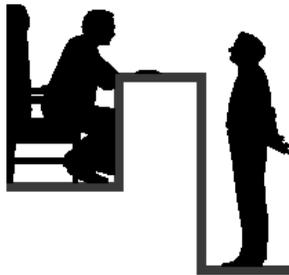
Justice Matters is published quarterly.
We welcome your comments or ideas.

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Beginning April 1, for the first time in Maryland's history legal assistance programs became available to individuals participating in the probate process. These two programs, an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and a *Pro Bono* service—both for Orphans' Court proceedings—were developed by, and implemented in, Montgomery County.

The ADR program, commonly referred to as mediation, allows interested persons in an estate to resolve disputes through a mediator, as opposed to resorting to litigation, with its inherent delay and additional expense. This program will benefit more than just the parties who opt for mediation. Use of ADR will free up the hearing docket, resulting in fewer delays for litigants who plan to go to trial. Attorneys interested in being appointed as mediators should submit an application and resume to the Register of Wills. Applicants must be members of the Maryland Bar in good standing and possess at least 10 years experience practicing probate.



The *Pro Bono* service is a tool to assist the court without creating any additional cost to the estate. This service is available for situations when the court feels it does not possess sufficient, or proper, information to make a fair and appropriate ruling. In these instances, the Register has a list of attorneys willing to serve as court-appointed investigators on a *pro bono* basis to investigate and report back to the court their findings on the information in question.

Once the court has ordered an investigator to research a particular issue and report back by a certain date, the Register of Wills then issues subpoenas to allow the investigator access to all applicable information and records. Both the Register and the Court expect this program will progress into a much larger range of *pro bono* services available to probate proceedings.

These programs are sterling examples of a government agency, the Register of Wills, the courts and legal profession working together to better serve the public.

—Submitted by Joseph M. Griffin, Register of Wills, Montgomery County



Employees Matter

Thanks to timely suggestions and input from several of our circuit court clerks, we have decided to launch an employee “extra,” starting this winter.

This new insert will feature Human Resources Department news, as well as stories and reports about your fellow staffers throughout the state. This publication is still in the planning stages.

Clarence Mitchell Courthouse Turns 100

Beginning on October 13, 1999, the Clarence Mitchell Courthouse kicked off a yearlong celebration to commemorate its upcoming 100th birthday, which will culminate with a “Celebrating the Decades” Centennial Gala Dinner and Dance at the courthouse on October 7, 2000, to which all Maryland judges are invited.

On June 30, four once-in-a-century events were held to commemorate the building’s opening 100 years ago. In a special ceremony, a cornerstone marking the courthouse’s second century was unveiled, as was a plaque proclaiming the edifice as a Baltimore City landmark. A time capsule containing courthouse-related memorabilia was buried, to be opened in another 100 years. A special part of that celebration was the planting of a “Clerk’s Tree” in front of the building, as a tribute to current and past clerks of this court.

Many other events and projects are underway to celebrate the Mitchell Building’s Centennial. The edifice’s public areas are being renovated, and two new exhibits focusing on the last 100 years of what has been termed “the noble pile” are being installed in the courthouse’s Museum of Baltimore Legal History. Mementos from the celebration will include a soon-to-be-published book entitled *Celebrating a Century of Service* and a centennial video. The 20th Century Preeminent Bench and Bar, honoring deceased lawyers and judges who have given extraordinarily to the public good, will be announced at the Term of Court Ceremony on September 27, 2000, and their names inscribed on a special memorial plaque outside Courtroom 556 in Courthouse East.

For more information about the Centennial, or to obtain tickets for the Gala, please contact the Baltimore City Bar Association at 410-539-5936. You may also contact the Vice Chair for the Centennial Celebration, W. Edward Leon, at 410-396-4899.

—Judge John Carroll Byrnes contributed to this story



Judiciary Pays Its Respects to Judge Gary I. Strausberg



Baltimore City Circuit Court closed early on July 11 in tribute to the late Judge Gary I. Strausberg, who died at 53 from a terminal illness. The members of his bench, including several retired judges, served as honorary pallbearers in his funeral, led by Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and Baltimore City Administrative Judge Ellen M. Heller. He was laid to rest in his judicial robes, a touching reminder of his love for being a judge.

Judge Strausberg, the son of Holocaust survivors, came to America at age 13. According to his widow, Ada Strausberg, “he always said he lived the American dream.” He was appointed to the Baltimore City Circuit Bench in 1995, after years in private practice, during which he served as president of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association. While practicing law, he made legal inroads by successfully handling Maryland’s first “right-to-die” case, as well as its first “wrongful birth case,” where a sterilized woman who later got pregnant sued the doctor who performed the surgery to recover the costs of raising the child.

Well-known for his intellect, professional excellence, and sense of compassion, Judge Strausberg will be remembered for his contributions to Maryland’s legal history, and will be deeply missed.

Co-Occurring Disorders Program Benefits Those with Drug Dependency and Mental Illness



photo courtesy of Judge Levitz

(l-r), Dr. Georges Benjamin, Secretary of the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, a patient, Judge Dana Levitz, Dr. Sidney Shankman, and Gale Saler.)

Until recently, individuals suffering from both substance abuse and mental illness had limited treatment options. But thanks to the efforts of the Judicial Conference and the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Co-Occurring Disorders Program—which addresses the special needs of this population—has been established at Second Genesis in Crownsville. The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the program's new medical unit took place on June 2.

According to Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland is now at the forefront of recognizing the need to combine treatments for individuals suffering from both mental illness and drug dependency. He said this is a trend which is becoming recognized nationwide.

During Dr. Benjamin's remarks at the dedication ceremony, he acknowledged that this special unit was established primarily because of the efforts of the Maryland Judiciary. Dr. Benjamin noted that although the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has been treating both substance abuse and mental illness for many years, it took the Judiciary to recognize the need to combine treatment for individuals with both conditions. Dr. Sidney Shankman, Second Genesis' founder and Executive Director, also expressed his appreciation to the Maryland Judiciary for recognizing the need to establish such a unit.

The unit at Second Genesis actually began accepting patients in December 1999, and is currently accepting new patients. Judges should refer prospective candidates through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration who would benefit from integrated chemical dependency and mental health treatment.

—Submitted by
Judge Dana Levitz

District Court Plans Educational Conference

The District Court's Judicial Education Conference will be held on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia, MD. Proposed topics include: The Role of a Judge; Competency, NCR and Mental Health Issues; and Domestic Violence.



For more information, please call Judge Paul A. Hackner, Chair of the District Court's Judicial Education Committee, at 410-260-1360. You may also contact Barbara Allison, Committee Staff, at 410-260-1525.

Drug Court (cont. from p. 1)

According to Baltimore City District Judge Jamey Weitzman, who heads the Drug Treatment Court for her jurisdiction, the average participant is age 36, with a 10-to-30-year addiction. To support habits costing \$50 to \$200 per day, all have “healthy” criminal records. Most are unemployed, many are homeless, and all have “burned their bridges” with family and friends. Truly a throwaway population, perhaps unsalvageable, many would think.

Instead, at graduation from the Drug Court Program, participants are off drugs completely, most have jobs, and many are reunited with their families. In testimony before the General Assembly’s Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Judge Weitzman cited “stories of flourishing hope where there was once despair.” She noted that the recidivism rate for the program is a low 6%.

According to Judge Weitzman, this program treats all aspects of the addict, from offering an acupuncture program which makes detoxification easier, to bringing them into halfway houses, to helping them find employment and reunite with their families.

She also emphasizes that the drug treatment program is far more tough, restrictive, and regulated than proba-

tion—hardly a “soft” alternative for offenders. “I even know when they sneeze,” Judge Weitzman said wryly, referring to the constant monitoring of program participants, from urinalysis testing to frequent check-ins with judges and agents.

Detoxing someone from drugs is only one part of the equation, changing behavior is truly the challenge.

What makes drug court so successful is a combination of all the elements.

Judge Weitzman

The Judiciary has requested additional funding from the legislature to expand these programs. Judge Weitzman notes that there are only 600 slots available in Baltimore City, with a 4 to 5 month waiting period for the circuit court program. She would like to add 300 more slots, and also hopes for more treatment programs and more funding for halfway houses.

Other courts, including Prince George’s County’s, are actively lobbying for their own drug courts.

Prince George’s Administrative Judge William D. Missouri and Circuit Judge Steven Platt have proposed that offenders could agree to enter pleas for deferred sentences in return for placement in a treatment program for their addiction.

“Detoxing someone from drugs is only one part of the equation,” said Judge Weitzman. “Changing behavior is truly the challenge. What makes drug court so successful is a combination of all the elements.”

Kids’ Page

Next time you’re surfing the Web with your children, you may want to check out the Judiciary’s new Kids’ Page (www.courts.state.md.us.) Chock-full of information and fun activities, the Kids’ Page is geared toward elementary-schoolers. The Judiciary’s Public Awareness Committee, which is responsible for this creative new addition to our website, plans to expand the page next year for middle- and high-schoolers.

Circuit Clerks Go Online

And while you are on the Web, also take a look at the first Clerk’s Web Page, for Queen Anne’s County (www.courts.state.md.us/clerks/queenanne/index.html). This will serve as the model for similar web pages throughout the state. We’ll let you know as new pages are ready to go!

Maryland Judiciary

SITE INDEX CONTACT US SEARCH

Courts

- Court of Appeals
- Court of Special Appeals
- Circuit Courts
- District Court
- Court Holidays
- Court Interpreters
- Dial-Up Access to Court System
- Court Opinions
- Appellate Opinions 1995 to present in PDF and WordPerfect

COURTHOUSE PROFILE
The Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building

photo courtesy of MD State Archives

Maryland Judicial Overview

- The Maryland Court System Organizational Charts (PDF)
- AOC
- Headquarters
- Human Resources
- J.L.S.
- Job Announcements

Court Information Office

- Headquarters
- Press Releases
- Judicial Reports/Publications
- Court-Related Agencies
- ADR Commission
- Attorney Grievance Commission
- Board of Law Examiners
- Judicial Disabilities Commission
- Rules Committee
- Rules Changes and Orders; Minutes of Mgs. (97 to present)
- State Law Library

Circuit Clerks Conference

The Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association held its annual spring conference on May 2 and 3 in Crisfield. Somerset County Circuit Clerk Ted Phoebus hosted the event, which mixed a great deal of business with a little fun.

The agenda included a social sponsored by the local bar association, and a warm welcome from Somerset County Administrative Judge Daniel Long. Chief Judge Bell, a featured guest, spoke about the importance of achieving uniformity throughout the Judiciary.

—Frederick County Circuit Clerk Sandra Dalton contributed to this story

New Trial Judge Orientation Has New Venue

This year's New Trial Judge Orientation will be held from September 10th through the 15th at a brand-new locale—the Mount Washington Conference Center in Baltimore.

According to program coordinator Fred Williams, Executive Director of the Judicial Institute, the 2000 orientation will reprise last year's very successful changes, which included a new format of shorter classes. He also plans to continue the use of innovative new media technology, such as responders and PowerPoint presentations, which was extremely well-received in past years.

Another program highlight to be repeated due to last year's success was the medical checkup station offered by a staff of medical technicians, followed up with a presentation by a doctor.

New Law Clerks to Mix and Mingle at Orientation

Maryland's latest crop of judicial law clerks will have a chance to meet and mingle during Law Clerk Orientation, to be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at the Judiciary Training Center in Annapolis. Topics to be covered include ethics issues, the Maryland Rules, post-conviction, domestic relations, and on-the-record proceedings.

A reception will follow at the Sheraton Barcelo Annapolis Hotel. Judges Dana Levitz, Diane O. Leasure, and Steven I. Platt are members of the planning committee for this event. For more information, please contact Debra Kaminski at 410-260-1290.

You know how long it takes to get a doctor's appointment!

Make Plans Now for Pre-Tax Treatment Plans for Next Year



If you want to change health plans or set aside pre-tax "flexible spending" cash to pay for Junior's braces, start planning now.

Open season for health plans will run from October 1-31, 2000. Participating in the flexible spending program is more complex than you may realize. As part of your paperwork, you must submit the approximate cost of the orthodontia or other services you and your family will require, in order for the Benefits Staff to properly estimate how much will be withheld from each paycheck over the course of next year. The deadline for this is around November 1, 2000 (exact date TBA.)

You will need to make an appointment with your health care provider, who can assess what treatment is needed, and work up an estimate of how much it might cost. This is critical, because if you overestimate and withhold too much, that money is lost to you. So schedule that appointment ASAP!

Your HR Department will be communicating further information about health plans and flexible spending very soon.

NEWS FROM THE BENCH

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County's circuit bench welcomes **Judge Nancy Davis-Loomis**, who was elevated from the District Court. Judge Davis-Loomis served as a District Court Judge since 1996. Prior to that, she served as master and chancery with the county Circuit Court, adjudicating civil child abuse, neglect, and delinquency cases. She holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Baltimore City

Two new judges join the Baltimore City District Court: **Judges Nathan Braverman** and **Miriam B. Hutchins**, filling the vacancies left by the elevation of Judge Audrey Carrion to the Circuit Court, and the death of Judge Martin Kircher.

Judge Braverman's legal background encompasses both the private (tax, corporate, and civil law) and public sectors. He has worked in the Attorney General's Office since 1991, in the Environmental Crimes Unit, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and most recently, in the Criminal Investigations/Insurance Fraud Division. Last month, he received the Office's Exceptional Service Award.

Judge Hutchins served as a Baltimore City Circuit Court Domestic Equity Master since 1990, adjudicating child custody, visitation, and support. She also worked for the City Solicitor of Baltimore and as special assistant to the Commissioner for the Public Service Commission. Previously, she practiced consumer law as a New York State Assistant Attorney General, and worked as a Judicial Administrator for Cornell University. She holds a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Baltimore County

Baltimore County District Court welcomes **Judge Robert Cahill**, who replaces retired Judge Patricia Pytash. Judge Cahill has been a partner in the firm of Nolan, Plumhoff & Williams since 1990, and prior to that, worked for Melnicove, Kaufman, Weiner and Smouse. Judge Cahill, who is a member of the Attorney Grievance Committee Inquiry Panel, holds a J.D. from the University of Baltimore.

Prince George's County

Joining the Prince George's County Circuit Bench are **Judges Dwight D. Jackson** and **Julia B. Weatherly**, filling the vacancies created by the retirements of Judges Theresa Nolan and Robert Mason.

Judge Jackson served as a trial attorney for the Department of Justice's terrorist and violent crime section since 1995, receiving the Department's Special Achievement Award in 1998. Previously, he spent eight years as a prosecutor with the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. He holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Judge Weatherly has been a domestic relations master in Prince George's Circuit Court for the past 13 years. She served on the Attorney General and Lt. Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, and in 1993, received the Maryland Bar Foundation's award for Professional Legal Excellence in the Advancement of Professional Competence. Her J.D. is from George Washington University's Law School.

Prince George's County District Court welcomes **Judges Jean S. Baron, Mark T. O'Brien, Hassan A. El-Amin** and **Robert W. Heffron**. They fill the vacancies created by the elevation of Judges Michael Whalen and Ronald Schiff, the death of Judge John Kelly, and a legislative act creating a new judgeship. **Judge Baron** has worked at the Office of the Attorney General since 1983, most recently as an administrative prosecutor specializing in health care disciplinary proceedings, earning its Exceptional Service Award in 1997. For 16 years, she was also an arbitrator for Maryland's Health Claims Arbitration Office. She holds a J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Judge O'Brien has years of experience in both the private and public sectors, having been a partner in the firm of Drummond and O'Brien since 1993, and previously serving as an Assistant State's Attorney in Prince George's and Calvert Counties. He serves on the Attorney Grievance Commission's Inquiry Committee, and holds a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Judge El-Amin, formerly in private practice, is also founding director of the Bilalian Economic Development Corpora-

Congratulations to:

- **Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell**, who has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Conference of Chief Justices.
- **Court of Appeals Judge Lawrence Rodowsky**, who received a 2000 Judicial Education Award from the ABA's Judicial Division, for his dedication and commitment to educating his fellow jurists. He has served as chair of the Maryland Judicial Institute for 18 years.
- **Court of Appeals Judge Irma S. Raker**, who received the Montgomery County Bar Association's Outstanding Jurist Award in May.
- **Prince George's Circuit Judge Richard H. Sothoron, Jr.**, who is this year's President of the Maryland State Bar Association. He was sworn in during the Joint Bench-Bar Conference in Ocean City.
- **Anne Arundel Circuit Judge Nancy Davis-Loomis**, who was sworn in as president of her county's Bar Association.
- **Howard County District Court Judge Louis A. Becker III**, who was named 2000 GP Link Bar Leader of the Year. GP Link is the ABA's General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section's networking service, which links its members with leaders of small firm and solo sections at state and local bar associations.
- **Calvert County District Court Civil Section Lead Worker Patti Scroggins**, who was recently recognized for her volunteerism on the Calvert County Neighborhood Youth Panel, a community organization which works to turn around the lives of juveniles involved in the justice system.

LIBRARY HOURS

MON., WED., FRI. - 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

TUES. & THUR. - 8:30 AM - 9:00 PM

SAT. - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Study Committee to Review Status of County Law Libraries

In March, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell established a committee to study the status of circuit court libraries throughout Maryland. Acting in response to numerous issues identified as serious problems confronting these libraries, the Committee, composed of circuit and district court judges, court administrators, law librarians, and a circuit court clerk, will identify and study various issues and make recommendations to the Chief Judge by December 1, 2000.

The full committee has met three times now, and is broken into focus groups addressing library funding, standards and technology. Other topics to be deliberated include space, location, ownership, public access, staffing, accountability, judges' chambers collections, and possible outreach services to be provided by the State Law Library.

Justice Matters readers are encouraged to communicate their thoughts and suggestions to the committee through its co-chairs, Worcester County Circuit Judge Theodore Eschenburg, at 410-632-0700, or State Law Librarian Mike Miller at 410-260-1430. They can also be contacted via e-mail.

— Submitted by Mike Miller

Dragged from bench and beaten

Carmichael v. Lincoln: No Contest



Rarely has an American judge so upset the government that he was arrested and jailed without due process of law. But that is apparently what happened to Judge Richard Bennett Carmichael when he resisted the Lincoln Administration during the Civil War. Born in 1807 to a wealthy Centreville family, he was educated at Princeton and admitted to the Bar in 1830. He was appointed to the Circuit Court for Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties in 1858, at a time when judges rode an actual circuit of county courthouses on horseback.

A small man with a long, manicured beard but less-than-diminutive appearance, Judge Carmichael's volatile, feisty personality exploded when mixed with Civil War events on the Eastern Shore. Because Lincoln perceived Maryland as South-sympathizing—especially southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore—a form of undeclared, pseudo-martial law was instituted, resulting in numerous arrests, most without cause other than the populace's obvious animosity to the northern cause. Judge Carmichael interfered with the northern soldiers' actions by urging citizens to resist arrests. Historians believe that the northern army acted to ensure Lincoln's election in a swing state like Maryland.

The grand jury, influenced by Judge Carmichael, indicted several soldiers for arresting citizens. Outraged, the Lincoln Administration took action, instructing Baltimore's commanding officer, Major General Dix (arguably incompetent, but with enough clout to have a major infantry training center named for him posthumously), to take Judge Carmichael, the perceived progenitor of unrest and turbulence, into custody.

Judge Carmichael suffered the indignity and humiliation of being arrested by federal troops during a trial. He responded with his usual, unrepentant scorn, and after a brief struggle, was dragged from the bench, beaten, and transported to Ft. McHenry—without warrant, summons, notice, or explanation. He was transferred to, and subsequently released from, the Ft. Delaware prison. No charges were ever brought against him.

The judge somehow made his way home, and in 1863, returned to the bench and again called upon citizens to resist federal troops, even charging the grand jury to evict them. This time, the convocation refused to comply. Apparently, resistance to despotic authority only went so far.

For whatever reason—pique, anger, or the cognitive onset of reality—Judge Carmichael retired from the bench and returned to his Wye River estate, where he died 20 years later, in 1884.

Albeit his tenure on the bench was short, and his impact on history minor, his determination and spirit remain unquestioned.

—Submitted by Judge Ralph M. Burnett



Family division's Pamela Ortiz

Institute for Court Management Training

On May 22-23, clerks from the District Court and circuit courts completed the next course in the Institute for Court Management's continuing Court Executive Development Program (CEDP).

This course, *Court Performance Standards*, focused on shaping strategic planning and future initiatives within the Judiciary, utilizing the *Trial Court Performance Standards and Measurement System (TCPS)*, which is considered the standard for effective judicial administration.

Course instructors were Geoff Gallas, Ph.D., and Richard Callanan, who are both widely known for their research and expertise in the field of court management. Previous courses given by ICM for the Judiciary include *Managing Human Resources* and *Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management*.

—Frederick County
Circuit Clerk
Sandra Dalton
contributed to this story

This year, the Judiciary is making families and children a primary focus. And integral to these efforts is Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Executive Director of Maryland's Family Divisions and Family Services Programs. Thanks to her tireless efforts, Ms. Ortiz is reshaping how our state courts handle family issues, making procedures easier, less adversarial, and ultimately more effective for the thousands who stream through our doors each year.



photo by Mary Brighthaupt

Under Ms. Ortiz's direction, the Family Divisions and Family Services programs have come a long way since their inception in 1998. Today, Maryland's five largest circuit courts each have a Family Division, and every jurisdiction has a family services program, which offers a full spectrum of resources and is staffed by a family services coordinator—regardless of how small or rural the community. By creating these programs, the Judiciary has worked to create a fair and efficient forum for resolving family conflicts—and it appears to be succeeding.

According to Ms. Ortiz, the Family Divisions and Family Services programs are focused on meeting the needs of parents and children undergoing divorce, custody issues, or other changes, including early intervention, continuing case monitoring, “user-friendly” procedures, a “problem-solving,” rather than adversarial, approach. This philosophy is reflected in the services provided, which include *pro se* assistance; mediation programs; parenting courses; informational services; child waiting areas; and “visitation centers” which provide a neutral setting for the monitored exchange of children before and after visits, or actual supervised visitation.

The Family Divisions and Family Services programs boast many other accomplishments. Achieving uniformity in forms and procedures from jurisdiction to jurisdiction has made a tremendous difference in facilitating case management statewide. Training has also been a key priority for Ms. Ortiz. Recently, family services coordinators statewide received a 40-hour basic mediation training course. Future plans include offering additional ADR/mediation training for masters, to facilitate a transition in how masters are utilized. In the works is the development of standards to measure the success of Family Divisions programs. Educational materials, including an activity book for children about the court system, are also underway. A video and other audio-visual materials are available, which explain the Family Divisions, the philosophy behind them, and what they offer for families.

Addressing the realm of family services, Ms. Ortiz's vision for the future includes “a well-developed family divisions program that provides a broad spectrum of resources for families in transition.” She also looks forward to continuing the partnering of local programs with complementary resources in the community. Despite the resounding success of the Family Divisions and Family Services programs, “we still have a lot of work to do,” Ms. Ortiz concluded. To assist with future expansion, her staff and budget are increasing.

It is apparent that Ms. Ortiz believes personally in the importance of her work. “I've worked with children and family issues since I became an attorney. I always had a feeling that's where I would land.” Of course, her own family is her greatest passion. Despite her grueling schedule, Ms. Ortiz manages to find time to spend with her husband and two small children, Sofia (age 5) and Daniel (18 months.) They reside in Chestertown.

News from the Bench, (cont. from p. 6)

tion ("BEDCORP"), which fosters economic development in the African-American community. He helped establish the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, and serves on the Attorney Grievance Commission's Inquiry Committee. His J.D. is from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Judge Heffron has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. Since 1998, he has served as Assistant Chief of the District Court Division for the State's Attorney's Office, and was previously a partner in the Law Offices of Keiffer, Johnston, Reinstein, Bernard & Heffron. Judge Heffron was also a commissioner for the county's Consumer Relations Commission. He holds a J.D. from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Circuit Bench welcomes **Judges Eric M. Johnson, William J. Rowan, and Ann N. Sundt**. They fill vacancies created by the retirement of Judges J. James McKenna, Vincent E. Ferretti, and William P. Turner.

Judge Johnson was elevated from Montgomery District Court, where he served since 1996. Previously, he worked in the county's State's Attorney's Office for nine years. Prior to law school, he was a Montgomery County police officer, and also served in the U.S. Navy from 1962-66 and in the Reserves until 1968. He holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Judge Rowan worked for Rowan, Quirk and Nalls since 1966, becoming a name partner in 1973. He served as counsel to the county's legislative delegation and as Assistant Reporter to the State Commission on Revision of Maryland Law and was named one of 1997's best trial lawyers by *Washingtonian Magazine*. His J.D. is from Georgetown University Law Center.

Judge Sundt has served as a Family Division Master for Montgomery County Circuit Court since 1993. Previously, she was a partner in the firm of Dragga, Lyon and Sundt, where she practiced domestic relations law, and specialized in representing children in custody cases. Before earning her J.D. from Georgetown University, she taught English for nearly 20 years.

Wicomico County

Judge Kathleen Beckstead joins the Wicomico County circuit bench, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Richard D. Warren. She has focused on family law throughout her career, most recently serving as a Master of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Causes for this court. Previously, she was a partner with the Salisbury firm of Anthenelli & Otway. She has served as president of the Wicomico County Bar Association and the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Women's Bar Association. She holds a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Bench, Bar Unite for Conference

From June 7-10, Maryland's judges and lawyers convened in Ocean City for a rare joint conference, which focused on Public Trust and Confidence in the legal profession.

A highlight of the very successful conference was a panel discussion featuring ABC *Nightline* host Ted Koppel, whose thoughtful comments on the public's perceptions of the bench and bar prompted a lively and provocative discussion. Here, Mr. Koppel is pictured, from left, with Joyce Mitchell, and Judges C. Yvonne Holt-Stone, Audrey Carrion, and Bonita Dancy. Seated is U.S. District Judge Diana Motz.



photo by Ron White

Sports Column

In the early hours of Friday, June 9, while many Judicial Conference attendees were still snug in their beds at the Ocean City Sheraton, a hardy, dedicated group of “weekend warriors” prepared for the arduous “Sun Run,” a 7:30 a.m. marathon sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the MSBA.

The unofficial “Judge’s Division” (our distinction, not theirs!) revealed some closet track stars lurking within the judicial ranks. Baltimore City District Judge Ted Oshrine completed the 10K run at a rate of 8.5 minutes per mile. Baltimore City Circuit Judges Thomas Waxter, Jr. and John Carroll Byrnes also racked up very respectable finishes.

The 5K “Judge’s Division” champ was Baltimore City Circuit Judge Martin Welch, who finished the race at 8 minutes per mile.

Hats off to everyone who participated!

Maryland Judicial Council

- Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals - Chair
- Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals
- Hon. Martha F. Rasin, Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland
- Hon. Paul H. Weinstein, Chair, Conference of Circuit Judges
- Hon. William D. Missouri, Circuit Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Daniel M. Long, Circuit Administrative Judge for the First Judicial Circuit
- Hon. Dana M. Levitz, Circuit Court for Baltimore County
- Hon. Diane O. Leasure, Circuit Court for Howard County
- Hon. Keith E. Mathews, District Court Administrative Judge, District 1
- Hon. Cornelius J. Vaughey, District Court Administrative Judge, District 6
- Hon. W. Milnor Roberts, District Court Judge, District 11
- Hon. JoAnn M. Ellinghaus-Jones, District Court Judge, District 10
- Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Patricia H. Platt, Chief Clerk, District Court of Maryland
- Donna G. Burch, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
- Suzanne H. James, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit

A Reverend . . . and a Judge

Some people have jobs. Others have careers. Then, there are a lucky few who have a vocation—a higher calling.

Judge David W. Young is truly fortunate, because he has had two vocations in his life. By day, he is a dedicated 15-year veteran of the Baltimore City Circuit bench. But when the workday is done, he “races down I-95” to attend evening (and weekend) classes at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, where he is in his third year. He was ordained a deacon on April 10, 1999, and will be ordained an elder upon completing his studies. “So now, I’m Reverend Judge,” he joked. “I still can’t believe I’m a reverend, or that I’ve made it this far.”

Upon finishing college, Judge Young was torn between attending law school and entering the seminary. He selected the former, and has enjoyed the legal profession. But he always felt a pull towards the spiritual. In 1995, he realized that “the itch was still there,” and he preached his initial sermon at the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he is in now his fifth year.

In 1998, he took the plunge and entered the seminary after being out of school for 21 years. “I have socks older than my classmates,” he said wryly. Turning serious, he added that wanting to enter the ministry has been “a compulsion,

an irresistible urge.” And quite a challenge, too—he has found the seminary to be harder than law school. “I’m holding my own academically,” he said.

Judge Young has found some similarities between the law and his study of theology. “Judges are called to sit and resolve problems. A judge needs wisdom, compassion, and humility—qualities that are not so different than those needed by a minister.” He also spoke of the biblical precedent for our courts, which have their historical roots in the Old Testament.

When asked about his future, Judge Young said, “We’ll see when I get ordained. God never reveals his whole plan to you. You just go step by step.”

Judge Young is not the first Maryland judge to have a second vocation. After retiring from the Court of Appeals in 1968, Judge William Raymond Horney entered the Episcopal seminary, was ordained a deacon, and served at St. Paul’s Church in Queen Anne’s County until his death.



Public Service Announcements

If you are flipping the TV channels and spot a familiar face, don’t be surprised. District Court Chief Judge Martha Rasin has made an impressive debut in the Judiciary’s first public service announcement (PSA), which explains the difference between federal and state district courts.

Also featured in the PSA are Judicial Institute staffer Kelli Rigsbee and Jerard Diggs of Anne Arundel County District Court (where the video was filmed.) More PSAs will be produced in the upcoming year.

Frederick County Service Awards

Frederick County Service Award recipients were inadvertently left out of the last edition.

We at *Justice Matters* were extremely distressed by the omission, especially in light of the fact that one of the honorees had worked for the Judiciary an astounding 35 years. Here is the list. We deeply regret the error.

James M. Green - 35 years
Joan L. Chesser - 15 years
Florence M. Schell - 15 years
Gregory M. Seymour - 10 years
Paula G. Smith - 10 years
Gurnon F. Working - 10 years

Montgomery County Bar Revue

Judges sport Leather and Tiaras



photo courtesy of Judge DeLawrence Beard

It's an annual tradition—every summer, members of the Montgomery County Bar Association, plus some special friends, get together and put on a show. And what a show it is! “The Bar Revue,” which has been held for over 20 years, features judges and lawyers displaying impressive hidden talents.

Skits included both musical and dramatic numbers. A group of jurists performed “When You’re a Judge,” their clever and catchy take on *West Side Story*’s “When You’re a Jet.” And Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert Bell did a star turn as a psychiatrist in a spoof of the movie “Analyze This.” He treated such patients as a domestic relations master, who bemoaned the fact that she wasn’t allowed to wear judicial robes, and Mel Hirschman of the Attorney Grievance Commission, who wondered why none of his fellow attorneys ever want to talk to him!

A show-stopper was District Court Chief Judge Martha Rasin (pictured, fourth from left, in tiara) as “The Leader of the Bench,” a spoof on the 50’s hit “Leader of the Pack.” Here, she is surrounded by her “do wop girl” entourage, (l-r) Judge Marielsa Bernard, Judge Joanne Wills, Judge Kathy Savage, Judge MaryBeth McCormick, and Judge Patricia Mitchell.

—Judge Patricia Mitchell contributed to this story

Meet The Contemptions



photo courtesy of Judge DeLawrence Beard

At both the Judicial Conference and the Montgomery County Bar Revue, a group of incredibly talented judges calling themselves the “The Contemptions” wowed audiences with their smooth moves and wonderful renditions of Temptations hits.

We think this group can legitimately quit their day jobs and take this powerhouse act on the road!

(l-r) Judge DeLawrence Beard, Judge Thurman Rhodes, Judge Lonzell Martin, U.S. District Court Magistrate Charles Day, and Judge Eric Johnson.

Employees on the *Move*

AOC

Welcome Duanita Jackson and Tracey Smith. Congratulations on your promotion, Yvette Garrity.

Board of Law Examiners

Welcome Christopher Riehl.

Judicial Information Systems

Welcome Tanjala Brown, Michelle Pinkney, and Cassandra Thomas. Congratulations on your promotions, Eric Brown and Marlon Offer.

CIRCUIT COURTS

Allegheny County

Welcome Hunter Hammond.

Anne Arundel County

Welcome Jennifer Edwards, Teekia Green, James Lugar, David Miller and Nicole Sheckels. Congratulations on your promotions, Melanie Tucker, Mardonna Tyler and Lavonne Watkins.

Baltimore City

Welcome Dawn Boyd, Pamela Leak, Steven Matricciani, McKenzie Ryce and Nicole Tanner. Congratulations on your promotions, Anthony Dix Jr. and Torie Palmer. Best wishes for your retirement, Gloria Bonds.

Baltimore County

Welcome Elizabeth Domozych, Patricia Ernstberger, Loretta McComas, Cindy Pruitt, Andrew Thompson, and Deanne White-Winston. Best wishes on your retirement, Patricia Bauer.

Calvert County

Welcome Dawn Beck. Best wishes on your retirement, Cecilia Smith.

Cecil County

Welcome Rosemary Creeden and Autumn Orr. Congratulations on your promotion, Rita Davison. Best wishes on your retirement, Hildegard Rupp.

Frederick County

Welcome Michelle Higginbottom. Congratulations on your promotion, Mary Shankle. Best wishes for your retirement, Janet Rippeon.

Garrett County

Welcome Max Hill.

Howard County

Welcome Thomas Grace.

Montgomery County

Welcome Martha Barnes, Abnet Bisrat, Scott Camillo, Kimberly Gibson, Faith Gulilat, Michael Hait, Jr., Donna Herdman, Neuhy Hubush, Marvin Lawrence, America Rodriguez, and Steve Shih.

Prince George's County

Welcome Shawn Easton, Mary Green, Lorraine Guay, Patricia Hall, Theresa Harper, Rachel Higgs, Roseda McCray, Collette Smith and Crystal White. Congratulations on your promotions, Cheryl Horty and Paul Solomon.

Somerset County

Welcome Angela Benton.

Talbot County

Congratulations on your promotion, Doris Gibson.

Washington County

Welcome Ryan Maloy. Best wishes on your retirement, Patricia Prodonovich.

Worcester County

Welcome Katherine Presby and Lynne Wiedner. Best wishes on your retirement, Janice Mitchell.

DISTRICT COURT

Headquarters

Welcome Reginald Coleman, Charles Keyes and Michelle Ruble.

Anne Arundel County

Welcome Shirley Anthony, Mary Brashewitz, Elizabeth Cullins, Lori Fiehn, Joseph Kennedy, Jr., Patricia Marshall, and Vicki Norvell. Congratulations on your promotion, Terri Duncan.

Baltimore County

Welcome Rudolph Holley, Maria Ingegno, and Lori Simmet. Congratulations on your promotions, Annie Marsh and Elvira Vespa.

Calvert County

Welcome Robert R. Rawlings.

Carrroll County

Welcome Enid Levy.

Frederick County

Welcome Kim Hurd.

Harford County

Welcome Angelicia Lemons. Best wishes on your retirement, Ann Kelley.

Howard County

Welcome Charlie Alvear, Gus Economides, Neil Green, Francis Tully, Brian Owen, and Robert Powell. Congratulations on your promotion, Mike Esposito.

Montgomery County

Welcome Marta Argueta, Susan Biery, Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Kitterman, Dolores Phillip, and Carl Somerlock. Congratulations on your promotion, Shirley Williams.

Prince George's County

Welcome Charo Campbell, Sharon Cunningham, Andrea Edwards, John Hudock, Xerxes Grant, Michael Jarvis, Robert Parrucci, Deborah Porter, Jeremiah Smith, John Richardson, Byron Simms, West Taylor, Ray Thrift, Sr., Helga Wilson. Congratulations on your promotions, Gloria Parks and Ann Garner. Best wishes on your retirements, Charlotte Bane, Mildred Lathrop, and Elaine Gordon.

St. Mary's County

Welcome Kathy DeMarr, John Hopt, Frederick Johnson, Sr., and Wayne Steadman.

Washington County

Welcome Cindy Williams.

AND A BIG WELCOME TO ALL
OUR NEW LAW CLERKS!!!



Calendar of Events

September

- 10-15 New Trial Judge Orientation *
- 21 Recognizing and Coping With Judicial Stress*
Violation of Probation *
- Advanced Computer Research *
- 22 Judicial Responses to Cases Involving Alternative Lifestyles *
Federalism and the Supreme Court Jurisprudence *
Judicial Decision Making *
- 26 Law Clerk Orientation, Judiciary Training Center

October

- 7 Centennial Gala, Clarence Mitchell Building, Baltimore
- 13-14 Circuit Court Judges' Conference
- 19 Criminal Trial Potpourri *
Landlord-Tenant Law Revisited *
Legal History *
- 20 Post Judgment Motions in Civil Cases *

November

- 3-4 District Court Judicial Education Conference, Sheraton Columbia Hotel

* Judicial Institute of Maryland programs.

(Please note that these courses are only open to judges and masters.
Masters are permitted to register for courses pertaining to the types of
cases they hear.)



Court Information Office

Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

