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**Spring/  
Summer  
2019**

### Spring Election:

## Hagedorn wins Supreme Court race; Nashold joins Court of Appeals; three new judges elected to circuit courts

Judge Brian K. Hagedorn defeated fellow District II Court of Appeals Judge Lisa S. Neubauer in the April 2 Spring Election to win a 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, effective Aug. 1.

Hagedorn fills the seat being vacated by retiring Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. (See story, below)

Hagedorn has been a Court of Appeals judge since being appointed in 2015. He previously worked as chief legal counsel to former Gov. Scott Walker, as an assistant state attorney general at the state Department of Justice, as a law clerk to former Justice Michael J. Gableman, and as an attorney in private practice. Hagedorn is a 2006 graduate of Northwestern University Law School.

Neubauer, who is chief judge of the Court of Appeals, was first



Justice-elect Brian K. Hagedorn



Judge-elect Jennifer E. Nashold

**Judicial appointments - Page 2**

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## Chief Justice Roggensack elected to third term as chief justice

Justices of the Wisconsin Supreme Court elected Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack to a third consecutive two-year term as chief justice, effective May 1.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue serving in this vital role, alongside six very dedicated and talented justices,"

Roggensack said. "I look forward to working with them, as well as my colleagues throughout the Judiciary, to ensure Wisconsin has an effective court system."

Roggensack was the first justice chosen to

serve as chief justice since a 2015 constitutional amendment which provided that the chief justice "shall be elected for a term of 2 years by a majority of the justices then serving on the court." Roggensack's first term as chief justice began on May 1, 2015, and she was re-elected as chief justice in 2017.

Roggensack was first elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2003, and she was re-elected as a justice in 2013. Prior to serving on the



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack

see [Chief Justice on page 13](#)

## Justice Abrahamson honored as pioneer, leader and role model in legal profession

Hundreds of people, including dignitaries from near and far, gathered in the Capitol Rotunda on June 18 to honor retiring Justice Shirley Abrahamson for her decades of accomplishments in the law, the legal profession and 43 years of service on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg appeared via video recording, recognizing Abrahamson's deep regard for the law and "all the people" it serves.

"Among jurists I have encountered in the United States and abroad, Shirley Abrahamson is the very best, the most courageous and sage," Ginsburg said.

Abrahamson, the longest serving justice in Wisconsin history, has contributed enormously to



U.S. Court of Appeals Seventh Circuit Judge Diane S. Sykes connects with Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson after Sykes speaks during an Abrahamson tribute June 18 in the state Capitol Rotunda.

see [Abrahamson on page 14](#)



## Graham appointed to Court of Appeals; six new circuit court judges appointed

On June 13, Gov. Tony Evers announced the appointment of Atty. Rachel A. Graham to replace District IV Court of Appeals Judge Gary Sherman, who retired July 5 (See story, page 3).

Prior to her appointment, Graham practiced at Quarles & Brady in Madison and worked as a law clerk to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley. Graham also previously worked as a special education teacher. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and received her law degree from UW Law School. Graham is Gov. Evers' first judicial appointment since he took office as governor in January.

Former Gov. Scott Walker made six new circuit court judges appointments in five counties during the last half of 2018 and first days of 2019.

Judge Andrew Jones was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on Aug. 16, 2018 to fill the vacancy created when Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet was elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Jones was subsequently defeated in the Spring Election by Atty. Danielle Shelton, who takes office Aug. 1 (See story, front page).

Jones previously worked as an attorney at the New York City Law Department and in private practice in Milwaukee.



Judge Rachel A. Graham



Judge Andrew Jones

He has an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a law degree from UW Law School.

Judge Jon E. Fredrickson was appointed on Sept. 28, 2018 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Racine County Circuit Court Judge Charles H. Constantine (See story, page 24)

Fredrickson was in private practice since 2001, and prior to that, worked as an associate and law clerk at a law firm.

Fredrickson earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and holds a law degree from Marquette University Law School.

Judge Brad D. Schimel was appointed to the Waukesha County Circuit Court on Nov. 20, 2018 to replace retiring Judge Patrick C. Haughney (See story, page 24).

Schimel, who served as Wisconsin Attorney General from 2014 until his appointment to the bench, began his legal career as a prosecutor in the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office in 1990. He was elected Waukesha County District Attorney in 2006, and served in that capacity until 2014, when he was elected attorney general.

As attorney general, Schimel served as the co-chair of the Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He had previously served on the executive Committee of the Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council, and numerous justice-related committees. He is a former member of the Wisconsin Judicial Council.



Judge Jon E. Fredrickson

see [Appointments](#) on page 17

## Chief judges re-appointed in five districts

On June 12, the Wisconsin Supreme Court re-appointed chief judges to continue in their administrative leadership roles in five of the state's nine judicial administrative districts, effective Aug. 1.

**In District One**, which encompasses Milwaukee County, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court. White currently serves as the chair of the committee of chief judges, presiding over committee meetings and appointing subcommittee members, among other duties. White was first appointed chief judge in 2015 and was previously re-appointed to a two-year term in 2017. She was first appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 1992, was elected in 1993, and has been re-elected four times.

**In District Three**, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge



Chief Judge Maxine A. White

Jennifer R. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court, to another term as chief judge. Dorow was first appointed chief judge in 2017. She has served on the Waukesha County Circuit Court since being appointed in 2011. She was elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2018. District Three includes Dodge, Jefferson, Ozaukee, Waukesha, and Washington counties.

**In District Four**, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge Barbara Hart Key, Winnebago County Circuit Court, to a second two-year term as chief judge. Key was first appointed chief judge in 2017. She was first elected to the Winnebago County Circuit Court in 1998 and has been re-elected three times. District Four includes Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green



Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow

see [Chief Judges](#) on page 19

## RETIREMENTS

This edition of the *The Third Branch* features retiring judges who provided information about their work and careers to the newsletter. In addition to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson (See story, front page), the following judges retired in recent months:

Judge Gary L. Bendix, Manitowoc County Circuit Court, retired in July 2018. He served seven years on the bench and was first appointed by former Gov. Scott Walker in 2011.

Judge Robert E. Eaton, Ashland County Circuit Court, retired in July 2018. He was first appointed to the circuit court in 1993, was elected in 1994 and re-elected three times.

Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Gritton retired at the end of his term in July 2018. He was first elected to his position in 2000.

St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Eric J. Lundell retired in January. He was first appointed to the bench in 1989.

Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer L. Weston retired in July 2018 after almost nine years on the bench. She was first elected in 2009 and re-elected in 2015.

Several other judges have announced that they will retire in coming months and will be featured in future editions: Judge William M. Atkinson, Brown County Circuit Court; Judge Kitty K. Brennan, Court of Appeals, District I; Judge Lee S. Dreyfus Jr., Waukesha County Circuit Court; Judge Michael J. Dwyer, Milwaukee County Circuit Court; Judge Eugene D. Harrington, Washburn County Circuit Court; and Judge Nancy J. Krueger, Outagamie County Circuit Court.



Judge Paul Lundsten

### Judge Paul Lundsten Court of Appeals - District IV

Court of Appeals Judge Paul Lundsten will retire at the end of his term July 31 after serving 19 years on the District IV bench. Lundsten was appointed in 2000, elected in 2001, and re-elected in 2007 and 2013.

"I was very lucky to end up as an appellate court judge. And, I was even more lucky to serve with uniformly terrific people in a job that requires a lot of team work. I will not miss reading briefs and records, but I will miss all the hardworking public servants in the court system statewide," Lundsten said.

### Judge Gary E. Sherman Court of Appeals - District IV

Judge Gary E. Sherman retired on July 5, having served more than nine years on the District IV Court of Appeals. Sherman was first appointed in 2010 by then-Gov. Jim Doyle. Before his appointment, Sherman was a state representative for the 74th Assembly District in Northwestern Wisconsin. He is a former president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Sherman's 12 years of legislative experience and 20 years prior experience in private practice offered added perspective on being a judge.

"Our work is about solving the real problems of real people and that is often lost. I come from a very broad practice background, which seems rare on the bench. I have been able to use the knowledge from this



Judge Gary E. Sherman

see [Retirements](#) on page 22

## NEW FACES

### Office of Judicial Education Emily Brooks

The Office of Judicial Education recently welcomed three new staff members.

Emily Brooks joined the Office of Judicial Education in August 2018 as Judicial Resource and Outreach Coordinator.

Brooks creates and maintains a variety of online resources for the Wisconsin Judiciary to supplement in-person training and keep judges informed about educational opportunities.

This effort includes production of a new monthly video newsletter, training videos, and the collection and distribution of other resource materials as guided by the Judicial Education Committee, and the Director of the Office of Judicial Education.

Brooks has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Winona State University, and a Master's degree in Instructional Design and Technology from Western Illinois



Emily Brooks

University. She taught 5th grade for a number of years, worked as a college admissions counselor, and most recently, was an Instructional Design Consultant at UW Colleges Online.

### Laurie Nelson

Laurie Nelson has joined the Office of Judicial Education team as the Conference Coordinator. Nelson oversees conference sites, contracts, banquets, and catering services. In addition, Laurie is the records manager of Judicial Education Credits.

Nelson has more than fifteen years of experience in conference coordination with the state Department of Public Instruction's Deaf/Hard of Hearing Outreach team. Prior to that, she was a legal assistant.

Laurie replaces Tammy Hennick who retired in January of 2019 (See [story](#), page 28).

see [New Faces](#) on page 38



Laurie Nelson

## Supreme Court approves rule change for ‘blended system’ of court reporting

Editor’s Note: *In its June edition, Wisconsin Lawyer published an article on the Supreme Court’s adoption of a “blended system” of court reporting to help address a shortage of stenographic court reporters. The Court approved rule changes presented in Rule Petition 19-01, effective July 1. Below is an introductory excerpt from that article, which was written by Circuit Court Legal Advisor Katherine “Kat” Carpenter. A copy of the [full article](#) is available on the State Bar of Wisconsin’s website. As of June, DAR equipment had been installed in the courtrooms of 71 state court judges; and 62 court commissioners. More machines are scheduled to be installed in coming months, with the goal of having at least one machine in each county by the end of this year.*

On April 22, 2019, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued its final order regarding Rule Petition 19-01, making changes to Supreme Court Rules to address the ongoing shortage of stenographic court reporters. The court’s order reflects Wisconsin’s

move toward a “blended system” of court reporting, in which monitored digital audio reporting (DAR) with a digital court reporter becomes a standard means of making the record in addition to traditional stenographic reporting.

The order comes in response to a rule petition filed by Judge Randy R. Koschnick, director of state courts, who appointed an advisory Making the Record Committee in 2017 to explore the ongoing shortage of stenographic court reporters in Wisconsin and nationwide. After months of research and input from judges, court reporters, and court staff across the state, the committee wrapped up its work in August 2018 with recommendations.

In adopting the committee’s plan for implementation, Koschnick filed the rule petition in January to establish monitored DAR as an accepted court reporting method and to clarify the ability of the chief judge and the district court administrator to assign court reporters to cover court proceedings. *Continue reading at [Wisconsin Lawyer](#).* ■

### FAQs on Monitored Digital Audio Recording

#### What is “monitored digital audio recording”?

Monitored digital audio recording (DAR) is a type of court reporting where a digital court reporter, or other monitor designated by a judge in an emergency situation, uses an electronic recording machine to capture the verbatim record of a circuit court proceeding.

#### What is a digital court reporter?

A digital court reporter (DCR) is a type of court reporter who is trained in the use of the DAR system and transcription. A DCR may be the personal appointee of his/her judge or may be a district court reporter. All DCRs must take an oath of office before beginning their position.

#### What type of training is available to DCRs?

CCAP conducts on-site technical training on how to use the DAR system for new DCRs who are hired. DCRs can also get certified as Certified Electronic Court Reporters and Certified Electronic Transcribers by the [American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers \(AAERT\)](#). AAERT offers online certification programs through several schools across the nation.

see [FAQs](#) on page 37

## Law Libraries assist lawyers, public, judges

By Carol Hassler

Questions and requests for assistance arrive quickly at the Milwaukee and Dane County Law Libraries.

“How do I file for divorce?”

“I need a restraining order.”

“I’m being sued and need to file an answer (whatever that is).”

“I want to see my kid more often.”

Located in the two largest courthouses in the state, these small libraries make a big impact. Managed by the Wisconsin State Law Library since the late-1990s, the county branches provide streamlined book collections and expansive online research sources that are available for everyone to use – not just members of the public, but also judges, court employees, and attorneys.

On any given day, library staff at these busy branches field questions from hundreds of users, many of them navigating the courthouse and court system for the first time. Staff assist *pro se* users, or self-represented litigants, in locating standard court forms, as well as sample forms and information about court actions and legal issues.



A researcher works at the Milwaukee County Law Library, which supports the work of judges, attorneys, self-represented litigants and the public.

Library staff, along with other court staff, can’t give legal advice. However, helping library users find research materials is a big component of the job. Each library has a core collection of Wisconsin primary law materials, plus attorney and *pro se*-oriented books to help experts and novices alike.

see [Law Library](#) on page 36

## AWARDS

**Chief Judge White gathers recognition, awards**

First Judicial Administrative District Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, received a variety of awards, honors and recognitions in recent months.

Late last year, Chief Judge Maxine A. White was recognized as a “Champion of Change” by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge project.

On Dec. 10, 2018, the Pretrial Justice Institute posted a two-minute [video interview](#) of White explaining Milwaukee County’s broad-based, cross-discipline approach to “front-end interventions,” particularly as it relates to people with mental illness.

“Rethinking jails is not just a coined phrase. It’s about doing a better job – a humane job – of our caretaking responsibilities as a criminal justice system and as a government,” White said.

Thanks largely to a MacArthur Foundation grant, Milwaukee County has created a “system within a system,” involving team members from across the justice system and treatment community, to help identify and address the needs of people with serious mental illness.

The project started with about 15 cases and has now expanded to about 100, White said.

On Oct. 2, 2018, White received the Commitment to Excellence Award, for her exceptional contribution to the



Chief Judge Maxine A. White

citizens of Milwaukee County. The award was presented by the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Department at a luncheon at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

Also in October, White received the Jurist of the Year Award by the Wisconsin Justinian Society of Lawyers at the group’s 25th Annual Columbus Day Awards Banquet. The award was presented during a ceremony at the Wisconsin Club in downtown Milwaukee on Oct. 12.

Last summer, White’s fellow chief judges elected her to serve as “the chief of the chiefs,” or the Chair of the Committee of Chief Judges. The committee chair presides over approximately seven committee meetings per year.

Before becoming a chief judge in 2015, White had served as deputy chief judge of the First District (Milwaukee County) since 2008. White was first appointed to the bench in 1992 and has been elected five times since.

**Evenson named ‘Lifetime Jurist’**

Retired Sauk County Circuit Court Judge James Evenson received the prestigious State Bar of Wisconsin Bench and Bar Committee Lifetime Jurist Award. The award recognizes a jurist who is fair and impartial, demonstrates high ideals and personal character, and demonstrates outstanding, long-term judicial service during their time on the bench.

“It’s time to acknowledge [Evenson’s] 30-plus years of extraordinary judicial service,” retired Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Guy D. Reynolds said in an article announcing Evenson’s award.

Evenson is known by many as a mentor to judges and an exemplary leader. Throughout his tenure on the bench, he reorganized the juvenile court process and the management of cases involving children in need of protection. He also

*see Awards on page 20*

**2019 Capitol ornament ‘Forward’ unveiled at press conference**

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack was among speakers at the June 10 unveiling ceremony of the 2019 Wisconsin State Capitol ornament.

Presented by the Wisconsin Historical Foundation, *Forward* the ornament honors the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The ornament is a tribute to *Forward*, the bronze sculpture originally created by Jean Pond Miner, who was born in 1865 in Menasha and grew up in the Madison area. A replica of the original work is located at the foot of the Capitol steps at the State Street entrance.

“As we meet today to celebrate the centennial of Wisconsin’s June 10, 1919 ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, it is appropriate that the Wisconsin State Capitol ornament for 2019 has “Forward” as its inspiration,” Roggensack said in her remarks.

*Forward* is an allegory of devotion and progress, qualities that Miner believed Wisconsin possessed. The original sculpture was previously displayed at the Wisconsin

Women’s Memorial and at 1893 World’s Fair Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Due to the effects of the weather on the original bronze statue, *Forward* was moved to the Wisconsin State Historical Society headquarters, where she remains today.

*Forward* has her right arm raised in greeting, and her left arm and hand hold tightly to the American flag.

*Forward* is dedicated to Women’s suffrage, which faced setbacks in Wisconsin before final approval on August 26, 1920, when three-fourths of the states ratified the 19th Amendment.

Since 2004, the proceeds from ornament sales have supported restoration projects around the Capitol. ■



2019 Capitol ornament

## Court interpreter certification program marks 15th year with recognition awards

By Carmel Capati, Office of Court Operations

On May 4, court interpreters from around the state celebrated the 15th year of a court interpreter certification program with an awards ceremony at the 6th Annual *Ramp UP the Conversation* Interpreter and ISP Conference hosted by Bilingual Training Consultants in Johnson Creek.

All court interpreters in attendance were presented with certificates of appreciation, while the interpreters who had reached the 15-year milestone also received a scales of justice lapel pin marking their commitment to equal language access to the courts.

In 2004, the first group of Wisconsin court interpreters obtained their certification by passing a rigorous oral performance exam, which was the culmination of efforts to improve language services by a cohort of judges and court staff that began in 1999.

This group, which included retired Court of Appeals Judge Richard S. Brown and retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Elsa C. Lamelas, as well as retired District Court Administrator Gail Richardson, laid the foundation for interpreter certification through the establishment of a Code of Ethics in Supreme Court rules and creation of a court interpreter program.

At the ceremony, awards were presented to Director of State Courts Judge Randy R. Koschnick; retired Trempealeau County Circuit Court Judge John Damon, former chair of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts; Debra Gorra-Barash, ASL interpreter; and Marcia Vandercook, retired legal advisor in the Office of Court Operations.

The awards acknowledged each recipient's role in "establishing and upholding the high standards that guarantee language access in our diverse communities." Gorra-Barash and Vandercook were part of the original group that helped establish certification testing.

Koschnick expressed his appreciation to the interpreters



A number of awards were presented May 4 during a ceremony marking the 15th year of Wisconsin's court interpreter certification program.

Left to right: Retired Circuit Court Legal Advisor Marcia Vandercook; Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick; American Sign Language interpreter Debra Gorra-Barash, ASL interpreter; and retired Trempealeau County Circuit Court Judge John Damon, former chair of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts.

for their dedication to the courts and encouraged individuals who were pursuing certification to complete the process because of the continued need for quality interpreting.

The awards were adorned with a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, honoring the collective efforts of all court system leaders who have worked throughout the years to improve language access services to Limited English Proficient individuals: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." ■



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, accompanied by Justice Daniel Kelly, discusses the role of courts with new legislators as part of the Wisconsin Legislative Council's New Member Institute Dec. 5 in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.

## Chief judges honor Chief Justice Roggensack

At the 2018 Wisconsin Judicial Conference, the Committee of Chief Judges presented Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack with a bronze eagle in appreciation of her work and accomplishments on behalf of the Wisconsin Judiciary.

Chief Judge James A. Morrison presented the sculpture to the chief justice on stage with all of the chief judges at the Grand Geneva Conference Center in Lake Geneva.

The eagle symbolizes the courage to “reach higher and become more than you are capable of,” Committee Chair

and First Judicial Administrative District Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, told the gathering of judges.

“We are so very honored to represent Wisconsin’s judiciary as we bestow and extend special thanks and a commendation to our outstanding leader and our friend Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack. During the last three plus years, Chief Justice Roggensack has led, cajoled, supported and cheered a number of issues and programs critical to our judiciary’s strength and progress.”

The chief justice established judicial compensation as a priority and worked tirelessly to bring Wisconsin from 41st ranking nationally to the “middle of the pack,” White said.

White also credited the chief justice with establishing a commercial docket pilot program, a data warehouse, the

expansion of statewide eFiling, drug court treatment programs, and evidence-based decision-making.

“We are very fortunate and we are very honored, to have Chief Justice Patience “Pat” Drake Roggensack as our leader at this time. We owe her a debt of gratitude and celebrate her today for her outstanding leadership,” White said as Roggensack was presented with the sculpture, as well as a designer red throw blanket. ■



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack addresses judges at the 2018 Wisconsin Judicial Conference after being presented by the Committee of Chief Judges with a bronze eagle statue and red designer throw blanket.



Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack presents the State of the Judiciary Speech during the Wisconsin Judicial Conference in Lake Geneva.



Reserve judges gather for a CCAP presentation during an educational session at the 2018 Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

## WISCONSIN CONNECTS



On June 25, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, and Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet visited with a group of women judges from the country of Georgia as part of an international leadership program. The visitors also met with judges in Milwaukee.

### In Dublin, Judge Hanrahan presents on American Criminal Justice

Chief Judge William E. Hanrahan, Dane County Circuit Court, was among featured speakers at The Bar of Ireland's legal education program on "Irish & American Rule of Law," held May 30 in Dublin.

Hanrahan presented on the "American Criminal Justice System" before a standing room only crowd of judges and barristers at the Bar's headquarters. Several Irish Judges, including Court of Appeal Judge John A. Edwards, president of the Association of Judges of Ireland, also presented.

Hanrahan said his hosts made him feel at home in Dublin, during both educational programming and social events. The hospitality may stem from Article 2 of the Constitution of Ireland, which states, in part:

"... the Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage." ■



Chief Judge William E. Hanrahan, Dane County Circuit Court, poses for a photo while visiting the Honorable Society of King's Inns while in Dublin in May. The society is the Ireland's oldest law school and provides professional legal education and training.

### Judge Zuidmulder picks up new 'mate,' stories, on bike tour

Last summer, when Brown County Circuit Court Judge Donald R. Zuidmulder chose to make his semi-annual solo bike trip from Prague, through Vienna, to Budapest, his family insisted he could not ride alone. He would need to either join tour groups or hire a guide.

Zuidmulder said he hired a guide in Prague (Czech Republic) and started off with a 50-mile ride. He joined groups and took shorter rides near Vienna (Austria). But when he got closer to Budapest (Hungary), he couldn't find a group or a guide at a bike rental location.

While he was having a conversation with staff there, a guy with a heavy Australian accent, standing six feet away offered to serve as his guide. "We struck a deal and off we go, visiting sites," Zuidmulder said.

Then, the guide said he has a friend who teaches aeronautical engineering and asked Zuidmulder if he wanted to see some Soviet aircraft. Zuidmulder agreed.

"Next thing, there I am sitting in the seat of a Mig 21 and touring helicopter gunships," Zuidmulder said.

Zuidmulder reported he became "good mates" with the guide, who turned out to be Warren Richardson, an internationally acclaimed freelance photographer.

The next day, they biked 30 miles and discussed Richardson's photography work on homelessness, migrant issues and drug addiction in Eastern Europe. In 2016, Richardson won photo of the year from World Press Photo award for a photo of a baby being passed under a razor-wire fence from Serbia into Hungary. ■



Judge Donald Zuidmulder, Brown County Circuit Court, sits in the cockpit of a Mig 21 Russian fighter jet during a stop near Budapest, Hungary, while on a bicycle tour of Eastern Europe.

## OBITUARIES

**Judge Richard G. Greenwood  
Brown County Circuit Court**

Judge Richard G. Greenwood, who was retired from the Brown County Circuit Court, died July 1, 2018 at age 90 due to complications of Parkinson's disease, according to an obituary.

Greenwood was born in Green Bay on Nov. 4, 1927. While he worked to achieve his commission of Naval Officer at the U.S. Naval Academy, Greenwood won the Intercollegiate Boxing Championship for his weight class. He was graduated from the academy in 1949 and attended the U.S. Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, where he "earned his wings." Greenwood was a veteran of the Korean Conflict and flew 299 carrier landings during his military career. On one mission, he is credited with saving a Royal Air Force pilot and crew from a remote island near Greece.

Greenwood later returned to Wisconsin to attend Marquette University Law School and graduated in 1958. He served as assistant district attorney for Brown County and as Green Bay's City Attorney. He was appointed by then-Gov. Martin J. Schreiber, to serve as circuit court judge that included Brown, Kewaunee and Door Counties in 1977.

He was re-elected to the Brown County Circuit Court bench until his retirement in 1997. During his 20 years on the bench, Greenwood presided over the first DNA case in the State of Wisconsin and was a member of the Wisconsin Civil Jury Instruction Committee.

In his retirement, Greenwood enjoyed traveling, stamp-collecting, playing the harmonica, and story-telling. Greenwood is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carol, his four children, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.



*Judge Richard G. Greenwood*

Associations and even served as president of the Outagamie Bar Association from 1972 to 1973.

Nelson was elected Calumet County Circuit Court Judge and served from 1980 to 1992. He served terms as both Deputy Chief Judge and Chief Judge of the Fourth Judicial Administrative District during his time on the bench.

When Nelson retired in 1992, he continued to serve the court system as a reserve judge and mediation and arbitration practitioner for ten years. During his retirement, Nelson enjoyed traveling extensively with his wife, Jean. He enjoyed reading, was an historian, and spent much time caring for his long-time Lake Winnebago lakeshore property. He is survived by three children, three grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.

**Judge Vincent K. Howard**

Marathon County Circuit Court Judge Vincent K. Howard Jan. 19, from complications due to Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy, according to an obituary.

Howard was born in 1947 and grew up in the Wausau area. He attended the University of Wisconsin Marathon County before going on to receive his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Soon after, Howard earned his law degree at Marquette University Law School, and upon graduation, he moved back to Wausau for private practice.

Howard was appointed circuit court Judge in Marathon County and served in that role for 30 years. During that time, he presided over some of Marathon County's most infamous cases. In 1989, he oversaw the case trial of Chris Jacobs, the man accused and acquitted of murdering five members of the Kunz family in their farmhouse in Athens. Howard also presided over the trial of Dale and Leilani Neuman, a Weston couple who prayed for healing rather than seeking lifesaving medical treatment for their diabetic daughter in 2008.

In 2013, Howard retired from the bench. He enjoyed being a member of both the Noon Kiwanis Club and the Elks Lodge and was a lifetime member of First United Methodist Church in Wausau.

According to his obituary, Howard is survived by his wife of 47 years, Judy, his siblings, and nieces and nephews.



*Judge Vincent K. Howard*

**Judge Hugh F. Nelson  
Calumet County Circuit Court**

Judge Hugh F. Nelson, Calumet County Circuit Court, died on Aug. 11, 2018 at age 91.

Nelson was born in Kaukauna in 1927. Upon graduating high school, he enlisted in the US Navy and was sent to Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri to participate in a program for navy pilots. After serving in Guam, Nelson was honorably discharged. He returned to Wisconsin to attend St. Norbert College in DePere and went on to study at the University of Wisconsin and UW Law School.



*Judge Hugh F. Nelson*

Nelson graduated and began to practice law in Appleton in 1953 and remained there until 1979. He was an active member in the Wisconsin, American, Outagamie County, and Calumet County Bar

**Judge Gerald C. Nichol  
Dane County Circuit Court**

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Gerald C. Nichol died on March 17, 2019.

Nichol was born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, he served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959. His time in the army included assignment in the White House Army Signal Agency. Nichol attended law school at the University of Wisconsin and received his Juris Doctor in 1963.

## Law Day events bring students, courts together through outreach

Editor's note: Each year, counties throughout Wisconsin celebrate Law Day by connecting with students through a variety of events, such as mock trials and discussions. Here is a compilation of activities reported to *The Third Branch*:

### Bayfield County

#### Law Day connects students with real-life scenarios

On May 3 in Bayfield County, the circuit court, together with the Bayfield County District Attorney and local State Public Defender, invited students from area high schools to participate in a mock jury trial. This year, more than 75 students from Drummond, Washburn and Bayfield high schools attended.

The clerk of circuit court's office compiled the names of the students

attending and used that list of names as a juror pool from which a jury is selected. This year's mock trial was based on a real fact situation that occurred in Bayfield County, involving possession of methamphetamine and bail jumping.

District Attorney Kim Lawton arranged for local law enforcement from the State Patrol, City of Washburn Police Department and Bayfield County Sheriff's Departments to play the role of the state's witnesses, while Atty. Courtney Latzig and Atty. William Appleton from the public defender's office played the roles of defendant and defense counsel. Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P.

Anderson presided.

The trial itself was a slightly modified version of a real jury trial. Therefore voir dire, as well as opening statements, closing statements, and jury instructions were abbreviated, but the general flow was the same as a real criminal jury trial. After the close of the case, the 12 student jurors deliberated and came back with verdicts of guilty on all counts.



District Attorney Kim Lawton, right, and Public Defender William Appleton, left, participate in Bayfield County Law Day mock trial. To the far right are some of student jurors, and in the gallery are teachers and students from Drummond, Bayfield and Washburn High Schools.

At the conclusion of the trial, the students sat in on real bail hearings conducted by video from the county jail, affording them the opportunity to see what the initial phase of a criminal case is like. Then, the students were given an opportunity to ask questions of the judge, prosecutor and defense counsel.

The student jurors took questions also

about how they came to their decision. Bayfield County Sheriff Paul Suseinka provided the students with information about careers in law enforcement and took questions. Many questions posed by the students were insightful and led to a great discussion. All of the schools' representatives indicated that it was a positive learning experience for the students.

The court system in Bayfield County has been hosting student-based law day events for more than ten years and will continue to work with local high schools to provide such teaching opportunities, so that students have a better understanding of our American justice system.



Washburn Police Chief Ken Johnson plays the role of an analyst from the Wisconsin Crime Lab during Bayfield County's Mock Trial. In the background of this photo, taken from the bench by Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P. Anderson, are some of the high school students who were selected as jurors.

### Buffalo County

Buffalo County celebrated Law Day on May 14th with fourth and fifth grade students participating in several events. Clerk of Circuit Court Roselle Schlosser, with her deputies, Ashley Henthorn and Julie Vollmer, and Adam Sticht, Assistant District Attorney, with Mackenzie Dregney, Victim-Witness Coordinator, led groups of students through the events.

A mock jury trial was held in the courtroom on the case of "State of Wisconsin vs. Woody from Toy Story." The students played the parts of the defendant, victim, district attorney, defense attorney, circuit court judge, clerk of circuit court, bailiff, witnesses, and jurors. This gave the students the opportunity to be part of a court process and see how each part plays a role in a jury trial.

A "Law Day Trivia" challenge was included in the

## NEWS AND NOTES



Director of State Courts, Judge Randy R. Koschnick, addresses the State Bar Board of Governors during the Bar's Annual Meeting and Convention June 12 in Green Bay.

Director of State Courts, Judge Randy R. Koschnick, addressed the State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors on June 12, the first day of activities at the Bar's Annual Meeting and Conference in Green Bay.

Koschnick discussed the common goals of the bench and bar in working together to ensure the court system operates efficiently, according to an article published in the Bar's *InsideTrack* newsletter.

"Koschnick, a former circuit court judge for Jefferson County, said lawyers and judges depend upon each other for the proper functioning of the court system and must work together. As an example, he noted that a consortium of judges and lawyers worked together on the rate paid to private bar attorneys who take on public defender cases," the *InsideTrack* wrote.

In addition to an increase in the private bar reimbursement rate, the consortium also supported, funding for additional district attorneys and increased circuit court support payments.

"The changes will help ensure parties are well-represented, that individual liberty interests are protected,

Governors.

Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey and Judge Craig R. Day, both of Grant County Circuit Court, would like to see more young and aspiring lawyers to consider practicing in rural parts of the state.

That's the message they delivered to a group of eight participants in the State Bar of Wisconsin's Greater Wisconsin Initiative, which made a stop in Lancaster last fall.

"The real crunch is in the criminal law area," VanDeHey was quoted as saying by the Grant County Herald Independent newspaper.

A shortage of lawyers in the area has led to a situation whereby the

and cases are processed in a timely manner," Koschnick told the board during his remarks.

Koschnick said his office has also worked hard to ensure judges are able to participate in effective judicial education offerings. Both judges and lawyers must be up-to-date on the law for the justice system to function properly, he told the Board of



Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey



Judge Craig R. Day

see [News and Notes](#) on page 32

## Racine judges promote legal literacy in schools

When Racine County Circuit Court Judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz found out the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) was going to teach financial literacy as a topic, he thought, "why not take a similar approach to promote 'legal literacy?'"

The idea caught on. Gasiorkiewicz contacted Chief of Schools Daniel Thielen and worked with schools to develop a high-school curriculum, using the State Bar of Wisconsin's publication "What you should know about Wisconsin Law-Your Legal Rights and Responsibilities" as a resource.

The result is a one-hour presentation, which Gasiorkiewicz



Judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz

and other Racine County Circuit Court judges have presented at the three high schools in the district, Horlick, Case and Park. In addition, students each received a copy of the Bar's 44-page booklet.

The book forewarns students of potential criminal and civil "pitfalls," as they age into adulthood, Gasiorkiewicz said.

Other judges who presented as part of the program include Judge Timothy D. Boyle, Judge David W. Paulson, and Judge Wynne P. Laufenberg.

"The feedback and student response has been great," Gasiorkiewicz said. "The students, teachers and administrative staff of RUSD have been impressed that sitting circuit judges would take the time and effort to educate high school students."

Any judge interested in presenting the program may contact Gasiorkiewicz for information and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. ■

**Election** *continued from front page*

appointed in 2007. She was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. Before joining the Court of Appeals, she worked in private practice for 18 years and had clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb. She is a 1987 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.

**COURT OF APPEALS**

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Jennifer E. Nashold of Madison was elected without a challenger to the District IV Court of Appeals to replace retiring Judge Paul Lundsten, effective Aug. 1 (See story, page 3).

Nashold has been an ALJ for the state Division of Hearings and Appeals since 2011. She previously served as chief legal counsel for the state Department of Children and Families and as general counsel for the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Prior to that, she served as a commissioner and chair of the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission. Nashold began her law career as a prosecutor and served as assistant attorney general in the state Department of Justice from 1998 to 2004.

She is a 1993 graduate of the UW Law School.

Court of Appeals judges Mark D. Gundrum, District II, and Lisa K. Stark, District III, were unopposed in their bids for re-election to new six-year terms.

Gundrum, a former Waukesha County Circuit Court judge, was first appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2011 and was elected in 2017. He served as a representative in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1999 to 2010 and is a Judge Advocate General Officer, United States Army Reserve.

Stark was first appointed in 2013, elected that same year, and re-elected in 2019. Before being appointed, Stark was an Eau Claire County Circuit Court judge from 2000 to 2013 and worked in private practice from 1982 to 2000.



Judge Jon E. Fredrickson



Judge-elect Danielle L. Shelton

**CIRCUIT COURTS**

Twenty-six Wisconsin circuit court judges were re-elected throughout the state on April 2, and three new judges will take office in Marquette, Milwaukee and Ozaukee counties on Aug. 1.

Just two incumbents faced challengers: Racine County Circuit Court Judge Jon E. Fredrickson defeated Atty. Jamie M. McClendon for the Branch 7 bench; and, in Milwaukee County, Atty. Danielle L. Shelton defeated incumbent Judge Andrew A. Jones for the Branch 40 bench.

Shelton is a U.S. Army Veteran who worked in finance prior to her career as a litigator. She was a Senior Law attorney with Legal Action Wisconsin and most recently worked as an assistant state public defender. Shelton received her bachelor's degree from UW-Milwaukee and her law degree from Marquette University Law School.

In the only other contested circuit

court race, Atty. Steve M. Cain defeated Atty. Angela C. Foy for the Branch 2 bench in Ozaukee County. Cain will replace Judge Joseph Voiland, who did not seek re-election.

Prior to his election to the bench, Cain was in private practice and served as Mid Moraine Municipal Court Judge from 2009-2019. He also served as President of the Wisconsin Municipal Judges Association for two years. Cain earned both his Bachelor's and Juris Doctorate at Marquette University.

In Marquette County, District Attorney Chad A. Hendee, who did not face a challenger, was elected to replace retiring Judge Bernard "Ben" Bult (See retirements, page 3). Hendee was first appointed district attorney in 2011, elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016.

Hendee told the Portage Daily Register, "I'm very excited for the opportunity to move up to the bench... It's been a career goal of mine. I'm taking it very seriously. I want to do a good job doing it." ■



Judge-elect Steve M. Cain



Judge-elect Chad A. Hendee

**Below is a list of circuit court judges who were re-elected without challengers.**

**Brown County**

Judge Tammy Jo Hock  
Judge Timothy A. Hinkfuss

**Marinette County**

Judge James A. Morrison

**Dane County**

Judge Rhonda L. Lanford

**Milwaukee County**

Judge David C. Swanson  
Judge William S. Pocan  
Judge Laura A. Crivello  
Judge Audrey K. Skwierawski

**Dodge County**

Judge Joseph G. Sciascia

**Jefferson County**

Judge William V. Gruber  
Judge William F. Hue

**Monroe County**

Judge Todd L. Ziegler

**La Crosse County**

Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez  
Judge Elliott M. Levine  
Judge Todd W. Bjerke  
Judge Scott L. Horne

**Racine County**

Judge Maureen M. Martinez

**Lincoln County**

Judge Robert R. Russell

**St. Croix County**

Judge Edward F. Vlack

**Manitowoc County**

Judge Mark R. Rohrer

**Waukesha County**

Judge Michael O. Bohren  
Judge Brad Schimmel

## Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts set for Sept. 25-27 in Wisconsin Dells

The *Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: Working Together to Effectuate Timely Permanence*, will be held on Sept. 25-27, 2019, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The conference is sponsored by the Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. The event serves as a forum for state, county, and tribal leaders to learn innovative practices to achieve timely permanence for children. More than 450 people are expected to attend.

Participants are encouraged to attend as a multidisciplinary team, which would include: judicial officers, attorneys (prosecutors, adversary counsel, guardians ad litem), and child welfare directors and supervisors. Each county and tribe will have time to develop strategies to implement in their community. Continuing

education credits will be offered for judicial officers, attorneys, and social workers.

Presentations will address child stability, family engagement, child welfare treatment courts, cultural responsiveness, and judicial leadership. Workshop sessions will be organized into four practice areas.

Judicial officers interested in registering for the conference should contact Kristen Wetzel, CCIP Program Analyst, as soon as practicable: [kristen.wetzel@wicourts.gov](mailto:kristen.wetzel@wicourts.gov) or (608) 264-6905. ■



## Milwaukee County celebrates Adoption Day

Each year, November is recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month. On Nov. 16, Milwaukee County hosted an Adoption Day celebration at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center.

Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, welcomed the families and thanked them for giving an awesome gift of love, devotion and sacrifice to the children in our community.

"It is truly a special day for all of us in Milwaukee. I am so very grateful for Deputy Chief Judge M. Joseph Donald's transformational work and that of our entire team of judges, their staffs and collaborative partners serving in the Juvenile Division of Milwaukee County Circuit Courts," White said.

"This morning we witnessed the awesome work of Judge Donald and judges Gwendolyn Connolly, Laura Crivello, David Feiss, Christopher Foley, Lindsey Grady, Audrey Skwierawski and J. D. Watts, who collectively presided over the adoptions of 19 children into 15 forever families in their courtrooms." ■



Secretary of the state Department of Children and Families, Eloise Anderson, Deputy Chief Judge M. Joseph Donald (holding a Proclamation from former Gov. Scott Walker), and Chief Judge Maxine A. White.

## Chief Justice

*continued from front page*

Supreme Court, Roggensack served as a judge on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals from 1996 until 2003.

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 4 (3) of the Wisconsin Constitution, the chief justice of the Supreme Court is the administrative head of the judicial system and exercises administrative authority pursuant to procedures adopted by the Supreme Court.

In this role, the chief justice works with fellow justices, the director of state courts, chief judges and other administrators to ensure the courts operate smoothly and efficiently. ■



Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet administers the oath of office to Rep. Evan Goyke, (D-Milwaukee) during a ceremony in the Supreme Court Hearing Room on Jan. 7. Goyke is the son of court system Legislative Liaison Nancy Rottier and Gary Goyke, who captured the moment on his smart phone camera.

**Abrahamson** *continued from front page*

the advancement of opportunity for women in the legal profession, Ginsburg said.

“As a lawyer, law teacher and judge, she has inspired legions to follow in her way to strive constantly to make the legal system genuinely equal and accessible to all who dwell in our fair land,” Ginsburg said.

Former Gov. Jim Doyle, who served as Wisconsin Attorney General before becoming governor, recalled arguing cases before the Supreme Court with Abrahamson on the bench.

“You better get to the point, you better have thought through what you had to say, and you weren’t going to waste her time,” Doyle said.

Abrahamson spoke briefly, emphasizing the importance of

Abrahamson’s friend and colleague, Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, praised Abrahamson for a remarkable 43 years of service. Bradley has served with Abrahamson since Bradley was first elected to the Court in 1995.

“She started this journey on this Court in 1976,” Walsh Bradley said. “Just imagine: At that time, not only was she the only woman justice, and the first woman justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, she was the only woman judge in the state – the entire state of Wisconsin.”

Abrahamson responded simply with the words “thank you” to a standing ovation from those who had attended the argument.

Abrahamson was appointed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by then-Gov. Patrick J. Lucey in 1976. She won

election in 1979 and re-election three times. She will have completed her fourth 10-year term when she retires July 31. Abrahamson served as chief justice from 1996 to 2015 and was the first woman justice and first woman chief justice of the Court.

Abrahamson is estimated to have written 530 majority opinions, 490 dissenting opinions, 325 concurring opinions, according to statistics compiled by Marquette University History professor Alan Ball and published in *Wisconsin Lawyer*. Before being appointed, Abrahamson was in private practice in Madison for 14 years and was a professor at the UW Law School. Born and raised in New York City, Justice Abrahamson received her bachelor’s degree from NYU in 1953, her law degree from Indiana University Law School in 1956, and a doctorate of law in American legal history in 1962 from the UW Law School.

She is the recipient of 16 honorary doctor of laws degrees and the Distinguished Alumni Award of both the UW-Madison and Indiana University-Bloomington. She is a

fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an elected member of the American Philosophical Society. In 2004, she received the American Judicature Society’s Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. In 2009, the National Center for State Courts awarded her the Harry L. Carrico Award for Judicial Innovation, for serving as a national leader in safeguarding judicial independence, improving inter-branch relations, and expanding outreach to the public. In 2010, the American Bar Association awarded her the John Marshall Award in recognition of her dedication to improving the administration of justice.

Abrahamson is a past president of the National Conference of Chief Justices and past chair of the board of directors of the National Center for State Courts. She also has served on many national and state boards councils and commissions. ■



*U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg pays tribute via video recording to retiring Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson during a state Capitol ceremony June 18. The event was sponsored by UW Law School, Marquette University Law School and the State Bar of Wisconsin.*

an independent judiciary.

“From the day I took the oath of office, I believed in the concept of an independent judiciary. I still believe in it. I hope you do as well,” Abrahamson told the crowd in the Rotunda. She attended the event with her son, Daniel, his wife, Tsan and their son Moses.

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Diane Sykes, 7th Circuit, who served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court with Abrahamson from 1999 to 2004, said she always appreciated Abrahamson’s well thought out and challenging legal arguments.

“The strength of her work always made mine better,” said Sykes, who was appointed to the federal bench by former President George W. Bush.

Sykes cited numerous decisions written by Abrahamson that had a significant impact on the development of the law and legal theory.

On May 15, the Wisconsin Supreme Court took a few minutes after its final oral argument of the term to recognize Abrahamson.

photo credit: Tatiana Shirinski

## Commercial Docket pilot project approaches second year in operation

The commercial court has been providing a specialized docket that accommodates the increasing complexity, rate of change, and needs of the modern business environment. The commercial docket is designed to operate within the framework of the existing Wisconsin court system with minimal impact on the balance of court operations. It is intended to leverage judicial expertise in commercial law and disputes with commercial litigants' desire to tailor case management practices best suited for resolving substantial business disputes fairly and expeditiously.

Judges Michael J. Aprahamian, Michael O. Bohren and William J. Domina serve in Waukesha County Circuit Court. The Eighth Judicial District is served by Judges William M. Atkinson and Tammy Jo Hock (both of Brown County Circuit Court), and Chief Judge James Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court.

The Commercial Docket Pilot Project (CDPP) has been in

operation for almost two years. As of May 2019, sixty cases have been filed in the commercial docket, thirty-seven in Waukesha County and twenty-three in District Eight. There are currently twenty-nine cases pending in the commercial docket, and thirty-one cases have been successfully concluded.

In April, the CDPP expanded the project to parties filing large claim and commercial cases in counties outside Waukesha and the Eighth Judicial Administrative District by jointly petitioning the chief judges of the Third and Eighth Districts to have their cases transferred into the commercial docket. The new process and more information about the Commercial Docket Pilot Project can be found on the [CDPP website](https://www.wicourts.gov/services/attorney/comcourtpilot.htm) (<https://www.wicourts.gov/services/attorney/comcourtpilot.htm>). ■



A group of rural Wisconsin judges, sheriffs and treatment providers were among those from around the country who participated in a workshop held April 1-3 at the Supreme Court of Ohio in Columbus. The workshop, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, brought representative from six states together to discuss the impact of meth and heroin in rural America. The Wisconsin contingent included, left to right: Sheriff Brent Oleson - Juneau County; Judge Joseph D. Boles, Pierce County Circuit Court; Mary Kelly, Pierce County OWI Court; Sheriff Doug Mrotek, Sawyer County; Diane McNamer, Sawyer County Criminal Justice Program; Judge Stacy A. Smith, Juneau County Circuit Court; JoAnn Geiger, Juneau County Behavioral Health; Judge John M. Yackel, Sawyer County Circuit Court, Sheriff Nancy Hove, Pierce County.

State Law Librarian, Julie (Tessmer) Robinson is "piped on board," or retired from the U.S. Navy during a ceremony held in the Supreme Court Hearing Room on Dec. 1, 2018, with Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack looking on. Most recently before retiring, Robinson held the rank of Command Master Chief, Reserve Component JAG Law Program, Judge Advocate General's Corps. During her 23 years of service, Robinson did tours of duty in Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Italy, Latvia and Romania as a Legalman Master Chief Petty Officer.



**Law Day** *continued from page 10*

events. Students were divided into teams and given life lines. They were asked questions about Wisconsin laws and about local government.

Deputy Nic Scholl conducted a presentation with his canine unit "OWEN" and described equipment in his squad car. Students also got a close look at a highway truck and learned a bit about how the roads and bridges are maintained.

The fourth grade students were invited to enter a poster contest and the fifth grade students were invited to enter an essay contest. The themes for the contests varied between "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully," "How Students Can Make a Positive Change in Their Community", and "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." The essays and posters were displayed at the courthouse for the public to review. The honorary judges of the contests were Mrs. Sandra Ebert and Mrs. Edith Ruff.

Long time reserve Judge Gary B. Schlosstein addressed the students with comments on the services our local government provides at the courthouse and the laws that each agency is required to follow to keep our community safe. He also spoke on the importance of our rights and the need to preserve them.

**Dunn County**

Dunn County hosted three different schools for Law Day. Clerk of Circuit Court Katie M. Schalley presented to the students an overview of the judicial system in Dunn County and the City Police Department presented about law enforcement's role in the criminal justice system.

**Jefferson County**

Hundreds of area elementary students filled the Jefferson County courtrooms, peered behind bars in the jail and learned about various aspects of the law at the county's Law Day on Friday.

The 24th annual event, featuring the theme "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society," was coordinated by the Jefferson County Clerk of Courts, corporation counsel, sheriff's office, and attorneys from the Jefferson County Bar Association.

Taking part were some 290-plus fourth- and fifth-graders from public and parochial schools across the county, with

activities including jail tours, mock trials, question-and-answer sessions with judges, and introductions to various specialties of the sheriff's department, including the K-9 unit, dive team and SWAT.

Students also got to engage in a law-related trivia contest.

Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Ben Brantmeier welcomed the students, noting that Law Day is a nationwide observance established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1958 as "a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law."

He said in Jefferson County, it has been a tradition for nearly a quarter-century, exposing children to the fundamental freedoms and responsibilities they have under the United States government, and applying that understanding on a county level.

Brantmeier highlighted the First Amendment, the Fourteenth Amendment and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

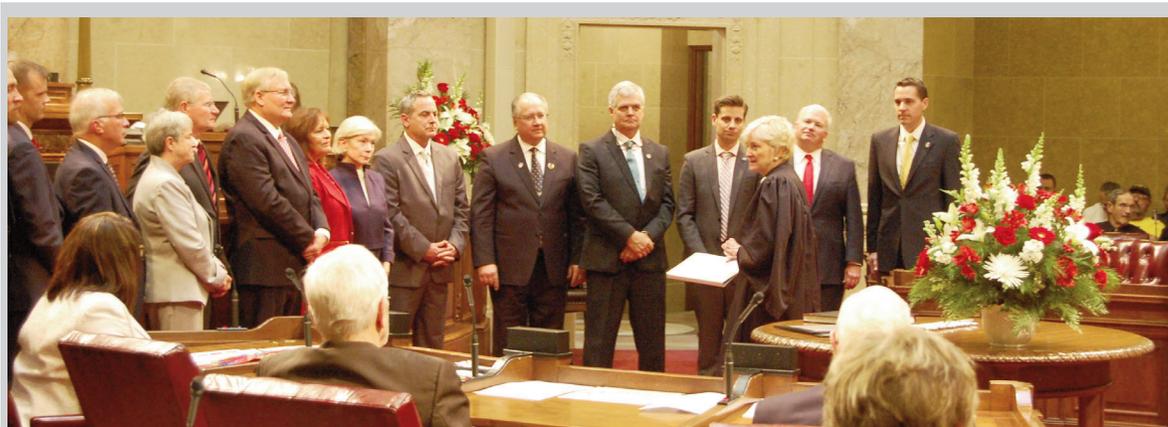
Law Day provides an opportunity to reflect on those freedoms, he said, while renewing our commitment to the rule of law and the Constitution.

Participating schools included St. Henry's Catholic School of Watertown, St. John the Baptist Catholic School of Jefferson, St. Joseph's Catholic School of Fort Atkinson, Cambridge Elementary School, St. Paul Lutheran School of Lake Mills, and East, West and Sullivan elementary schools from the School District of Jefferson.

One of the highlights included a mock trial in which students played the roles of judge, witnesses, prosecuting attorney and defense attorney for a case based on the characters and events of a familiar fairy tale.

**Monroe County**

2019 Student Government Day in Monroe County included participation of about 80 eighth-graders from Cashton, and on another day, about 80 more from the Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton elementary school, Brookwood. They heard presentations from the court, bailiff, court reporter, the district attorney's office, and the public defender. They also heard presentations from other branches of county government. Government Day is held annually in Monroe County, with sponsorship from the Sparta American Legion. ■



Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack swears in newly elected or re-elected state senators during a ceremony in the Senate Chambers in January.

## Appointments *continued from page 2*

Schimmel earned his law degree at UW Law School and his undergraduate degree at UW-Milwaukee. He was elected to a six-year term on April 2.

Judge Maureen M. Martinez was appointed to the Racine County Circuit Court on Dec. 14, 2018 to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Emily S. Mueller in October.

Martinez previously served as Racine County District Attorney and as an assistant district attorney.

Martinez represented the office on the statewide Drug Endangered Child Committee and served as an office representative on the county's Child Death Review, the Multidisciplinary Team, the Sexual Assault Response Team, the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee, and the Juvenile Alternative to Detention Initiative.

Martinez has an undergraduate degree from St. Mary's College of Notre Dame, a Master's degree from the University of Illinois, and a law degree from Marquette University Law School.

Judge Derrick A. Grubb was appointed on June 21, 2018 to fill the vacancy on the Rock County Circuit Court created by the retirement of Judge R. Alan Bates.

Prior to his appointment to the Rock County bench, Grubb worked in private practice and was the general manager at Beloit Ford, Lincoln-Mercury, Inc. He also previously served as a Guardian ad Litem in Rock County for four years. Grubb also served as a member of the Office of Lawyer Regulation District 12 Committee.

Grubb holds an undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University and a law degree from Marquette University Law School.

Judge William V. Gruber was appointed to the Jefferson County Circuit Court on June 21, 2018 to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Jennifer L. Weston.

Gruber previously served as Watertown City Attorney and worked in Dodge County as assistant corporation counsel. Gruber is a volunteer member of the board of directors for People Against Domestic Abuse of Jefferson County. He has also been a board member and volunteer attorney for the Women's Center of Waukesha — Crisis Prevention.

Gruber was graduated from Marquette University Law School and holds an



*Judge Brad D. Schimmel*



*Judge Maureen M. Martinez*



*Judge Derrick A. Grubb*

undergraduate degree from Carroll University.

Judge Paul C. Dedinsky was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on Dec. 26, 2018 to fill the vacancy left by retired Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuensch.

Prior to his appointment, Dedinsky served as an assistant district attorney for Milwaukee County which was preceded by a number of years in private practice. Most recently, Dedinsky served as the Chief Legal Counsel for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Dedinsky holds an undergraduate degree from Creighton University, a law degree from UW Law School, and a PhD from Cardinal Stritch University.

Judge Daniel J. Gabler was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on December 26, 2018 to replace retiring Judge Richard J. Sankovitz (see story, page 3).

Gabler served as the chairman of the Wisconsin Parole Commission since March 2017. Prior to that position, Gabler served as an assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County for over 17 years. He also was a compliance officer at Goodwill Industries and a public affairs manager at Time Warner Cable.

Gabler received his law degree from Marquette University Law School and his undergraduate degree from Creighton University.

Judge Scott J. Nordstrand was appointed to the St. Croix County Circuit Court on Jan. 2 to fill the vacancy left by retired Judge Eric J. Lundell.

Nordstrand previously practiced as a commercial litigation attorney in federal and state courts of Alaska. He served as Deputy Attorney General for the Civil Division in the Alaska Department of Law, Chief Deputy to the Alaska Attorney General, and briefly as the Acting Alaska Attorney General. He was appointed Alaska's Commissioner for the Department of Administration before moving back to Wisconsin, where he most recently worked in private practice.

Nordstrand holds an undergraduate degree from the UW - River Falls and a law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law. ■



*Judge William V. Gruber*



*Judge Paul C. Dedinsky*



*Judge Daniel J. Gabler*



*Judge Scott J. Nordstrand*

## Supreme Court arguments held in Sparta as 'Justice on Wheels' turns 25



*Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack makes opening remarks during the Court's Justice on Wheels visit to Sparta on Oct. 12, 2018.*

The Wisconsin Supreme Court marked the 25th year of its Justice on Wheels outreach and education program by holding oral arguments in three cases at the Monroe County Justice Center on Oct. 12, 2018.

About 250 people, including 150 high-school students from Sparta and Tomah, listened to lawyers present the legal reasons they feel the Court should decide in their favor. Arguments were held in the Branch 4 courtroom.

"We greatly appreciate the hospitality of the people of Monroe County and everyone who made our visit a success, including county and circuit court officials and staff, the Sheriff's Department, the Sparta Police Department and the Monroe County Bar Association, among others," said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack.

Before each argument, an attorney member of the local bar association discussed with the audience the role of the courts in interpreting the law, the process used to decide a case, and the legal issues involved. The Court accepts for

review only cases that present novel legal questions of statewide importance.

Also as part of Justice on Wheels, the Supreme Court sponsored a civic education contest, involving a creative project for local fifth graders.

Monroe County is the 29th county outside Dane where the Court has held arguments since Justice on Wheels began in 1993.

Since 1993, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has held arguments in the following counties: Brown, Eau Claire, Marathon, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Douglas, Rock, Kenosha, Sauk, Dodge, Oneida, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Fond du Lac, Walworth, Waushara, St. Croix, Winnebago, Iowa, Washington, Columbia, Green, Sheboygan, Waukesha, Grant, Bayfield, and Jefferson.

More than 10,000 people have witnessed or participated in Justice on Wheels. The proceedings attract a standing-room-only crowd. ■



*Supreme Court Justices mingling and dined with members of the Monroe County Bar Association during a luncheon at the Monroe County Justice Center during the Justice on Wheels visit.*



*Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler presents the first place civics education contest award to Gus Tripp of Meadowview Intermediate School during an opening ceremony of the Supreme Court's Justice on Wheels visit to Sparta.*

**Chief Judges** *continued from page 2*

Lake, Manitowoc, Marquette, Sheboygan, Winnebago, and Waushara counties.

**In District Five**, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge William E. Hanrahan, Dane County Circuit Court, to his first two-year term as chief judge. Hanrahan was previously appointed chief judge to fill the remainder of the term of former Chief Judge James P. Daley, who retired from the Rock County Circuit Court last year. Hanrahan has served on the Dane County Circuit Court since first being appointed in 2007. He was



*Chief Judge Barbara Hart Key*

elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. District Five includes Columbia, Dane, Green, Lafayette, Rock, and Sauk counties.

**In District Seven**, the Court re-appointed Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey, Grant County Circuit Court. He was first appointed chief judge in 2016 to fill the remainder of the term of retired Judge James J. Duvall, who served the combined circuit court of Buffalo and Pepin counties. VanDeHey was appointed to Grant County Circuit Court in 1998, was elected

in 1999 and has been re-elected three times. District Seven includes Adams, Buffalo, Clark, Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties.

The Supreme Court appoints or re-appoints chief judges who may serve up to three two-year terms as chief judge.

Other circuit court judges currently serving as chief judges include:

**District Two:** Chief Judge Jason A. Rossell, Kenosha County Circuit Court

**District Eight:** Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court

**District Nine:** Chief Judge Gregory B. Huber, Marathon County Circuit Court

**District Ten:** Chief Judge Maureen D. Boyle, Barron County Circuit Court

Working as a team with their deputies and district court administrators, chief judges meet throughout the year as a committee to address administrative issues of statewide importance.

With the exception of the First Judicial Administrative District, where the chief judge is a full-time administrator, chief judges and their deputies maintain court calendars in addition to handling administrative matters. More information about chief judges, including a list of all current chief judges, can be found [here](#). ■



*Chief Judge Robert P. VanDeHey*



*Chief Judge William E. Hanrahan*

## Morrison to head Committee of Chief Judges

Chief Judge James A. Morrison, Marinette County Circuit Court, was chosen by his fellow chief judges to chair the Committee of Chief Judges, effective Aug. 1.

Morrison will replace outgoing committee chair, Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court, who is wrapping up a one-year term at the post.

“I would like to thank Chief Judge White for her skillful leadership of this vital committee, and I look forward to working with Chief Judge Morrison as he steps into the role,” said Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack. “The Committee of Chief Judges is a crucial part of our administrative leadership team and helps guide the work of circuit courts statewide,” she said.

Morrison is chief judge of the Eighth Judicial Administrative District, which includes Brown, Door,

Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, and Waupaca counties.

Morrison was appointed to the Marinette County Circuit Court in 2012. He was elected to a six-year term in 2013 and re-elected in 2019. He previously worked as an attorney in private practice.

“I am honored to have been selected for this role by my colleagues, and I will rely on their knowledge and support to help keep the circuit courts running smoothly,” Morrison said.

Morrison serves on the Supreme Court Finance Committee, the executive and legislative committees of the Judicial Conference, and is former chair of the Board of Bar Examiners. Morrison is one of six circuit court judges statewide who handle cases in the Wisconsin court system’s commercial docket pilot program.

White will continue to serve on the committee as chief judge of the First Judicial Administrative District (Milwaukee County). She was first appointed chief judge in 2015 and was re-appointed to two-year terms in 2017 and 2019. White was first appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 1992. She was elected in 1993, and has been re-elected four times. ■



*Chief Judge James A. Morrison*

**AWARDS** *continued from page 5*

enhanced the education for lawyers seeking to serve as guardians ad litem and was involved in the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for Sauk County.

“Judge ‘E’ as he was often called, exhibited a high level of integrity, compassion, and fairness on the bench. He is one of the finest judges I’ve known,” retired Columbia County Circuit Court Judge Alan J. White said.

After graduating from UW-Madison with a social work degree, Evenson attended UW Law School. Evenson graduated in 1973 and began his practice in Baraboo until he was prompted to run for an open seat on the Sauk County Circuit Court bench in 1986 and was elected. This new position came with a lot of changes.

“I went from multiple client contacts each day to sitting alone in an office or speaking with people from a distance in the court room. That was quite an adjustment,” Evenson said.

Evenson served as the presiding judge in Sauk County for more than 25 years. He served on numerous committees including the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), the Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee and was the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District for eight years.

Evenson serves as a reserve judge and private mediator, and still takes time to mentor others. His advice for new lawyers entering the courtroom: “Be prepared and know your case,” he said. “The theatrics displayed by lawyers is never as important as the substance of what they say.”

Evenson was acknowledged for his accomplishments at the State Bar Annual Meeting & Conference in Green Bay on June 13.



*Retired Judge James Evenson received the Lifetime Jurist Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin during the Bar's Annual Meeting and Conference June 13 in Green Bay.*

*photo credit Shannon Green,  
State Bar of Wisconsin*

Law Center in Washington, D.C. He spent time at a small firm before deciding to found his own solo practice.

“When I started my own practice, I did a little bit of everything,” Dwyer told the State Bar. “I learned I didn’t get much satisfaction from litigating. I found it to be an inefficient way to resolve disputes.”

Dwyer was elected to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 1997 and in 2001 was assigned to family court. It was there, he discovered his passion.

“With that assignment I found — almost accidentally — that family law suits my temperament and is the kind of work that I love. The family court is a place where a judge can do the most to help people solve their problems,

provided we establish an efficient basis,” Dwyer said.

As a family court judge, Dwyer became concerned with a number of challenges, especially meeting the needs of the increasing number of parties in family court who decide not to hire lawyers. This led him to serve on two Supreme Court Committees including one which allowed family law lawyers to act neutrally and draft and file legal pleadings on behalf of both parties.

“This rule is a national trend setting approach to help address the needs of the growing numbers of self-represented litigants in family court. It will help families and courts,” Susan Hansen, a family lawyer and one of those who nominated Dwyer said.

Not only did Dwyer’s work help to improve parties’ access to affordable legal assistance, he also proved instrumental in reorganizing the court-connected custody and placement mediation program in Milwaukee. He is also currently engaged in a pilot project to demonstrate the value of custody studies in an effort to obtain funding to support them.

Dwyer received his award at the Member Recognition Celebration in Green Bay on June 13.

## Bar recognizes Dwyer as ‘Judge of the Year’

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Michael J. Dwyer was named the recipient of the 2019 Judge of the Year award by the State Bar of Wisconsin Bench and Bar Committee. According to the State Bar’s website, the prestigious award honors a circuit court judge who has enhanced the judicial system by his or her leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education, or innovative programs.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Dwyer received his undergraduate degree in political science from UW-Madison and returned to his hometown after attending Georgetown University



*Judge Michael J. Dwyer*

## Judge Yang recognized with UW Alumni Association Award

In February, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Kashoua “Kristy” Yang was recognized with a “Forward Under 40 Award” from the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Yang is recognized as the nation’s first Hmong American judge elected without appointment, and the first Hmong American female judge. She is a 2009 UW Law School graduate and was elected to the Branch 47 bench in 2017 after working in private practice and for a non-profit legal services provider.

“Running for elected office was far from Yang’s first challenge in life... Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, she was seven when her family moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin,” the association reported in its *On Wisconsin* magazine.

“While her parents worked in factories and raised 11

## Office of Research and Justice Statistics created to ‘harness the power’ of data

The Wisconsin Court System has a new Office of Research and Justice Statistics (RJS). This three-person team started as a unit within the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) in August 2018 and, as of April 2019 became an independent office under the Director of State Courts. RJS was created to allow the courts to harness the power of vast internal and external data resources to conduct research that would inform judicial policy initiatives. It also seeks to make data more accessible and actionable for judges and court personnel through the development of a justice data warehouse in partnership with other government agencies working in the justice system. Initial projects have focused on examining judicial outcomes by population subgroups and for child welfare, evaluating statistics about Wisconsin courts published by external organizations, and building data sharing and research relationships with state and local agencies.

Michael F. Thompson was hired in August 2018 to lead the unit, followed more recently by the hiring of a research analyst and data engineer:

### Michael F. Thompson Director of Research and Justice Statistics

Michael F. Thompson leads the Office of Research and Justice Statistics. He works closely with judicial leaders, court personnel and external justice system partners to design and implement research and create a justice data warehouse that will allow the court system to gauge its effectiveness towards evidence-based judicial policy.

Previously, he was a professor at the University of North Texas and Grinnell College where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in sociology, research methods and statistics. Thompson has also served as a research associate and economic research analyst at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business working on economic and workforce development projects funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Economic Development Administration. His published research appears in *Social Indicators Research*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, the *Edward Elgar Handbook on Social Capital and Regional Development*, and *Indiana Business Review*. He holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a Ph.D. in sociology from Indiana University Bloomington.



Michael F. Thompson

### Kacie Terranova Research Analyst

Kacie Terranova joined the Office of Research and Justice Statistics in November 2018. In order to develop, write and present research for judicial initiatives, she prepares and

analyzes statistical data, reviews academic and legal reports and consults with court personnel and researchers in partner justice system agencies.

Previously, she was a consultant assistant and technical writer at an emergency personnel selection consulting firm, producing exams and assisting in administering assessment centers that tested police officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel for selection and promotion opportunities across the United States. Terranova also worked on an array of projects during her years interning at the Chicago Transit Authority. These projects ranged from constructing training certification curriculum for warehouse industrial machinery operators to aiding in the creation and implementation of an organization-wide performance appraisal program.

Terranova received her bachelor's degree in psychology and economics at North Central College and is currently completing her Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Roosevelt University. She specializes in advanced research methodology, multi-level statistical modeling, and survey construction.



Kacie Terranova

### Shaily Barjatya Data Engineer

Shaily Barjatya joined the Court System in February as the Data Engineer for the Office of Research and Justice Statistics. With the goal of moving toward evidence-based research and evaluation of court initiatives, her main role is to design and maintain the new justice data warehouse, based on data from CCAP and from other state and federal sources. She will also work to develop tools and dashboards to help court staff respond to inquiries and requests for information about the courts and justice system.

Barjatya holds a master's degree in Information Technology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, specializing in data science and advanced data and knowledge discovery. Prior to that, she spent over four years at DXC Technology (India) as a business intelligence developer and data analyst. She worked on team projects performing data cleaning and data modeling towards creating a data warehouse and was responsible for developing executive level dashboards and reports. ■



Shaily Barjatya

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 3*

experience to bring the reality of how these situations play out in practice into what is far too often a theoretical environment,” Sherman said.

For Sherman, the work behind writing certain opinions was most satisfying.

“Our particular job is to follow established law. Sometimes that means that solving the problem presented by a case is like figuring out a puzzle. Those are the most interesting opinions to write,” Sherman said.

Looking back at changes that took place during his career, Sherman said the amount of money involved in judicial elections throughout the country has become disheartening.

As Sherman moves on into retirement, he encourages new judges to strive to be sound in both heart and mind:

“In *Anatomy of a Murder*, Justice Voelker writes that there are four kinds of judges. Some judges have good minds, others have good hearts, some have neither and some have both. If you are a defendant and you don’t have the privilege of a judge with both a good head and a good heart, you are better off with a judge with a good heart than one with only a good mind.”

**Judge R. Alan Bates  
Rock County Circuit Court**

“I will miss the people who commit their careers and talents to making Rock County a better place for everyone,” Rock County Circuit Court Judge R. Alan Bates said upon his retirement August 2018.

Bates was a private practice attorney in Janesville from 1975 until he was first elected to the Rock County Circuit Court in 2004. He was re-elected in 2010 and 2016.



Judge R. Alan Bates

Over the years, Bates noted he experienced both inspiring and trying moments. One particular case that stood out in Bates’ mind when looking back on his career involved a pair of twin girls who had been taken into custody by Child Protection Services.

“The children looked more like newborn children than one year olds. The termination case went to a jury trial and a contested disposition, but two years later I was able to preside over the adoption of beautiful three-year-old girls by their new parents. Guests at the adoption included the social worker and police officer who initially took the children into custody,” he said.

There are a few things Bates is proud of accomplishing while serving Rock County. First of all, Bates said people who have not gotten what they wanted from him still often thank him for how their case was handled. Second, Bates mentioned the dedicated team of professionals and community volunteers he worked with to create a Rock County Trauma Task Force, a group that still works tirelessly to improve the lives of many people.

While Bates had many accomplishments as Rock County Circuit Court Judge, one moment he isn’t particularly fond of came early on in his career.

“Nancy Grace of *Headline News* named me one of the worst judges in America. It was a difficult time for my

wife, Jessica, but she stayed strong. Fortunately I have fared better in USA today polls,” Bates said.

Perhaps to help new judges avoid Nancy Grace’s list, Bates offered this advice, “Respect everyone even if they do not appear to deserve respect, and then recognize that you have more power in your community than you think you do.”

Bates believes his retirement plans are “typical.”

“I will play with the grandchildren, kayak, bike and ski more, probably drive my wife crazy, attend a Brewers World Series, and see more of this beautiful world,” Bates said.

**Judge Bernard ‘Ben’ N. Bult  
Marquette County Circuit Court**

Marquette County Circuit Court Judge Bernard Bult will retire July 31 at the end of his term after serving seven years on the bench.

During his time as a judge, Bult often presided over family court, including many adoptions.

“The only case type I enjoyed hearing is adoptions. While the road to adoption can be fraught with difficulty when judgement is rendered I almost always felt like I had just planted a seed that was sure to grow and prosper,” Bult said.

Adoption hearings were not the only part of the job that made Bult proud. He also enjoyed getting to know the folks he worked with and establishing good relationships with them.

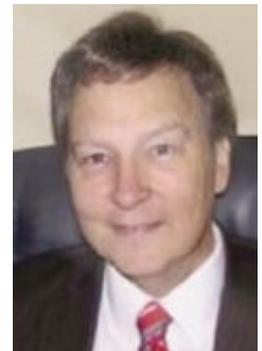
“I was able to develop an affinity with the staff. When disagreement occurred, I was very proud of the fact that the Circuit Court (especially the Clerk of Court’s office) offered the public a pathway to understand and participate in a legal system that provided a result for them that was understood as fair,” Bult said.

As Bult looks back at his career on the bench, there are moments and cases that he will remember for a long time. A particularly difficult placement hearing proved to be one of those moments.

“I had encouraged the parents to consider the fact that their children wanted to believe that they had the best mom and dad in the world, and recommended they consider the impact of their conduct on their children’s opinion of them. I reminded them that they will always be mom and dad in their children’s eyes and they needed to communicate and cooperate to make that viewpoint be a positive one,” Bult said, “...a grandparent that had been in the audience stood up at the end of the hearing and commended me for standing up for the kids’ interests over the parents.”

While he has planned a near future of restoring cars in his collection and spending time with his grandchildren, Bult will probably be put to work during his retirement.

“My wife owns a catering company. She has a vast number of assignments that have been neglected. We are still negotiating my salary...” Bult said.



Judge Bernard N. Bult

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 22***Judge Charles H. Constantine  
Racine County Circuit Court**

"To me, it's like you are a nice rock on the edge of Lake Michigan, with waves brushing up against you. At first, the waves don't seem to have any impact at all, but as the waves keep coming, over and over again, you get worn down," Racine County Circuit Court Judge Charles H. Constantine told the Racine Journal Times of his career.

Following 22 years on the bench, Constantine decided September 2018 was the right time for him to retire.

"I just felt like I was starting to lose my fastball. I felt I wasn't as engaged as I used to be, and I was in the process of not being able to do the job to the standard that I think it should be done. This is a very important job," Constantine said, "You are dealing with people's lives...and you have to be fully engaged."

Constantine was elected judge in 1996 to replace Judge Nancy Wheeler, who retired. Prior to his time as a judge, Constantine practiced law privately in Racine at his father's law firm: Constantine, Christensen and Krohn.

Over the course of his career at the Racine County Courthouse, Constantine has heard cases in each of Racine County's five courts: family/probate, civil, criminal, felony, traffic/misdemeanor, and juvenile. Both his first and last rotation were in family/probate court.

"In family court, you have a lot of discretion," Constantine told news reporter Alyssa Mauk "It's just, you and there's not a jury. You are dealing with families that have issues and although you are not going to resolve all the problems these people might have, you put something together to allow them to go forward in life and feel that somebody listened to them..."

Constantine has heard his fair share of cases in over two decades. Those that stick out in his memory include a 16-day trial in a case involving an exploding airbag and another in which two men shoplifted lobsters in their pants from a local grocery store.

Upon retirement, Constantine said he will miss a lot, including his co-workers.

"All my colleagues are very smart, and they work very hard. Racine has been very lucky over the years with the strength of its judiciary. It's very important to the community," Constantine said.

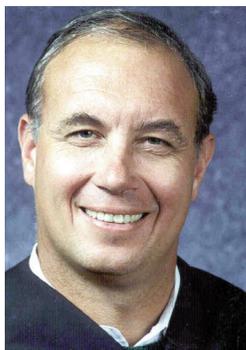
**Judge Jon M. Counsell  
Clark County Circuit Court**

Retired Judge Jon M. Counsell, Clark County Circuit Court, said he was thankful to everyone he worked with over the last 19 years, and he acknowledged to The Third Branch there's a chance putting up with him was not always easy.

Counsell summarized some of his thoughts about his experience on the bench, and offered some advice to new

judges, among others, for The Third Branch. A portion of his remarks appear here:

- You can't make it up, but many will try.
- Truth is stranger than fiction or anything you can imagine. But perhaps not stranger than what some witnesses will say.
- There are many people that make bad choices—there are few people that are truly evil, but those that are—really are.
- Good people can do bad things. Bad people can do good things. Actions speak louder than words.
- The road to jail is paved with good intentions, and many more bad ones.
- There is humor in almost everything. There is sadness in many things. Look for the good. It is no fun being a pessimist.
- Sitting on the bench is not exercise—get up and move once in a while.
- "Judges do not have a magic wand to make everything better. People that expect closure at the end of a case are often disappointed.
- No two cases are ever alike. No two people in court are the same so don't treat them that way...
- The Clerk of Court, your judicial assistant and staff get far more flak from upset people than a judge ever will – thank them once in a while.
- I have thrown my "dry clean only" robe in the washer many times and it always comes out fine. But remember that my wife always tells me to put on better clothes whenever we go out.

*Judge Jon M. Counsell**Judge Charles Constantine***Judge James J. Duvall  
Buffalo/Pepin Counties**

"My favorite cases are not the big cases, but the little ones, when you get to see two sides enter conflict and leave with a solution that works for them or when you see someone's life changed by learning better decision-making. My reward was seeing ordinary persons' lives touched in a positive way," Buffalo and Pepin County Circuit Court Judge James J. Duvall said.

Duvall, who spent 13 years on the bench, retired at the end of his term in July 2018. Before becoming a judge, Duvall was appointed by then-Gov. Tony Earl to serve as Buffalo and Pepin Counties District Attorney in 1985. He was elected to that position ten times without opposition, before being appointed to succeed Judge Dane F. Morey, who retired from the Buffalo and Pepin counties bench in 2005.

One of the most important things Judge Duvall learned on

*Judge James J. Duvall*

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 23*

the bench was a piece of advice from Judge Gary B. Schlosstein, now a reserve judge.

"[He] taught me to never forget that, to the persons in front of you, theirs is the most important case in the world," Duvall said.

One of the things he's most proud of accomplishing on the bench is not administrative or a decision, but learning more about people.

"Surprisingly... my time on the bench has increased my belief that there is good in everyone. People do hurtful things; people can be so self-defeating. Not everyone does change, but I strongly believe people can change. My job has been to try to find out how to provide an opportunity for change. If I didn't believe in people's ability to do better, I don't think I could have done this job," Duvall said.

In his retirement, Duvall plans to go to language school to improve his Spanish skills and, hopefully "I will find my new passion for service," Duvall said.

### Judge Kathryn W. Foster Waukesha County Circuit Court

After 30 years on the bench, Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Kathryn W. Foster retired in July 2018.

When looking back on her career, Foster noted that she had many stand out cases, including one involving a young man who still visits her in Waukesha annually.

"I will always remember a young man facing a waiver petition for several counts of delivery of controlled substances being heard after he had turned 18," Foster said, "He became enrolled in a faith-based treatment program while the matter was pending."

The director of the program spoke with Foster to convince her the young man was committed to his recovery and she decided not to waive him.

"Not only did the young man graduate from the two-year program, he went on to serve 20 years in the Air Force including several tours of duty in the Middle East. He is a great reminder of why giving someone a second chance is often the best decision a judge can make." Foster said.

Along with this stand out case, Foster is proud of numerous accomplishments she has made during her time as circuit court Judge in Waukesha County.

"I am most proud of my work in treatment courts and the fact that so many judges are now enjoying the same kind of personal satisfaction that can be felt when you observe first-hand the transformation graduates of the various programs can make when they obtain long term sobriety," Foster said.

While she looks forward to retired life, Foster says there are a few things about the job that she will be sad to leave behind.

"What I will miss most are my colleagues and support staff. There are some wonderful people serving as judges all around the state. I am so happy to call many of them friends. I also think the support staff in Madison and in my



Judge Kathryn W. Foster

own county have been top notch. Being a judge doesn't have to be lonely if you treat them like family," Foster said.

Foster has some big plans for retirement including an Alaskan cruise.

"I plan an "encore career" in meditation, working more as a Master Gardener Volunteer, going on a mission trip with the youth of my church, several home improvement projects, and of course, travel," Foster said.

### Judge William M. Gabler, Sr. Eau Claire County Circuit Court

Eau Claire County Circuit Court Judge William M. Gabler, Sr. retired on July 31, 2018 after 19 years on the bench. In 1999, Gabler was appointed by then-Gov. Tommy G. Thompson.

According to an article by WQOW-TV in Eau Claire, Gabler spent his last day of work hearing a full docket of cases before officially hanging up his robe.

A WQOW reporter asked Gabler about his biggest challenge during his time on the bench.

"Too little time to think, too little time to reflect, too little time to do legal research because of the huge increases in the caseloads," Gabler said.

Gabler saw a recent uptick in the number of cases over which he presided. He told WQOW he believes the increases are driven by the methamphetamine crisis, which continues to have a great effect on Wisconsin and across the entire nation.

While all judges face criticism at some point or another in their careers, most try not to let comments on social media or letters to the editor get under their skin. Gabler said he isn't bothered by negative remarks.

"(People) don't have a full picture of what we have to do. We have to take into account a whole wide variety of things," Gabler said, "The things we have to take into account are the need to protect the public, a person's rehabilitative needs and to respond to the seriousness of the offense. We look at these three factors through the lens of a person's character."

In his retirement, Gabler has plans to travel and spend more time with his family. WQOW notes he also is considering volunteer work for helping former inmates find jobs.

### Judge Patrick C. Haughney Waukesha County Circuit Court

Judge Patrick C. Haughney, retired from the Waukesha County Circuit Court on Nov. 6, 2018, after serving 22 years as a judge and 16 years as an assistant district attorney in Waukesha County.

"It is with profound satisfaction that I write to advise you that after 38 years of public service... I will be resigning



Judge William M. Gabler, Sr.

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 24*

from the bench,” Haughney wrote in a letter to former Gov. Scott Walker on Sept. 11, 2018.

Haughney was presiding judge of Waukesha County Circuit Court and deputy chief judge of the Third Judicial Administrative District when he announced his retirement.

Haughney was elected to the circuit court in 1996 and re-elected three times. Haughney earned his law degree from Marquette University Law School.



Judge Patrick C.  
Haughney

### Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers Milwaukee County Circuit Court

After 26 years on the bench, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers retired in August 2018.

“We have some incredibly dedicated people working in the court system, from judges to clerks, to court reporters to administrators, to everyone in the Director’s Office. I will miss them all. They are not just co-workers and friends, they are family,” Kremers said when asked about what he will miss most in his retirement from the bench.

Before becoming a judge, Kremers served as assistant district attorney in Milwaukee County and was in private practice. He was elected in 1992 and was appointed Chief Judge of the First Judicial District in 2008. He served in that role until 2015.

Kremers remains active in the justice system. On June 13, Gov. Tony Evers appointed him as one of eight members to serve on a newly created Pardon Advisory Board.

Kremers said he has observed a great deal of change in the court system since he became a judge.

“The addition of computers and CCAP are easily the biggest changes,” Kremers said. “When I started we did not have access to anywhere near the amount of information and data that is now available, unless you conducted a labor intensive case-by-case review.”

Kremers heard hundreds of cases, but some of his most meaningful work was on cases that involved allegations of domestic violence.

“Domestic violence cases are among the most difficult for judges to hear. They show up on every type of docket, civil, criminal, juvenile, or family and challenge us to understand what is going on with these two people, well beyond the specific issue that has brought them to court,” Kremers said.

Kremers says the most memorable part of his judicial career wasn’t a case, but the opportunity to serve as the District One (Milwaukee County) Chief Judge. Kremers was pleased to be able to work with a “terrific” team to design and implement a number of significant changes to the



Judge Jeffrey A.  
Kremers

court system.

“I am very proud of the changes we made to the process of pretrial release and monitoring to move from a charge-based decision to a risk-based system,” Kremers said.

Kremers also said he thoroughly enjoyed his ten years on the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee.

“It was easily the most challenging and rewarding experience I had in 25 years on the bench. I got to match wits with some incredibly bright and talented judges from around the state and helped craft instructions for my trial judge colleagues in the process.”

Now that he has officially retired, Kremers says he plans to spend more time with family, play bad golf, read what he wants to read, and continue to teach.

### Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuensch Milwaukee County Circuit Court

In a letter to her colleagues, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuensch announced her retirement which occurred on Jan. 4. Kuhnmuensch told her “work family” that it was not an easy decision.

Kuhnmuensch served on the bench in Milwaukee County for more than 20 years. As she spent time looking back on her career, Kuhnmuensch offered her coworkers some advice.

“If I might offer any words of retrospection to my colleagues, it is to always keep your compass pointed “true north” and hold your head up high when you leave the courthouse each night,” Kuhnmuensch wrote.

In the years she spent as judge, Kuhnmuensch has much she is proud of, but she is especially proud of having served in every assignment in every division except Children’s Court.

“I presided over homicides and sexual assaults, drug court, gun court, general felony, misdemeanor, civil cases, both large and small claims, as well as family court and domestic violence court,” she said. “...I was most passionate about helping families navigate the difficult times in their lives, and in that regard, I served well over half my time on the bench as the Presiding Judge in both Family Court for seven years and Domestic Violence Court for five.”

She also is satisfied with the work she did on behalf of judges as president of the Wisconsin Trial Judges Association and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference.

Being a judge definitely has its challenges, and Kuhnmuensch was open about those she faced during her time on the bench, she said.

“I was challenged and frustrated at times at the poor behavior of litigants in the family court, particularly when parents couldn’t see past their own anger, and honestly see what they were doing to their children,” Kuhnmuensch wrote.

While she will miss her duties as judge, Kuhnmuensch will miss the people she worked with, and the building she worked in, even more.



Judge Mary M.  
Kuhnmuensch

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 25*

"I'll miss my staff including my court reporters, my bailiffs, and deputy court clerks who were incredibly gracious in their service to me... The Milwaukee County Courthouse truly is a microcosm of society at large and it brings all of these very different and diverse people together in a place that at its best, helps people resolve their disputes in a humane way."

Kuhnmuench looks forward to traveling and spending time with family before returning to the classroom and higher education in some capacity because of her love of teaching and mentoring. According to her letter, she also "will serve as a reserve judge when needed, perform a wedding or two, and finally learn how to play the drums so I can get good enough to bang away on one song with the likes of Sheryl Crowe or Carole King!"

### Judge Emily S. Mueller Racine County Circuit Court

After 26 years on the bench, Racine County Circuit Court Judge Emily S. Mueller still loved her work, but a couple things changed her perspective, according to an article in *The (Racine) Journal Times* in October.

"In the last year or two, I've lost a number of friends really suddenly, and it really has brought home the fact that life is not always going to be as long as you think it's going to be," Mueller told the *Journal Times*.

Mueller, who retired in November, was first appointed to the bench in 1992 by then-Gov. Tommy Thompson. There were very few women judges in Wisconsin and the nation at the time, and Mueller was just the second woman to serve as a judge in Racine County.

When Mueller became a judge, her mother presented her with her late father's robe. Harold Mueller had served as a municipal court judge in Manitowoc, but died before she took the bench. His robe remained hung in her chambers during her career.

Mueller has presided over five different Racine courts, including felony, family and probate, misdemeanor, juvenile, and civil. In 2017, she was honored as Trial Judge of the Year by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

One of the biggest changes for the Court System over the past 26 years has been the conversion from paper filing to e-filing. One thing that has remained constant, she said, is the effort to treat all people with respect.

Mueller plans to travel in her retirement.

"I'd like to spend more time in my hiking boots and less time in a chair. The Galapagos is on our sight line now," said Mueller.

### Judge Guy D. Reynolds Sauk County Circuit Court

"Listen carefully, be patient, and keep reading the law." That's the advice Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Guy

D. Reynolds offered to new judges as he retired from the bench at the end of July 2018.

Over the last 18 years, Reynolds has heard his fair share of all different types of cases, but he favored presiding over criminal cases.

"I was simply more comfortable processing these types of [criminal] cases given my early experience as a prosecutor and later defending persons charged of crime," Reynolds said. "Of course every type of case is of utmost importance to the parties and, mindful of this, every type of a case is a favorite."

Looking back on his career, Reynolds says there are definitely cases that he will never forget.

One of the more memorable cases involved a criminal prosecution of a farmer under administrative code provisions regulating the distribution of unpasteurized milk. The case came to be known as the "Raw Milk" case and it led to a four-day jury trial and a number of hearings on other, non-routine issues.

"Unusual aspects of the case included demonstrations by supporters on the courthouse lawn, attempts by "sovereign citizens" to participate, an issue regarding Amish religious traditions, accommodation of the overflow of courtroom spectators, and coordination of media coverage together with handling requests to "live stream" the proceedings, just to name a few," Reynolds said. "It was one of those cases requiring a lot of attention, to put it mildly."

There are many things Reynolds will miss about being on the bench.

"I will miss my exceptionally able assistant, my terrific court reporter, and my judicial colleagues, as well as the rest of the courthouse team... I will surely miss the human stories and circumstances which come before the court on an almost daily basis and which, as it is said, you simply cannot make up!" Reynolds said.

In his retirement, Reynolds looks forward to spending more time with this wife, children, and grandchildren and traveling. He also serves as a reserve judge.

### Judge Richard J. Sankovitz Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Judge Richard J. Sankovitz retired at the end of 2018, with more than 22 years of experience on the bench. He was appointed in 1996 by then-Gov. Tommy Thompson after being in private practice and having served as a law clerk in federal court.

Sankovitz said many cases are memorable for anguish or tragedy and that many tend to be too memorable. "So when we look back, we tend to single out the lighter moments, and thankfully there were many," Sankovitz said, noting a few of his favorites:

In 2009, Sankovitz was sentencing a former Milwaukee alderman for bribery and election law violations. The



Judge Guy D. Reynolds



Judge Emily S. Mueller

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 26*

hearing was moving a bit slowly due to the number of people, including the judge, who were expressing opinions about the defendant.

"In the midst of my remarks I looked down and saw my clerk, Dena Nardi, on the telephone, speaking in a heavily stressed whisper and repeating herself several times. I asked her afterward what had happened. A man had called, she said, asking to speak to me, and he would not relent, even after she told him I was on the bench and couldn't be interrupted. At some point she thought he was criticizing me for my amateur psychological evaluation of the defendant, and she thought he said, "Tell Dr. Phil to get on with it!" But then when she asked him to repeat, he made himself clearer: "Tell him to get on with it, Dr. Phil is on and I am missing my show!"

In another lighter moment, Sankovitz was conducting a pretrial conference in a burglary case. Even though the defendant's fingerprints were recovered from the stolen goods, and from the safe from which they had been taken, the defendant insisted on a trial.

The defendant believed his defense was airtight, and he told the detectives as much when he was arrested. The defendant told detectives he was walking past the place of said burglary when he saw two acquaintances. . .

"[H]is acquaintances approached the residence and went in through a window. The defendant stated that he

approached the window and yelled in 'I have a sentencing on the 11th and can't be involved in this.' . . . The defendant stated that he [then shook] hands with the two acquaintances . . . and that his prints had been transferred onto the victim's property."

Sankovitz said he was proud to have worked on Milwaukee County's Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Initiative. In particular, he noted the use of research-based pretrial risk assessment to inform bail decisions and diversion/deferred prosecution decisions.

"The process has reduced recidivism and protected the community and at the same time saved the county hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in unneeded jail space. Judges and court administrators from across the nation regularly visit Milwaukee to see how we make EBDM work," Sankovitz said.

Sankovitz also served on the CCAP Steering Committee. He said Wisconsin's judicial dashboard is the envy of judges around the country. Improvements in technology have made it possible for judges to be better informed and make better decisions about people who appear in court.

Sankovitz said one of the biggest changes that he has observed over the years is an increasing role of partisanship and ideology in the judicial selection process, which he said affects how judges are perceived throughout the state.

He advises new judges to practice patience and to stay engaged and focused on proceedings, even if they may seem routine. He suggests always keeping in mind the first



Judge Richard J. Sankovitz



Retired Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer L. Weston, left, receives a retirement recognition plaque from District Three Chief Judge Jennifer R. Dorow, Waukesha County Circuit Court. Weston retired in 2018 after nine years on the bench and previous work as a municipal judge, court commissioner, and private practice attorney.

principle of judicial humility: "You're never as good as they say you are when they say you're good, but you're never as bad as they say you are when they say you're bad."

Sankovitz is now practicing mediation, hoping to concentrate on complex commercial disputes and helping trial courts when possible as a special master or referee.

## Tammy Hennick Judicial Education

After nearly 31 years with the Office of Judicial Education, Conference Coordinator Tammy Hennick retired on January 24, 2019.

Hennick began her career with the Court System in February 1988 as a Program Assistant in the Office of Judicial Education. In June 2017, she was promoted to Conference Coordinator after the retirement of Dona Everingham.

Holding both the position of Program Assistant and Conference Coordinator at the same time came with its challenges, but she still enjoyed her work. "You do it because you care about the office and the judges," Hennick said.

Hennick will miss a lot about her work, but is excited for new experiences in retirement.

"It has been a great pleasure working with and serving the judiciary all these years. I have made so many friends... that it feels like I'm abandoning my "work family." But as with any job there comes a time to move on and experience a new adventure in life," Hennick said.

Director of Judicial Education Karla Baumgartner noted that Tammy will be missed by many.



Tammy Hennick

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 27*

“For 31 years, the Office of Judicial Education and its staff couldn’t have been more fortunate than to have Tammy as a coworker,” Baumgartner said. “With Tammy’s retirement, it is truly the end of an era for our office and she will be missed by the staff and judges for many, many reasons, but most of all because she was our friend.”

In her retirement, Hennick looks forward to sleeping in past 3:30 a.m. as well as spending her summers at her cabin in Canada.

### Jennifer Krapf Administrative Assistant to Chief Judge, Court of Appeals

After 38 years of working for the Court of Appeals, Jennifer Krapf retired in September.

Krapf was first hired by Chief Staff Attorney Steve Felsenthal in September 1980. When Judge William F. Eich was appointed to the Court of Appeals by then-Gov. Tony Earl in 1985, he hired Krapf as his judicial secretary, and by 1990, Krapf was appointed Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. In addition to Eich, she has served in the role of administrative assistant to Chief Judge Thomas Cane (1998), Chief Judge Richard Brown (2007), and Chief Judge Lisa J. Neubauer (2015).

Krapf says that she will miss certain aspects of her job, but she will mostly miss the people she has worked with over the years.

“I will miss most the wonderful co-workers. I value the friendships I have gained as an employee of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. From the beginning of my career, I have been surrounded by caring and thoughtful colleagues,” Krapf said.

Having been a court system employee since 1980, Krapf has seen a great deal of change.

“Beside great technological leaps, the biggest change I have witnessed has been the reduction of published cases from 25- to 10-percent of all eligible cases,” Krapf said.

She said she is most proud of being part of a coordinated team effort to form a statewide court into a unified single court through procedures, styles, and formats. “We brought a paper-based entity to a national model of automation with an eye toward ultimate e-filing,” Krapf said.

However, not all change has necessarily been good, Krapf said. She feels there is less appreciation for clerical work than when she started, and that the judiciary has become more divided.

In her retirement, Krapf plans to read to children at the Early Learning Center, spend time with her dogs, travel, and most importantly pull plenty of senior pranks.

### Tina Nodolf Supreme Court Marshal

As the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s first woman marshal, Tina Nodolf made history. Now, you could say, she *is* history... at least as far as the court system is concerned.

Nodolf is retiring in August, after “almost 17 years” of keeping order in the court, and keeping the Court in order.

Her familiar voice will no longer reverberate from the

marble walls of the Supreme Court Hearing Room before each oral argument: “Hear Ye, Hear Ye. All rise. The Supreme Court is now in session. Your silence is commanded.”

In retirement, Nodolf’s commands aren’t likely to reach much farther than her dogs, who are likely to be confused about why she is suddenly spending so much more time at home.

Nodolf was hired in January 2003 to replace the retiring James L. Jerney. Since then, Nodolf has seen about a dozen Supreme Court justices come and go, as well as numerous law clerks and judicial assistants with whom she keeps in touch.

Nodolf said she will miss her colleagues at the Supreme Court, as well as friends who work for other state agencies, such as the Capitol Police and building management. Nodolf frequently had contact with staff from those agencies in her role of maintaining security and facilities.

One of her primary roles, along with Deputy Marshal Kevin Pond, was ensuring decorum in the Hearing Room during Supreme Court oral argument. Nodolf also oversaw the delivery, collection and safekeeping of court files being circulated between the clerk’s office and justices’ chambers.

Pond, who started as deputy in 2004, is also leaving the Court in August to take a job with Dane County government.

Before joining the Court, Nodolf had a varied career, including sections relations coordinator at the State Bar. Before that she worked as a county welfare fraud investigator, a private investigator and as an investigator for the Appleton office of the State Public Defender. Nodolf also made history early in her career, when she became the first woman police officer in her hometown of Platteville.

Nodolf said she is planning to do more traveling, gardening and yard work in her retirement. Her one-acre property just south of Portage currently looks like Jurassic Park,” she said.

She said won’t miss getting up at 4 a.m. for the early commute to Madison.

*see Retirements on page 39*



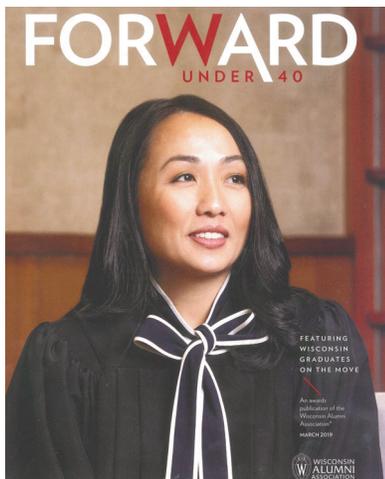
*Supreme Court Marshal Tina Nodolf monitors oral argument from her desk in the Supreme Court Hearing Room.*

**AWARDS** *continued from page 20*

children, Yang stayed committed to her education and went on to earn a computer-science degree. But when her brother was badly injured, Yang saw how difficult it can be for people to make sense of health care and legal systems, especially for those with financial or language barriers. Inspired to unblock those paths to justice, she enrolled at the UW-Madison.

“Yang’s professional win was followed by personal tragedy; she’d been a judge for just two months when her husband died in a car crash. With the support of her family and a close Hmong community, Yang says she’s trying to teach her three daughters what she learned as a youngster: ‘work hard, overcome obstacles, and never give up on your dreams.’”

“Every day when I put on my robe, I am reminded of what an honor and privilege it is to serve the public in this role,” Yang told *On Wisconsin*. “I am impartial and rule justly. I am not without compassion, and I am courteous to all who come before my court. I embrace the rule of law; it guides me in all that I do.”



Judge Kashoua “Kristy” Yang on the cover of *Forward Under 40*.

### Kuhnmuench presented with ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’

Retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuench was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by the Wisconsin Law Journal during a ceremony before 210 people in Milwaukee on Feb. 21.

Kuhnmuench spent more than 20 years on the bench in Milwaukee County and, while presiding over hundreds of cases, spent a decade of that time as president of the



Judge Mary M. Kuhnmuench

Wisconsin Trial Judges Association.

Law Journal Reporter Erika Strebel recently interviewed Kuhnmuench and some of her colleagues about her career and dedication to serving others.

“She’s willing to just go above and beyond to do what she can do to help people. It’s been the resounding theme throughout her career, her community work, family and friends,” Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary E. Triggiano told Strebel.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Kuhnmuench’s career as a judge has been her work helping lawyers and other judges.

Retired Chief Judge Jeffrey A. Kremers said Kuhnmuench

has always had someone under her wing, helping advance that person’s career. He also said Kuhnmuench is caring and generous with her time.

“I don’t know any other judge who in my career has been as interested in mentoring young lawyers and judges,” Kremers said.

On top of her judicial work, Kuhnmuench dedicated her time to numerous non-profit groups including Milwaukee Jewish Family Services and Milwaukee Homeless Veterans’ Initiative.

Although retired, Kuhnmuench shows no sign of slowing down. She plans to return to teaching and to produce a podcast.

“I have a voice and I want to continue to use it, but I want to use it in ways you’re not able to when you’re a judge,” Kuhnmuench said.

### Rondini recognized for work at Marquette University

Jefferson County Register in Probate Robert Rondini was recently awarded the *Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award* by the Dean of Klingler College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University.

The award recognizes contributions of staff, faculty, and students to the school in the areas of scholarship, mentorship, and teaching.

Rondini has taught in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences for the past nine years, giving law-related lectures to undergraduate students in evening classes.

In his Marquette University bio, Rondini notes, “Teaching is not only an avocation, but a form of community service which I find very rewarding.”

Rondini and other award winners were recognized in a ceremony on April 16 in the Eisenberg Reading Room at Marquette University. ■



Jefferson County Register in Probate, Robert Rondini, left, was recently recognized with the *Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year* award by Marquette University. Rondini, an attorney, is a lecturer at the university’s Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, where he teaches undergraduate courses on criminology and law. The award was presented by Richard C. Holz, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

## AWARDS

## Court Statistics Project recognizes Wisconsin for data reporting accomplishments

Wisconsin is one of five states to win the Court Statistics Project (CSP) 2017 Reporting Excellence Award from the Conference of State Court Administrators' (COSCA) Court Statistics Committee.

In announcing the award, CSP Director Nicole Waters said the states were honored for embracing the challenge of improving data quality and comparability for 2017 appellate caseload data reported to CSP.

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals increased caseload "publishability" from 38-percent in 2016 to 78-percent in 2017, according to the CSP.

The accomplishment is being recognized with one framed and one unframed certificate and will be highlighted on the Court Statistics Project website, [courtstatistics.org](http://courtstatistics.org). Consistent and comparable data improve the management of state courts and enhance the understanding of the work of the judicial branch, Waters wrote in a letter co-written by Pamela Harris, chair of the CSP committee.

The awards were announced in December at the business meeting at the COSCA Midyear meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The CSP is a joint project of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). It publishes caseload data from the courts of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

These data are provided by the offices of the state court administrator in those jurisdictions. The data reported here conform to the definitions and case counting rules in the [State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting \(Guide\)](#). States publish their own data that may be more extensive, although not directly comparable to other states for a variety of reasons, including differences in court structure, case definitions and counting practices, court rules, statutes, or terminology. The experience of the CSP staff, along with adherence to the *Guide's* reporting framework, ensures comparability of the data reported to CSP. The project includes [support and partnership of COSCA, the Conference of Chief Justices](#), the [National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks](#) and [National Association of Court Managers \(NACM\)](#). ■



In June 2018 Tenth Judicial District Court Administrator Don Harper presented outgoing Chief Judge Scott Needham, St. Croix Circuit Court, a clock to commemorate his seven years as chief judge. When asked about his future plans, Judge Needham replied jokingly, "I am looking forward to being an ordinary judge for a while." Needham remains on the circuit court to which he was first elected in 1994.



Outgoing State Bar of Wisconsin President Chris Rogers presents the Bar President's Award to Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack "in recognition of her service as Chief Justice to our state, the legal profession, and to furthering justice in Wisconsin." The award was presented at the Bar's Annual Meeting and Conference in June.

## Justice Ziegler honored as *Alumna of the Year* by Marquette University Law School

Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler received the 2019 Alumna of the Year Award from Marquette University Law School during a ceremony April 3.

The award is presented annually to the alumnus who has reached a level of excellence in career and exemplifies the school's mission of faith, service, leadership and excellence in personal and professional life.

Law School Dean Joseph D. Kearney presented the award with high praise for Ziegler's public service, work in the law, and for her contributions to the work of the law school.

And, he offered a punchline: "I apologize to you for any role Marquette University Law School had in causing you to



Justice Ziegler speaks during an award ceremony at Marquette University Law School, where she received the school's Alumna of the Year Award.

abandon, or at any rate, not yet to realize, your childhood ambition of becoming a meteorologist..."

During her remarks, Ziegler credited the law school, her parents, family, and upbringing for her success.

"For a girl who grew up sweeping the floors in her parents' hardware store – now sitting up here on stage at Marquette, getting this award – I find that simply amazing."

In announcing the award, the law school noted that Ziegler reflects Marquette's mission in both her personal and professional life: "Her civic work ranges from the Marquette Law School Advisory Board to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. She's also a member of the American Bar Association, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an elected member of the American Law Institute, and a member of the International Women's Forum." ■



Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler poses at a Marquette University Law School award ceremony with Judicial Assistant Susan Gray, right, and former Judicial Assistant Mary Roderick, retired, left.



The state's nine District Court Administrators took time for a group photo while in Madison for a meeting with the Committee of Chief Judges and the Wisconsin Supreme Court on May 21. From left to right: Holly Szablewski, District One; Louis Moore, District Two; John Bellows, District Four; Patrick Brummond, District Seven; Susan Byrnes, District Nine; Michael Neimon, District Three; Thomas Schappa, District Eight; Theresa Owens, District Five; and Don Harper, District Ten.

**NEWS AND NOTES** *continued from page 11*

public defenders office ends up assigning attorneys from outside the area to help handle cases. Many of those attorneys come from Madison, which can complicate court schedules and appearances.

Being a judge or a lawyer in a rural area provides an opportunity to handle a range of cases and living in a smaller community offers advantages, VenDeHey said.

The State Bar has made the initiative an annual event. In 2018, the tour stopped in Grant, Crawford, Trempealeau and Pepin counties.

The program provides opportunities for young lawyers and law students to meet with local lawyers, judges, and business leaders to hear first-hand accounts of what it's like to live and work in rural parts of the state.



Judge Everett D. Mitchell

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Everett D. Mitchell was featured in an article published June 19 in the State Bar of Wisconsin's *Inside Track* newsletter.

During a keynote at the Bar's G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy in April, Mitchell outlined three principles of leadership that he uses to make a difference in the justice system: Have the Courage to Redefine What is Known; Bring People with You; and Remain Flexible, Embrace Your Options.

"Once called an 'advocate judge,' Dane County Circuit Court Judge Everett Mitchell is known for his leadership on issues of disparate incarceration, juvenile justice, and racism



Justice Ann Walsh Bradley was a featured speaker at the Centennial celebration of Wisconsin becoming the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The event, which was held in the Capitol Rotunda on June 10, drew a crowd of women in leadership roles in state government. Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack attended the ceremony, along with Justices Shirley S. Abrahamson, Rebecca Frank Dallet, Rebecca Grassl Bradley, and Annette Kingsland Ziegler.

reform. Elected to the Dane County bench in 2016, he believes judges and lawyers should be active leaders in their local communities," the *InsideTrack* wrote.

Demolition of an intake court building began on March 11 to make way for a new addition to the Waukesha County Courthouse, next to the county jail, CBS58-TV news reported.

An estimated 52,000 sq. ft. of building area is being demolished to make way for the 62,000 square-foot, four-story and eight-courtroom addition, with an estimated price tag of \$38.5 million. The construction on the new addition is expected to be complete by 2021, with renovations on the remaining portions of the courthouse beginning in 2022.

The project will replace and modernize space that was built about 60 years ago, improving safety and security.

"As you can imagine, a secure courthouse is vital to a secure community," Waukesha County Circuit Court chief judge Jennifer Dorow told CBS58. "The design of the building itself and the flow of the building is really the cornerstone of courthouse security."

La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez was one of four women called before a U.S.

House subcommittee on crime to address domestic violence and similar threats to public safety, WIZM Radio reported on March 7.

According to the station, Gonzalez told the Congressional panel: "It is really a great hope that we will end this violence... But it will not happen unless we open our hearts and our minds to understand that it is not just those who die, who lose their lives to this violence that are important, but it is those that must keep on living."

Gonzalez is the president-elect of a national council of family court judges. She and the other judges spoke in favor of the need to continue the Violence Against Women Act, passed in 1994. The Act expired late last year during the federal government shutdown, according to WIZM.

The Waupaca County Drug Court held a ceremony for its first graduate on Feb. 6, the Waupaca County Post reported.

Courtland Fritz, 54, who entered the program as the court's first participant in November 2017, said the treatment court program helped him achieve "a stable environment, an honest heart, peace of mind and reflection of 35 years lost," according to the paper.

In December 2013, Fritz was convicted of the manufacture and delivery of methamphetamines. He was placed on three years of probation, ordered



Judge Ramona A. Gonzalez

**NEWS AND NOTES** *continued from page 32*

to perform 50 hours of community service and undergo any counseling recommended by his probation agent.

On May 30, 2017, Fritz was charged with possession of meth and possession of narcotics. He remained in custody for six months because his probation was revoked.

Convicted of both counts, Fritz was placed on two years probation and sentenced to nine months in jail.

On Nov. 22, 2017, Fritz appeared before Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge Vicki L. Clussman and began participating in drug court. The remainder of his nine-month sentence was stayed, and Fritz began appearing in court every week.

According to the Post, during the 440 days Fritz was in the drug court program, he passed 127 drug tests, became self-supporting, had no arrests, found a job and moved into a stable environment.

The paper quoted Clussman as saying Fritz put his life back on track. "Courtland has a good job, he has stable housing, he has a driver's license," Clussman said. "He is a good, productive member of our community."

Fritz said drug court taught him how to deal with life instead of using drugs.

"How grateful can a person actually be for a life-saving event," Fritz said, the Post reported.

On Dec. 20, 2018, WIZM Radio reported on oral argument heard at the La Crosse County courthouse by a three-judge panel of the District IV Court of Appeals.

The trip was part of an outreach program designed to increase awareness of the Court of Appeals and the work it does.

Judge Gary E. Sherman, now retired, told the station that going on the road gives the court some visibility. Along with fellow Court of Appeals' Judges Brian W. Blanchard and Michael R. Fitzpatrick, Sherman heard argument in a case on issues arising from a bankruptcy.

"Most people hardly realize we exist," Sherman said. "We are kind of the most invisible court in Wisconsin. We don't sit in a courtroom all day, we seldom wear robes. We really only hold an oral argument at most a half a dozen times a year."



Judge Michael P. Screnock

On July 8, District IV was back on the road holding arguments at the Portage County Courthouse in Stevens Point.

On Dec. 19, 2018, the Sauk Prairie Eagle newspaper published an article highlighting success stories of adult treatment

court programs in Sauk and Columbia counties.

Since its inception in 2016, the Sauk County Adult Treatment Court, Judge Michael P. Screnock presiding, has provided services to 39 people, according to the article. Participants discussed their experiences in detail with a reporter on Nov. 30.

"Most admit they've struggled. Some have successfully made it through the month remaining sober. They are applauded, praised and are given a friendly reminder not to

become complacent. A few have succumbed to life's stresses and fed their craving," reporter Autumn Luedke wrote, continuing: "Screnock doesn't condemn them. He inquires what (led) to their slip up and asks them how they will plan ahead for future situations. He might recommend reaching out for more support or attend more meetings. The individual isn't automatically kicked out of the program or given a sanction. Screnock reminds them they have the support and tools and knowledge to keep going."

In Columbia County, Circuit Court Judge Todd J. Hepler said he had no intention of starting up a treatment court when he started as a judge in 2015. "But he quickly changed his mind when he saw how many individuals were affected by addiction," according to the article.

"I was astounded by the number of drug-related cases in Columbia County," Hepler said. "It really bothered me. I realized we can't arrest our way out of the situation."

Columbia County treatment court participants must meet several guidelines in order to be accepted.

"Because of our restrictions, we can't accept someone who has committed a violent offense," Hepler told the newspaper. "They have to have a demonstrated substance abuse issue



Judge Todd J. Hepler

*see News and Notes on page 34*



Last fall, Justice Annette Kingsland Ziegler donated about 14 inches of her hair to a charity that provides hair prostheses at no cost to children who have lost their hair as a result of illness. Justice Ziegler started the tradition of donating hair for the cause in 2007, with the most recent donation going to Locks of Love.

NEWS AND NOTES *continued from page 33*

Judge Eugene A.  
Gasiorkiewicz

and be facing at least two years of imprisonment.”

Columbia County’s Treatment Court has separate programs for drug and alcohol cases. The term of participation for successful participants in both Sauk and Columbia County programs is about 18-24 months.

Racine County Circuit Court Judge Eugene A. Gasiorkiewicz was the author of an article on the evolution of the Daubert standard, published in the 2018 Summer

edition of the American Bar Association’s Judicial Division newsletter.

“Should We Continue to Allow Opinion Testimony to a ‘Reasonable Scientific Certainty?’” traces the evolution of the admissibility of expert witness testimony following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993).

*Daubert* is one of three cases that serve as the basis for case law or statutory requirements for establishing the admissibility of expert testimony in most states, Gasiorkiewicz wrote.

Gasiorkiewicz suggests in the article that if trial judges properly apply Daubert criteria to screen out speculative testimony, the use of language to address any particular degree of certainty is not useful or necessary.

The Capital Times [reported on a study](#) of the use of signature bonds in Dane County criminal cases from 2012 to 2016.



Judge Nicholas J.  
McNamara

The study, conducted by Dane County Circuit Judge Nicholas J. McNamara, found that Dane County is not routinely holding defendants on excessively high cash bail for low level misdemeanor charges, according to the Capital Times.

McNamara reported his findings to the Dane County Board to assist in planning for jail space. He told the newspaper: “For things like trying to find ways to reduce the number of jail beds needed, it

would be unrealistic to just say, ‘Well, we need to have fewer cash bail orders for criminal traffic and misdemeanor cases.’”

“In a study of nearly 33,000 criminal cases from 2012 to 2016, McNamara found that 81 percent of all defendants charged in criminal cases — including felonies, misdemeanors and criminal traffic cases — were released on signature bonds. Cash bail was ordered in 19 percent of the cases,” the newspaper reported.

In October 2018, Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson gave the 2018 Robert W. Kastenmeier Lecture at UW Law School. Abrahamson addressed her experiences as both a judge and a lawyer, the Wisconsin Law Journal reported.

Abrahamson “cracked jokes rapid-fire from her wheelchair and chuckled heartily as she and U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb reminisced on Friday about how they met and their early days in practice.

Abrahamson said she and Crabb were the only two women in legal practice in Madison who were not related or married to lawyers at their firm, the Law Journal reported.

“Crabb, whom Abrahamson met at UW-Madison, noted that Abrahamson knew at just six years old that she wanted to be a lawyer.

“I never had another idea of what I should be,” said Abrahamson. “I don’t think I had any other talent to do anything else,” the article read.

On Oct. 17, 2018, Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge John P. Anderson appeared on The Wheeler Report’s “Local Gov Matters” [podcast](#) with State Public Defender Kelli Thompson to discuss the lack of private attorneys willing or able to represent indigent defendants when public defenders aren’t available.

Thompson called the problem a crisis, and said not many private attorneys are willing to

[see News and Notes on page 40](#) Judge John P. Anderson



Justice Shirley S.  
Abrahamson



Judge John P. Anderson



Director of State Courts Randy Koschnick spoke at a press conference announcing a proposal to increase state budget support for the justice system, an increase in the private bar reimbursement rate, better pay for public defenders, additional district attorney positions and circuit court support payments.

## Judicial Education launches video newsletter

The Office of Judicial Education launched a new monthly online video newsletter in November. The videos are designed to update and inform judges about judicial education opportunities, highlight helpful online resources and invite input from judges about future seminars and judicial education offerings.

The debut edition included information about the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference, Civil Law Seminar and Treatment Court Training Seminar, as well as Municipal Court Education, among other topics.

Produced by Emily Brooks, the new Judicial Resource and Outreach Coordinator, the videos are part of a larger initiative in the Office of Judicial Education to provide more on-demand videos and tutorials to supplement in-person seminars.

The goal of the project is to create a knowledge-base of training and education materials as an ongoing resource for judges. This one-stop shop includes links to helpful research sites, such as the Wisconsin Law Library, and other interesting articles and resources. A link to the video newsletter is sent to judges monthly via email. ■



On May 22, students from the Whitefish Bay High School's advanced placement Government class met in the Supreme Court Hearing Room with Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet to discuss the role and work of the courts. Similarly, on May 15, Chief Justice Patience Drake Roggensack met with students from the St. Francis High School as part of an informal outreach program that has become an annual event. Both meetings were inspired by teachers who participated in UW-Madison School of Education's Summer Institute for teachers of Advanced Placement Government students, which held a session at the Supreme Court in 2017.



In one of Wisconsin's highest profile cases ever, dozens of photo journalists focus on Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald as he discusses charges against Jake Patterson at the Barron County Courthouse on Jan. 11. Patterson was charged with, and ultimately convicted of, killing the parents of Jayme Closs and kidnapping the girl. Proceedings in Judge James C. Babler's courtroom, from initial appearance to sentencing on May 24, were carried live by news outlets worldwide.

photo credit: Steve Kochera,  
Duluth, News Tribune



About 600 people, including 45 judges, took part in the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals Conference on May 8 in Wisconsin Dells. Left, Director of State Courts Randy Koschnick hosts an open discussion, along with Statewide Problem-solving Court Coordinator Katy Burke from the Office of Court Operations. Right, La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge Elliot M. Levine makes a point during the judicial networking session at the conference.

## OBITUARIES *continued from page 9*



Judge Gerald C. Nichol

Prior to his service as a judge, Nichol practiced law privately until he was elected Dane County District Attorney. He also served as Special Counsel to both the Office of Lawyer Regulation and the State Ethics Board. From 1974 until 1987, he was a Town of Madison Municipal Court Judge.

Nichol was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court in 1988. He was re-elected until his retirement from the bench in 2004.

In his retirement, Nichol was appointed by former Governor Jim Doyle to the Government Accountability Board in 2008. He also enjoyed involvement in a number of community service efforts in Dane County including Big Brothers, Luke House, Ruben for Kids, Safe Harbor, and the Blue Line Club.

Nichol is survived by his wife, Dr. Kathryn Piziali, his three children, and two sisters.

### Judge James L. Martin Dane County Circuit Court

Retired Dane County Circuit Court Judge James L. Martin died June 29, after a brief illness. He was 74 years old.

“Jim” Martin was born on March 18, 1945 in Colp, Illinois. He grew up in Racine and graduated from Racine Park High School in 1963. Martin received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Dubuque and his Juris Doctor from the UW Law School in 1977.

Martin served 25 years in the City Attorney’s office in Madison, first as assistant city attorney, then as city attorney until he was appointed to the Dane County Circuit Court by then-Gov. Jim Doyle in 2003. Martin was elected to the bench in 2004 and retired in 2009.

*see Obituaries on page 38*

### Law Library *continued from page 4*

Both libraries serve judges in their counties, managing and maintaining judges’ research collections and making sure valuable chamber research materials are kept up to date. In addition to these duties, each library works with its local courts and other organizations to help county residents, collaborating with a variety of *pro se* legal assistance organizations and programs.

At the Milwaukee County Law Library (MCLL), librarians work in conjunction with the Milwaukee Justice Center to provide information and services to *pro se* litigants. Staff also help users navigate obtaining proof of public benefits for use in fee waiver applications. Local attorneys and members of the public can take monthly CLE-credit classes coordinated by the MCLL and presented at the nearby Milwaukee Public Library.

The Dane County Law Library (DCLL) assists with

scheduling volunteers for legal assistance clinics offered in the courthouse, including the Small Claims Assistance Clinic. Inmate requests for research and information are also handled by library staff. Last year the library fielded 2,000 requests from inmates in the Dane County Jail.

The Milwaukee and Dane County Law Libraries are robust partners of their local county court system and play a vital role in serving self-represented users, attorneys, court staff, and judges in their respective counties. Library staff at both locations encourage everyone to take advantage of these resources. ■

*For more information about the law library branches and a review of 2018 activities, visit the Wisconsin State Law Library’s [website](#).*

## FAQs *continued from page 4*

The training programs cover the principles, legal terminology, techniques, procedures, and ethics used to be a successful court reporter. The programs also provide hands-on training on transcribing, editing, and proofreading of legal transcripts. In addition, Fox Valley Technical College is launching its first-ever [digital court reporter program](#) this fall.

### **What is included in the DAR system?**

Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) uses For the Record (FTR) software and standard CCAP hardware. FTR is an audio software system that allows for both the recording and distribution of the audio file. The system is made up of numerous software components, as well as hardware components such as a clock, headset, and audio mixer.

### **How does a digital court reporter run the DAR system?**

The DCR will conduct daily testing of the DAR system. This includes conducting sound checks to guarantee that all microphones are capturing the audio properly. During the hearing, the DCR will wear headphones. This is known as confidence monitoring. The headphones capture what is being recorded, so the reporter can quickly identify and troubleshoot any concerns. The DCR will also take log notes, which are detailed notes that are time stamped and electronically stored by CCAP. These notes can be used to search the electronic record to play back testimony both during and after court proceedings.

### **What did Wisconsin Supreme Court Order 19-01 do?**

Wisconsin Supreme Court Order 19-01 recognized the *existing* ways of taking the verbatim record in Wisconsin, including monitored digital audio recording, stenographic reporting, and voice writing. Order 19-01 also provided flexibility to allow district court administrators and chief judges to find court reporter coverage for court proceedings when the original court reporter is unavailable.

### **Did Order 19-01 eliminate court reporter positions?**

No. Court reporters always have been, and will continue to be, the personal appointees of their judges. The court system plans to recruit and retain stenographic court reporters, digital court reporters, voice writers, or real-time court reporters to fill vacant positions.

### **Will stenographic court reporters be expected to transcribe audio recordings from the DAR system?**

Digital court reporters will be responsible for transcribing their own audio recordings. If the verbatim record was captured by a digital audio recording not monitored by an official court reporter, then the court reporter assigned to that judge will be primarily responsible for any transcript from that recording. If the judge's court reporter is not able to transcribe the proceeding, the district court administrator will ask another court reporter to do so.

### **Can a judge conduct jury trials using a monitored DAR system?**

Yes. Over the past decade, several judges across the state have used monitored digital audio recording with a digital court reporter to capture a variety of proceedings, including evidentiary hearings and jury trials. One judge has conducted over 100 jury trials with his digital court reporter and DAR system.

### **Are transcripts from DAR the same as transcripts from other verbatim records?**

Yes. Judges who regularly use monitored DAR have commented that the transcripts are indistinguishable. The court reporter who transcribes an audio recording is entitled to transcript fees as provided in Wis. Stat. § 814.69.

### **Will the clerk be expected to run the DAR system in an emergency situation?**

If an official court reporter is not available to cover a court proceeding, another court reporter should be used. If there is no court reporter available, then DAR equipment may be used to take the record. The DAR system should never be unmonitored. In an emergency situation, the DAR equipment should be monitored by the courtroom clerk or the court official should assign a person in the courtroom to monitor. When determining whether to run the DAR system with a monitor, considerations should include the availability of a court reporter, the complexity of the proceeding, the likelihood of a transcript request, and the skill and training of the monitor. Using DAR with a monitor may not be appropriate for certain types of hearings.

### **Is DAR run differently in court commissioner hearings versus hearings in front of a judge?**

Yes. Most circuit court commissioner hearings are not required to be reported under SCR 71.01. However, many counties choose to purchase and use DAR systems to record court commissioner proceedings. In these situations, the DAR system is typically run by the courtroom clerk.

### **Are there training materials available on how to use DAR?**

Yes. CCAP has several technical training documents, including information on log notes, user setup, pre-checks, audio playback, and more. These documents give vital step-by-step instructions on how to use the DAR systems appropriately.

### **Where can I get more information on the move to a blended system of court reporting in Wisconsin?**

For more information on the blended system of court reporting in Wisconsin, contact Kat Carpenter in the Office of Court Operations at (608)267-7335.

**NEW FACES** *continued from page 3***Dave Perlman**

Atty. Dave Perlman has joined the Office of Judicial Education in the newly created position of Judicial Education Specialist. In this new position, Perlman will take over responsibilities dedicated to municipal judicial education, but he will also work in the development of ancillary educational resources for circuit court judges.

Prior to joining the Office of Judicial Education, Perlman was an assistant attorney general at the Wisconsin



*Dave Perlman*

Department of Justice, for 28 years. In that position, he coordinated training programs for both police and prosecutors. His areas of expertise include constitutional law, use of force, open records, and management liability. In addition, Perlman was an appellate lawyer with the department and argued many 4th and 5th amendment cases to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Perlman also wrote and hosted a quarterly video series "Roll Call Law," which was distributed to more than 600 police departments around the state.

Perlman also consults at Fox Valley Technical College, giving presentations around the country on search and seizure issues relevant to the prosecution of Internet Crimes against Children cases.

An honors graduate of Northwestern University, Perlman received his law degree from the Indiana University Law School.

The previous position of municipal judicial education manager was held by Todd Meurer, who left that role in March. Meurer had joined the Office of Judicial Education in 2016 after retiring from a lengthy career as a circuit court commissioner.

Meurer, who still serves as a municipal judge for the Town of Madison and Town of Verona Joint Municipal Court, had served on the Municipal Judge Benchbook

Committee, the New Laws/New Cases Committee and the Orientation Committee. He also served as faculty for a multitude of municipal judge and court clerk education seminars during his judicial career and with the Office of Judicial Education.

**Kat Carpenter**  
**Office of Court Operations**

Katherine "Kat" Carpenter (formerly Dellenbach) joined the Office of Court Operations as a Legal Advisor on August 20, 2018, replacing Marcia Vandercook.

Previously, Carpenter served as the Field Services Director for the Wisconsin State Public Defender, where she was as an administrative policy advisor and resource liaison for public defender staff and attorneys throughout Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Carpenter comes to the Director of State Courts Office as an experienced project manager with an emphasis in operations management, policy drafting, program implementation, and training. She has previously worked as a Communications Director in the Wisconsin State Legislature and as a supervising attorney at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she practiced criminal appeals and post-conviction law.

Carpenter currently serves as a mentor for young women at Madison College. Outside of mentoring, she has previously served on a number of nonprofit boards and committees, including the Wisconsin Women's Network, Community Shares of Wisconsin, and Zonta Club of Madison. She received her bachelor's degree from the UW-La Crosse and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. ■



*Katherine "Kat" Carpenter*

**OBITUARIES** *continued from page 36*

During his career, Martin served as interim administrator Board of Attorneys Professional Responsibility, the predecessor of the Office of Lawyer Regulation.

Before becoming a judge, Martin was known for his accomplishments as an athlete and football coach. He played three sports competitively in both high school and college and was recognized by both Racine Park High School and the University of Dubuque for his achievements. According to an obituary, Martin still holds a school record for most interceptions in a single season and for most career interceptions at 24.

His high school and college coaching background helped earn him a spot as an assistant football coach for the University



*Judge James L. Martin*

of Wisconsin under John Jardine, starting in 1970.

Martin took time to volunteer with local groups, including the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, and the Board of Safe Harbor Child Advocacy.

**Judge Patrick J. Madden**  
**Iron County Circuit Court**

Judge Patrick J. Madden, who served on the Iron County Circuit Court for more than 30 years, passed away unexpectedly in his sleep at home on July 9, according to an obituary published in the Ironwood Daily Globe. He was 69.

The Green Bay native was a pure academic, according to the obituary.

"He was a champion for social change, and a staple in his community. He had a voracious appetite for both the consumption and sharing of knowledge, regardless of subject. At age 13, he became one of the youngest Eagle

**RETIREMENTS** *continued from page 28*

"My dogs will still wake me up, and we'll still go for a walk, but now I figure I can go back to bed," Nodolf said.

### Marcia Vandercook Circuit Court Legal Advisor, Office of Court Operations

Marcia Vandercook retired in September, after 19 years as a circuit court legal advisor with the Office of Court Operations. During that time, she had an immeasurable impact on the court system and the individuals it serves, including judges, clerks of circuit court and court staff, among many others, throughout the state.

Vandercook provided legal services, research and policy development support for the Director of State Courts Office on numerous significant issues facing the circuit courts. In doing so, she worked collaboratively with a number of departments, including Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) and the Office of Judicial Education.

She also served as staff to the Committee of Chief Judges for many years, providing invaluable guidance for the clerks of circuit court, registers in probate, juvenile clerks, and circuit court judges, in the form of committee work, memos, phone consultation, and educational programs.

Vandercook played a key role in developing several court system initiatives, such as the court interpreter program. In support of a committee, she designed and tested the program and drafted language for a Supreme Court rules petition for



Marcia Vandercook

an interpreter code of ethics. She also worked with legislators in developing language for statutes and possible funding sources.

Vandercook's work with CCAP on the development and implementation of statewide eFiling was crucial to the successful rollout of that program.

"She helped staff the eFiling committee, drafted the Supreme Court rule changes, and developed presentations to the judiciary, court staff, and the bar, said court system Chief Information Officer Jean Bousquet. "I credit Marcia's calm demeanor for the fact that no one died of hyperventilation during the transition, although of course there was that slight uptick in retirements," Bousquet said jokingly.

Among the clerks and registers, Vandercook may be best remembered for her time on the lecture circuit, where she delivered many electrifying presentations, including "Everything You Wanted to Know About Public Records But Were Afraid to Ask," and "Buried Treasure: What We've Been Hiding from You on the Internet." She also penned a number of illustrative, best-selling memos on sealing, expunging, records retention, and helped with ten editions of the ever-popular "Wisconsin Circuit Court Fee, Forfeiture, Fine and Surcharge Tables." Said DCA Jon Bellows admiringly, "Really, when it came to arcane and unpopular topics, Marcia was just the best."

Vandercook said she will miss working collaboratively with dedicated public servants in every part of the court system. She is also sad there will be fewer opportunities to pursue her favorite work-related hobby – producing pages of elaborate doodles during legal education programs. Vandercook's colleagues already report missing her sound guidance, camaraderie, and impressive ability to keep the office plants alive. In retirement, Vandercook plans to travel, read, volunteer, and garden. ■

**OBITUARIES** *continued from page 38*

Scouts in the history of the state of Wisconsin. He remained active in the Boy Scouts of America for the remainder of his life."

Madden was first appointed to the bench in 1986, elected in 1987, and re-elected five times. Prior to that, he had served as Iron County District Attorney and corporation counsel.

Madden was a graduate of the UW-Green Bay, received his Masters' degree from UW-Madison, and his law degree from the UW Law School. Madden also held degrees from Wadham College - Oxford (Advanced Jurisprudence), University of Nevada (Master of Judicial Studies), and was the recipient of a Bush Foundation Fellowship Award. Prior to his service as a circuit court judge, Madden served the Peace Corps in El Salvador.

Madden was known as a passionate advocate for children in Iron County. In 1998, he told the Third Branch, "I work with youth because preventing problems is better than solving them."

Madden's obituary, published in the stated: "He promoted education and athletics, but most importantly, he promoted kindness. Patrick lived by the credo of "you do nice, you get nice" and was known for officiating weddings free of charge, substitute teaching at the Hurley K-12 School if they were short-staffed,

teaching classes at Gogebic Community College, and simply supporting local sports teams and local businesses. He will be forever known as an advocate for the underdog, a lover of nature, rogue traveler, and above all else, a loving father and proud "papa." He will be profoundly missed by his family and his community, as he was the keystone of both."

During his time on the bench, Madden served as a member of the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC), the Judicial Education Committee, and the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee. According to WJFW-Rhineland, Madden recently presided over the notable Wayne Valliere, Jr. homicide case. Valliere's remains were found in rural Iron County in January 2018.

Following a jury trial, Madden sentenced Ricard Allen and Joseph Lussier to life in prison without the possibility of parole and later sentenced James Lussier to 15 years in prison. A third suspect in the case was set to go on trial in December 2019. ■



Judge Patrick J.  
Madden

**Chief Justice***Patience Drake Roggensack***Director of State Courts***Hon. Randy R. Koschnick***Editor***Tom Sheehan***Associate Editor***Anna Yarish***Contributing Writers***Carmel Capati**Kat Carpenter**Carol Hassler**Tom Sheehan**Anna Yarish***Graphic Design/Layout***Sara Foster*

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Send questions, comments, and article ideas to:

*Tom Sheehan**Court Information Officer**P.O. Box 1688**Madison, WI 53701-1688**phone**(608) 261-6640**e-mail**tom.sheehan@wicourts.gov***NEWS AND NOTES** *continued from page 34*

take cases at the state compensation rate, which was recently approved to go from \$40 an hour to \$70 an hour.

When the Public Defender's office still can't find an attorney, judges are forced to appoint counsel at a higher rate at county expense, Anderson said. Sometimes, those attorneys will have to drive three to five hours just to meet with their clients, especially in rural areas. The process of finding an attorney can drag on for weeks, potentially affecting constitutional rights of defendants, Anderson said.

Bill Weigel, who for the past 22 years of his 34 year legal career has supervised litigation for the Office of Lawyer Regulation, has been appointed to serve on the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Public Protection in

*Bill Weigel*

the Provision of Legal Services. The committee assists and monitors each state's client protection mechanisms, including unauthorized practice of law initiatives and programs to reimburse financial losses

caused by lawyer misappropriation of client funds, such as the State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. Weigel said his motivation is "to protect the public by serving the profession." Weigel has also served as the City of Verona's municipal judge since 2004.

Third Judicial District Court Administrator Michael Neimon was recently recognized with a Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult honor that can be presented by a local council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Neimon, a longtime Scoutmaster for Troop 49 based in Summit, received the award during a Feb. 28 ceremony in Waukesha. The award was issued by the Boy Scouts National Court of Honor on behalf of the Potawatomi Area Council.

The Silver Beaver is awarded to Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a council.

Neimon has been active as a volunteer in scouting for 14 years, including as a Cubmaster in Pack 73 and as a Scoutmaster in Troop 49. Two of his sons are Eagle

Scouts, and he has helped mentor 37 scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout over the years and held various leadership positions with the Scouts. Neimon has also coached soccer, basketball, baseball, karate and curling.

*Michael Neimon*

The Associated Press reported Feb. 20 on a Court of Appeals decision that a circuit court judge's decision to become Facebook friends with a party in a case he was hearing created at least the appearance

of bias. The District Three decision ordered the child-custody case to be re-heard by a different circuit court judge.

According to the AP report: "The case, which is the first of its kind in the state, contemplates whether judges' use of social media can compromise them. In its ruling, the 3rd District Court of Appeals didn't lay out any bright-line rules for judges, but it warned them to use caution when engaging with people online to avoid the appearance of impropriety. 'We caution that judges should recognize that online interactions, like real-world interactions, must be treated with a degree of care,' appellate Judge Mark Seidl wrote in the ruling."

On Feb. 20, Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court,

was featured in a [segment](#) on Black History Month that aired Feb. 20 on WISN-TV. White is the First Judicial Administrative District's first African-American chief judge and second female chief judge.

*Chief Judge Maxine A. White*

"I've been breaking a lot of ceilings but not by myself. A lot of people had a lot of heavy lifting, a lot of hammers way before me, so I've been given this opportunity. I've had mentors like the honorable Vel Phillips," White told the news station. ■