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A Pioneer in the Struggle for Civil Rights

EEO/AA Chief Bobby Battle Honored for His Role in Lunch Counter Demonstrations

By **Mike Mathis**
Judiciary Times Editor

As a youngster in rural North Carolina, Bobby Battle had no idea he would one day help liberate millions of African Americans from the burden of segregation and help safeguard the rights of New Jersey Judiciary staff.

Battle, the Judiciary's chief Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action officer, was a freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro, N.C. when four fellow African American classmates walked into an F. W. Woolworth store on Feb. 1, 1960, sat at the segregated lunch counter and asked to be served.

Only whites were allowed to sit at the counter. Blacks had to stand and eat.

When asked to leave, the students remained seated. The next day, the four students returned with 27 supporters.

On Feb. 5, 1960, Battle was among 300 students who showed up and peacefully protested, spawning similar sit-in protests throughout the south that were successful in achieving the desegregation of lunch counters and other public places.

"I felt strongly in terms of the disgrace of segregation and what we have to live through," recalled Battle, a Gloucester County resident who in February was honored by the International Civil Rights Center & Museum - which is located in the old Woolworth store in Greensboro - for his role in the lunch counter sit-ins.

"To have an opportunity to take a stand for equality and justice, that's what we wanted," he said. "That has carried me through life, and I've stood for what's right ever since."

As the Judiciary's chief Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action officer, Battle is responsible for the



Bobby Battle

investigation of discrimination and harassment complaints.

"At its core, the civil rights movement involved the struggle of thousands of unsung actors in cities across America. Bobby is one of these heroes," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts. "His courage and stand against segregation epitomizes the principles of fairness and equality that are embedded in our court system."

Battle, 69, didn't have to read about segregation in a textbook or hear about it from older relatives.

The fourth of eight children, Battle was only in first grade when he was forced to walk 4½ miles each way to his segre-

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Mercer Vicinage Program Aims to Keep Kids in School

By **Mike Mathis**
Judiciary Times Editor

A youth anti-crime initiative that took root in Trenton several years ago has branched out with an educational component designed to keep youth probationers in school.

Project Safe Neighborhood is a partnership between Mercer Vicinage, the Trenton Police Department and several state agencies such as the Juvenile Justice Commission to supervise high-risk probationers and parolees in their homes at night and on weekends to ensure compliance.

The local program is an outgrowth of the federal Project Safe Neighborhood Program which aims to reduce juvenile

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Goodbye to Justice John E. Wallace Jr.

In honor of three decades of service to the Judiciary, the summer edition of the *Judiciary Times* will feature a profile on retired Supreme Court Justice John E. Wallace Jr.

Justice Wallace was nominated to serve on the Supreme Court by Gov. James E. McGreevey on April 12, 2003 and was sworn in as an associate justice by then-Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz on May 20, 2003. In addition to his service to the courts, Justice Wallace has devoted his adult life to service to the community and to his family. Be sure to read about his life as a coach and his devotion as a family-oriented man.



Bobby Battle Recalls A Childhood of Racial Division in the South

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gated school while white children rode buses.

"They would stick their heads out of the bus and throw things at you, yell at you and spit at you," Battle remembered.

Battle said he never considered confronting the kids.

"My family had a strong Christian faith, and they told us to be respectful of our elders and leadership and to respect the law and strive to obtain a good education," Battle said. "They saw education as being a ticket to being successful, rising above disrespect and segregated society."

Segregation was prevalent throughout the south in those days. Battle remembers using the outdoor staircase outside a movie theater to access the balcony because African Americans were not permitted to enter the lobby.

Separate water fountains also existed for whites and African Americans.

"Occasionally, we'd sneak drinks from the white water fountain to see if it was the same," Battle said.

"Segregation affected every aspect of your life, from transportation to hospital care," Battle said. "We had no recourse. The whole institution (of government) was behind the segregation."

Because Battle's parents believed that obtaining an education was the best way to overcome segregation, Battle enrolled at North Carolina A&T in the fall of 1959 as an electrical engineering major, the first member of his family to attend college. Battle's mother was a homemaker and his father was a sharecropper who one day would own a restaurant.

Battle was living in a dormitory when two of his friends and fellow freshmen, Joseph McNeil and Ezell Blair, decided they were "going to change the lunch counter" at the Woolworth store.

"They didn't advertise what they were going to do," Battle said. "They knew it was going to be non-violent. They took their seats at the counter, requested service and were refused." McNeil and Blair, along with fellow students Franklin McCain and David Richmond, were the first four students

who sat at the lunch counter on Feb. 1, 1960. The next day, 27 more students showed up, followed by 300 additional students three days later.

Battle said he did not participate in the first two days of the protest because he feared arrest. The protests continued throughout the summer until the lunch counter was desegregated.

Battle said he never ate at the lunch counter after it was desegregated. "The objective was achieved," he said.

After graduating from North Carolina A&T, Battle received a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and flew combat missions in Vietnam. Battle eventually was called upon to conduct and oversee investigations of racism in the military and implemented a training program on race relations.

He retired with the rank of colonel and joined the Judiciary in 1992.

Battle said the lunch counter sit-in set the stage for critical events in the civil rights movement, such as the freedom rides in 1961 and the March on Washington, D.C. in 1963, that culminated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the dismantling of segregation across the country.

The sit-ins also encouraged Battle to

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

Please send short news articles, photos and suggestions to Mike Mathis, Editor, *Judiciary Times*, Office of Communications and Community Relations, PO Box 037, Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Trenton NJ 08625-0037 or via e-mail at Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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Susan Callaghan; Kimberly Cicala; Jack Failla; John Fuhrman; Sharon Kinney; Joe Lagomarsino; Dennis Martin; Jeff Newman; Maria Previte; Christopher Pushkarik; Janet Slocum; June Zieder and the AOC Print Shop.



As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the northern New Jersey chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) on April 19 presented Essex Vicinage with a framed replica of an American flag dating to 1814. Pictured from left are Eugene J. Codey Jr., Essex Vicinage civil presiding judge; Brian G. Steller, president of the northern New Jersey chapter of ABOTA; Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello, and Peter J. Vazquez, Essex Vicinage criminal presiding judge.

Mercer's Safe Neighborhood Initiative Focuses on Education

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offenders' involvement with guns, drugs and street gangs.

The program was expanded in Mercer Vicinage last year to include educational visits to probationers' homes in the summer to communicate with families the importance of education and to address concerns such as truancy and discipline problems and ensuring that children with learning disabilities are properly placed.

The state Attorney General's Office has nominated Mercer's program for a national Project Safe Neighborhood award.

Officials from various agencies, including the Judiciary, police, social service agencies and the Trenton School District, meet weekly to discuss which resources are available to help troubled youth continue their education.

From July 15 to Sept. 9, 2009, a total of 68 educational visits were scheduled over eight nights, resulting in 47 meetings with families. Officials verified that children were regularly attending school or arranged to have them placed in alternative programs.

Lois Krause, the law enforcement/social service liaison for the Trenton Police Department, said the visits - which included an assistant superintendent and director of security for the Trenton School District - were well-received by parents and guardians.

"Education and law enforcement are now working in partnership, communicating directly with each other on a regular basis to provide the best possible outcomes for our youth," Krause said. "High school graduations, gainful employment and higher education are going to replace court dates and jail time."

The addition of the education component to Project Safe Neighborhoods is an example of how the Judiciary works with other agencies to help children receive the services they need, said Frank DiGiaino, Mercer Vicinage chief probation officer

"We talk to each other and we find available resources," DiGiaino said. "It's a fabulous thing."

Project Safe Neighborhood began about five years ago in an attempt to get juveniles off the street by engaging families in their homes after business hours to confront kids who are in non-compliance in their probation and to develop solutions to get them to comply.

Funding for the program is provided through a federal grant, DiGiaino said. Meeting parents at night is an important part of the educational outreach because they often don't know whether their children are enrolled in school, DiGiaino said.

"Parents are either working or their children aren't telling them what's going on," DiGiaino said.

The number of youth whom officials have visited under the educational component of Project Safe Neighborhoods is relatively small.

There are about 900 youth on probation in Mercer Vicinage, DiGiaino said, and between 500 and 600 of them live in Trenton, where the educational outreach is focused.

While officials have reached just a fraction of juvenile probationers, they believe that assisting those children with continuing their education has made the initiative a success.

"We all agreed that education is critical to preventing further anti-social behavior and are well aware that the juveniles we encounter at Trenton Police Department eventually end up on probation and are not successful in school," Krause said. "This must be changed, and this non-traditional method of reaching out to families is proving successful."

"Families are being approached in a non-judgmental and supportive manner by systems that are most often viewed by this population as hostile," Krause said. "The families we are visiting have generations of negative experiences with both law enforcement and the educational system. This initiative is turning that around."

Project Safe Neighborhoods was the catalyst for the formation of a variety of services and community partnerships offered to children and families by the

Mercer Vicinage probation juvenile section, DiGiaino said

Among them is IMPACT, a weekly discussion group with participation from private and government agencies offering services for juveniles.

Passaic Vicinage Hosts Aging Out Seminar

More than 70 youth attended Passaic Vicinage's first Aging Out workshop on April 1 at Berkeley College in Woodland Park.

The workshop was open to young people in foster care between the ages of 14-21 and their New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) caseworkers. The goal of the workshop was to empower the youth and help them transition from adolescence to adulthood.

The workshop included a fair of vendors representing local colleges, vocational, healthcare and housing programs and representatives from the New Jersey Office of Law Guardians.

Judge Michael K. Diamond thanked vendors for participating and being available to talk one-to-one with youth about their programs.

Nana Wilson, a law guardian who is with the Rutgers Advocacy Clinic, presented an interactive program on the rights and services available for those considering or going through the aging out process.

Aging out is a term used to describe youth who leave a formal system of care after reaching a certain age.

Bobby Battle Honored For Role in Famous Civil Rights Protest

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embark on a career that has shaped thousands of lives.

"It really helped me throughout life," Battle said of his participation in the protest. "It set the stage for my entire life."

Sylvia Pressler, Presiding Appellate Division Judge, Dies at 75

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Sylvia B. Pressler, the first woman to serve as presiding judge of administration for the appellate division whose 1973 ruling as a hearing officer opened the door for girls to play Little League baseball, died Feb. 15 in Sparta, Sussex County. She was 75.

Judge Pressler, who was known for her brilliant legal mind, authored more than 3,500 opinions during her 31 years on the bench.

Among Judge Pressler's lasting contributions to the law was her annotation of the book *Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey*, which she had done since 1969. The book is the bible of court practice for every legal professional in the state.

"She was a gifted and dedicated jurist who pushed us all to excellence," retired Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz said. "She believed in the justice system and in the power of the court to do the right thing."

Although she authored opinions on the legal rights of gay couples and capital punishment, Judge Pressler perhaps was best known for a decision she rendered before she became a judge.

Judge Pressler was a hearing officer for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights in 1973 when she ruled that a 12-year-old Hoboken girl could continue to play Little League baseball. National Little League officials had threatened to revoke the local league's charter if the girl continued to play. The National Organization for Women filed a lawsuit on the girl's behalf.

After Judge Pressler's ruling, Little League baseball agreed to allow girls to play on its teams in 1974.

"The institution of Little League is as American as the hot dog and apple pie," Judge Pressler wrote in her ruling. "There is no reason why that part of Americana should be withheld from girls."

Judge Pressler was raised in the Bronx, N.Y. and graduated from Boston University and Rutgers School of Law-Newark.



Sylvia B. Pressler

Gov. William T. Cahill named her to the Bergen County Court bench in 1973. Gov. Brendan T. Byrne appointed her to the Superior Court three years later, and she was elevated to the appellate division in 1977.

Judge Pressler was named presiding judge of administration for the appellate division in 1997. She retired in 2004 but continued to work on "Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey" until her death.

"I hope that in the future, something I've written will be of help advancing the law then," Judge Pressler told the *Star-Ledger* when she retired. "But I don't count on it. I don't have any grandiose ideas about legacy. You tell yourself what you're doing is important and makes a difference and you hope that it does."

Gann Law Books announced in April that former state Supreme Court Justice Peter G. Verniero will annotate and provide commentary to the *Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey*.

"I am looking forward to this new endeavor," Verniero said in a statement. "It will be difficult to fill Judge Pressler's shoes but I look forward to maintaining the same quality of work that judges, lawyers, and other readers of this book have come to expect."

Judge Pressler is survived her husband David Pressler, a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

Middlesex Vicinage Holds First Seminar on Divorce

The first Middlesex Vicinage divorce workshop was held on Jan. 25 at the Family Courthouse in New Brunswick.

"This was a great opportunity to provide litigants with some helpful guidance to help navigate through what can be a difficult time in their lives" Presiding Family Judge Deborah Venezia said.

A panel of attorneys and Middlesex court staff presented information on the different aspects of the often difficult divorce process. Venezia welcomed approximately 50 attendees and Family Division Manager Charles Hager distributed information packets.

Court Services Supervisor II Christopher Puskarik began the workshop with a general outline of the divorce process. He discussed filing fees, parent education classes, custody and parenting time mediation and the many alternate dispute resolution methods.

Attorneys Ellen Schwartz and Russell Gale presented a more in-depth look at divorce procedures and the rights of pro se litigants. Venezia explained what to expect in court and courtroom procedures.

Court Services Supervisor II Charlene Cumberbatch discussed child support and alimony and what probation can and can not do for their clients.

Editor's Note

The deadline for the summer 2010 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, June 18.

Feature stories about court programs and newsworthy profiles about judges and court staff are welcome.

Current stories and information about court staff and events and submissions of awards, honors, promotions and appointments are sought for *JT Briefing*, the Judiciary's monthly e-newsletter.

Monmouth Opens Center for Self-Represented Litigants

By Janet Slocum

Administrative Specialist 4
Monmouth Vicinage

In response to a need for heightened services to the growing number of self-represented litigants, Monmouth Vicinage established a Self-Help Resource Center as part of a community outreach initiative.

Operating under the Office of the Ombudsman, the center helps self-represented litigants navigate the court system and improves access for all court users.

It is one of the first self-help centers in the state to team with Legal Services of New Jersey and other organizations.

The vicinage held a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration for the center on March 26 that was attended by about 50 community leaders, government officials and legal professionals.

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the center's inception and

commended the collaboration with legal services.

"I've always been proud of the connection that our vicinage has built with the community, and I regard this center as a milestone in strengthening that bond," Lawson said. "I'm confident in its success to empower individuals with legal needs, while reinforcing the vital concept of 'Equal Justice for All'."

Trial Court Administrator Marsi L. Perkins also addressed the audience and outlined the objectives. "We must always remember that the work done in this center will help to change people's lives," she said.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a framed resolution by state Assemblyman David Rible and state Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angeli, both of the 11th Legislative District. They thanked Lawson and Perkins for the support given by the vicinage to Monmouth County residents.

Maria La Face, deputy director and director of litigation for Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services, expressed

gratitude for the relationship the vicinage established with the agency. Legal Services will work with the center to conduct monthly group seminars on court-related topics such as child support, divorce, the expungement of criminal records and landlord/tenant and small claims matters. The agency's attorneys also will be on-site twice a month to offer limited legal advice and conduct one-on-one screenings to determine eligibility for legal services. Members of the Monmouth Bar Association were in attendance to demonstrate support for the center.

A representative from the Community Health Law Project discussed the possibility of future collaboration on advocacy services for persons with disabilities. The center also plans to work with various community organizations to assist individuals with limited English proficiency.

Ombudsman Theresa Romano said she is confident that the self-help resource center will help the vicinage adapt to a changing community.

Monmouth Program Changes How Conviction Judgments Are Done

By Susan Callaghan

Assistant Criminal Division Manager
Monmouth Vicinage

The method of preparing criminal judgments of conviction is being transformed through a pilot program underway in Monmouth Vicinages.

The judgment of conviction (JOC) is the document that reflects the court-ordered disposition of a criminal case. It includes information about the defendant, details on the sentence imposed, the amount of fines or restitution owed and other applicable conditions of sentencing.

The appearance of the new JOC document remains unchanged, but the preparation is now automated. By early March, the new document had been used to generate almost 400 judgment of conviction forms in Monmouth Vicinage.

In addition to saving time and increasing efficiency, the new JOC docu-

ment promotes consistency and will allow viewing of final forms across the state when it is in use in every vicinage.

"After preparing JOC's for many years in many different manners, including by typewriter, the new system is not only a significant time-saver; it ensures a higher level of accuracy between the Promis Gavel system and the judgments of conviction," said Adele Bascom, secretary to Superior Court Judge Ira E. Kreizman. "Another helpful feature is being able to view the forms prepared by other vicinages when a defendant is pending disposition in our court."

The program was piloted in Mercer Vicinage and also is in place in Atlantic/Cape May; Burlington; Middlesex; Morris/Sussex; Ocean; Passaic and Union vicinages.

The new system pulls information from both Promis Gavel (PG) and the CCM (PSI report system) program databases and enters it into the JOC

form. In the past, the process involved data entry of the sentence into Promis Gavel and typing the JOC document manually.

The system allows initial preparation of the form prior to the sentencing date. Case and charge information and defendant identifiers can be filled in first, followed by sentencing information that is automatically pulled upon entry into Promis Gavel.

The system has the ability to build upon a previously completed form, as in the case of an amended JOC, or a new sentence after a violation of probation. An editing check feature in the program to ensure that required information also is included.

Judges' secretaries in Monmouth Vicinage were trained by staff from the Automated Trial Court Systems (ATCS) Unit in January. The new JOC system went live in Monmouth the next day, with onsite ATCS support.

Probation Services Marks 15-Year Anniversary of CEP Program

Editor's Note: Shortly after submitting this article for publication in *Judiciary Times*, Dennis Martin passed away. Dennis was known in the Judiciary as a man with a keen intellect, compassion, kindness and wit. Among the many accomplishments in his 26-year career with the Judiciary were the conceptualization, development, and statewide implementation of the Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) within the probation services division. Dennis was an innovative leader and a mentor to his staff. He will be missed and fondly remembered by those who knew him.

By Dennis Martin

Probation Services Division
Administrative Office of the Courts

It's been said that crime doesn't pay. But thanks to the Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP), individuals under probation supervision do.

CEP, which is part of the Probation Services Division, enters its 15th year this year of enforcing court orders.

CEP's initial and primary focus has been on collecting court-imposed financial obligations. This undertaking has proved to be highly successful.

In 1996, probation statewide collected \$22.8 million. Of that amount, 15 percent, or \$3.3 million, was col-

lected through CEP activity.

In Court Year 2009, probation collected \$33.7 million, a 48 percent increase. Of that amount, \$24.1 million, or 72 percent, was collected following CEP intervention.

During the last six full court years, 2004 through 2009, CEP held more than 3,000 hearings, an average of more than 500 hearings a year. During that same period, CEP mailed nearly 232,000 delinquency notices and 249,000 summonses to a CEP hearing, an average of more than 80,000 a year.

Much of the credit for the initial shaping of CEP is the result of action by then-Superior Court Judge Daniel Coburn of Morris County. Coburn was the first judge in the state to hold hearings specifically for probationers who were not paying financial obligations that were a condition of their sentences.

CEP was formalized in 1995 with the passage legislation that gave CEP broad jurisdiction over Superior, Civil, Municipal, and Tax Courts as well as Public Defender's liens and matters arising from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

The legislation also gave CEP a wide range of sanctions to use, up to and including incarceration. However, the philosophy of CEP has been to help clients comply with court orders, using

graduated sanctions only as needed.

A unique feature of CEP is that the formal court hearings are conducted by hearing officers, resulting in significant time savings for judges.

Each county has a CEP liaison judge who reviews and signs CEP orders recommended by the hearing officers, hears appeals of the hearing officers' recommendations, and processes clients arrested on CEP bench warrants.

Each county also has a CEP coordinator who manages CEP in that county.

Most hearings held for delinquent payments result in an adjustment of the payment schedule so that the amount to be paid regularly is commensurate with the client's financial situation.

If the issue is a failure to perform community service, a plan is established with a date by which community service must be completed. If there is continued non-compliance, the client can be summoned back for another CEP hearing.

Sanctions that can be used include docketing a civil judgment, suspending driving privileges, income withholding, seizure of state income tax refunds, and requiring participation in Enforced Community Service (ECS) or a Labor Assistance Program. Bench warrants can be issued for failure to appear at a CEP hearing and for missed payments.

For each type of hearing and for most sanctions, a delinquency notice or warning letter is sent, allowing the client time to correct the deficiency.

If the client does not take the appropriate action, a summons is sent requiring appearance at a CEP hearing. CEP is self-supporting. All salaries and operating costs of central office CEP staff are paid from the CEP Fund.

While initial efforts focused on collections and community service, CEP has since expanded into areas such as hearings for the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection; technical violations of probation; potential jurors who do not return their questionnaires or fail to appear when called for jury duty; and the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP).



Neal Brunson, director of the Afro-American Historical Society Museum in Jersey City, spoke to Passaic Vicinage and Passaic County employees at the vicinage's Black History Month program.

Probation Pioneer: Bergen's First Black Probation Officer

By **John Fuhrman**

Chief Probation Officer
Bergen Vicinage

"They told me 23 years ago that the county was not ready for a black probation officer, but I think I've proved them wrong." — Robert O. James, Bergen County's first African American probation officer, in an interview in *The Bergen Record* on March 22, 1972.

For the first 45 years of its existence, the Bergen County Probation Department did not have an African-American probation officer.

That changed on March 15, 1949 when Robert O. James became the county's first African-American probation officer. James later recalled, "They gave me a desk in the corner and an all black caseload" of adult probationers.

James was born in Hackensack on May 22, 1908 and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Howard University.

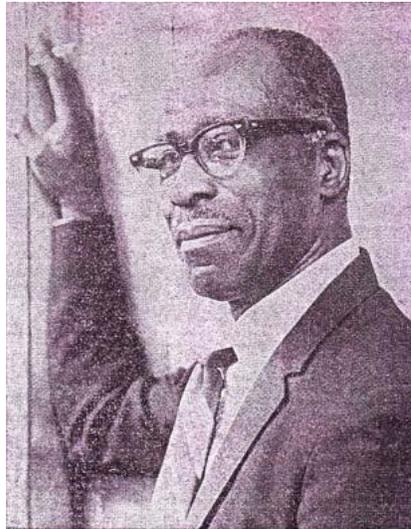
Performing his duties as a probation officer well resulted in his promotion to senior probation officer in February 1955.

Five years later, James was appointed principal probation officer and was assigned supervisor of the juvenile division. A year later, he was assigned to create a municipal division within the Probation Department to supervise probationers sentenced in municipal court.

He shared his municipal court expertise in an address to the Middle Atlantic States Conference on Corrections in 1968 titled "Misdemeanor Probation." Two years earlier, James had been elected president of the New Jersey Probation Officers Association and subsequently served as chairman of its executive committee.

In 1967, James began the Volunteer Sponsor Program, a pilot project that used volunteers to mentor young offenders. The program continued for almost two decades under several supervisors, although James was always considered its "godfather."

The Bergen Record ran a full-page story about James and the volunteer



Robert O. James, Bergen County's first African American probation officer

program on March 22, 1972.

Jones was always a 'people person.' He was gregarious, approachable, and deeply committed to probation's work of helping people and keeping the community safe.

His efforts were recognized when the Bergen County Bar Association presented him with its Liberty Bell Award in 1970.

His accomplishments, personality, sharp intelligence, integrity, and drive for excellence were all factors in his being appointed assistant chief probation officer in October 1973. At the time, he was the highest-ranking African-American executive in Bergen County government and in the county's law enforcement community.

As assistant chief, James was given responsibility for moving the probation department out of the Bergen County Courthouse. This turned into a two-year project of locating and renovating space on River Street that concluded in April 1976.

James also took an innovative approach to preparing the probation department's annual report. He created a committee of staff members from every level to write, compose, design, edit, and print the document. To be open to such participation in any project was an uncommon practice in government at the time.

James retired on June 1, 1979. He

died on June 22, 1989 at age 81. He was survived by three daughters and nine grandchildren.

James dedicated most of his life to serving the people of Bergen County.

He was an inspirational leader and a role model.

His legacy is the lasting positive impact he had on those who worked with him and the clients with whom he worked.

Law Day Events Held at Hughes Justice Complex

The Judiciary celebrated Law Day on May 7 with several events at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton. The event was co-hosted by the Judiciary, the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner officiated at a naturalization ceremony for 50 new citizens in the lobby of the Justice Complex.

New Jersey Public Defender Yvonne Smith Segars spoke to invited youth from the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) about the differences between the juvenile and adult justice systems.

Carolyn A. Murray, counsel to New Jersey Attorney General Paula Dow, addressed JJC youth and the public on the differences between the New Jersey and federal courts.

Coverage of Law Day events in each of the state's 15 vicinages will appear in the summer edition of the *Judiciary Times*.

Did You Know?

The Judiciary uses Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to communicate the work of the courts to the public and court staff?

The Judiciary uses RSS feeds and SMS text alerts to inform users about court news, closings and Supreme Court decisions.

To sign up for these services, go to njcourts.com and look for the icons under "Here's the Latest" on the right side.

IT Conference Meets Without Slipping and Sliding to Trenton

By **Jeff Newman**

Deputy Clerk, Appellate Division and

Joe Lagomarsino

Information Technology Division Manager
Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage

Conditions across the state on Jan. 8 were treacherous. Snow and freezing rain fell on much of New Jersey, rendering most of the main highways dangerous.

For many information technology managers, the conference meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. in Trenton meant traversing miles of roads through hazardous conditions or not making the meeting.

However, travel conditions didn't matter on this day, because the Conference of Information Technology Managers, in partnership with the Information Technology Office at the Administrative Office of the Courts, would make positive history.

The conference held its first statewide meeting online. The managers were able to participate in the meeting from their offices using Microsoft Live Meeting instead of having to navigate rough roads to the AOC. A link to a video of the meeting can be found at www.judiciary.state.nj.us/jt/100330/it.htm

Using Live Meeting, participants joined the meeting from their desktop computers. Several members of the AOC staff took part in the meeting from a conference room equipped with "roundtable" technology, a panoramic camera that automatically focuses on the person speaking.

The meeting saved about \$250 in travel costs and hours of productivity that would have been lost if managers had to drive to Trenton.

The AOC's Information Technology Office's Network Operating Systems Group and Client Automation Team spearheaded the setup and configuration of the system, which takes advantage of an existing wide area network.

Conference chair Steve Molyneux brought the meeting to order knowing that the colleague sitting closest to him was nearly 30 miles away in Monmouth

County.

The meeting began with a roll call of participants and instructions to mute their microphones, eliminating distracting background office noise, until they wanted to speak. With Live Meeting, when a person talks, they "hold the floor," displaying their image and sending their audio to all participants.

Live Meeting can accommodate Microsoft PowerPoint presentations, video demonstrations, documents, and other components of a traditional meeting.

For example, an electronic survey was displayed during the meeting for attendees to complete. Members approved the minutes and the vote was logged and saved. The agenda for the meeting was displayed with a green check mark appearing after completion of an item.

Jack Failla, Middlesex IT manager, demonstrated Microsoft Windows 7 from his computer. Discussion also was held on several topics in which meeting attendees participated as they would have had everyone been in the same room.

The Conference of IT Managers is establishing protocols for Live Meeting and looks forward to a statewide roll-out of the technology.



This photograph shows how the Conference of Information Technology Manager's meeting was conducted using Microsoft Live Meeting. The technology saves money and travel time



Mission Statement of the New Jersey Courts

We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.