JUDICIARY TIMES

A Publication of the New Jersey Courts

Winter 2011-2012

Swinging for the Fences

Dave Anderson Helped Lawyers Become Judges

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Dave Anderson says he's always had the greatest job in the Judiciary.

But he's had several over a career that spanned nearly 40 years.

So which one was it?

Serving as a sheriff's officer in Morris County?

Working as a trial court administrator?

Or was it as director of Professional and Governmental Services, his last position?

All of them, he says.

"I treasured each job as a gift," said Anderson, who retired Dec. 31, 2011 after a 39-year career in the Judiciary. "It's hard giving up the best job in the court system, but it's time for somebody with more vitality and spirit. It takes everything you've got."

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner named Deirdre M. Naughton, who was counsel to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, to succeed Anderson. Naughton served for six years as assistant counsel to the New Jersey governor before joining the Judiciary.

"Dave rose through the ranks to become a leader and close advisor to many chief justices, judges and colleagues," Chief Justice Rabner said. "Judges appointed or reappointed in New Jersey for the past three decades have relied on Dave's advice to achieve confirmation and to continue their professional development through the Judicial Education and Performance section overseen by Dave. His achievements are legendary, and his retirement is well-deserved."

A Hunterdon County native, Anderson was raised in Tewksbury.

A baseball fanatic whose love of the New York Yankees is legend, Anderson had only one career goal when he graduated from North Hunterdon High School and enrolled at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

"I went to college to play baseball. I wanted to be a Yankee and that's what I thought I was going to be," said Anderson, who attended his first game in The House That Ruth Built when he was nine in 1958. "It didn't happen."

A sociology major, Anderson searched for a teaching job following graduation but couldn't find one.

So he applied for the opening in the Morris County

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Chief Justice Appoints Three New Assignment Judges

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has named new assignment judges in the Camden, Hudson and Mercer vicinages.

Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina is the new assignment judge in the Camden Vicinage. He succeeds Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr., who Feb. 1 retired after 20 years on the bench and 16 years as assignment judge.

Appointed to the bench by then-Gov. James E. McGreevey on July 16, 2004, Fernandez-Vina sat in the civil division of the Camden Vicinage. He moved to the family division in 2006 and was named presiding judge of the civil division on Feb. 1, 2007.

While on the bench, Fernandez-Vina has served on a number of committees, including the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee.

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Dave Anderson Reflects on Nearly Four Decades in Judiciary

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Sheriff's Department and became a sheriff's officer at the age of 23 in 1972.

"It looked interesting," Anderson recalled. "It was in a courthouse and I thought courthouses were cool. I'd seen *Perry Mason.*"

Anderson worked as a court clerk to Superior Court Judge Robert Muir Jr. in Union and Morris counties beginning in 1973.

He served as assistant trial court administrator from 1976 until 1981, when he became trial court administrator of what was then Morris/Sussex/Warren vicinage.

"This judge, Robert Muir, he saw something in me," Anderson said. "He wasn't just a mentor. He carefully trained me in all aspects of the business. When he became assignment judge and I became TCA, he basically vested the business management of the system to me."

Anderson served as trial court administrator until 1985, when he went to the Administrative Office of the Courts and became assistant director of the unit that is now known as Trial Court Services. Part of Anderson's job involved overseeing court reporters, sound recording and forms management.

Dave Anderson displays the state Senate resolution adopted to recognize his long Judiciary career. He is pictured on the left with Judge Glenn A Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, state Senators Thomas H. Kean Jr. and Kevin J. O'Toole and his wife Dottie, and on his right with Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, state Senator Nicholas P. Scutari and Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney.

In 1987, Chief Justice Robert Wilentz appointed Anderson assistant director of Legislative and Liaison Services so that the Judiciary would have a voice in the Legislature.

Anderson wasn't going into the job cold: He had some contacts in the Legislature who had been elected officials in Morris County when Anderson was trial court administrator there.

In 2000, the Office of Professional and Governmental Services was formed, and Anderson became the director. Oversight of the Judicial Education and Performance Unit and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct (ACJC) were added to his responsibilities.

Anderson said he is most proud of securing funding for the municipal court automation system and working with state Sen. William Gormley of Atlantic County to devise a system of state funding for the courts, which had been financed by the counties.

But the task he most enjoyed was guiding judicial candidates through the sometimes grueling appointment and confirmation process.

"I love judges," Anderson said. "I love working with judges. They are such valuable public servants. They provide an unbelievable service."

Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, who met Anderson when Weisenbeck served as Muir's law clerk, told attendees at Anderson's retirement party in December that he and many colleagues credit Anderson for their judicial careers.

"It is only with his support and his ability to help me navigate the process of becoming a judge that I was able to don a black robe," he said a colleague told him.

"He was the epitome of serenity in an atmosphere of chaos. He was the guy with the answers when no one else had any."

Anderson said he is looking forward to walking his daughter down the aisle at her wedding in September and attending more Yankee games.

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

The chief justice 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 by email at Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

Director of Communications and Community Relations
Winifred Comfort

Editor
Mike Mathis

Contributors
Betty Agin; Patti Amor; Anne Marie Fluery; Tamara Kendig; Donna Mazzanti; Kathleen Obringer; Janie Rodriguez; Richard Samsel; Fern L. Varasano and the AOC Print Shop.

Burlington TCA Del Preore Installed in Burger Society

Membership Honors Those Who Have Improved Administration of Justice

By Tamara Kendig
Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

Jude Del Preore, trial court administrator for the Burlington Vicinage, was inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) on Nov. 18 during the annual NCSC recognition luncheon in Washington, DC.

Membership in the Warren E. Burger Society honors individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to improving the administration of justice through their contributions of service or support to the NCSC.

The society is named for the former chief justice of the United States who helped found the National Center in 1971.

"We are delighted by the committee's decision to induct Jude into the Warren E. Burger Society," said Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. "His contributions to the New Jersey Judiciary, as well as to other state courts through his service to regional and national organizations, exemplify the spirit of dedication to the cause of justice the Society fosters."

Del Preore has served the New Jersey Judiciary for nearly four decades and has held the position of trial court administrator, first in the Mercer Vicinage, and then in the Burlington Vicinage, since 1997.

In addition to his service to the Judiciary, Del Preore has actively contributed to the advancement of the nation's courts through his work with the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management (MAACM) and, most recently, the National Association for Court Management (NACM).

He is the immediate past president of NACM and recently served as that organization's liaison to the American Bar Association Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System. Del Preore holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree from Kean University. He is a fellow of the NCSC's Institute for Court Management.

Jude Del Preore is flanked by Mary C. McQueen, president of the National Center for State Courts, and Eric T. Washington, chief judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, following his induction into the Warren E. Burger Society.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts.

Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice Burger, the NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to state courts.

Burger Society inductees are selected by a committee. Each inductee receives a limited edition print of the portrait of the late Chief Justice Burger, which is signed and numbered by the artist, Fran Di Giacomo.

Del Preore lives in Moorestown with his wife and two sons.

Deirdre Naughton Succeeds Dave Anderson as Director of Professional and Governmental Services

By Tamara Kendig
Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

Deirdre M. Naughton is the new director of Professional and Governmental Services for the Judiciary.

Naughton succeeds David P. Anderson, who retired in December.

Naughton had served as counsel to the ACJC since February 2007.

Immediately prior to joining the courts, she served for six years as assistant counsel to the New Jersey governor where her duties included, among other things, managing judicial and prosecutorial appointments.

In her new role, Naughton serves as the Judiciary's representative to the governor's office and the Legislature and coordinates judicial appointments and reappointments for the courts.

She also manages the Judicial Education and Judicial Performance section and the ACJC.

"Deirdre's experience with the courts, and with the executive and the legislative branches, combined with her skills as an attorney, make her the ideal person to manage professional and governmental services for the Judiciary," Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said.

Adoption Day Celebrated Across NJ With Smiles, Celebrations

Editors Note: National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children and to celebrate families who adopt. The observance also is held to raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

Mercer

The adoptions of 12 children were finalized during Mercer Vicinage's fourth annual Adoption Day celebration on Nov. 18.

The New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), Court Appointed Special Advocates, One Simple Wish (OSW) and the Mercer Judiciary family division worked together to make the event a great success.

More than 150 people attended the festivities at the historic Trenton Masonic Temple.

Speakers included New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Allison Blake, local DYFS district office manager Mary Browne, foster and adoptive parent Danielle Gletow, and Judge Catherine Fitzpatrick. Judges Audrey Blackburn and William Anklowitz mingled with the guests.

In addition to the adoptive families and the agencies that hosted the event, other guests included attorneys from the state Attorney General's Office and law guardians.

Two magicians entertained while mascot Scooter posed for photos with adults and children. Face-painting was offered by a DYFS employee.

Main Event supplied family portraits and the Business Bistro served a buffet breakfast of hot and cold foods and drinks.

Each family was treated to a bag of goodies that included wishes granted by OSW as well as age-appropriate games and gifts.

Middlesex

The Middlesex Vicinage celebrated National Adoption Day on Nov. 17 at the Middlesex County Courthouse.

Attorney James Nolan, chair of the Middlesex County Bar Foundation's National Adoption Day Committee, coordinated the celebration. He and his wife Bonnie finalized the adoption of their daughter, Olivia, as part of National Adoption Day.

Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis described the observance of National Adoption Day as "the happiest day in the courthouse."

The festivities began with an opening ceremony in Francis' courtroom, where he gave opening remarks with Middlesex County Surrogate Kevin J. Hoagland.

Adoption proceedings for 11 families and 13 children began at 9 a.m. with Judge Robert Figarotta presiding.

"What's not to like about this day?" Figarotta asked during the ceremony, which was observed for the fifth time in Middlesex County.

The Middlesex County Bar Foundation donated breakfast, toys and coloring books.

Information on adoption was available at the event for those individuals interested in learning more about the adoption process.

Middlesex Vicinage established its annual adoption celebration in 2007.

The program was co-hosted by the Middlesex Vicinage Superior Court, the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office.

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Joseph and Lisa Nobus pose with their adopted son Aiden after Adoption Day ceremonies in Cape May County. Joining them are Judge John Porto and Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez

Editor's Note

The deadline for the spring 2012 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, March 23.

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

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

Courthouses Throughout New Jersey Celebrate Adoption Day

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Monmouth

The joy of forever families was celebrated in the Monmouth Vicinage at its sixth annual Adoption Day ceremony on Nov. 17.

A total of 21 adoptions were finalized for children ranging in age from five months to 15 years old.

Presiding over the adoptions were Family Division Judges John R. Tassini, and Teresa Kondrup Coyle, Civil Division Presiding Judge David F. Bauman, civil division Judge Linda Grasso Jones, and Presiding Criminal Division Judge Thomas F. Scully.

Tassini presided over the program, which began with remarks from Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Monmouth Bar Association President John A. Paone II.

"Adoption is a positive and powerful force with countless benefits," Lawson said. "Children have the chance to reach their full potential and spread their wings. Adoptive parents gain purpose and fulfillment; and our nation becomes richer in the valuable resource of family."

The importance of being an adoptive parent was expressed by keynote speaker Beverly Daniels, who adopted her three nephews and is the foster parent to her deceased friend's five children.

Several local agencies and organizations donated refreshments and items such as corsages for the adoptive parents.

Each child received a stuffed teddy bear and pin that read, "I'm Special, I am Adopted" along with a framed photo of their new family.

A display of information about the adoption process was available to the public.

Jennifer Martelli, a recruiter for the Monmouth County Department of Children and Families, and Rashun Mallory, general recruiter for Monmouth County, were present to answer questions.

This story was wriiten by Patti Amor, Mercer Vicinage, Betty Agin, Middlesex Vicinage, and Fern L. Varasano, Monmouth Vicinage.

Adoption Day ceremonies and celebrations were were held in all 21 counties in November. At top, adoptive mother Lisa Tureo-Acuna, son Nicholas Acuna and sisters Kate and Ana Acuna pose with their teddy bears and the Chick-fil-A cow during the festivities in Burlington Vicinage. At top left, Lauren Gauntt paints the face of a girl after adoption ceremonies in Mercer Vicinage. At top left, Beverly Daniels, who adopted three nephews and is the foster parent to her deceased friend's five children, speaks at Adoption Day in Monmouth Vicinage. Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities across the country join to finalize thousands of adoptions and to celebrate families who adopt. The observance also is held to raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

Ocean Vicinage Holds Outreach Program for Families

By Anne Marie Fluery
Ombudsman
Ocean Vicinage

An informational program called Uplifting Ocean County Families was held in the Mancini Room of the Toms River branch of the Ocean County Library on Oct. 6.

The program was an initiative hosted by the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

What started out as an idea at a meeting a few months ago blossomed into an event where families obtained information from local agencies, and organizations offered assistance to those who are struggling in today's economy.

Presentations were conducted by Ocean Partnership for Children, Ocean County College Displaced Homemakers Program and the Institute for Prevention.

Among the topics that were discussed were children's emotional and behavioral challenges and starting a new career after losing a major source of income due to separation, divorce, disability or a loved one's death.

Participating organizations were Ocean Partnership for Children; Ocean County College's Displaced Homemakers Program; Institute for Prevention; Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services; Ocean County Library; Ocean's Harbor House; Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; Superior Court Domestic Violence Unit; Novadebt; Puerto Rican Action Board; Literacy Volunteers of Ocean County and Catholic Charities.

Attendees visited with each organization's representatives at informational tables set up around the room. They learned about the many free services that are available to families.

Self-help Resource Center and Pilot Pro Bono Program Launched in Morris/Sussex Vicinage

By Janie Rodriguez
Ombudsman
Morris/Sussex Vicinage

Morris/Sussex Vicinage Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck has announced two new services to assist court users in Morris County.

The vicinage has opened a self-help resource center at the Morris County Courthouse, Washington and Court streets, Morristown, to assist people who want to represent themselves in court.

The resource center provides a central location for court users to conduct legal research and prepare their forms for filing, and it supplements the customer service areas adjacent to the family, civil, and criminal intake units.

The center is in the law library on the fourth floor of the historic courthouse. Available resources include New Jersey cases and statutes, commonly needed forms packets, and computer terminals with access to public court databases and Lexis.

Court users can obtain additional procedural assistance from the law librarian, Peter DeLucia, whose office adjoins the self-help resource center, and from the ombudsman, Janie Rodriguez, whose office is located on the second floor of the historic courthouse.

In addition to the center, court users can speak to a lawyer about family matters, including divorce, custody and child support, through a pilot program co-sponsored by the vicinage and the Morris County Bar Association and Morris County Bar Foundation.

"This is our first effort to consolidate available resources for self-represented litigants," Weisenbeck said. "We are extremely grateful for the efforts of the Morris County Bar Association and Bar Foundation, whose members have not only assisted the court to design the center, but have volunteered their time to meet with self-represented litigants in family division matters. We could not have accomplished this important goal without them."

A self-help resource center also is in the planning stages for Sussex County.

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 on the right side.

Courts in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Reach Out to Residents

By Kathleen Obringer
Ombudsman
Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

Many helpful online resources are available to residents of Atlantic/Cape May counties who want to learn more about their local courts.

"The courts play a critical role in our society, and they rely on an informed public to make them work most effectively," said Assignment Judge Julio Mendez. "These resources can be used by litigants heading to court, by citizens who want to learn about jury duty or volunteer opportunities, or by students who are trying to understand their government."

Anyone who wants to find out more about the courts in Atlantic and Cape May counties can access the vicinage webpage at www.judiciary.state.nj.us/atlantic/index.htm or by going to the New Jersey Judiciary website, www.njcourts.com and clicking on the Courts tab to find web pages for each county court.

"The more people understand about the courts work and the services they offer, the better we can serve them," said Trial Court Administrator Howard Berchtold.

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Chief Justice Names New Assignment Judges in Three Counties

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A graduate of Widener University and Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, Fernandez-Vina served as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge E. Stevenson Fluharty before going into private practice.

He became a certified civil trial attorney and has served on the District IV Ethics Committee, the Supreme Court Committee on Character and the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Selection.

Leading the Hudson Vicinage is Peter F. Bariso Jr., who succeeds Maurice J. Gallipoli. Gallipoli has retired after 25 years on the bench and seven years as assignment judge.

Appointed to the bench by then-Gov. Richard J. Codey on Jan. 7, 2005, Bariso was assigned to the civil division in Hudson Vicinage when he was named assignment judge.

He became presiding judge of the civil division on Nov. 27, 2006.

Since July 1, 2011, he served as chair of the Conference of Civil Presiding Judges. As chair, he is a member of the Judicial Council, the statewide leadership committee that assists the chief justice with the administration of the courts.

Bariso also is the former chair of the Supreme Court Arbitration Advisory Committee and a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Voir Dire.

He has lectured on civil litigation issues for the Judiciary, the New Jersey State and Hudson County bar associations, and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Bariso graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. He completed his law degree at Rutgers School of Law – Newark.

He joined a private law practice upon graduation, and, at the time of his appointment to the bench, he was a managing partner at the firm of Chasan, Leyner, Bariso & Lamparello in Secaucus. A certified civil trial attorney, he also served as counsel to the East Rutherford Board of Education.

The new assignment judge in Mercer Vicinage on March 1 will be Mary C. Jacobson, who will succeed Linda Feinberg. Feinberg is retiring after 20 years on the bench and 15 years as assignment judge.

Jacobson was appointed to the bench in 2001 by then-Gov. Christine Todd Whitman. She sat on the civil bench in Essex Vicinage before moving to the general equity division.

Six months later, she moved to the Mercer Vicinage, hearing civil and then family cases. She served as presiding judge of the family division from 2009 to 2010, when she was named presiding judge of general equity in the Mercer Vicinage.

A graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Mass., Jacobson earned her law degree at New York University School of Law.

She was a law clerk to the late Samuel Larner, judge of the Appellate Division, before beginning her career at the Division of Law in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

After 10 years in the environmental protection section, she was named appellate supervisor, and later assistant attorney general.

Ceremony Honors Hughes Governor and Chief Justice

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner was among the participants in a ceremony held on Jan. 19 to mark the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of Richard J. Hughes as governor of New Jersey.

The event was held in the Richard J Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton, which was named for the only person in New Jersey history to serve as governor and chief justice.

Among the participants were former governors Thomas Kean and Jim Florio and Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa.

Serving as governor from 1962 until 1970, Hughes became known as one who could bring both sides of the political aisle together, despite their disparate viewpoints.

During his 1973-1979 tenure as chief justice, the court ruled in the controversial Karen Ann Quinlan case that an individual has the right to refuse medical treatment and that his or her guardian can make that decision if the person cannot.

The justice complex was dedicated to Hughes in 1982 by then-Gov. Brendan Byrne. Hughes died in 1992.

Courts in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Reach Out to Residents

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Included on the Atlantic/Cape May page is a series of video segments titled *Meet the Court.*

The segments also air on local access channels, including the Stockton State College channel. Segments cover:

- Family Division Overview
- Drug Court
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Your Day in Municipal Court
- Role of Law Clerks
- Court Interpreters
- Expungements

The courts also have a community outreach program titled *Partnership for Learning.* This program offers presentations at sites in the community or at the courthouse.

Court staff will come to meetings, schools, and organizations to talk about the courts. They also provide group tours of court facilities.

Contact Kathleen Obringer, community liaison, at 609-594-3346 or Kathleen.obringer@judiciary.state.nj.us, to make arrangements.

Union Vicinage Holds Wellness Seminar on Women's Health

By Richard Samsel
Training Coordinator
Union Vicinage

In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Union Vicinage invited radiologist Abhishek Shrivastava from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway to speak to court staff.

Shrivastava presented an informative PowerPoint overview on mammography and addressed concerns expressed by members of the audience during a comprehensive question and answer session.

The wellness seminar is representative of the vicinage's ongoing efforts to provide learning opportunities for employees to enhance the quality of their professional and personal lives.

Past offerings included seminars on mental health first aid training, stress management for probation officers, workplace bullying and discussions about relaxation.

Radiologist Abhishek Shrivastava of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway speaks to court staff about mammography.

New Attorneys Admitted to Bars

The Supreme Court of New Jersey and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey hosted a swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys on Nov. 29 in the Patriots' Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner offered opening remarks and granted a Motion of Admittance to the Bar of the State of New Jersey that was made by Susan A. Feeney, president of the New Jersey Bar Association.

Chief Judge Garrett E. Brown Jr. granted a Motion of Admittance to the Bar of the U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey, made by Lisa J. Rodriguez, president of the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Virginia A. Long offered remarks on behalf of both courts. Feeney and Melville D. Miller Jr., president of Legal Services of New Jersey, also gave remarks.

The Magic Man

A magician performs tricks for youngsters during Adoption Day festivities in Mercer Vicinage. A story and more photos on Adoption Day can be found on pages 4 and 5.

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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.