

JUDICIARY TIMES

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Chief Justice Stuart Rabner (L) swears in Walter F. Timpone (R) as an associate justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court while U.S. District Court Judge Anne E. Thompson holds the Bible. Page 3.

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MIRANDA
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THROUGHOUT NJ**

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Pretrial Service Officers Crucial to Justice Reform

By Judge Glenn A. Grant
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts



Judge
Glenn A. Grant

Another aspect of this reform effort is the creation of a Pretrial Services Unit that statewide be staffed by more than 200 pretrial services officers. The officers be responsible for monitoring defendants who are released pending trial. The reform initiative also includes establishment of speedy trial processing deadlines for the filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for those defendants held in jail.

As I indicated previously, the move to reform the state's criminal justice system grew from the work of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, a special committee of the Supreme Court established by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to examine the issues of bail and speedy trial reform. The committee included the attorney general, the public defender, judges, county prosecutors, defense counsel, court administrators, representatives of the Legislature, and a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union. The Joint Committee developed and issued a series of recommendations that were incorporated into this landmark legislation.

Voters also approved a constitutional change to permit judges to keep high-risk defendants detained without bail. Pilot programs are underway in three vicinages, Camden, Morris/Sussex and Passaic, and planning for implementation throughout the remainder of the state is proceeding. The work of the pretrial officers, who will be hired over the next several months and into next year, is critical to our efforts to reform the criminal justice system and to ensure fairness and protect our communities.

The tasks that our pretrial services officers will undertake will include using an evidence-based risk assessment tool to measure a defendant's risk of failure to appear in court and of committing a new crime, making recommendations to the court regarding release and conditions, monitoring a defendant upon release, ensuring that defendants are notified of future court appearances and notifying the court of any violations of release conditions and in appropriate instances initiating the release revocation process. As you can see, these officers will play a critical role in implementing this reform program.

Our judges and staff have been working tirelessly on this effort and we have made remarkable progress in implementing the myriad of changes to make this project a reality. For both Chief Justice Rabner and the Supreme Court, I would like to acknowledge all of those who have contributed – and continue to contribute -- their time, energy and creativity to this important initiative. Thank you for your enthusiastic efforts in this historic undertaking to make our entire criminal justice system fairer and better. This endeavor reaffirms the commitment of the Judiciary to provide justice and fairness to all citizens who come into contact with our courts.

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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@njcourts.gov. Submissions are subject to editing and might not be published.

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Walter F. Timpone Sworn in as Newest Supreme Court Associate Justice

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

A ceremonial swearing-in ceremony for New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Walter F. Timpone was held at the Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark on June 2. Justice Timpone, who was nominated by Gov. Chris Christie earlier this year, is the first Seton Hall University School of Law graduate appointed to the Supreme Court. "Your presence here tonight honors me, but more importantly, it honors the court on which I sit," Justice Timpone, who graduated from the law school in 1979, told the audience assembled in the law school atrium.

Chief Justice Rabner administered a ceremonial oath of office at the celebration in Newark. He had officially sworn in Justice Timpone on May 2 in the governor's Statehouse office so that he could begin his work on the Court as quickly as possible. The public ceremony was attended by representatives from all three branches of state government – including Christie, the six other Supreme Court justices and State Sen. President Steve Sweeney—and several federal judges.

The chief justice noted Justice Timpone's intellect, talent, warmth and compassion as attributes that will help him succeed on the court. "No doubt all those qualities will serve him well on the court, will certainly serve the Judiciary well, and will serve the people of our state tremendously well," he said.

Born on Nov. 10, 1950, Justice Timpone received a bachelor's degree from St. Francis College in New York in 1972 and a master's degree in special education from New York University in 1974. He worked as a law clerk to the late U.S. District Court Judge Vincent P. Biunno.

Justice Timpone worked in private practice before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1984, where he served as chief of special prosecutions. He also served as the first federal election monitor in Passaic County, where he was charged with ensuring the voting rights of the county's Hispanic citizens and the county's compliance with federal and state consent orders. He also served as a commissioner on the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. Justice Timpone returned to private practice in 1995 and was a partner at the law firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney and Carpenter, LLP at the time of his appointment.

During his remarks, Justice Timpone pointed to the many people who counseled him throughout his legal career and told several stories of his interactions with them. He said he and his older brother Patrick, an educator who became a deputy schools superintendent in New York



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administers the Oath of Office to Supreme Court Associate Justice Walter F. Timpone at the Seton Hall University School of Law (Photo and Cover Photo Courtesy Seton Hall University School of Law)

City, overcame economic adversity to achieve professional success.

"Today is a big day for both of us because we have each fulfilled the dreams that mom and dad had for us, rising above the lack of money, the constant threat of losing our house," said Justice Timpone, who decided to attend law school after spending several years as an educator himself.

Justice Timpone advised the young attorneys in the audience to persevere through difficult times, as he has, and to surround themselves with people they trust. "Many of the stresses and the doubts that you may have today are shared by many of the more seasoned lawyers and judges who are in the room today," he said. "You never lose the fear. Fear can propel you or fear can thwart you. Don't let it thwart you. Use that energy that comes from fear to keep from drowning." He stressed that, "when you maintain a cadre of people you trust, to discuss issues with, and ideas, and fears, it makes the night that less long and the days seem much brighter and much faster." A video of the ceremony can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkkd5DQ9TZE&feature=youtu.be

Editor's Note

I am excited to present the newly designed Judiciary Times. We hope to use this new magazine-style format to communicate news and information about the New Jersey Courts more effectively and to showcase photography of events from throughout the Judiciary. The new layout also will enable us to keep more stories on one page instead of continuing them onto more pages. If you have any suggestions for stories or comments on how to improve the Judiciary Times, contact me at mike.mathis@njcourts.gov or at 609-292-9581.

Chief Justice Addresses Criminal Justice Reform, Attorney-Related Issues at Bar Convention

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Criminal justice reform, a new bar examination for attorneys and the risks posed by metadata were the highlights of Chief Justice Stuart Rabner's speech to the New Jersey Bar Association in May.

By Jan. 1, 2017, the state will shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system that is more objective and fairer to defendants. At the same time, deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants will become effective.

The move to reform the state's criminal justice system grew from the work of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, a special committee of the Supreme Court established and chaired by Chief Justice Rabner to examine the issues of bail and speedy trial reform. The committee included the attorney general, public defender, judges and representatives of the executive and legislative branches, county prosecutors, defense counsel, court administration and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The committee drafted a series of recommendations that were incorporated into landmark legislation that enabled the changes coming at the beginning of next year. In addition, voters approved a constitutional change to permit judges to keep high-risk defendants detained without bail. Pilot programs in three vicinages, Camden, Morris/Sussex and Passaic, are underway, and planning for implementation throughout the remainder of the state is proceeding. During his remarks, the chief justice emphasized the reasoning behind and importance of changing New Jersey's criminal justice system. He noted that the current practice relies heavily on defendants posting money or a bond to be released, disadvantaging poor defendants who cannot afford to make bail and who sit in jail even if they pose a minimal risk of flight or danger to the community.

Meanwhile, under the current system, high-risk defendants who pose a great risk of danger to the community or are a serious risk of flight can be freed on bail. Under criminal justice reform, those defendants can and will be detained, pretrial, without bail. The speedy trial law, which also goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, will attempt to ensure that criminal cases are resolved quickly. It will require that defendants be indicted within 90 days of arrest and tried within six months of indictment, with possible extensions of time for motions and plea negotiations.

"Those changes result from the cooperative efforts of all three branches of government," the chief justice said. "They comprise the most substantial changes to the criminal

justice system that the state has seen in decades. And I believe they will make for a better and a fairer system of criminal justice in our state."

The chief justice also discussed several administrative determinations on important areas of legal practice in New Jersey: the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), admission by motion and metadata in electronic documents. Associate Justice Jaynee LaVecchia chaired the committee that studied the UBE and reported those findings to the Supreme Court.

In February 2017, New Jersey will join 21 states that have already adopted the UBE, a standardized test drafted by the National Conference of Bar Examiners that is uniformly administered, graded, and scored in participating jurisdictions. The UBE consists of three components: the Multistate Bar Examination, a multiple choice exam; the Multistate Essay Examination, comprised of six essay questions that test laws of general application; and the Multistate Performance Test, comprised of two writing tasks designed to test practical lawyering skills.

The chief justice said implementation of the UBE allows young lawyers the benefit of portable exams they can transfer among a number of states. It also reduces the financial strain on applicants who seek to sit for multiple exams in different states, which test similar materials, he said.

"We live in a world today that is quite different from decades past," he said. "Millennials who pass the bar in 2016 are likely to change jobs more frequently, move about the country at a greater rate as they begin their careers, and, unfortunately, graduate with increasingly higher levels of debt." Under the practice of admission by motion, an out-of-state lawyer must have passed the bar exam in another state and have practiced in another jurisdiction for five of the last seven years. They must be admitted in a state that



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner (R) and U.S. District Court Chief Judge Jerome B. Simandle updates the audience of the federal courts in New Jersey and addresses the annual convention of the New Jersey State Bar Association in Atlantic City in May.

allows for reciprocity with New Jersey lawyers and they must demonstrate fitness and character to practice law here. They also must complete a course on New Jersey ethics and professionalism. The committee that studied these issues was chaired by retired Chief Justice James R. Zazzali.

"Once again, those changes do not cede control of the admissions or disciplinary process," the chief justice said. "Instead, they reflect the realities of the practice of law today in our state and nation." The chief justice also discussed the implications of metadata, embedded information in electronic documents that is generally hidden from view in a printed document and could include privileged information or other potentially objectionable, private or proprietary information. A committee chaired by Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson carefully studied the issues that have arisen as the electronic sharing of information has become commonplace.

The information metadata can reveal includes the author of a document, dates on which the document was revised, tracked revisions, and comments inserted in margins. The Supreme Court has amended the court rules to protect sensitive client data, clarify attorneys' professional obligations, and foster education programs so that the legal community can be better equipped to meet the unique

challenges inherent in exchanging documents electronically, the chief justice said.

"We all need to take steps to scrub written materials and remove metadata from them and, more generally, to understand the issue before it becomes a problem," he said. "Instead, they reflect the realities of the practice of law today in our state and nation." The chief justice also discussed the implications of metadata, embedded information in electronic documents that is generally hidden from view in a printed document and could include privileged information or other potentially objectionable, private or proprietary information.

Among the information metadata can reflect include the author of a document, dates on which the document was revised, tracked revisions, and comments inserted in margins. The Supreme Court has amended the court rules to protect sensitive client data, clarify attorneys' professional obligations, and foster education programs so that the legal community can be better equipped to meet the unique challenges inherent in exchanging documents electronically, the chief justice said. "We all need to take steps to scrub written materials and remove metadata from them and, more generally, to understand the issue before it becomes a problem," he said.

Criminal Justice Reform—The clock is ticking

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

New Jersey is less than six months away from criminal justice reform becoming reality. On Jan. 1, 2017, the state will shift from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of a defendant's release pending trial to an objective risk-based system. In addition, prosecutors will have the right to seek pre-trial detention for certain defendants. An enabling statute also sets deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants.

The move to reform the state's criminal justice system grew from the work of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, a special committee of the Supreme Court established by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to examine the issues of bail and speedy trial reform. The committee included the attorney general, public defender, judges and representatives of the executive and legislative branches, county prosecutors, defense counsel, court administration and the American Civil Liberties Union. The committee unanimously agreed upon a series of recommendations that were incorporated into landmark legislation.

Voters approved a constitutional change to permit judges to keep high-risk defendants detained without bail. The Judiciary and its partners in local, county and state government have been working for more than a year to

make sure staff and judges are trained, employees are hired, new and existing computer systems are integrated and operational and that court rules and policies are revised and new ones are implemented.

"Criminal justice reform represents a sea change for how criminal cases are handled from the time of arrest until final disposition," said Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, who is leading the Judiciary's implementation efforts. "The premise behind what we're doing is simple. We're creating a fairer system so that poor defendants held on nominal bail for minor crimes who don't pose a danger or risk of non-appearance can be released pending trial, while defendants with access to money and able to make bail may be detained pretrial because of the potential to commit other crimes while out on release." "But while the reasons behind criminal justice reform are simple, implementing these systems changes are extremely complex," the judge added.

Pilot programs in three vicinages, Camden, Morris/Sussex and Passaic, are underway, and planning for implementation throughout the remainder of the state is proceeding. The Burlington and Mercer vicinages held kickoff events in June; others are scheduled through the fall.

The Judiciary has been hard at work in a number of ways to implement criminal justice reform. It has been working with the Arnold Foundation, a criminal justice **cont'd on page 17**

Law Day 2016

Miranda: More than Words

Atlantic/Cape May

Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Law Day events began on April 29 with students from three high schools learning about the Law Day theme through the One Judge One School program, in which judges are paired with a school and give presentations and host courthouse visits. The annual Law Day theme is the focus at every presentation during the school year.

The vicinage hosted a community outreach event at the Atlantic City bus terminal on May 2. Other agencies represented included Jewish Family Services, Volunteers of America, and New Jersey Transit.

On May 3, Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez presided over a naturalization ceremony at Congress Hall in Cape May. A total of 30 new immigrants from 18 countries and five continents became new citizens. Superior Court Judges Michael Donahue and James Pickering administered the Oath of Allegiance.

On May 4, students from Mainland Regional High School, winner of the Atlantic County High School Mock Trial competition, were recognized by the Atlantic County Superior Court and the Atlantic County Bar Association. Criminal Presiding Judge Bernard DeLury and Judge Donna Taylor presented certificates to the mock trial team participants and gave a presentation on the year's Law Day theme. The bar association presented certificates to the mock trial winners and spoke of their experience on the Law Day theme.

On May 6, the vicinage recognized the Cape May County winners of the high school mock trial competition, Middle Township High School. Judge Mendez and members of the Cape May County Bar Association presented the certificates. A law fair hosted by the Cape May County Bar Association followed the ceremony.

Burlington

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder kicked off the annual celebration on May 3 by reading a proclamation declaring Law Day in Burlington County. Judge Gerard H. Breland sang the national anthem and JROTC cadets from Pemberton Township High School presented the colors.

The bar association presented a panel discussion on "Miranda at 50: Still Singing Like a Canary." Panelists included retired Judge Dennis J. Braithwaite; retired Deputy First Assistant Burlington County Prosecutor James A. Ronca and Assistant Public Defender Kevin Walker. Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore and Assistant Deputy Public Defender Alicia Hubbard performed musical parodies on the Miranda theme.

The court's "Courtroom to Classroom" series featured the Juror for a Day program. A total of 180 seventh and eighth grade students were summoned to report for jury duty for the trial of Ministry of Magic v. Harry Potter. Potter was



Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Presiding Criminal Judge Bernard E. DeLury hand a certificate to a member of the winning mock trial team from Mainland Regional High School. Also pictured are Criminal Division Judge Donna M. Taylor (center) and Rebecca Lafferty of the Atlantic County Bar Association.



Students participate in the Juror for a Day program as part of the Burlington Vicinage's Law Day festivities. The young jurors decided the case of Ministry of Magic v. Henry Potter.

accused of murdering Voldemort. Students learned first-hand about their civic obligation to serve as jurors and followed the trial through to a “not guilty” verdict. The court joined with the Burlington County Bar Association to offer a social media program to high school students. Attorney Anthony Aldorassi visited six high schools and told students about the laws relating to social media and the impact irresponsible use could have on their future, including scholarships.

Law Day events continued throughout May. Community outreach programs included participating in a Senior Expo and Willingboro’s “Strong Families Build Strong Communities.” Each event offered the court the opportunity to educate the community on court services and provide information on Judiciary procedures. The month-long activities culminated with an art contest award ceremony. Fourth and fifth grade students were honored for their artwork that focused on the Law Day theme.

Camden

The Camden Vicinage hosted its annual Law Day celebration on May 2 at the Hall of Justice in Camden.

Students from the Eastern Camden County Regional High School, Lawnside Public School, Camden County Technical Schools, Pennsauken Public Schools, and the LEAP Academy University Charter School in Camden participated.

“As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Miranda v. Arizona* and the procedural protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution, it is fitting that we also stop to appreciate the role that the courts play in safeguarding our constitutional rights. It is our hope that students will leave with a stronger understanding of the court’s function and trust in the system,” Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz said.

Family Court Judge Morris G. Smith gave opening remarks and Trial Court Administrator Carole A. Cummings introduced a video featuring Chief Justice Stuart Rabner speaking on the Law Day theme.

Students also enjoyed a panel discussion moderated by Presiding Criminal Division Judge Edward J. McBride Jr., followed by a tour of the courthouse and juvenile holding cells. Presiding Family Division Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr. delivered closing remarks.

Panelists included Cherry Hill Police Chief William Monaghan, Brenda Lee Eutsler, former president of the Camden County Bar Foundation, Timothy Chatten, assistant prosecutor and section chief of the juvenile unit, and Assistant Deputy Public Defender Felicia B. Felder.

The program, sponsored by the vicinage in partnership with the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey and the Camden County Bar Association, was made possible with funding from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Essex

More than 3,000 students from 50 schools throughout Essex County participated in the mock trial presentations and the art and writing contests. Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria extended her gratitude to the 36 Superior Court and municipal court judges who participated in the presentations. This popular program, one of the largest in New Jersey, was made possible through the efforts and commitment of the Essex County Bar Association and the 70 attorneys and law clerks who volunteered. Judge Floria



Students and court staff in Burlington Vicinage celebrated Law Day by trying the case of *Ministry of Magic v. Harry Potter*.



Camden Vicinage Presiding Criminal Judge Edward J. McBride Jr. (standing) moderates a panel discussion on the *Miranda* case at the Camden County Hall of Justice in Camden.



Student participants in Essex Vicinage Law Day's event



Supreme Court Associate Justice Barry T. Albin gives the keynote address at Hudson Vicinage's Law Day awards ceremony at the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse in Jersey City.

Honor Guard and middle school students from the Hudson School in Hoboken. Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise read the Law Day proclamation, which was followed by a video of Chief Justice Stuart Rabner discussing the Law Day theme.

Judge Bariso awarded the Liberty Bell Award to retired Judge Kevin G. Callahan for his 27 years of service to the Judiciary. Callahan is a member of the board of trustees of Hudson County College and is the intern coordinator at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, where he helps students obtain internships with the Judiciary.

Anna Noris, volunteer mock trial attorney coach, presented the certificates and plaque to the teacher coach and the winning team, Union City High School. For the third consecutive year, members of the Law Day Planning Committee and attorney coaches coordinated a mini mock trial for elementary schools students. Many schools throughout Hudson County participated, including fourth grade classes from Harrison, Bayonne and North Bergen.

The students tried the case of Mom A. Bear, Pop A. Bear and Babe E. Bear vs. Gold E. Locks. The charges against the defendant Gold E. Locks were trespassing by entering the Bears' home without permission and destruction of property for allegedly breaking Babe E. Bear's chair. The winner was a class from the Nicolas Oresko School in Bayonne.

Middlesex

Middlesex Vicinage held several events in May to celebrate Law Day. The festivities began with the annual Project Law

gave the keynote address. She encouraged the audience to consider Law Day "an opportunity for the legal community to gather and rededicate ourselves to the fundamental ideals of our justice system. It is an opportunity to educate the community and display our respect for our legal system that is so vital to a healthy democracy."

Following her address, Judge Floria presented the second annual Spirit of Law Day Award to the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts in East Orange. This award is given to an individual or entity who has demonstrated an enduring commitment to an independent judiciary and to the rule of law.

One of the highlights of this year's celebration was the inaugural rap contest. The winning entry was submitted by The Miranda Rights Crew of the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts. The winning rap was performed at the recognition program before an audience of judges, attorneys, students and court personnel.

Additional information about Law Day and how to volunteer for the 2017 Law Day celebrations can be found at www.njcourts.gov/essex. The winning essays, poems, posters and rap will soon be available there.

Hudson

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Barry Albin was the keynote speaker at the Law Day awards ceremony, held in the rotunda of the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse in Jersey City on May 2. About 250 people attended the event, at which the winners of the mock trial, mini mock trial, art and the essay, rap and poetry contests were announced.

Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. presented the opening remarks during the ceremony, which featured performances by the Hudson County Sheriff's Department

program on May 9, when the Middlesex County Bar Foundation hosted its annual program at the Middlesex County Courthouse in New Brunswick. The Middlesex County Mock Trial team champions from East Brunswick Township High School were honored, as were the student winners of the county Project Law Essay contest, students from John P. Stevens High School and Middlesex County Academy for Applied Health and Biomedical Science. The East Brunswick Township High School mock trial team performed an excerpt from its winning performance; Superior Court Judge John Jorgensen and retired Superior Court Judges Bradley J. Ferencz and Glenn Berman participated.

The vicinage and the Middlesex County Bar Association presented an informational session on the evening of May 11 at an elementary school in New Brunswick. Attorneys and court representatives presented information about landlord / tenant, child support, expungement and domestic violence those in attendance. The vicinage also celebrated Law Day in the classroom. The program Right to Remain Silent was presented to students at high schools throughout the county. The program, which opened with a video message from Chief Justice Stuart Rabner on the Law Day theme, focused on the Miranda case. Many students did not know that the “Miranda warning” they hear on television shows and that police officers recite in real life came from this case. Superior Court Judges Vincent LeBlon and Arnold Natali Jr. presented the program.

Monmouth

The Monmouth Vicinage joined the Monmouth Bar Association on May 2 to conduct programs celebrating the significance of the rule of law and the ideals of equality and justice under the law. The celebration commenced at the Monmouth County Courthouse in Freehold with a roundtable discussion for approximately 80 students moderated by Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton.

Judge Mara Zazzali-Hogan, chair of the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, welcomed students from Asbury Park High School’s Academy of Law and Public Safety, Colts Neck High School’s Law Enforcement and Public Safety Academy, Manalapan High School’s Academy of Law and Public Safety and Neptune High School’s Criminal Justice Jump Start Program. Barry Serebnick, a member of the minority concerns committee, provided historical background and an overview of the Miranda decision and its impact.

A dynamic discussion ensued when Judge Thornton prompted the panel about media portrayal of how law enforcement upholds Miranda rights during custodial interrogations. Panelist Hester Agudosi, deputy director of the New Jersey Attorney General’s Equal Employment Opportunity Office, emphasized doing the “right thing” and stated, “It’s not to our benefit to get a coerced statement.” Agudosi agreed that videotaped statements make the process easier, and Acting Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni confirmed that Monmouth was the first county in the state to videotape custodial interrogations. Students posed questions to the panel, which also included Patrice Bearden, deputy assistant, Monmouth County Public Defender’s Office; Thomas Huth, senior litigation counsel, Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office; Marc LeMieux, first assistant, Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office and criminal defense attorney Steven E. Nelson.

The celebration continued in the afternoon with a ceremony at the Hall of Records. Judge Thornton gave opening remarks and the Law Day video by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner was presented. Judge Anthony J. Mellaci, Jr., criminal division presiding judge, presented remarks on the history of Miranda. Judge Thornton presented the 2016 Law Day Essay and Art Contest winners with plaques. The winners, both from Freehold Township High School, were Eden Breslauer-Friedman for the essay category and Trinity Pelina for artwork. Students from Middletown High School North received the Daniel J. O’Hern Mock Trial Award for winning this year’s Monmouth County High School Mock Trial Competition. Attorney John P. Duggan received the Abraham J. Zager Professionalism Award from the Monmouth Bar Association.

Morris/Sussex

The Law Day celebration in Sussex County was on April 29 at the historic courthouse in Newton. Retired Judge Ronald

Editor’s Note

Instituted by the American Bar Association (ABA) 57 years ago, Law Day is observed each year throughout New Jersey by the Judiciary in partnership with county bar associations. A special day set aside to focus on the American heritage of liberty under law, Law Day was officially designated by a joint resolution of Congress in 1961. The event has grown over the years, with many counties hosting activities throughout May. This year’s theme was “Miranda: More than Words.” This year marks the 50th anniversary of Miranda v. Arizona, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case which led to the reading of Miranda rights by law enforcement prior to the interrogation of a suspect in custody.



The Morristown String Ensemble opened the Law Day ceremony at the Morris County Courthouse in Morristown on May 2.



New citizens raise their hands in allegiance to the United States during a naturalization ceremony at the Passaic County Courthouse in Paterson.

and Excellence in the Administration of Justice Award. Music was performed by the Ocean Early Childhood Center of Brick.

Passaic

New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson administered the Oath of Citizenship to 28 new citizens from 11 countries at a naturalization ceremony on May 6. The new citizens included a married couple from the Philippines. The new citizens hailed from Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Jordan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Philippines and Venezuela.

Judge Sohail Mohammed led the new citizen program, sharing his own experiences of becoming a naturalized citizen, and introducing the speakers. Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela; John E. Thompson, district director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Nancy Everett from the office of U.S. Rep. William J. Pascrell Jr.; Passaic County Freeholder Director Theodore O. Best Jr.; Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia Valdes and Jeffrey Trapenese, president of the Passaic County Bar Association, spoke.

Passaic County Clerk Kristin Corrado spoke to the new citizens about passports, Assistant Passaic County Superintendent of Elections Shona Mack-Pollack discussed voting rights and responsibilities and Jury Manager Patricia Storzillo discussed jury services. The new citizens also witnessed a demonstration of how to use a voting machine. Middle and high school students were invited to submit posters, poetry and videos that best illustrated the Law Day theme. Winners were invited to watch the new citizen program and participate in the awards ceremony. After the awards ceremony, the students were treated to a pizza luncheon sponsored by the Passaic County Bar Association.

B. Graves was honored for a lifetime of service to the practice of law. Music from the Law Day Brass Band echoed beautifully in the halls welcoming those in attendance. John D. Williams, Sussex County Bar Association president and attorney Mark J. Hontz, who chairs the Law Day committee, addressed the attendees. The Sussex County mock trial winners from High Point Regional High School were honored.

Law Day festivities in Morris County were held during a noontime ceremony on May 2 in the historic courtroom of the Morris County Courthouse, in Morristown. The Morristown String Ensemble, under the direction of Norma Davis, opened the ceremony. The Morris County Sheriff's Department Color Guard presented the colors as Rashad Shabaka-Burns, trial court administrator, led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz welcomed the keynote speaker, Appellate Division Judge Robert J. Gilson, who spoke on the Law Day theme. Jennifer McAndrew, president of the Morris County Bar Foundation, also spoke. The mock trial team from West Morris Mendham High School was honored during the ceremony. The team won the county and regional titles in the 2016 Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition.

Ocean

The Ocean Vicinage held its Law Day celebration on May 3 in Historic Courtroom 1 of the Ocean County Courthouse in Toms River. The program, co-sponsored by the Ocean County Bar Association, included keynote speaker attorney Richard H. Archer Jr., the presentation of the association's mock trial competition awards and the announcement of the recipients of the association's memorial scholarships.

The association's officers and trustees Law Day awards were presented, including the Achievement Award, John M. Hoffman Memorial Young Lawyer Award, Citizenship Award,



Gary Paul Wright, founder and executive director, African American Office of Gay Concerns and a member of Essex County LGBTQ Advisory Board; Robyn B. Gigl, partner at Gluck Walrath LLP and member of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns and Lisa Burke, minority concerns program coordinator at the Administrative Office of the Courts, spoke at the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage Law Day event.

Two schools, Clifton High School and Passaic Valley High School conducted a mock trial before Municipal Court Judges Toni Damiano and Debbie Kugler-Irwin. Clifton High School was judged the winner of a hard-fought contest by a panel of jurors consisting of law clerks, attorneys and prosecutors. The naturalization ceremony and the Law Day program were sponsored by the Passaic Vicinage and the Passaic County Bar Association.

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

The Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage celebrated Law Day with two public programs. On April 28, the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns hosted a seminar, Tools and Resources for Ensuring Access to Justice and Equity in Services for LGBT Youth, at the Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville.

A total of 60 people, including judges, attorneys, assistant prosecutors, educators, social workers, county employees, Judiciary employees and members of the public attended. Judge Peter J. Tober gave the opening remarks and introduced the panelists, which included Lisa Burke of the Minority Concerns Unit at the Administrative Office of the Courts; Robyn B. Gigl, a partner at the law firm of Gluck Walrath LLP and a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns; Danielle King, president of Lambda Law Alliance and a member of Diversity Council at Seton Hall University of Law and Gary Paul Wright, founder and executive director of the African American Office of Gay Concerns and a member of the Essex County LGBTQ Advisory Board.

Panelists examined the needs of LGBT youth regarding education, homelessness, health and law. Information

regarding sexual orientation and gender identity experiences among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth was shared through personal stories from the presenters. The program was well received and a second program was held in June for the joint meeting of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns and VACMC members.

On May 17, the family division held a child support and custody seminar for the public at the Somerset County Courthouse. Team Leader Erica Carman provided information on how to file a complaint for child support, custody and/or parenting time. She also discussed the process to modify an existing child support or parenting time order, along with a general overview of what to expect at a family court hearing. The program was well received and will remain part of the vicinage's ongoing mission to ensure access and fairness.

Union

The Union Vicinage and the Union County Bar Association held its annual Law Day program on May 13. Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Judge James P. Wilson, chair of the Minority Concerns Committee, spoke.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael A. Shipp spoke about the personal story of Ernesto Arturo Miranda, the circumstances surrounding Miranda's arrest and the U.S. Supreme Court decision that established Miranda Rights as law and practice for police officers.

The Burnet Middle School All Star Select Chorus performed. The bar association presented awards to the first, second and third place winners of the essay, poetry/spoken word/rap and poster contests. The winners of the contests enjoyed viewing their work in the courthouse lobby. The program was co-sponsored by the Union Vicinage Minority Concerns Committee, the Bar Foundation of Union County, the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association, the Garden State Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association.

Lawrence Bethea, David Beverly, Brenda Carmichael, Michael Eisner, Cari Ann Gingerelli, Candice Hendricks, Kimberly Locker, Donna Mazzanti, Kathleen Obringer, Elizabeth Raimondo, Vanessa Ravenelle, Jennifer Shultis, Janet Slocum and June Zieder contributed to this report.

Editor's Note

The deadline for the Fall 2016 edition of the Judiciary Times is Friday, Sept. 2. Feature stories about court programs and newsworthy profiles about judges and court staff are welcome. Submissions can be sent to mike.mathis@njcourts.gov.

Vicinages Host Criminal Justice Reform Rollouts for stakeholders



The Mercer and Burlington vicinages recently held events to educate and inform stakeholders on changes to the state's criminal justice system set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Among those who spoke about the importance of criminal justice reform in New Jersey were (from top left) Chief Justice Stuart Rabner; Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts; Judge Gerard H. Breland, a family division judge who sang *The Star Spangled Banner* at the Burlington event; Mercer Vicinage Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson, and Burlington Vicinage Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder.



New Jersey Judiciary

Bridging a Training Gap

By Donna Mazzanti and Frank Carr
Burlington Vicinage

The Burlington Vicinage has joined with the Burlington County Library System to offer a new program, Super Supervisors: Stepping Up to Supervision, which bridges a gap in local vicinage training.

Twenty newly promoted supervisors and managers recently participated in the five-day program, which focuses on communication, conflict resolution, and how to properly document when an employee is not doing well in their job.

They were required to take the Judiciary's mandatory six-day management leadership training before enrolling in the program.

Participants practiced addressing issues and problems and received feedback from classmates and facilitators. Vicinage training coordinator Frank Carr and Kathleen Carr of the library system facilitated program, which culminated with a graduation ceremony.

In attendance at the ceremony were Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore, Library Director Ranjna Das and Assistant Director Heather Andolsen and the facilitators.

Evaluations indicated that participants better understood their roles as supervisors and felt confident in applying what they learned in the program to their jobs.

Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage welcomes new attorney



Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez congratulates a new citizen during a naturalization ceremony at Congress Hall in Cape May on May 3. Judge Mendez and Superior Court Judges Michael Donohue and James Pickering administered the oath to the 29 new citizens, who hail from 17 countries. The ceremony was conducted by the vicinage and the Cape May County Bar Association, Cape May County government and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



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.



New Jersey Judiciary staff are pictured following their graduation from the National Center for State Court's Institute for Court Management. They are Kenneth W. Kerwin (instructor/facilitator), Dorothy Howell [instructor/facilitator], Amy Chack, Kristi Robinson, Caroline Ilogienboh, Robert Eppenstein, Lesley Rodriguez, Howard Beckford, Jessica Hogan, Michael Lasko, Brendis Montijo-Wrigley, Kelly Johnston, Rachel Lagreca, Jo Ann Ezze, Michele Mora and Tina LaLena (instructor/facilitator).

Judiciary Offering Staff Training on Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming Clients

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Few people give a thought to which restroom they use or how they're addressed.

The New Jersey Judiciary gives it a lot of thought.

Since last year, the Judiciary has been holding classes throughout the state on effective and appropriate supervision techniques for transgender and gender nonconforming clients and to ensure compliance with state and federal law and the Judiciary's policies on anti-discrimination and its Code of Conduct.

New Jersey has been at the forefront of this issue and has expressly protected gender identity and expression since 2007. Recent expansions of LGBT rights has prompted transgender and gender nonconforming individuals to assert their rights under the law.

"It's not that it's new, it's that people are feeling more comfortable exercising their rights under the law," Judiciary EEO/AA Officer Tonya Hopson told a class of 22 probation

officers and staff from the criminal and family division at a recent training in Monmouth County. "We want to make sure we are safeguarding those protections."

Because the law and terminology continues to evolve, probation officers must stay informed of changes, Hopson said.

Probation officers enforce court orders and help rehabilitate clients by supervising offenders and monitoring their behavior while treating them with dignity and respect.

"That person (on probation) does not waive their civil liberties," said Liz Domingo, assistant director of probation services. "The role we have been entrusted with is to make a positive influence in their lives that have been entrusted to us."

That includes how they refer to and treat transgender individuals, those whose gender identity differs from the sex the doctor marked on their birth certificate. Gender identity refers to how someone views themselves; gender expression refers to how others see them.

“Transgender is not sexual orientation. Transgender is gender identity,” said David Beverly, the Union Vicinage’s EEO/AA officer who teaches a general course on transgender issues.

One area that has received much media attention recently involves the use of restrooms by transgender individuals, an important issue for probation officers and drug court staff who administer urine screens. Laws do not require that a person appear a certain way to use a restroom. Discrimination against transgender individuals is unlawful under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Probations officers who administer urine test screens were told to direct a client to the restroom of their choice. Domingo instructed officers to ask clients how they want to

be addressed and to be mindful of how they interact with them so they don’t unintentionally discriminate against them. She also advised them to exercise caution with the language they use in case notes and not to inadvertently “out” clients during home, school and work visits. Sally Struble, a senior probation officer in the Monmouth Vicinage who attended the training, said it was important to learn and understand the terminology and to stay informed of changes.

“As a professional, you should know the correct language to use so you don’t offend anyone,” Struble said. “I know I wouldn’t want to offend anyone.” Hopson said the training will be offered to newly hired probation officers and pretrial services officers who are being hired as part of the criminal justice reform initiative.

Camden and DHS Hosted Naturalization Ceremony in June



Twenty people took the Oath of Citizenship in Camden on Flag Day, June 14. Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz presided over the ceremony and administered the oath.

The Camden Vicinage and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security hosted a naturalization ceremony on Flag Day, June 14 at the Camden County Hall of Justice in Camden. Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz presided over the ceremony and administered the Oath of Citizenship to 20 applicants from 10 countries. Ana Fernandez, a retired vicinage senior probation officer and naturalized citizen who immigrated to the United States from Cuba as a teenager, gave the keynote address. Fernandez was part of the mass emigration of Cubans who traveled from Cuba’s Mariel Harbor to the United States in 1980 seeking asylum. Camden County Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli Jr. and Camden County Bar Association President Louis R. Moffa Jr. also delivered remarks. Freeholder Susan Shin Angulo led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Camden County Sheriff’s Honor Guard presented the colors for a flag salute and the Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy Choir performed the national anthem and other patriotic songs. Students from the Catto Community School’s 8th grade class prepared letters for the new citizens.

Judiciary Dedicates Portrait of Retired Justice James Coleman



Members of the Supreme Court, dignitaries, staff and family were present at a portrait dedication ceremony for Retired Supreme Court Associate Justice James H. Coleman Jr. at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton on June 21. Justice Coleman, the first African-American man to serve on the Supreme Court, served as a judge of the New Jersey Workers Compensation Court before he was named to the Union County Court in 1973. In 1978, he was appointed to the Superior Court and three years later he was promoted to the Appellate Division. He was named presiding judge in 1987 and Gov. Christie Whitman nominated him to the Supreme Court in 1994. He retired in 2003 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. The portrait hangs in the chambers area adjacent to the Supreme Court courtroom.

On the Move

By Peter McAleer
Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

Jason J. Corter is the new trial court administrator in the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage, succeeding Mark Sprock, who retired June 30 after a 36-year career with the Judiciary.

Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio announced Corter's appointment. Under New Jersey court rules, the administrative director of the courts appoints the trial court administrator in each vicinage. Judge Grant said he named Corter on the strong recommendation of Judge Curio. Corter will work closely with Judge Curio and vicinage leadership to manage a court operation that includes 23 judges and 560 staff members.

"Jason has been an outstanding division manager and brings an innovative yet practical approach to the position of trial court administrator," said Judge Curio. The trial court administrator is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage, in charge of all court operations, including financial



**Cumberland/
Gloucester/Salem
Vicinage new Trial
Court Administrator
Jason J. Corter.**

management, human resources, information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis.

Corter earned a master of human resources training and development degree from Seton Hall University and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Coastal Carolina University. Corter began his career with the New Jersey Judiciary in 2000 working in the family division. He most recently served as family division manager for the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage.

"I am both proud and humbled to receive this appointment," Corter said. "The staff and judges here are some of the best in the state and I will serve them and all those who come to the courts for justice, to the best of my ability."

Judiciary Celebrates National Probation Week

By Peter McAleer
Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

In recognition of National Probation Week, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner praised the work of probation professionals and the role they play in helping to supervise and rehabilitate adult and juvenile offenders.

"Through their dedicated efforts and expertise, probation officers in the Judiciary help rebuild lives and families," Chief Justice Rabner said. "Probation officers maintain close ties to their clients and to the community, helping clients obtain job training, counseling, addiction treatment and mental health treatment. To their clients, they offer discipline, guidance, expertise and compassion. To the community, they offer the assurance that court orders are enforced fairly and conscientiously to maintain the rule of law."

Probation Week was from July 17 through July 22, culminating in a recognition ceremony at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton. Photos from the ceremony can be viewed at www.facebook.com/New-Jersey-Courts-92569242329/.

"In our criminal courts and family courts, and through our drug court and mental health programs, probation officers perform work that improves our society," said Elizabeth Domingo, assistant director of probation services. "They often work evenings and weekends to follow up with clients and make sure they are obeying court orders. During Probation Week, and throughout the year, we are grateful for their commitment and service."

The Judiciary's 1,350 probation officers perform a number of vital roles. Probation officers supervise adult

and juvenile offenders, ensuring compliance with court-ordered obligations such as finding and maintaining a job, performing community service, paying fines and restitutions, attending school and substance abuse treatment programs, and adhering to curfews. Offenders with mental health issues that might affect their ability to comply successfully with court orders are supervised by a group of probation officers with specialized training.

New Jersey's statewide drug court program relies on probation officers to help non-violent, drug-dependent offenders break the cycle of drug abuse and crime. With intensive treatment, close supervision and a system of rewards and sanctions to encourage compliance, the drug court program has become a national model. Probation officers also assist the criminal courts by conducting detailed investigations and producing comprehensive sentencing reports that help judges decide on appropriate sentences. In the family courts, probation officers research domestic violence cases and perform risk assessments. They also conduct investigations into child custody disputes and help develop and implement rehabilitation plans for juvenile offenders. The Office of Probation Services helps children and their families by collecting \$1.3 billion annually in court-ordered child support payments. In addition, about \$29 million in restitution, fines, fees and penalties are collected. Through the efforts of probation officers, more than 974,000 community service hours are enforced each year, with an estimated value of \$8.4 million in services given back to communities.

"Probation work is both challenging and rewarding," Chief Justice Rabner said. "To our colleagues in probation, we say thank you for your ongoing, exemplary work."

CJR—the clock is ticking

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foundation, to develop the objective risk-assessment tool that has been validated with data from tens of thousands of actual New Jersey cases.

That tool – which will be integrated with existing state and federal criminal databases – will help judges assess the level of risk of a defendant based on a series of 9 factors. Judges will use this information to make the release or detention determination within 24 to 48 hours of defendant's arrest. The Judiciary is in the process of hiring more than 200 pretrial services officers who will prepare an estimated 70,000 evaluations a year to assist judges making decisions about pretrial releases. The Judiciary is working county officials in all 21 counties to ensure adequate space and facilities for this new function. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has held public hearings on changes and revisions to court

rules related to criminal justice reform. The changes and revisions were borne from two Supreme Court committees, the Criminal Practice Committee and Municipal Court Practice Committee.

The Judiciary also has engaged in extensive outreach with the Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office and others to train the many stakeholders whose participation is essential to the success of criminal justice reform. Outreach efforts also extend to court staff and the public to ensure all understand why criminal justice reform is important. These efforts include videos, newsletter articles and columns, broadcast messages and pages at njcourts.gov and on the Judiciary's Intranet site. "This represents a historic change and opportunity to improve how criminal justice is delivered in New Jersey," Judge Grant said. "All components of the state's criminal justice system—law enforcement, prosecution, defense, the courts and corrections have been working together to make this initiative successful."

Juveniles Benefit From Evening Reporting Program (ERP) Through Community Services

By Melanie M. Nowling
Family Division Manager
Passaic Vicinage

Fostering leadership, education, community service, behavior modification and life skills, the Passaic Vicinage Evening Reporting Program (ERP) is a respite for many at-risk youth.

Operated by Director LaQuan Hargrove, the ERP is a pre-dispositional alternative to detention for Passaic County juveniles.

To be placed in the ERP, Family Division Judge Rudolph Filko must be convinced that the juvenile will benefit from and take advantage of available services.

Programs and events offered through the ERP vary and address virtually every aspect of a juvenile's life. They include visits to local colleges and universities to experience college life, attending undergraduate classes, interacting with college students and participating in class discussions about incarceration and the justice system.

Community service activities include cooking and serving food to senior citizens in conjunction with the Passaic County Division of Senior Services, a community clean-up and cookout, speaking with elementary school students

about staying out of the juvenile justice system and how it has affected them and participating in the "Slam Dunk the Junk" initiative at Great Falls National Park. "Slam Dunk the Junk," which is sponsored by the New Jersey Clean Communities Council, reminds New Jerseyans to put trash in trash cans and recyclables in recycling bins. In conjunction with Presiding Family Division Judge Greta Gooden Brown, program members who successfully completed the program participated in a graduation ceremony to acknowledge their accomplishments and participated in Youth Government Day hosted by the Passaic County Board of Freeholders and in a local rally to end youth violence.

Participants also enjoyed a presentation on the culinary arts presented by Chef James Hornes and took part in a job search program, where they learned how to complete a job application. When they secured jobs through the ERP and the Passaic County One Stop Career Center, the money they earned was used to pay court-imposed fines, school clothes and to open personal bank accounts.

"The ERP serves a vital role in keeping juveniles out of the detention center," Judge Gooden Brown said. "The program provides a safe, structured and supportive environment that is sometimes lacking in the juvenile's home environment."

Passaic Vicinage Hosts Inspirational "Teens in Transition" Fair for Youth in DCP&P Care

By Susana Ramalhosa
Family Division
Passaic Vicinage

Passaic Vicinage held its annual Teens in Transition Fair on May 24 at City Green Farm in Clifton. This year's theme was SEEDS (Self-sufficient, Educated, Employed, Determined Survivors) to Success. The objective of SEEDS to Success was to help adolescents in the custody of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Superior Court Judge Daniel J. Yablonsky, the lead Children-in-Court judge in the Passaic Vicinage, gave the opening remarks, welcomed the 25 youth participants and introduced keynote speaker Yvonne Harvey-Williams. Harvey-Williams, a Paterson native, is an author and motivational speaker. She shared her experience growing up in Paterson, overcoming substance abuse, poverty, depression, abandonment and homelessness to become a successful adult. Harvey-Williams encouraged the youth to pursue their dreams despite obstacles.

Youth participated in four workshops, including a cooking class with Paterson native and celebrity chef Vaughn Crenshaw. They explored the farm, enjoyed a healthy picnic and learned how to maintain an urban farm. Vendors and organizations represented included the Paterson Public Library, Passaic County YMCA, Comfort Zone Camp, Circle of Care, Youth Advocate Program, Department of Children and Families, Passaic County Community College, Passaic County 4-H Club, the New Jersey Center for Disease Control and Foster and Adoptive Family Services. The event was organized by Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Passaic Vicinage Family Division, DCP&P, the Passaic County Law Guardian's Office, Straight and Narrow Family Support Center and the Center for Family Resources.



Superior Court Judge Daniel Yablonsky welcomes participants.



Keynote speaker Yvonne Harvey-Williams addresses participants.



Chef Vaughn Crenshaw teaches a cooking lesson.

Chief Justice Elevates Passaic Vicinage Judge Greta Gooden Brown to Appellate Division

By Pete McAleer
 Communications Manager
 Administrative Office of the Courts

Superior Court Judge Greta Gooden Brown will be temporarily assigned to the Appellate Division effective Aug. 1, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has announced. The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is New Jersey's intermediate appellate court. The 32 Appellate Division judges hear appeals from decisions of the trial courts, the Tax Court and state administrative agencies. The Appellate Division generally decides between 6,000 and 6,500 appeals and about 8,500 motions each year.



Judge Greta Gooden Brown

Prior to her judgeship, Judge Gooden Brown served as New Jersey's insurance fraud prosecutor from 2001 to 2009, heading one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the state. During her 26-year career as a prosecutor, Judge Brown also served in various supervisory capacities in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, including the appellate bureau and the institutional abuse unit. She is the first African-American to serve as an assistant attorney general in

the history of the office's Division of Criminal Justice.

From 1994 to 2001, Judge Gooden Brown headed the Attorney General's prosecutors and police bureau where she was responsible for overseeing the work of all 21 county prosecutors. She is the recipient of a citation from the late U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg for exemplary public service and leadership and was cited by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly for her meritorious record of service, leadership and commitment.

Judge Gooden Brown holds an associate degree from Essex County College, a bachelor's degree from Douglass College and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law.

"I have been privileged to work with the judges and staff in the Passaic Vicinage for the past seven years, and am extremely grateful to them for their support," Judge Gooden Brown said. "I welcome the opportunity to continue my service to the people of New Jersey on the appellate bench."

Did You Know?

The Judiciary's Communications and Community Relations Office has a graphic designer. Contact Nicholas Mancini at designer.mailbox@njcourts.gov if you need a publication, report, signage or programs for an upcoming event.

Mark Sprock, Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem TCA, Retires After 36-year Judiciary Career

By Mike Mathis
Judiciary Times Editor

Mark Sprock didn't plan to spend his entire career with the Judiciary when he graduated from Glassboro State College in 1980. Sprock didn't plan not to, either.

In January 1980, he accepted a job as an investigator in what was then called the family intake unit in the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage, overseeing the cases of children who were placed on community service. It was the first position among several in the Judiciary that Sprock would hold in the ensuing three decades before becoming trial court administrator, the highest executive position in the vicinage.

Thirty-six years later, Sprock has retired. Succeeding him is Jason Corter, the vicinage's family division manager. The vicinage has 23 judges and 560 staff members. "I was excited to be selected in 2007 to be trial court administrator, and it has been my honor to work alongside Assignment Judge Georgia Curio and to be the trial court administrator of such a wonderful and hard-working vicinage," Sprock said in an interview before his June 30 departure.

The trial court administrator is the highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations, including financial management, human resources, information systems, case coordination, case flow management, probation services, jury utilization, facilities, equipment, maintenance, records management and statistical analysis.

Judge Curio and Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, spoke highly of Sprock's stewardship of the vicinage and his long commitment to public service. "We all owe Mark Sprock a debt of gratitude for the leadership he has provided," Judge Curio said. "The courts in all three counties are ready to be handed over to new leadership thanks to Mark's stewardship. He is a wonderful colleague and a friend to all of us."

"Mark has been a leader in the courts throughout his tenure," Judge Grant said, "He has chaired important policy-making

committees and has tackled every possible administrative challenge, from recovering after a devastating flood to managing with staff and judicial shortages. He will be missed."

Armed with a sociology degree from Glassboro State College, Sprock applied for positions at social service agencies, took the civil service test and was placed on the investigator list. He eventually received a telephone call about a position with the Judiciary.



Trial Court Administrator Mark Sprock retired after 36 years of service with the New Jersey Judiciary.

"It was just one of those opportunities out there," recalled Sprock, 59, who was raised in Woodbury and now lives in Clarksboro, Gloucester County. "I had no strategic plan. I was happy to have a good job and thought it would be a good opportunity for me."

After a short stint in the family division, Sprock became a probation officer in September 1980, overseeing an alcohol-related caseload before becoming a principal probation officer working on child support cases. He later served as assistant chief probation officer in Cumberland County, acting municipal division manager, and was operations manager when Judge Curio named him trial court administrator in October 2007.

"Once you're working for the Judiciary, you realize what a good job it is," said Sprock, who spent 20 of his 36-year career in the probation division. "You decide at some point you want to stay and make it your career." Sprock said he'll miss the relationship he has developed during his long career, especially with the judges and staff in the vicinage and the officials in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties with whom he has forged strong partnerships. He said he plans to keep busy with home improvement and property maintenance projects at his church. Sprock's wife is an elementary special education in Woodbury. The couple has two children, both college graduates.

"It's been an honor and privilege to work for the Judiciary," he said.