

JUDICIARY TIMES

A Publication of the  New Jersey Courts

Summer 2011

Law Day 2011: The Legacy of John Adams

Patriot's Defense of Unpopular Defendants Inspired Discussions and Presentations

Editor's note: Instituted by the American Bar Association (ABA) 53 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 the month of May. This year's theme was The Legacy of John Adams: from Boston to Guantanamo.

The following are but a few of the many high points of this year's observances.

Atlantic/Cape May

On April 29, the Superior Court of Atlantic and Cape May counties and the Cape May County Bar Association honored the Middle Township High School Mock Trial team at the Cape May County Courthouse.

Judge John Porto was pleased to be the speaker for the courts and was honored to present the students with certificates.

"Middle Township High School gave the most polished presentation that I have seen in all of my years participating,"

Leadership Changes in Morris/Sussex, Ocean and Passaic

By **Mike Mathis**
Judiciary Times Editor

Three trial court administrators, a fifth of the Judiciary's top executives in the vicinages, have retired.

In Morris/Sussex Vicinage, the top two leadership positions were vacated and filled in the spring.

Ocean Vicinage TCA Richard Prifold and Passaic Vicinage TCA Kirk Nixon also have retired, replaced by Kenneth W. Kerwin and Marie L. Faber, respectively.

In April, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced the appointment of Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck to succeed Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, who retired in the spring. Weisenbeck was nominated to the bench by then-acting Gov. Richard J. Codey and took the oath of office on

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Burlington Vicinage Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder reads the Law Day proclamation during ceremonies in Mount Holly.

Porto said.

Following the ceremony, a reception and law fair took place in the courthouse lobby. The fair included presentations on cyber safety, criminal expungements, talking to youth about alcohol and landlord/tenant matters. Informational tables were staffed by attorneys, Cape May County agencies and departments, and court personnel.

On May 1 vicinage staff and the Atlantic County Clerk were at the Shore Mall in Egg Harbor Township to provide information to the public.

Participating divisions and agencies included the criminal, civil and municipal divisions, volunteer coordinator services, ombudsman/community liaison services, Atlantic County Surrogate's Office and the Atlantic County Clerk. A poster contest with area schools was conducted, and the winning posters were on display at the Shore Mall on May 1.

On May 2 the Atlantic County Mock Trial Team from Absegami High School was honored by the Superior Court of Atlantic and Cape May counties and the Atlantic County Bar Association. Assignment Judge Valerie Armstrong said, "We are so very proud of all of you; this takes an extraordinary commitment on your part and the part of your coaches."

A reception was held after the recognition ceremony and the guests were invited by Trial Court Administrator, Howard H. Berchtold Jr. to visit a panel of appellate division judges, who coincidentally were sitting in the Atlantic County Civil Courthouse.

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New Jersey Celebrates Law Day with Speeches, Special Events

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Bergen

The Bergen Vicinage, in partnership with the Bergen County Bar Association and vicinage Minority Concerns Committee, joined the nation in celebrating Law Day on May 2. The ceremony was held outside the rotunda.

This year's keynote speaker was U.S. District Court Judge William J. Martini, who spoke on the Law Day theme. He spoke about the Boston Massacre and the importance of fair representation, and connected past and present by saying, "Today, we celebrate the law. Let's do so with the same vigor as our founding fathers."

Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne administered the Oath of Citizenship to 31 people and offered sound advice, "I would encourage you to read the newspaper and follow the developments of our government during this most interesting time so you can make



Bergen Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne addresses the crowd during Law Day ceremonies in Hackensack. Doyne administered the Oath of Citizenship to 31 people.

informed choices when you vote," he told the new citizens.

The moderator of the Law Day program was the chairperson, Judge Joseph Conte, who has adopted this role for the past 12 years. Criminal Judge Donald R. Venezia sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and Deirdre McMullen of the probation division sang a beautiful rendition of *God Bless America*. Additional songs were performed by the Ridgefield Park High School chorus.

Other speakers included Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan and Bergen County Bar President Deborah Gross-Quatrone. The Bergen County Minority Concerns Committee presented awards for the student essay and poster contests. This year's Mock Trial Competition Award went to Mahwah High School.

Burlington

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder joined the Burlington Bar Association to deliver the Law Day proclamation on May 3 to celebrate Law Day, a time set aside each year to reflect upon the importance of the rule of law and the role it plays in our society.

"This is one more example of how

the court reaches out to the community it serves to bridge any gaps that may exist," said Bookbinder. "We continually look for innovative ways to increase public trust and confidence in our judicial system and to make our processes transparent."

In keeping with this year's theme, the public, court personnel, attorneys and invited guests were delighted with a guest appearance from President John Adams, portrayed by Steven Perlman of the National Park Service. Adams recounted his personal and public anti-slavery stance in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Joining Adams was Burlington County historian Paul Schopp who detailed two trials involving fugitive slave cases that were heard in the Olde Courthouse.

Filled to capacity the first day it was announced, Juror for a Day continues to be the most popular vicinage Law Day program. Seventh and eighth grade students were summoned to jury duty where they participated in a mock trial drafted by the law clerks.

F.W. Holbein School teacher Louise Jones said, "The program was wonderful, engaging and interesting. They

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Judiciary Times is published by the Office of Communications and Community Relations, 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@judiciary.state.nj.us. Submissions are subject to editing, and not all can be published.

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Winifred Comfort

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Law Day Celebrated in New Jersey With Lectures and Contests

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came back to school with so much to talk about and a desire to learn more about the judicial system.”

More than 200 fourth and fifth grade students submitted artwork depicting the Law Day theme. An awards ceremony was hosted by the vicinage and bar association.

Bookbinder and Tim Farrow, president of the bar association, presented U.S. Savings Bonds, plaques, and gifts to the first, second and third place winners.

Other events included Fun Fest, a community festival at Burlington County Community College; Minority Concerns Expungement Seminar; Senior Citizen Exposition; Youth in Government, a program that pairs high school students with judges and staff to highlight career options and the Courtroom to Classroom Series, which explores legal issues facing high school students.

Camden

Judges Michele M. Fox, Michael Kassel, George S. Leone and Anthony M. Pugliese hosted students from Camden Academy Charter High School on May 25.

After an initial orientation about the Superior Court and its functions, the students were escorted by each judge's law clerk on a tour of the courthouse, division offices and judge's chambers. The students also attended hearings that were on the judge's calendar and spoke to the judge about their educational and professional background and what led them to become a judge. This visit was part of the school's Career Exploration program, which provides students with an enriching real-world learning experience that will build industry knowledge and expose them to careers that relate to their areas of study.

On June 20 and June 21, Judges Thomas Kelley, Edward J. McBride Jr. and Frederick J. Schuck participated in mock trials with 6th grade students from LEAP Academy. The students enacted the mock trial *Humpty Dumpty*:



Members of the Essex Vicinage Law Day Committee were Yesenia Rios, community relations liaison; Kimberly Cicala, ombudsman; RaShana Brown, community relations liaison and Gerald Edwards, administrative specialist 4.

Was It Really an Accident?

On June 27 and June 29, Judges Charles W. Dortch Jr. and Octavia Melendez hosted the same LEAP Academy students for a tour of the Hall of Justice. These activities coincided with a unit in which the students studied conflict resolution and careers in the legal field.

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem

In keeping with the Law Day theme, Vicinage 15 developed a program that focused on Representing the Unrepresentable.

Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio presided over a special session of the Superior Court on April 26. Curio recognized the mock trial participants who were present to receive their certificates of appreciation.

She then spoke about the importance of fairness and access for all who come in contact with the legal system and challenges presented by cases that shock the social conscience.

The judge's presentation was followed by a discussion lead by Gabrielle Hall of the Salem County Public Defender's Office and Municipal Court Judge Jason Witcher.

Hall and Witcher provoked students with difficult questions about fairness

and access in society where there is diversity and disparity in key developmental areas, such as familial units, education, and economic stability.

Certificates of recognition were presented to the students, teacher coaches, attorney coaches and all other who participated in the Mock Trial Competition held earlier this year

Essex

Essex Vicinage celebrated Law Day with a mock trial program, writing and poster contests and a student awards ceremony.

Once again, the enthusiasm and dedication of all involved in this educational endeavor made for a successful and well received program, which is in its 15th consecutive year.

On April 28, Essex Vicinage judges and sheriff's officers visited 32 local schools with attorneys to lead students through a mock trial.

At issue in this year's case, *State v. Wainright*, was the constitutionality under the Fourth Amendment of the school's search of the defendant's backpack, cell phone and person. The setting was a pre-trial hearing.

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John Adams, lawyer and president, focus of Law Day Activities

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For the third year, Professor Laura Cohen of Rutgers School of Law – Newark and her students joined Anthony J. Frasca, presiding judge of the municipal courts, at the Essex County Youth Detention Center to conduct a mock trial.

Following the mock trials, an awards ceremony was held in Judge Eugene Codey's courtroom in the Historic Courthouse to recognize students who had submitted outstanding entries to the writing and poster contests.

This year, students submitted 227 posters, 159 essays and 24 poems inspired by the Law Day theme. Members of the Law Day Committee and the Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns voted on the winning entries.

Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello presented certificates and medals to the winning students. Essex County Bar Association President Jane S. Kelsey and bar members Stacie L. Powers and Mark Moon also were present to recognize the students.

A gallery of framed submissions and a large screen presentation showcased the students' work. Essay and poem contest first place winners Patrick Donoghue and Shemar Victor each recited their pieces, *The Legacy of John Adams* and *Lasting Legacy of John Adams*.

The Essex Vicinage Law Day activities

were co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey

Hudson

The 2011 Law Day theme provided the vicinage an opportunity to assess and celebrate the legacy of John Adams, explore the historical and contemporary role of lawyers in defending the rights of the accused, and renew the understanding of and appreciation for the fundamental principle of the rule of law.

The vicinage held five programs that emphasized this theme: a mock trial competition, art, photography, essay, rap, and poetry contests, a court night program, an awards ceremony and a juror education/appreciation program.

In the mock trial competition, Bayonne edged out MUA in one of the closest competitions in recent memory. Two-judge panels included Judiciary staff and members of the Hudson County bar.

Hudson County students in grades six through 12 submitted artwork, rap, essays and poetry relating to this year's Law Day theme.

The Law Day awards ceremony was held in the rotunda of the Justice William J. Brennan Courthouse. Supreme

Court Associate Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto was keynote speaker. The winners of the mock trial competition, art, photography, essay, rap, poetry contests and Liberty Bell Award were formally recognized.

The court night program consisted of six free legal workshops covering immigration, landlord/tenant issues, juvenile offender prevention, divorce, child support, and expungement of a criminal record.

A total of 300 jurors participated in the juror education program. The program included guest speakers, continental breakfast, songs by the Judiciary Voices in Unity and educational games.

Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren

The Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns for Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, along with the Somerset County Bar Association/IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts), Hunterdon and Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, and Somerset County Sheriff's Office, hosted an anti-bullying awareness program titled, "A Bullying Dilemma... Join in the Conversation!" on April 28 in Somerville.

About 90 participants attended, including school personnel, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers and the public.

Speakers were Nadia S. Ansary of Rider University; Paul Boxer of Rutgers University; Stuart Green of the New Jersey Coalition for Bullying Awareness

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Panelists in Hudson Vicinage's Court Night program discussed immigration, landlord/tenant issues, juvenile offender prevention, divorce, child support and expungement of a criminal record.

Editor's Note

The deadline for the fall 2011 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Sept. 16.

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

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

Speeches, Seminars and Expos Mark Law Day 2011 in N.J.

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and Prevention; attorney J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo, former director of the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights; Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony J. Kearns, Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor Brian Stack, and Ahmed Mackey, a school resource officer with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.

Boxer spoke about the schools' involvement in prevention and intervention strategies for bullying and described the "basic recipe" which suggests support for a number of different tactics that schools, families and communities could implement.

Green discussed school-wide prevention strategies and how students can only be as good as their role models, including principals, teachers, and parents. He said there should be consistent rules in a classroom which should be followed by staff and students and that parent's involvement in school and their child's life is a must.

Vespa-Papaleo talked about the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, which will take effect on Sept. 1. The law will require schools to have anti-bullying programs. Kearns explained how his office is implementing the new anti-bullying law. Stack spoke about cyber bullying. He said that with current technology, bullying can follow you everywhere. It is limitless and it doesn't stop.

Mackey said it's a parent's job to handle bullying prevention.

Mercer

Mercer Vicinage held its Law Day program on May 6.

Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg gave welcoming remarks. Others who spoke were Christine M. Gravelle, president of the Mercer County Bar Association and Nick C. Travisano, president-elect of the Mercer County Bar Association, who spoke on the topic, "Hey, I'm 18!"

In a presentation called *What Does Justice Mean*, two juveniles, accompanied by their attorneys, spoke about successfully making it through the

system.

Middlesex

Middlesex Vicinage, along with the members of the vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, held its annual Law Day Awards program event at the main courthouse in New Brunswick on May 3.

The event was held in conjunction with the Middlesex County Bar Foundation 2011 annual awards program for Project Law and high school mock trial champions.

Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis discussed the legacy of John Adams as our nation's first lawyer-president and the historical and contemporary role of lawyers in defending the principle of due process and the rights of the accused.

Judge Francis noted that Adams' role in the 1770 Boston Massacre trials is an example of commitment to the rule of law and the defense of the rights of the accused, even in cases where a lawyer might represent unpopular clients and the case generates public controversy.

Judges Heidi Willis Currier and Joseph Paone presented awards to students.

Other Law Day activities included the presentation of the program *So You're 18*

at local high schools. Judges Jamie D. Happas and Dennis V. Nieves visited local high schools to discuss with students the rights and responsibilities they attain at age 18 that they didn't have before.

The program was especially rewarding for Happas because it allowed her to return to her alma mater, Piscataway High School, and connect with current students.

Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage joined the Monmouth Bar Association for a formal Law Day ceremony in the restored general equity courtroom in the Hall of Records in Freehold. Speakers included Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Monmouth Bar Association President Craig S. Laughlin.

"Today we renew our commitment to the rule of law as the cornerstone of our society," Lawson said. "And in doing so, we strengthen our nation and promote the well-being of all citizens."

The keynote address was delivered by Akinyemi T. Akiwowo from the law firm of Genova, Burns and Giantomasi. Award presentations included the Daniel J. O'Hern Mock Trial Award to Marine Academy of Science and Technology as winners of the Monmouth

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Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson poses with the winners of the Law Day poster and essay contest, sponsored by the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

Law Day is Celebrated in Courthouses Around the State

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County High School Mock Trial Competition. The Abraham J. Zagar Professionalism Award was presented to Fredric M. Milstein.

Lawson presented plaques to the student winners of the Law Day 2011 poster and essay contest, which was sponsored by the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The Office of the Ombudsman and Self-Help Resource Center hosted several programs to help pro se litigants better understand court processes and procedures. A seminar on filing for divorce as a pro se litigant was presented in conjunction with Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services.

The seminar provided the public with an overview of the divorce process and information on preparing and filing divorce complaints. The center also offered two workshops on filing post-judgment divorce motions.

The free legal access program was

held to provide qualifying residents with 30 minutes of legal advice from an attorney on specialized legal topics. The program is conducted as part of the Legal Assistance Partnership Program, a collaboration between Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services and the Self-Help Resource Center.

Morris/Sussex

Law Day 2011, celebrated in Morristown at a noontime ceremony on April 29, marked the final day in the vicinage for Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis, who retired after 21 years on the bench, the last eight as assignment judge.

Bozonelis took the opportunity to praise the hard work, dedication, and collaborative spirit of his colleagues on the bench, the managers and staff of the vicinage, and county officials and staff, who he said all worked together to serve the public effectively.

Bozonelis also welcomed the incoming assignment judge, Thomas L. Weisenbeck, literally passing the gavel to him and stating he was leaving the vicinage in good hands.

Weisenbeck reminded the audience that we celebrate Law Day to honor the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of our American legal system, with its focus on the “rule of law,” which means that everyone, no matter how unpopular, must receive due process and fair treatment. He remarked that John Adams would have enjoyed the fact that the audience was still gathering, 235 years later, to celebrate the rule of law in our nation.

The other Law Day speakers, Morris County Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom, Morris County Bar Association President Brian Fruehling, and Morris County Bar Foundation President Mark Wechsler, all thanked Bozonelis for his fairness on the bench and his service to the vicinage. They wished him well in his retirement.

The mock trial team from West Morris Mendham High School, winners of the county competition, were acknowledged, and the vocal and string ensemble from Morristown High School, under the direction of Norma Davis, performed.

In Sussex County, the celebration was held at the historic courthouse in Newton in the evening. Students from High Point Regional High School were honored for their county win, music was provided by the Law Day Brass Band, and a speech was given by Mark Hontz, chair of the Sussex County Bar Association Law Day Committee.

Passaic

Passaic Vicinage celebrated Law Day with three programs, a student program, a new citizen’s swearing-in program, and a speakers’ program.

The student program began with a poster, poetry, and essay contest. Middle and high schools students from throughout Passaic County submitted group and individual entries on the Law Day theme in order to be eligible to participate in a mock trial conducted by a Superior Court judge. The mock



Outgoing Morris/Sussex Vicinage Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis hands the gavel to incoming Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck during Law Day activities in Morristown. Bozonelis retired on April 30.

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Vicinages Celebrate Law Day with an Array of Activities

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trial this year involved a civil malpractice case.

Thirteen classes participated, the biggest response ever. Law Clerks took responsibility for training the students on the law and courtroom procedures. For the second year, mock trials were conducted on school premises.

A celebratory program was held at the courthouse on May 6. More than 50 poster, poetry, and essay contest winners received framed certificates. Two high school and three middle schools were also invited to attend after being assessed as outstanding mock trial participants by the judges and law clerks who conducted the trials.

The program also included a speaker, retired Superior Court Judge Elijah Miller, who talked to students about representing unpopular clients who become involved in matters of public controversy. Students also observed the new citizen swearing-in, participated in the awards ceremony, and attended a pizza lunch.

Judge Susan Reisner administered the Oath of Citizenship to 36 new citizens on May 6. The new citizens were educated by Passaic County Clerk Kristin Corrado on passports, Superintendent of Elections Laura Freytes on voter rights and responsibilities, and Jury Manager Hayley Encarnacion on jury service.

U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell and Passaic County Bar Association President Daniel Yablonsky also spoke to the new citizens. Presiding Civil Judge Thomas F. Brogan.

Judge Miguel de la Carrera, chair of the minority concerns committee and Law Day Co-chair Sohail Mohammed planned and coordinated the event. The speaker's program included Municipal Court Judges who visited schools to speak about municipal court matters and other subjects relating to the Law Day theme. Four municipal court judges visited local schools in Paterson, Hawthorne and Totowa.



Khalid Zaire Briggs (left), pictured with Judge William A. Daniel, was the keynote speaker for Union Vicinage's Law Day celebration.

Union

Union Vicinage held its Law Day celebration on May 17 in the courtroom of Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy. The event was co-sponsored by the Union County Bar Association; Union Vicinage Minority Concerns Committee; Bar Foundation of Union County; Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association; Garden State Bar Association and Hispanic Bar Association. Judge Frederic R. McDaniel, co-chair of the Minority Concerns Advisory Committee for Union Vicinage and chair of the Law Day program, presided over the celebration with Cassidy.

The Charles Hudson School Band opened the event with a number of musical selections including *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Union County schools competed in essay, poetry and poster contests focused on the Law Day theme. Students placed first, second and third in each category. The winning schools were Charles J. Hudson School 25, Elizabeth High School, St. Genevieve's School and St. Michael's School, all in Elizabeth.

Andrew J. Gibbs, a member of

the Union County Bar Association, presented the Mock Trial Award to Cranford High School, winners of the Union County Mock Trial Competition.

The keynote speaker was Khalid Zaire Briggs of the New Jersey Orators, who delivered a speech titled *The Purpose of Education*, written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Briggs will attend Howard University in the fall and major in Broadcast Journalism.

The vicinage hosted an information fair in conjunction with its Law Day celebration. Staff from the civil, criminal and family divisions; the county clerk, surrogate and the Union County Board of Elections provided information to guests and court users.

This story was written and reported by Lawrence Bethea; Nalo Brown; Jane P. Carey; Kimberly Cicala; Cheryl Cohen; Gina Goldstein; Linnette Higley; Sharon Kinney; Sandra Lopez; Donna L. Mazzanti; Kathleen Obringer; Janie Rodriguez; Theresa Romano and Linda Wiggins.

Judiciary and Libraries: Partnering to Promote Access to Justice

By Mike Mathis

Judiciary Times Editor

The New Jersey Judiciary is continuing its quest to teach librarians about the courts and legal research.

“Libraries and the Judiciary – Partnering to Promote Access to Justice” is designed to enhance access to justice and promote cost effectiveness at libraries by offering information, tools and materials.

Nancy Manuele, litigant services manager at the Administrative Office of the Courts, and two of the Judiciary’s 15 ombudsmen participated in the New Jersey Library Association’s conference in Long Branch, Monmouth County in May to present an overview of the Judiciary’s web site, materials about court services and programs and tips for providing legal research.

Manuele and Linda Wiggins and Janie Rodriguez, ombudsmen for the Union and Morris/Sussex vicinages, respectively, also gave presentations.

“The law is a foreign language and it’s our job to translate it,” said Deborah Fennelly, senior attorney for Legal Services of New Jersey, who also gave a presentation about the legal services available to lower-income New Jersey residents.

Librarians report that people are visiting libraries now more than ever, and many patrons want answers to questions about the courts and the law that library staff can’t answer.

The session included an overview of the Judiciary’s web site, njcourts.com, tips for conducting basic legal research, materials about court services and programs,

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 of the page.



Participants in the New Jersey Library Association’s conference included Rebecca Pressman, librarian for Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), Deborah Fennelly, senior LSNJ attorney, Nancy Manuele, litigant services manager at the Administrative Office of the Courts, Linda Wiggins, ombudsman in the Union Vicinage and Janie Rodriguez, ombudsman in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage.

contact information for customer service staff in every local courthouse and referral information for library patrons.

“Our objective for being here is to create a partnership, a collaboration with public libraries throughout New Jersey because the Judiciary may have first-rate programs and services available, but if people don’t know about

them or how to access them, we fall short,” Manuele said.

Four regional training sessions were held last June in Clark, Union County; Cherry Hill, Camden County; Parsippany, Morris County and Shrewsbury, Monmouth County for librarians and library staff.



The March 1993 class of the New Judge Orientation Program has met each spring for a reunion. Pictured above is this year’s gathering, the 18th. The group includes active and retired judges.

Probation Officers Trained to Deal with Sexually Abusive Kids

By **Mary Flanagan and Gayle Maher**

Probation Services Division
Administrative Office of the Courts

The Probation Services Division recently offered a training class on the supervision of juveniles with sexually abusive behavior.

A total of 21 probation officers from 16 counties attended the class, which focused on the intake and initial phases of supervision.

Rachael Gillin, a senior probation officer from Mercer County, emphasized the need to be aware of anxiety that probationers and parents often experience when they come directly from court while establishing the conditions of probation and how they will be enforced.

Gillin spoke about home visits and the need to gather information by asking questions that might sound intrusive but are essential to determine how to effectively and safely supervise the case.

For those placed under Megan's Law, there are time-sensitive tasks that must be completed. Probation officers must have a clear understanding of the tasks, communicate them to the client and parents, and monitor them to ensure

compliance.

Advising parents about the need to monitor their child's computer use is a significant challenge for probation officers, Gillin said. She advised the class to find local resources on parent education and to make referrals.

Laura Mizenko and Sherry Phillips, senior probation officers from Middlesex County and Cape May County, respectively, provided training on the development and update of case plans.

The case plan reflects what actions need to be taken to achieve compliance with court orders and rehabilitation. These youth might require additional supervision to ensure community safety. Mizenko and Phillips explained what actions are needed to monitor these cases.

Probation officers must work closely with treatment providers to understand the issues addressed in therapy and to reinforce treatment goals during their contacts with the probationer and the family.

Probation officers can communicate with the county prosecutor's office about behavior that positively or negatively impacts the probationer's status as a Megan's Law offender.

Mary McGinty Flanagan of the Administrative Office of the Courts'

juvenile probation services unit gave an overview of how Juvenile Probation's "Incentives, Interventions and Graduated Sanctions" guidelines can be used with juveniles.

These guidelines were adopted to give probation officers effective strategies to gain compliance. This might include rewarding a probationer's positive behavior, referring to treatment to change problem behavior, or imposing restrictions such as a curfew to stop risky behavior.

The use of these guidelines enables probation officers to maximize the rehabilitation of the probationer and address community safety concerns.

Kevin M. Brown, Assistant Director for Probation Services, thanked the presenters for their work to develop the curriculum and provide the training to probation officers statewide.

The class was the second of three designed to provide probation officers with specialized training needed for supervising juveniles.

The first class, "Introduction," was offered in 2009 and last year and the third class, "Ongoing Supervision," will be offered in the fall.

Hudson Probation Officer Lauded For Work With Juvenile Sex Offenders

By **Mary Flanagan and Gayle Maher**

Probation Services Division
Administrative Office of the Courts

Joe Dickinson, senior probation officer in the Hudson County probation division, has been recognized by the New Jersey Association for the Treatment of Sex Abusers (NJATSA) for his commitment and successful interventions in the supervision of juvenile sex offenders.

The organization's Board of Directors presented Dickinson with the Barbara Frank Award at its annual conference in April.

The award is presented annually to a probation or parole officer who dem-

onstrates exemplary performance in supervising this specialized population.

It is named for Barbara Frank, a probation officer from Union County who early on recognized the need for specialized supervision approaches for juvenile sex offenders and who was instrumental in having these practices introduced statewide. Frank died in 2006.

Hudson Vicinage Assistant Chief Probation Officer Claribel Bautista, and Derek Perry, court services specialist 2, nominated Dickinson for the award.

"Joe consistently goes the extra mile to help his clients," Bautista wrote in the nomination letter.

"I have witnessed Joe counsel and

assist in stabilizing his clients and their families in times of crisis. He will sit with a family for extended periods of time to resolve issues, even if the time exceeds his normal work hours.

"As a result of this sincere hard work and dedication, Joe is consistently our best officer when it comes to low recidivism rates," Bautista wrote.

Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson

The fall edition of the *Judiciary Times* will feature a story and photos of the swearing in of Anne M. Patterson to the Supreme Court. Gov. Chris Christie nominated Patterson to the seat now occupied by Roberto Rivera-Soto, who is scheduled to step down on Sept. 1.

Monmouth County Students Will Take a Journey to Justice

By Richelle Coleman

Assistant Family Division
Manager
Monmouth Vicinage

A new program to educate students about the court system is set to launch in Monmouth Vicinage.

“Journey to Justice” will bring the courts into schools in an effort to interest youth to pursue career in the legal field and in the Judiciary.

The program could begin in the fall. Schools that would participate have not been selected.

In the past, many student groups have learned first-hand about the operation of the courts through touring courthouses, attending presentations on court-related topics, watching court cases and meeting with judges.

The “Journey to Justice” program will provide an alternative for sharing information with students.

Preliminary meetings are being arranged with school officials on to how best to

teach students about the courts.

A survey was developed to help tailor features of the program to the needs of individual schools.

Students will learn about the court system and will hear about the juvenile justice process and career opportunities.

The syllabus for the court overview will include the structure of the Judiciary and discussion on court rules and amendments.

The juvenile justice process component will include presentations by Monmouth Vicinage judges. Vicinage employees will provide information on ways to pursue a profession related to the courts.

Schools that are unable to arrange trips to the courthouse due to budget constraints also will benefit from the program.

The program will be modified based on feedback from students and educators.

The program was developed through

the juvenile justice subcommittee of the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

Passaic Participates in Green Fair

By June Zieder

Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

Passaic Vicinage participated in Passaic County’s first Green Fair on June 28.

The fair, which was held on Hamilton Street in Paterson, included a number of exhibits and demonstrations that highlighted the county’s efforts to go green.

Events included recycling of paper and document shredding, organic recycling, green construction and free water quality testing.

Attendees were encouraged to walk, bicycle or use mass transportation to travel to the event.

The vicinage table showcased programs the courts use to improve customer service and help the environment, including the use of electronic filing and communications tools to file and manage court cases.

Examples included the family division’s program with St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Paterson to allow victims of domestic violence to apply for temporary restraining orders from the emergency room, the Judiciary’s Electronic Filing and Imaging System (JEFIS) for certain special civil cases and foreclosures, and the electronic filing of violation-of-probation forms.

Judge Carol McCracken, the vicinage’s first drug court judge, was honored with the planting of a tree on the grounds of the courthouse in her memory. McCracken was appointed to Superior Court in 1995 and remained on the bench until her death on May 16, 1999.

National Association of Women Judges To Hold Conference in Essex County in October

By Thomas G. Dibble

Operations Division Manager
Essex Vicinage

The National Association of Women Judges’ 33rd Annual Conference will be held at the Newark Hilton Penn Station from Oct 12 to 16.

Several hundred attendees are anticipated to discuss “Global Women’s Issues,” the theme of the conference.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Harvard Law Professor/MacArthur Fellow Annette Gordon Reed and Judge Eugene Codey Jr. are among the confirmed speakers/panelists.

Rutgers Law School-Newark and Seton Hall Law Schools will each host a daylong program. Topics include promoting global equality for women through the law, the role of judges in cross-cultural issues, family law, and

effective leadership.

Special events include a reception to showcase the Essex County Historic Courthouse on Oct. 12, a luncheon with the New Jersey legal community at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Oct. 13 and a reception hosted by the federal court on Oct. 14.

Among those on the planning committee are Judges Rosemary Gambardella, Michelle Hollar-Gregory, Sandra Robinson and Siobhan A. Teare and Frances Bouchoux, associate dean of Rutgers Law School-Newark and the conference co-chair.

The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) was formed in 1979 and has inspired and led the American Judiciary to achieve fairness and equality for vulnerable populations. Membership is not limited to female judges. For more information and to register, go to www.nawj.org

Passaic Salutes Veterans During Military Appreciation Month

By **June Zieder**
Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

The nation's military were honored by the Passaic Vicinage during Military Appreciation Month in May. Programs included an ecumenical service, a luncheon for Gold Star and Blue Star mothers, a medal ceremony and a Memorial Day Ceremony.

The vicinage presented the programs in conjunction with the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Passaic County Bar Association, Passaic County Department of Veteran Affairs and the office of U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell.

The ecumenical service was held on May 4. Local religious leaders from many denominations offered prayers and thanks for those serving in the armed forces.

The luncheon for the Blue Star and Gold Star mothers was held on May

13. Blue Star mothers are those whose sons and daughters are in active service. Gold Star mothers are those whose sons and daughters died during their service to our country.

Judge Richard M. Freid, served as master of ceremony at the luncheon, and Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr. offered remarks.

Those who attended the luncheon were given a brochure with stories submitted by the Blue and Gold Star mothers about the lives of their sons and daughters in the military.

The medal ceremony was held on May 16. Medals were presented to veterans who had served in the armed forces as far back as World War II. Freid served as master of ceremonies and Volkert offered remarks.

The final program was a Memorial Day ceremony on May 27. This was the second year the vicinage participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony.

Judge Ernest M. Caposela served as masters of ceremony. Remarks were offered by Volkert, Pascrell and Passaic County Freeholder Director Terry Duffy.

Dan Yablonsky presented a check on behalf of the Passaic County Bar Association to Marjorie Sietsma to assist the Blue Star Mothers of America with their outreach to the military and their families.

Following the presentation, Sietsma and Anthony Vancheri of the Passaic County War Veterans lay wreaths to honor all the war dead.

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution in 1999 designating May as National Military Appreciation Month. The month gives the nation a time to honor current and former members of the armed forces, including those who died in service to their country.

A Change in Leadership in Three of the Judiciary's 15 Vicinages

Continued from page 1

May 19, 2005.

Weisenbeck served in the family division in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage since his appointment and sat in the Morris County Courthouse. The chief justice appointed him presiding judge of the family division in August 2009.

"It is a great honor to have been selected by Chief Justice Rabner to lead the talented and hard-working judges and staff in the Morris and Sussex courthouses," Judge Weisenbeck said. "We face many challenges, but I am confident that together we can continue to uphold the high standards for fairness, integrity and civility that are the hallmark of Judge Bozonelis' legacy."

In July, Weisenbeck named Rashad Shabaka-Burns to succeed Michael Arnold as trial court administrator. Shabaka-Burns served as the assistant trial court administrator in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage since 2003.

He began his Judiciary career working for then-Assignment Judge Nicholas G. Mandak in the Passaic Vicinage,

advancing to assistant civil division manager. He also served as the Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action officer and then the assistant chief probation officer in Passaic Vicinage

Shabaka-Burns succeeds Michael Arnold, who retired at the end of June.

"When I think back over my career with the Judiciary, my first thoughts go to the many individuals I have helped over the years, starting in probation and ending as TCA," Arnold said.

"Back in the mid-70's, nobody became a public employee for the money," he said. "For me it was all about helping others. As my place in the organization changed over the years, so has my ability to be a change agent in people's lives. I hope I have had a positive impact in some small way. It has been an amazing journey."

Kenneth W. Kerwin was named Ocean Vicinage TCA in July. He succeeds Richard Prifold, who retired.

Kerwin has served more than 35 years in the Ocean Vicinage, starting as a

probation officer in 1975.

In 1986, he was named assistant family division manager, a position he held for only a year before being promoted to family division manager in 1987.

He served in that role until 1992, when he was named chief probation officer.

In 2005, he was named civil division manager, a title he has held until his current appointment.

In the Passaic Vicinage, Marie L. Faber was named TCA in August. Faber succeeds Kirk Nixon, who retired. Nixon served in the position since 2005.

Faber has worked in the Passaic Vicinage since 2000, when she was hired as municipal division manager.

She also served as civil division manager before she was named criminal division manager in 2009.

She also served as municipal court administrator in Hawthorne and municipal court clerk in Allendale, Bergen County.

Burlington Vicinage Turned Off to Saving Energy and Money

By **Donna Mazzanti**

Administrative Supervisor 4
Burlington Vicinage

The Burlington Vicinage, in collaboration with Burlington County, participated in a new initiative, “The Big Turn Off” on June 22.

Judiciary and county employees were asked to turn off computers, printers, lights and electronic devices during their lunch hour to save energy.

The combined effort provided enough energy savings to supply power to up to 90 homes for an entire day. The idea for “The Big Turn Off” originated from the vicinage’s Green Committee, chaired by Jeanne T. Covert, criminal division presiding judge.

The committee is charged with identifying, advancing and promoting strategies, policies and practices within the vicinage’s operations aimed at minimizing negative environmental impact and maximizing environmentally responsible behaviors.

“The committee explores ways to save energy and money as well as bring awareness to simple behavior changes such as turning off lights, computers and printers,” Covert said. “We hope to continue our commitment to ‘think green’ by partnering with the county on future conservation efforts.”

The Green Committee supports other ongoing green practices such as recycling copier and printer



Anita Penven, secretary to Burlington Vicinage Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, shuts down her computer as part of “The Big Turn Off” initiative designed to save money and energy.

toner cartridges directly with suppliers so they can be refilled and reused, encouraging double-sided copying, utilizing recycled office supplies when appropriate and replacing old televisions with flat panel screens in courtrooms.

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder supports the committee’s efforts to raise awareness of environmental responsibility.

“Our collective efforts to encourage responsible usage of resources will be a success if it leads us to consider ways to reduce our environmental footprint not only on June 22, but every day,” Bookbinder said.



Law Day 2011

Law Day was celebrated in courthouses throughout New Jersey in the spring. Some of the observances took place on a single day, while others occurred over several weeks. Judges and court staff in all 15 vicinages visited schools, hosted community outreach events and provided the public with valuable information about the Judiciary.

Nadia S. Ansary, an assistant professor of psychology at Rider University speaks at an anti-bullying awareness program in Somerville. About 90 people attended, including school personnel, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers and the public.



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.