

JUDICIARY TIMES

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Summer 2012

Law Day 2012: Courts-Justice-Freedom Ceremonies and Festivities Held Throughout New Jersey to Celebrate Legal System

Editor's note: Instituted by the American Bar Association 54 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 Courts—Justice—Freedom.

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

Atlantic/Cape May

The Superior Court in Atlantic and Cape May counties held joint events with the Atlantic and Cape May County bar associations. On May 1, the Superior Court and the Atlantic County Bar Association celebrated Law Day by honoring the Mainland Regional High School mock trial team, winners of the Atlantic County Mock Trial Competition.

Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez and the Atlantic County Bar Association also honored Atlantic City High School student Joshua Maddox for his achievement in the Black History Month state essay contest. A copy of the essay will be displayed in the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building and the Atlantic County Criminal Courts Complex.

Speaking at the presentation were Atlantic County Civil Division Judge Nelson C. Johnson, who presented Maddox with a copy of his book *The Northside: African Americans and the Creation of Atlantic City*, and Appellate Judge Susan F. Maven, chairperson for the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns.

The Judiciary, South Jersey Legal Services, the Atlantic County Bar Association and the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department organized seminars on immigration, bankruptcy, Internet safety and child support. Staff members from the courts and from participating agencies answered questions and distributed information.

On May 3, the Atlantic County Criminal Courts Complex in Mays Landing hosted information tables and informative court videos in the courthouse lobby. Videos were selected from the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage *Meet the Court*



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner congratulates a new citizen after administering the Oath of Citizenship to 17 people from 11 counties during a naturalization ceremony in the Passaic Vicinage.

Judiciary, Bar Association Unveil Civics Education Project

By Mike Mathis

Judiciary Times Editor

The New Jersey Judiciary and the New Jersey State Bar Association have developed an educational program to improve the public's understanding of the courts' role in a democracy.

The Benchmarks Civics Project aims to educate the public about how the courts work, what it means to be a citizen, and the importance of an independent, fair and impartial justice system.

The public will learn about the courts and government through lessons that will test the public's knowledge of the U.S. and New Jersey constitutions, the Bill of Rights and the role of judges in the judicial branch and how the Judiciary is different from the other branches of government.

Sessions will be taught by lawyers who receive professionalism continuing legal education (CLE) credits when they attend a training session about speaking on civics issues to community groups. Trained lawyers can earn additional CLE credits for speaking to community and service groups.

Nearly 60 judges and attorneys were trained at the

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Law Day Celebrated With Naturalization Ceremonies, Speeches

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television series and included episodes on jury service, expungements, court interpreters and mediation.

In Cape May County, the Judiciary and the Cape May County Bar Association honored the Middle Township High School mock trial team, winners of the Cape May County Mock Trial Competition.

Following the ceremony, the students from the mock trial team shared their experiences with incoming high school students and encouraged them to participate in the mock trial program.

Cape May County also held a law fair in the lobby of the courthouse. Information tables were staffed by attorneys, Cape May County agencies and departments, and court personnel.

Bergen

The Bergen Vicinage, in partnership with the Bergen County Bar Association and vicinage Minority



Bergen Vicinage Judge Donald R. Venezia sings *The Star Spangled Banner* during Law Day ceremonies in Hackensack. Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne administered the Oath of Citizenship to 39 new citizens.

Concerns Committee, joined the nation in celebrating Law Day on May 1. The ceremony was held in the courtroom of Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne.

This year's keynote speaker was New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa.

Doyne administered the Oath of Citizenship to 39 new U.S. citizens. The judge said the induction of new citizens "serves as a reminder to all judges we are here to serve you and to enforce the law as written - evenly, fairly and justly - and to the best of our ability."

The moderator for the program was Judge Joseph S. Conte, who has served in the role for the past 13 years. Criminal Judge Donald R. Venezia sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and Christian Davakis, son of criminal division employee Michael Davakis, sang an impressive 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 William Bochet. 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 kicked off Law Day by reading a proclamation, followed by a joint program by the Burlington Bar Association and the Judiciary, *Reel to Real*. Some of the greatest courtroom moments in cinema from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Time to Kill*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *My Cousin Vinny*, and *Legally Blonde* were shown.

A total of 156 students from six middle schools participated in *Juror for a Day*, Burlington's most popular program. Seventh and eighth grade students were summoned to jury duty and experienced first-hand the importance of the role of jurors in our democracy.

This year's law clerks drafted the mock trial, *State v. The Cat in the Hat*, that rhymed in its entirety. Students and teachers applauded the production and offered testimonials on the

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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.

Director of Communications and Community Relations
Winifred Comfort

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Mike Mathis

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New Jersey Marks Law Day With Activities for Public and Staff

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impact the program had on their understanding of jury service.

Federal judges Karen Williams, Joseph Irenas and Noel Hillman collaborated with bar members on the high school program *Social Media Gone Wild*. Bar members Tim Farrow, Katherine Hartman and Kevin Walker discussed timely topics such as sexting, texting, cell phones in criminal investigations and Facebook.

The federal judges gave an overview of the federal court system and discussed a free speech case. The speakers reached more than 250 high school students from three Burlington County schools.

The Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns and the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey hosted programs on anti-bullying laws in New Jersey and careers in the justice system, respectively.

Law Day activities culminated with programs for the youngest and oldest citizens. An art contest was sponsored for fourth and fifth grade students, and a Senior Expo was held for county seniors. More than 500 seniors were given information on court services and programs.



Joshua Maddox shows the certificate he won in the Black History Month state essay contest. With him are (from left) Howard Berchtold, trial court administrator in Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage; Judge Nelson C. Johnson; Maddox's parents; Judge Susan F. Maven and Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez. Maddox was honored during the vicinage's Law Day activities.

Camden

Camden Vicinage held several events to celebrate Law Day.

On May 12, the Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns presented a Law Day Expo at the Camden Conference Center at Camden County College. The community education program provided practical information and resource material to promote a greater understanding of court functions.

Court staff was available to answer questions about initiating child support; child custody and visitation matters; expungement; foreclosure mediation; landlord/tenant matters and small claims cases.

Letters were sent to every middle and high school in Camden County inviting them to participate in essay and poster contests. Contest winners were recognized at award ceremonies at their schools during the first two weeks of May.

The Association of Black Women Lawyers conducted a Law Day program on May 23 at the Camden County Hall of Justice. The program was successful in educating students about the court system and various legal careers.

Approximately 110 fifth grade students, 60 from LEAP Academy Charter School in Camden and 50 from James F. Cooper School in Cherry Hill, attended the program. Mock trials were held on June 4 and June 6 for the students at the LEAP Academy Charter School.

The final Law Day event was an expungement seminar, which was held on June 12 at the Camden County Library – Ferry Avenue branch in Camden.

Judiciary Times Wins Professional Journalists' Award

Judiciary Times, the quarterly newsletter of the New Jersey Judiciary, has received a third place ranking in newsletter writing from the New Jersey Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (NJSPJ).

The publication, edited by Judiciary Publications and Video Production Manager Mike Mathis under the direction of Judiciary Communications and Community Relations Director Winnie Comfort, was one of only two newsletters honored in the Newsletters and Online Publications category of the chapter's annual contest. It was the only government publication to receive an award.

This is the second consecutive year that the New Jersey Judiciary has been honored by the NJSPJ. The *Judiciary Times* was honored last year with a third place award in the Newsletters and Online Publications category.

The New Jersey Chapter of SPJ was founded in 1959 and its annual journalism awards program has grown steadily over the years to become one of the most competitive and prestigious in the state.

Each quarter, the *Judiciary Times* publishes statewide and local news stories about the New Jersey courts, including new programs and services offered by the Judiciary, recent events held around the state and accomplishments of judges and staff.

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Courts-Justice-Freedom Was Theme of Law Day 2012

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The Camden Board of Education Family Conference invited Ombudsman Nalo Brown to conduct a workshop on May 11 called *Pro Se 101: What You Need to Know About Representing Yourself in Superior Court*. The workshop included information about the structure of the courts, the types of cases heard and what staff can and cannot do to assist self-represented litigants.

Brown also held pro se motion workshops on May 17 and May 18 at the Hall of Justice and at the Cherry Hill Executive Campus.

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem

Vicinage 15 (Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem) held four events to celebrate Law Day.

The first event, a special session of Superior Court, was held on April 17 at the Salem County Courthouse and was coordinated with the Salem County Bar Association, the Vicinage Minority Concerns Committee and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Court was presided over by Judge Timothy Farrell, who welcomed the participants of the mock trials and introduced the main speaker, former Supreme Court Associate Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto.

Rivera-Soto discussed cases that

highlighted the importance of the courts in ensuring justice for all and the special role attorneys play in the process.

He spoke of the courage of the courts to make unpopular but just decisions and the bravery of the attorneys who represented the reviled defendants in controversial cases throughout history.

He began with John Adams, who represented the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre and ended with the attorneys representing the 9/11 suspects detained at Guantanamo Bay.

After Rivera-Soto's presentation, certificates were distributed to those who participated in the mock trials.

The next three events involved joining with local elementary schools, one from each county, and were coordinated by the ombudsman and minority concerns committee.

At each event, a Superior Court judge gave a brief presentation to fourth and fifth graders about the structure and purpose of our court system, followed by the students playing an electronic game programmed with the information contained in the judge's presentation.

The Cumberland County Bar Association and the Gloucester County Bar Foundation purchased the game used in the event and donated it to the

ombudsman's office for future outreach efforts.

On April 14, Judge Robert G. Malestein visited the Pauline J. Petway Elementary School in Vineland and Judge Benjamin C. Telsey visited the Mary S. Shoemaker Elementary School in Woodstown on April 21.

On April 22, the students from Evergreen Avenue Elementary School in Woodbury visited the Gloucester County Courthouse – Justice Complex, where they were given a tour before meeting Judge John Tomasello.

The students and teachers from each school enjoyed their time with the Vicinage 15 judges so much that invitations were extended to each judge for a return visit.

Essex

Essex Vicinage celebrated Law Day with a month-long schedule of educational programming that culminated in a student awards ceremony on May 15 in the Essex County Historic Courthouse.

This year's program reached more than 3,500 students throughout Essex County.

"The Essex County Law Day program consistently demonstrates the vicinage's commitment to public education," Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello said.

This year's celebration featured a combination of new and traditional elements. On March 28, students from Bloomfield High School, Nutley High



Essex County Bar Association member Mauro G. Tucci, president Robert C. Scrivo, member Mark Y. Moon and Judge Verna G. Leath were among the participants in Essex Vicinage's Law Day activities, which included a mock trial and student poster and writing contests.

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Editor's Note

The deadline for the fall 2012 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Sept. 7.

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, and appointments are sought for *JT Briefing*, the Judiciary's e-newsletter.

Speeches, Seminars and Expos Mark Law Day 2012 in N.J.

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School and Newark Tech High School participated in a mock trial of the fictional criminal case, *The April Fools: State of New Jersey vs. Willy Wynn*.

At issue in this year's case was whether defendant Willy Wynn was guilty of criminal mischief and/or defiant trespass following vandalism of a classmate's home with spray paint.

Civil division Presiding Judge Dennis F. Carey III presided over this mock trial. Attorneys Eileen O'Connor and Ruben Sinins also participated.

Bill Mecca, the Judiciary's video production coordinator, recorded and produced a DVD of the mock trial.

Under the leadership of municipal division Presiding Judge Anthony J. Frasca, municipal court judges, prosecutors and public defenders joined volunteer attorneys recruited by the Essex County Bar Association to conduct 30 mock trial events based on the same fact pattern at schools and courthouses throughout Essex County from April 17 to April 19.

Students visited Frasca's courtroom to observe Special Remand Court and attend a question-and-answer session.

Frasca accompanied Professor Laura Cohen of Rutgers School of Law – Newark and her students to the Essex County Youth Detention Center to conduct a mock trial.

On May 15, students at 16 schools viewed the previously recorded mock trial with the guidance of volunteer attorneys.

Following the video presentations, the student awards ceremony was held on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse to recognize students who had submitted outstanding entries to the poster and writing contests.

This year, students submitted 87 posters, 158 essays and 42 poems inspired by the Law Day theme.

Members of the Law Day Planning Committee, Essex Vicinage Customer Service Committee and Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns reviewed and voted on the winning entries.

Judge Verna G. Leath presented certificates and medals to the winning students in Judge Carey's courtroom.

Bar association President Robert C. Scrivo and bar members Mark Y. Moon and Mauro G. Tucci joined her to recognize the students. Essay and poem first place winners Julia Marzella and Shemar Victor recited their entries.

A gallery of framed winning contest submissions lined the rotunda.

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.

Middlesex

Middlesex Vicinage held several events to educate students on the 2012 Law Day theme.

The celebration started early this year with the introduction of the Justice Academy Week program.

During the week of April 9, 25 students from Perth Amboy High School spent their spring break shadowing court staff and observing the work that occurs in the courthouse.

The program was supervised by Ombudsman Luis M. Hernandez and Judge Alberto Rivas.

The vicinage celebrated Law Day in

the classroom in May.

The program *Why the Courts Matter – A Guide to the New Jersey Judicial Process* was presented to students at area high schools.

Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis kicked off the first program at New Brunswick High School. Judge Michael A. Toto presented the program at Piscataway High School and Judge Heidi Willis Currier presented the program at Highland Park High School.

Francis closed the program with a presentation at North Brunswick Township High School. The judges highlighted the crucial role of our courts in society.

Students were given a copy of the publication *The New Jersey Courts – A Guide to the Judicial Process* to help them understand the Judiciary.

Mercer

The Mercer County Superior Court and the Mercer County Bar Association sponsored a Law Day program at the Lawrence headquarters branch of the Mercer County library on May 1.

The program included a workshop about the legal rights and responsibilities teens face when they become 18 and a panel discussion

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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.

Staff and Citizens Celebrate Law Day Throughout New Jersey

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about legal, judicial and law enforcement careers.

Panelists and guests included Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson; Judge Thomas Summers; Sarah G. Crowley, deputy Mercer County counsel; Assistant Mercer County Prosecutor Heather Hadley of the insurance fraud and bias crime and human trafficking units; Mercer County Undersheriff Pedro Medina and attorney Kelly Botti of Hill Wallack.

Monmouth

Monmouth Vicinage held its Law Day program with the Monmouth Bar Association on May 1.

A formal ceremony took place in the restored general equity courtroom in the Hall of Records in Freehold. Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson and Monmouth Bar Association President James A. Paone II offered remarks.

“This year’s Law Day theme establishes justice in our courts as the foundation of our nation’s freedom. It equates fairness and equality with liberty and the privileges of a free society,” Lawson said.

The keynote speaker was former New Jersey Attorney General Peter C. Harvey. Harvey spoke about building

awareness of violence against women.

He told a story about a female colleague who crossed the street in an unfamiliar town to avoid encountering a group of young men on the sidewalk.

When questioned about her actions she stated that, as a woman, she is constantly mindful of avoiding potentially threatening situations.

Harvey went on to discuss this perception and how it often shapes the way that women conduct their daily lives.

He encouraged vigilance concerning violence against women and dedication to its prevention.

Awards were given to Monmouth Regional High School for winning the Monmouth County High School Mock Trial Competition and to attorney Frank Carpentier, winner of the Abraham J. Zagar Professionalism Award.

Lawson presented plaques to the student winners of the Law Day 2012 poster and essay contest, which was sponsored by the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns.

The Office of the Ombudsman and the Self-Help Resource Center hosted two outreach seminars for self-represented litigants.

The first seminar addressed

the divorce process. Presented in collaboration with Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services, it provided an overview and procedural information on preparing and filing a complaint for divorce.

The second seminar on elder law was conducted in collaboration with the Monmouth Bar Association.

A panel of representatives from the Office of the Monmouth County Surrogate, the Monmouth County Office on Aging and members of the bar covered topics ranging from guardianship to wills, estates, probate and trusts.

Morris/Sussex

In Sussex County, the local bar association traditionally hosts an evening celebration. This year, it was held at the historic courthouse on April 30 and featured a performance by the Law Day Brass Ensemble.

The keynote speaker was attorney Mark J. Hontz. Attorneys Stephen McNally and Ann Pompelio were honored for their service to the community.

The Sussex County mock trial winners from High Point Regional High School were publicly recognized at the celebration.

In Morris County, the celebration is traditionally held as a lunchtime ceremony at the courthouse. This year, it was held on May 1.

The keynote speech was delivered by Judge Jose L. Fuentes, presiding judge for Part H of the Appellate Division. Fuentes spoke of the interrelationship among the concepts represented by courts, justice, and freedom.

Fuentes reminded the audience that “...the work we do in the courts, although not perfect, is the best system of conflict resolution devised by a free society.”

Further, the freedom we enjoy in our nation, like the openness and freedom of speech now available via the Internet, can often be “unfiltered by discretion



The cast of *State v. Cat in the Hat*, a mock trial written by Burlington Vicinage law clerks that was performed for students during Burlington’s Law Day festivities. A video of the trial can be found at youtube.com/njcourts.

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Mock Trials, Presentations and Speeches Featured on Law Day

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and unguided by standards.”

The courts, however, bear a greater responsibility as a forum for justice; they must remain “insulated from and unaffected by the wavering nature of public sentiment.”

The Morris County program also included a welcome from Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck and comments from Morris County Freeholder Ann F. Grossi and Morris County Bar President Alan Iskra.

Morris County Bar Foundation President John P. Robertson II recognized the Morris County mock trial winners from West Morris Mendham High School, and the Morristown High School Vocal and String Ensemble, under the direction of Norma Davis, performed for the audience.

Passaic

Law Day was held in the Passaic Vicinage on May 4. Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administered the Oath of Citizenship to 17 people from 11 counties during a naturalization ceremony.

Judge Sohail Mohammed was master of ceremonies. Speakers included Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., U.S. Rep. William Pascrell, Passaic County Bar Association President Jeffrey Fiorello, and John Thompson, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The new citizens also attended a program on passports, jury duty, and voting rights and responsibilities.

About 200 students from local public high schools and public and parochial middle schools attended the naturalization ceremony and attended a program for classes that participated in this year’s Law Day poster, essay and video contests.

Eric Castellanos of the Passaic County Sheriff’s Department conducted a program on cyberbullying.

More than 100 members of the public attended educational programs on topics such as landlord/



Union Vicinage Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy and Austin R. Brooks, a seventh grader and member of the New Jersey Orators who delivered an original speech title *Freedom Riders*.

tenant, coping with family issues, expungement, issues affecting seniors, and understanding the municipal courts.

Judge Esther Suarez chaired the Law Day committee, which was comprised of Judiciary staff and members of the Passaic County Bar Association.

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

The Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns for Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, the Somerset County Bar Association/IOLTA and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office hosted an anti-bullying awareness program on May 15, *The Conversation Continues... Identifying the Potential Links Between Bullying and Minority Populations within the Juvenile Justice System*.

There were 76 participants, including Court Appointed Special Advocates, Safe in Hunterdon staff, attorneys, school personnel, law enforcement, volunteers and the public.

Speakers included Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns; Tulsi Maharjan, executive director of the Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition; Theodore Petti, professor of psychiatry and director of

child and adolescent psychiatry at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-UMDNJ; Virginia Shaw; Kasey Corbit; Simone Hicks and Annette Housel.

Petti provided general information on bullying, including prior and current definitions, and characteristics of those who could be at risk for victimization and those of the actual perpetrator.

The results of several adolescent studies were reported. These studies were performed on children ages 3 through adolescence, focusing on their fears of being victimized, experience of actual victimization, as well as types of bullying they received; physical, verbal, and/or electronic.

Petti addressed different socio-environmental factors, such as school, neighborhood and family issues that could impact bullying and victimization. Proposed prevention tools and bullying interventions also were discussed.

The effects of exposure to bullying were also portrayed, including short and long term risks.

Examples of such risks include behavioral responses, suicidal ideation, attempts of suicide, physical and

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Law Day is Celebrated in Courthouses Throughout New Jersey

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mental health problems and psychosis.

Petti also spoke about sexual orientation and bullying to encompass risk factors and effects on this population.

He concluded with tools for prevention, being alert to changes in behavior, and the role clinicians, schools and staff play.

Corbit and Hicks presented their findings on the disproportionate representation of minorities within the juvenile justice system.

The speakers compared minority groups with their non-minority counterparts who were incarcerated or at risk for incarceration.

Factors they identified that contribute to over-representation in the system include how minority groups are treated differently in schools that rely heavily on law enforcement; environmental factors; ineffective diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues; police who conduct “mercy arrests” on youth, and parents who relinquish custody of their children in order for the child to receive treatment.

The speakers then focused specifically on the dynamics of minorities within the system who had mental illness.

This included overtreatment, prevention methods and the relationship between mental illness and the prison cycle.

The presenters also discussed the misconception that minority youth commit more violent crimes.

Housel and Shaw are guardians of their niece and nephew, who are minorities with mental health issues.

The speakers gave insight into the challenges their niece and nephew faced with bullying, how it was addressed within the school system and suggestions for improvement. Maharjan highlighted the various ways in which the Somerset County Diversity Coalition is working on a diversity program designed to educate children.

The coalition’s goals are to take children out of their comfort zones

to have a broader perspective of opportunities and foster compassion and appreciation for other cultures.

The coalition provides children with opportunities to participate in educational programs, attend ethnic festivals and visit various places, such as Sikh and Hindu temples.

Kearns addressed the issue of children with mental health issues who are in the criminal justice system and spoke about initiatives Hunterdon County has implemented with the Office of the Public Defender and the Crisis Intervention Program.

Kearns also spoke about training required for officers on the Crisis Intervention Team, which provides tools to deal with individuals who have mental illnesses and de-escalate situations.

Kearns explained the current push in New Jersey to treat those who are emotionally disturbed and provided information about the Law Enforcement Adolescence Program (LEAP), which enables police to use alternatives when dealing with minors.

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 Vicinage Minority Concerns Advisory Committee, Union County Bar 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 along with Cassidy.

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

Andrew J. Gibbs, a member of the Union County Bar Association, conducted a special awards presentation to Oratory Preparatory School of Summit, winners of the Union County and New Jersey state championship

mock trial competitions.

Oratory became the first team from Union County to win the state championship and recently competed in the 2012 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Albuquerque, N.M.

The keynote speaker was Austin R. Brooks of the New Jersey Orators, who delivered an original speech titled *Freedom Riders*. Brooks is a seventh grader who has aspirations to be a marine biologist and protect marine life.

Union County schools competed in essay, poetry and poster contests focused on the Law Day theme.

The winning schools were Abraham Clark High School and Washington Elementary School, both in Roselle, St. Genevieve School in Elizabeth, Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies in Plainfield, Deerfield School #9 in Linden, and St. Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains.

The vicinage hosted an information fair in conjunction with its Law Day celebration. Staff from civil, criminal and family divisions provided information to guests and court users.

Law Day contributors were Lawrence Bethea; Nalo Brown, Kimberly Cicala, Cheryl Cohen, Ivette D. Santiago-Green; Sharon Kinney, Sandra Lopez; Donna Mazzanti, Kathleen Obringer, Elizabeth Raimondo; Janie Rodriguez, Theresa Romano and Linda Wiggins.

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.

Passaic Salutes Veterans During Military Appreciation Month

By **June Zieder**
Ombudsman
Passaic Vicinage

The Passaic Vicinage Superior Court, the Passaic County Board of Freeholders, the Passaic County Bar Association, the Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell and the Passaic County Office on Veteran Affairs observed National Military Appreciation Month in May with several events.

Religious leaders from throughout Passaic County were on hand to honor our nations' military at an interfaith service held in Paterson on May 2.

On May 9, a private luncheon was held at the Hamilton and Ward Street Steakhouse in Paterson to honor the Gold and Blue Star Mothers.

Gold Star Mothers represent the families of those sons and daughters who died during wartime. Blue Star Mothers represent the families of sons and daughters who are on active duty.

Guest speakers were Judith Tapper, president of the Department of New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Marjorie Sietsma, president of Blue Star Mothers of America, North Jersey Chapter 3, and the Rev. Joseph Orlandi were the guest speakers.

A medal ceremony was conducted in the Ceremonial Courtroom, Old Courthouse Building in Paterson on



A mounted Passaic County sheriff's officer prepares to participate in Passaic Vicinage's Memorial Day ceremony, which was held at the Old Courthouse Building in Paterson. The vicinage also honored veterans with a medal's ceremony and a luncheon for Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Mothers.

May 14. Veterans from throughout Passaic County were presented with medals for their service in the armed forces.

After receiving their medals, veterans spoke to the audience.

One of the evening's highlights was when Judge Randal C. Chiocca presented medals to his mother and father for their service in World War II.

A Memorial Day ceremony was held on the steps of the Old Courthouse Building in Paterson on May 25. The ceremony included a flag raising with

flags representing all branches of the armed forces and the laying of wreaths to honor fallen soldiers.

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 have died in service to their country.

Justice Hoens Speaks at Dedication of New Passaic Probation Building

Supreme Court Justice Helen E. Hoens gave the keynote address at the dedication ceremony for the new home of the Passaic Vicinage probation division on June 22.

The Watson Building on Dale Avenue in Paterson is dedicated to the late Supreme Court Justice Morris Pashman. Justice Pashman served on the bench in Passaic County from 1959 to 1966, later serving as the Bergen Vicinage assignment judge before his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1973.

As the Passaic Vicinage assignment judge in 1966, Justice Pashman ruled in favor of the Passaic County Bar Association in a lawsuit against the county freeholders regarding the poor conditions of the courthouse. As a result of his decision, a new courthouse was built.

The Watson Building, which has historic significance relative to Paterson's industrial roots, was chosen because its size and layout enabled the vicinage to accommodate the needs of the division to provide a variety of

services to the public.

The probation division relocated on March 19 after occupying the Courthouse Annex - a former post office built in 1899 - for more than 25 years.

Coming in the Fall

The fall edition of the *Judiciary Times* will include a story about Mercer Vicinage's job shadowing program and photos from National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, which was July 15-21.

Chief Justice Tells Drug Court Graduates 'You are Not Alone'

Gave Keynote Address at Bergen Vicinage's 11th Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

By Cheryl Cohen

Human Resources Division
Bergen Vicinage

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner was the keynote speaker at Bergen County drug court's 11th graduation ceremony on May 24.

Rabner described the many favorable achievements of the drug court program throughout the state.

"Your determination, your hard work, enabled you to reach this milestone," the chief justice said.

The chief justice recognized the importance of the drug court team and acknowledged the possible apprehension felt by participants upon leaving the program.

"As you graduate from drug court, know that we are watching with pride," he said.

Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne detailed the successes of the drug court program, noting that Bergen has the third highest retention rate, or percentage of participants who graduate from the program, in the state.

"Drug courts have now been recognized favorably by our governor, the legislature and by [the] Judiciary as a positive step for all involved," Doyne said. "This day is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit."

Judge Eugene Austin, head of Bergen's drug court team, and retired drug court Judge Lois Lipton handed out certificates to the 10 participants who were called up individually and given the chance to say a few words.

Graduate Arthur C. told everyone he recently bought a cabin cruiser and decided to name it *Second Chance*.

He said his old boat's name had been *Not Guilty*.

Joan S. earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Montclair University while in the drug court program and also became a chess tutor.

"I'm not proud of the decisions I made that got me on the wrong side of the law but ever since I joined drug court I've been making all the right



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Bergen Vicinage Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne (left) both addressed graduates during the Bergen Drug Court's 11th graduation ceremony.

decisions," he said. "It's tough to get through this program but there's a lot of help. I leave the program with discipline, responsibility and patience."

Closing remarks were given by James Lisa, who said he was arrested in 1996 while under the influence of drugs.

He described it as the darkest day of his life.

"Today I can stand before you and say I'm the luckiest person on the planet," he said. "I still work the program and I know that good things come cleanly."

Special awards were given to Beth Winik-Cooper for tutoring participants who want to continue their education, and to Jonathan Ritchie for helping participants find work.

Drug courts utilize a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure to address non-violent drug-related cases.

Drug courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug courts are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five

years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing.

Participants follow a tightly structured regimen during their recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process and allows supervisors to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

Allen Quintavella, criminal division manager, described drug court as "a true team approach" and introduced the members of the drug court team. He said the graduations are "always such a rewarding experience."

Did You Know?

Camden County has had three courthouses since the county was created from Gloucester County in 1844.

The first courthouse opened in 1853 and was demolished to make way for the second courthouse, opened in 1904. That building was razed in the 1950s to allow for construction of a department store. Court functions moved to the City Hall building until the present courthouse was built in the 1980s.

Judiciary, NJ State Bar Join To Create Civics Education Program

Continued from page 1

inaugural session at the New Jersey State Bar Association's annual meeting and convention in May. Additional training sessions are being offered through the association and the Judiciary.

"As the Judiciary continues to serve the public and works to further the cause of justice, it is also important for us to recognize the need to educate the public about what we do, how we do it and why we do it day in and day out," Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said during his address at the bar convention.

The need to educate the public on the work of the courts and their role in society has become more evident as polls show the public's lack of a basic understanding of government.

A recent Harris Poll conducted in Florida showed that more than 60 percent of adults could not identify the three branches of government. Nearly one in five said the branches are local, state and federal.

One in six said the three branches are Republican, Democrat and Independent, and more than half could



Chief Justice Stuart Rabner speaks at the New Jersey State Bar Association's annual meeting and convention in May (Photo NJSBA/Jim Beckner)

not define the concept of separation of powers.

The New Jersey civics education program is based on one instituted in Florida. In an exemplary effort of interstate cooperation, the Florida Bar Association provided support, training materials and lesson plans for the New Jersey program, and program leaders were in attendance at the bar

association convention to launch New Jersey's Benchmarks.

In Florida, about 4,500 lawyers and judges speak regularly in the schools, and in the past two years, more than 400 lawyers have been trained as volunteers to speak about the courts to local community groups and educate them about the legal system, the chief justice said in his address.

New Hampshire and Colorado have similar programs, which are under development in 12 other states.

"This program presents a special opportunity for all of us to get more involved in our communities and foster a better understanding of the important role lawyers and the court system play in our society," NJSBA President Kevin P. McCann said.

"Together, we've embarked on this project because our system of government depends on having educated and informed citizens," the chief justice said. "The Benchmarks Program is an important step in that

Probation Officers Participate in National Conference on Sexual Abuse

By Mary McGinty Flanagan

Probation Services

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Committee for the Supervision of Juveniles with Sexually Abusive Behavior (SAB) presented a workshop at the National Adolescent Perpetration Network (NAPN) Conference on May 2 in Atlantic City. The conference was attended by probation officers and clinicians from 24 states and five countries.

NAPN members are clinicians who treat adolescents who have sexually abusive behavior.

When these children are charged and brought into the justice system, specially trained probation officers monitor them in the community, including their compliance with treatment. Working with clinicians is

an essential part of the supervision, and the workshop described how the probation-clinician partnership works in New Jersey.

Among those who participated in the workshop were Timothy Chatten, an assistant Camden County prosecutor, and Robert Hinds, clinical director of a Middlesex County program for treating sexually abusive adolescents.

Chatten discussed the three-prong approach to prosecuting juveniles: rehabilitation of the juvenile, honoring the victim's rights and protecting the public.

Hinds described the *Jumpstart* program, which provides group, individual and family counseling to clients and weekly sessions with a probation officer.

Sandra Erik, a court services supervisor 2 in Middlesex County,

described how Jumpstart works and how she obtained the original grant for the program.

Michael Lasko, Morris/Sussex Vicinage assistant chief probation officer, gave an introduction to juvenile probation services in New Jersey.

Elizabeth Ramos, senior probation officer in Cumberland County, reported on some of the tasks completed by the committee, including a treatment provider directory and training for probation officers who check on the licensing and background of clinicians.

Sherry Phillips, senior probation officer in Cape May County, discussed the *Communication with Treatment Providers* protocol generated by the committee and approved by the Conference of Chief Probation Officers.

Chief Justice Elevates Five Judges to Appellate Division

By **Tammy Kendig**

Communications Manager
Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has elevated five Superior Court judges to the Appellate Division. They are Allison E. Accurso, Michael A. Guadagno, Michael J. Haas, Richard S. Hoffman, and Susan F. Maven.

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 decides approximately 6,500 appeals and 7,500 motions each year.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 2005 by Gov. Richard Codey, Accurso served in the family division in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage.

She then moved to the Mercer Vicinage, where she served in the family division until September 2006, when she was named presiding judge of the civil division in the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage. She became the general equity presiding judge in the Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage in July 2009.

Guadagno was appointed to the bench in 2005 by Gov. Richard Codey.

He served in the family division in the Monmouth Vicinage until 2008, when he was transferred to the Ocean Vicinage and continued to serve in the family division.

He returned to the Monmouth Vicinage in February 2010 and was named presiding judge of the family division in September 2010.

Haas was appointed to the bench in 2007 by Gov. Jon Corzine.

He began his judicial career in the family division in the Burlington Vicinage, moving to the criminal division in 2010. Haas served a temporary assignment to the Appellate Division earlier this year.

Hoffman was appointed to the bench by Gov. Jim McGreevey in 2004. He served first in the family division in Gloucester County, moving to Salem

County in 2006.

He returned to Gloucester County in 2008, remaining on the family bench until 2010, when he was assigned to the civil division.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 2001 by Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco, Maven served in the family division in Atlantic County until 2008, when she was assigned to the criminal division in Cape May County.

She returned to Atlantic County in 2010, serving first in the criminal division and then in the family division.

Law Day 2012



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.



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.