

# JUDICIARY TIMES

A Publication of the  New Jersey Courts

Fall 2009

## Teens Go For the Gold in Judiciary Olympics

By **Mary McGinty Flanagan**

Administrative Specialist 4

Probation Division

Administrative Office of the Courts

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Judiciary Olympics was held on Aug. 13 at Neptune High School in Monmouth County.

This year's winners were Mercer County, which placed first, Union County, which came in second, and Hudson County, which secured third place. First, second and third place winners in each event received medals, and the counties with the top three overall points received trophies.

A total of 131 juvenile probationers from 15 counties and the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP) competed in 13 events, including five track competitions, a football throw, softball toss and a homerun derby.

Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson gave the closing remarks and presented medals to the winners. Lawson encouraged the participants to, in the words of Hank Aaron, "keep swinging" at achieving their goals on probation, in school and in life.

"They get to see their peers, and hopefully, this exposes them to positive experiences they can build on," said Jim Kelly, Ocean Vicinage's chief probation officer.

This event, which is sponsored by the Positive Interventions Committee (PIC) of Juvenile Probation Services, is an opportunity for probationers who are in compliance with their conditions to be rewarded for their good behavior and to learn positive social skills.

PIC is a statewide committee of juvenile probation officers who plan and facilitate events designed to provide probationers both rewards for their compliance and opportunities to experience positive leisure activities.

Curtis Hurff, Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage's assistant chief probation officer and PIC chair, said he believes



A teenager leaps during the long jump competition at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Judiciary Olympics at Neptune High School. Mercer County won this year's competition.

that the educational, recreational and cognitive activities PIC plans are critical to the rehabilitation of a juvenile probationer.

"Juvenile probation is not just about supervising conditions ordered by the judge," Hurff said. "It is also about intervening to teach the client to make better choices in the future. Building self-esteem and modeling healthy leisure activities help us achieve those goals."

Probationers who participated in the events said they enjoyed competing against each other.

"I like to participate in sporting events," said Jonathan, 18. "It keeps me in shape and out of trouble."

For the second consecutive year, probation officer Yannia Dalmau, who is Monmouth Vicinage's representative to PIC, coordinated the event.

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## Passaic Vicinage Brings Court to Victims of Domestic Abuse

By **June Zieder**

Ombudsman

Passaic Vicinage

Domestic violence victims in Passaic County no longer have to choose how to prioritize their emergency medical and legal needs.

The Passaic Vicinage Hospital Project enables domestic violence victims to obtain restraining orders while they are receiving emergency care at St. Joseph's Regional Medical

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## Probation Olympics Allows Teens to Compete, Build Confidence

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Her duties included working with probation officers and community partners to secure the site, scheduling emergency personnel to be present, planning the layout of the individual events on the field, arranging for the food, confirming that paperwork from the participating counties was received and processed, and then acting as the “go-to” person for the day of the event.

Monmouth Vicinage senior probation officer Rick Matson was the site coordinator and served as master of ceremonies, announcing events and medal winners.

A total of 138 juveniles from 15 counties participated in the 2008 Judiciary Olympics, which also was held at Neptune High School. Union County won first place, followed by Mercer in second and Bergen in third.

*Judiciary Times Editor Mike Mathis contributed to this story.*



A teen swings for the fences at the 22nd annual Judiciary Olympics at Neptune High School. The Judiciary Olympics exposes juvenile probationers to positive athletic events designed to develop team building skills and self-esteem.

## Passaic Vicinage Hospital Project Enables Domestic Violence Victims to Testify at Bedside, Not Court

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Center in Paterson.

After a victim tells a health care professional she wants to obtain a restraining order, the hospital contacts the court.

Victims are then screened and interviewed by court staff over the telephone.

Once the domestic violence complaint is completed, victims testify via videoconferencing, which allows the judge to see any injuries. Interpreters are available if needed.

The pilot program, a joint venture between the vicinage and the medical center, is in operation weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This project is believed to be first of its kind in New Jersey,

It began as an initiative of the Passaic County Working Group on Domestic Violence and Diana Bodeen, a domestic violence hearing officer who had seen numerous victims appear in court with emergency medical needs.

Bodeen particularly remembered a woman who was in labor but insisted

on appearing on court to obtain a temporary restraining order before going to the hospital.

Passaic Vicinage Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr. and Kirk Nixon, trial court administrator, heartily endorse the project.

Presiding Judge Michael K. Diamond and Cindy Thomson, family division manager, have supported the project from its inception and were instrumental in encouraging its development.

St. Joseph's management also embraced the idea in its earliest stages.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, attended conferencing sessions at the hospital. Both agreed that the videoconferencing is a good use of technology for domestic violence victims.

A series of community education events will be held to present the project to law enforcement, county social service agencies and local colleges and universities.

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

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

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

**Director of Communications and Community Relations**  
Winifred Comfort

**Editor**  
Mike Mathis

**Contributors**  
Adrien Byrd; Thomas Dibble; Mary McGinty Flanagan; Tina LaLena; Theresa Romano; Janet Slocum; June Zieder and the AOC Print Shop.

## Sidney Schreiber, known for high standards and precision, dies

### Retired Supreme Court Justice served for nine years, became oldest former justice

By **Mike Mathis**  
Judiciary Times Editor

Retired Supreme Court Justice Sidney M. Schreiber, who served on the court for nine years and later became the oldest former justice, died Aug. 5 in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was 94.

Justice Schreiber's opinions reflected his deep respect for the law and his independent thinking," the court said in a statement. "He was known for extremely high standards and precision in writing opinions that provided clear direction to the bench, the bar and the public in cases that touched virtually every area of the law.

Among the majority decisions Justice Schreiber wrote involved cases dealing with living wills and access to public beaches.

"He was a gentle, decent man who had the highest possible commitment to the law," said retired Supreme Court Justice Stewart G. Pollock, who sat on the court with Justice Schreiber and worked with him at the Morristown law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland and Peretti after they left the bench. Justice Schreiber joined the firm in 1984.

"I thought he was the best lawyer on the court," Pollack said. "We didn't always agree on matters of policy, but in terms of his legal skill, there was no one better."

Justice Schreiber was born on Nov. 18, 1914 and was raised in Elizabeth. He was a graduate of Yale University and Yale University Law School and was an attorney for the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission before entering the U.S. Army in 1943. During his two years in the Army, Justice Schreiber directed the war crimes review section of the Judge Advocate General's Office.

After his discharge, Justice Schreiber was an attorney in private practice and was involved in civic affairs, including serving as a delegate to the 1966 New Jersey Constitutional Convention



Sidney M. Schreiber

and as a commissioner for the Union County Parks Commission.

Gov. William T. Cahill appointed Justice Schreiber to the Superior Court in October 1972. Gov. Brendan T. Byrne announced his intention to appoint Justice Schreiber to the Supreme Court on Jan. 8, 1975. He was confirmed by the state Senate on Jan. 27, 1975, but he was not sworn in until Feb. 28, 1975, following the retirement of Justice Nathan L. Jacobs.

Justice Schreiber retired from the court on Nov. 18, 1984, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70.

"The 'M' in 'Justice Sidney M. Schreiber' stood for meticulous," retired Supreme Court Clerk Stephen Townsend said. "He made a point of noting that he read every word of the briefs that were presented to the court for its consideration and action. At oral arguments, his questioning reflected his preparation -- detailed, but to the point.

"His opinions, from handwritten drafts to finely polished "to be filed" submissions, were carefully crafted," Townsend said. "Whether writing for the court or as a dissenter, Justice Schreiber never left the reader in doubt in respect of his position."

In retirement, Justice Schreiber

served as chairperson of the New Jersey Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct and vice chairman of the editorial board of the New Jersey Law Journal.

"He didn't (practice law) for a living, it was a calling for him," said Edward DeHope, a partner at Riker, Danzig. "The intellectual stimulation and the joy of solving legal problems with other lawyers kept him going."

DeHope said Justice Schreiber was an avid New York Mets fan and was devoted to his family.

Justice Schreiber is survived by his wife Ruth, his daughter Florence Powers and his grandson Jonathan Powers, a graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law. Funeral services were held in Westfield.

## Monmouth Hosts Expungement Seminar

By **Theresa Romano**  
Ombudsman  
Monmouth Vicinage

More than 120 people attended a seminar on the expungement process on Aug. 12 at the Long Branch Higher Learning Center, a satellite of Brookdale Community College.

Monmouth Vicinage hosted the seminar through its Office of the Ombudsman as part of a continuing series of workshops to inform the community about court-related topics.

Sue Callaghan, assistant criminal division manager, explained the expungement process and gave an overview of the Judiciary's self-help packet.

Attorney Greg S. Gargulinski described the state's expungement statute and eligibility requirements. Kimberlie Fiero, assistant vice president of Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services, provided information on qualifying for legal aid representation.

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## Municipal Services Division Lauds Administrators for Service

By **Tina LeLena**

Information Technology Analyst  
Municipal Court Services  
Administrative Office of the Courts

More than 40 Judiciary employees were honored on June 2 at the second Principles of Municipal Court Administration program (POMCA) trainers' symposium.

The honorees included municipal division management, municipal court directors, administrators and deputies as well as staff members from throughout the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The event was hosted by the Municipal Court Services division to acknowledge the outstanding service and support these adjunct faculty members provided during 2008.

Steven A. Somogyi, chief of the division's Policy and Procedures Unit, expressed his appreciation to each honoree for their dedication and commitment to the POMCA program.

Robert W. Smith, director of Trial Court Services, highlighted recent POMCA accomplishments and provided a vision for the program's future.

Members of the Municipal Court Services staff then gave presentations that focused on the past, present and future of the POMCA program.

Joann Montagna, an information technology analyst, gave a humorous

rendition of the history of the POMCA program.

Phyllis Petrino-Ferone, supervisor of the POMCA training team, spoke about the current state of the program.

Tina LaLena, information technology analyst, outlined changes that occurred over the summer and this fall, including the following courses that will be offered: "Bail;" "Back to Basics;" "Customer Service for Managers;" "Myers-Briggs Personality Types;" "Discovering Your Personality Spectrum" and "Ethical Leadership."

Participants formed small groups to help develop real-life training scenarios for use in future POMCA workshops.

"Quality training is one of our division's top priorities," said Debra Jenkins, assistant director of Municipal Court Services. "It is because of the great support and assistance we get from our POMCA faculty that we are able to provide the high level of training that our municipal courts have come to expect."

Recent graduates of the POMCA Faculty Development Program also were recognized.

Everyone was praised for their invaluable service and commitment, but Sharon Astorino, administrative specialist 4, Monmouth Vicinage, was cited for her unwavering support and dedication to the program.

The POMCA program is a compre-

hensive, 23-day curriculum organized into four levels. The program serves as the foundation for court managers and other staff to obtain municipal court certification.

Level one is a three-day orientation meant to impart a basic understanding of the role of the Judiciary and its employees.

The second and third levels, considered the heart of the program, encompass six and eight days of training, respectively. These two levels teach the fundamentals associated with working in and operating a municipal court.

The fourth level, a six-day program, is the POMCA management and leadership program.

More than 2,000 municipal court employees have participated in the POMCA program since 2005.

### Judiciary Releases Annual Report

The New Jersey Judiciary has released its 2008-2009 annual report.

The report highlights new programs such as the statewide foreclosure mediation program to assist struggling homeowners and a pilot program to assist veterans. It details the expansion of successful programs such as drug courts and the Intensive Supervision Program.

The report can be found online at [njcourts.com](http://njcourts.com).

### Editor's Note

The deadline for the winter 2009-2010 edition of the *Judiciary Times* is Friday, Dec. 4.

I am interested in feature stories about court programs and newsworthy profiles about judges and court staff.

I'm also interested in current stories and information about court staff and events and submissions of awards, honors, promotions and appointments for JT Briefing, the Judiciary's monthly e-newsletter.

JT Briefing can be found at [njcourts.com/jt/index.htm](http://njcourts.com/jt/index.htm).

I can be contacted at [Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us](mailto:Mike.Mathis@judiciary.state.nj.us) or at 609-292-9581..



Participants in the second Principles of Municipal Court Administration (POMCA) trainers symposium pose for a photograph at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton. More than 40 Judiciary were honored for outstanding service and support.

## Salem County Hosts Graduation For Youth Probationers

**By Mary McGinty Flanagan**

Administrative Specialist 4

Probation Division

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Salem County juvenile probation division hosted a graduation ceremony on July 14 for eight juvenile probationers who successfully completed a 12-week Cognitive Learning Program.

Judge John Tomasello was in attendance to congratulate the graduates for the work they completed in the coursework, community service and abstinence from substance abuse. All are requirements of the program.

Tomasello also thanked the probationers for giving himself and their parents and guardians who attended the ceremony an opportunity to meet them in the courtroom under happier circumstances.

He emphasized that he, court staff, their teachers and their families all want to see them succeed, and he said he hoped the life skills they learned would better prepare them to reach their goals.

Patricia Baitinger, court services supervisor II, gave a PowerPoint presentation that explained the program and included pictures of the juveniles engaged in various activities, including team-building exercises at Ranch Hope, a residential and outpatient treatment facility in Alloway, Salem County.

Dawn Reed of Services to Overcome Drug Abuse Among Teenagers (SODAT), who teaches the cognitive skills classes, told the graduates that she is always gratified to see students move from an initial reluctance to participating to embracing the concept of teamwork.

The Salem County juvenile probation division operates two cognitive skills classes annually. Each class starts with between 12 and 14 probationers.

Participants are court-ordered into the program, which is open to all juvenile probation supervision clients who do not have behavior problems that would interfere with group activities.

All participants undergo an initial drug and alcohol evaluation.



Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage officials attended a graduation ceremony for eight juvenile probationers. They are (from left) Trial Court Administrator Mark Sprock; Judge John Tomasello; Arnold G. Bradway, Salem County Youth Services Commission; Evangeline Banks, Juvenile Justice Commission; assistant chief probation officers Lois Diamond, Donna Waters and Curtis Hurff and Patricia Baitinger, court services supervisor II.

Activities include cognitive skills sessions, drug and alcohol education and community service.

Field trips include a hospital trauma center tour and a prison tour.

“The Cognitive Learning Program provides our juvenile probationers extra tools when they are faced with making a choice,” said Mark Sprock, trial court administrator of Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage. “It is an important part of our commitment to the rehabilitation of young offenders in our community.”

Tomasello and probation officers enforce a strict attendance policy: If participants fail to attend, they must repeat the program.

The Cognitive Learning Program was first funded with a Department of Education grant in 1999. When the grant ended in 2001, the probation division partnered with the Salem County Youth Services Commission (YSC) to continue the program.

Funding pays for transportation, meals and counselors for the cognitive skills training and drug and alcohol education.

## In Monmouth Vicinage, Cases Were Settled Through Mediation While Courts Were Closed for Furlough

**By Janet Slocum**

Administrative Specialist 4

Monmouth Vicinage

The courts were closed on June 29, but that doesn't mean cases weren't resolved.

The Monmouth Bar Association turned the Judiciary's furlough day into “Court Alternative Day,” a public service opportunity that joined litigants and mediators to resolve civil and family matters.

Pro bono mediation was conducted in continuous sessions at the Monmouth County Library in Ocean Township.

In half-hour, scheduled intervals,

litigants and their attorneys met with mediators to try to settle their differences.

The volunteer mediation team consisted of three attorneys and three retired Superior Court judges who now work as professional mediators.

Nearly all of the 20 scheduled cases were resolved through mutual agreement.

“I join Assignment Judge (Lawrence) Lawson in applauding the Monmouth Bar Association for introducing and facilitating this concept,” Trial Court Administrator Marsi L. Perkins said.

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**“Turn Challenges into Building Blocks”****Passaic Drug Court Graduates Urge Classmates to Persevere****By Adrien Byrd**Drug Court Coordinator  
Passaic Vicinage

As the new court year begins, the Passaic Adult Drug Court is celebrating the graduation of 34 people, its largest class ever.

As family, friends, treatment providers and court staff looked on, Judge Nestor F. Guzman officiated over the 10<sup>th</sup> Drug Court graduation of the Passaic Vicinage on July 28.

“Life is not easy, we all face challenges and sometimes life gets in the way, but now you have the power to win,” said Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr., a former Essex Vicinage Drug Court judge. “You have the strength to turn challenges into building blocks and building blocks into accomplishments.”

One of the graduates read a letter to

the class in which she documented her struggle through Drug Court and the joy she felt as a graduate.

“At first I thought, wow, this is a tough program,” she said. “However I do see the importance of the toughness, and in the beginning of this process you really need that close watch on you. I am so grateful for that.

“If I had just took my sentence and went to prison, when released, I would have gone right back out there and continued to do the same thing,” she said. So you see, Drug Court is saving a lot of lives, I know; because it saved mine.” Passaic’s Drug Court program has graduated 201 participants since its inception. A total of 238 people are enrolled in the program.

The keynote speaker, a member of the first Passaic graduating class in 2003, told the graduates, “Today is just the

beginning. You have to work at recovery, everyday, one day at a time.”

Marilyn C. Clark, criminal division presiding judge, praised the graduates and staff and acknowledged the challenges, set backs and hard work that is required to reach graduation day.

She reminded everyone of the value and benefit of the Drug Court program in changing lives.

“Think about the way you looked the first time you appeared in court and look at you today,” she told the graduates. “Smiles, pride, confidence and hope.”

Trial Court Administrator, Kirk Nixon, several judges, Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Larry Bembry, deputy public defender of the ISP/Drug Court Unit, were among those who attended the ceremony.

**Personal Stories Resonate at Passaic Juvenile Drug Court Graduation****By June Zieder**Ombudsman  
Passaic Vicinage

Passaic Vicinage held its Juvenile Drug Court graduation on July 10 in the Passaic County Administration Building in Paterson.

The graduation honored those juveniles who followed a strict program to remain drug and alcohol free.

“Drug Court is one of the most important and successful programs we have in the Judiciary,” Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr. said.

“It can and often does take someone heading down the wrong path and changes their life by turning them into a successful and productive citizen,” Volker said.

The keynote speaker was Pamanicka “Chino” Harden, who works with the Center for the New Leadership on Urban Solution at Medgar Evers College at the City University of New York.

Harden spoke about her experience growing up on the streets and a escaping a life of drugs to become

a youth leader. She now works with youth labeled as dangerous and hopeless, particularly in the areas of conflict resolution and gang intervention.

Family division Drug Court Judge Rudolph A. Filko, who gave opening remarks, said that Drug Court graduation is a proud moment in everyone’s life.

The process does not happen overnight and is a long, hard road for the graduates and their families, he said

Family Division Presiding Judge Michael K. Diamond spoke about the impact of Drug Court.

He told a story about a prisoner he met in California who did not have the benefit of Drug Court in his youth. He continued his life of crime and eventually was sentenced to Alcatraz.

Additional presentations and words of congratulations were offered by Louis E. Imhof III, clerk to the Passaic County Board of Freeholders, Wayne E. Cozart, administrator of the Youth Services Bureau and Ivette Roland, who represented Assemblywoman Elyse Evans.

**Monmouth Hosts Expungement Seminar***Continued from page 3*

A Spanish interpreter from Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey was present to assist members of the audience.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Long Branch Concordance, a non-profit organization that finds resources for people in need, fosters individual and family development and creates community partnerships.

**Monmouth Cases Resolved When Courts Were Closed***Continued from page 5*

The Monmouth Bar Association is considering conducting future court alternative days to hear cases that are pending resolution. Bar members also have been asked to offer guidance to other bar associations in the state that might be intersted in planning similar programs.

## Essex Vicinage Hosts Two Delegations of Foreign Judges

By **Thomas Dibble**  
Operations Division  
Essex Vicinage

Essex Vicinage recently had the opportunity to host two delegations of international judges.

District Court Judges Changyeol Yi and Unggi Yoon of the Supreme Court of South Korea paid their first visit to an American courthouse in Newark on June 24.

The judges were in the United States from February to August, studying at Fordham University School of Law. Their Essex visit was arranged through the National Center for State Courts' International Visitors Education Program.

After an initial orientation and meetings with Assistant Trial Court Administrator Sigfredo Carrion and Acting Assistant Trial Court Administrator Giuseppe Fazari, the judges were briefed on the operations of the Office of the Ombudsman and Information and Community Relations Center.

They then toured the facilities with Community Relations Liaison Yesenia Rios before observing a trial in Judge Garry J. Furnari's courtroom.

After lunch with the criminal division judges, arbitration administrator Crystal Page briefed the judges on Complementary Dispute Resolution (CDR) programs. They also spent time with Judge Paul J. Vichness and civil division law clerks before ending the day with a general discussion with Judge Michael A. Petrolle and Assistant Criminal Division Manager Howard Beckford.

In mid-July, Trial Court Administrator Collins Ijoma and the operations division organized a study tour for eight judges and the court administrator from the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nigeria. The FCT is comparable to Washington, D.C. Chief Judge L.H. Gummi led the



A delegation of eight judges from Nigeria visited Essex Vicinage in early July and received a tour of facilities and a briefing of court programs. Two judges from South Korea visited Essex in June.

delegation.

Over several days, the group visited Essex Vicinage, the New York City criminal court in Manhattan and took tours of the Superior Court in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Essex, Ijoma and Fazari gave an overview of the vicinage and Kimberly Cicala, community relations liaison, hosted a tour of the facilities. An overview of the criminal division and a visit to Central Judicial Processing Court to see the first appearance process via video followed the tour.

Page spoke about CDR programs, including arbitration and mediation. During an impromptu tour of the Historic Courthouse, Eleanor Davis, Judge Donald S. Goldman's secretary, arranged for Judge Paul J. Vichness to speak with the group in his courtroom.

Civil division Presiding Judge Eugene J. Codey highlighted the features of his courtroom. The day ended with a brief discussion with criminal division Presiding Judge Peter J. Vazquez, who spoke on behalf of Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello.

William Etheridge, chief clerk of New York City criminal courts,

arranged for the group's visit there. It focused on the Arraignment Court, which processes up to 300 cases a day and operates 16 hours each day, including weekends and holidays.

Duane Delaney, clerk of court at the Washington, D.C. Superior Court, organized a program that included a tour, presentations by key division heads and a meeting with Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield. Following lunch at the Capital Grille, it was on to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Deputy Clerk of the Court Gary Kemp arranged for a behind the scenes tour.

The delegation expressed profound appreciation and agreed that they learned a lot from the courts they visited.

### **Supreme Court Thanks Fee Arbitration Committees**

The Supreme Court issued certificates of meritorious service on Sept. 23 to 33 members of New Jersey's district fee arbitration committees to thank them for having served the Judiciary.

Committee members resolve disputes concerning legal fees between clients and their attorneys.

The Supreme Court created the current fee arbitration system in 1978.

## Judge Grant Presides Over Burlington Naturalization Ceremony

By Mike Mathis

Judiciary Times Editor

Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, presided over a naturalization ceremony on Sept. 17 and administered the Oath of Citizenship and Allegiance to 28 foreign-born residents from 16 countries.

The ceremony, which was held in the Olde Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly, was held as part of Burlington Vicinage's celebration of Constitution Week and Juror Appreciation Week.

Grant told the new citizens and their family and friends that they were part of the "American mosaic" and that they had an obligation to do work of national importance everyday.

That work includes preparing children for productive lives, working with neighbors for safe, clean communities and taking pride in what you do.

"A mosaic, as you know, is a beautiful picture made up of many small pieces," he said. "Each piece, on its own, cannot tell a story or depict an image.

"But placed together, with the colors and shapes arranged in just the right way, each individual piece becomes powerful, and each piece is critically important to the whole.

"Each of you today became a piece of the mosaic that is the citizenry of the United States, and that, my fellow Americans, is how you will do great work of national importance," Grant said.

Grant and Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder congratulated each new citizen and presented them with small American flags and certificates.

Constitution Day was observed informally until President George W. Bush signed a law in 2004 designating Sept. 17 as Constitution Day.



Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, addresses foreign-born residents and their families and friends during a naturalization ceremony at the Olde Burlington County Courthouse in Mount Holly on Sept. 17. Grant told the new citizens that they were part of the "American mosaic" and that they had an obligation to do work of national importance everyday.



Judge Grant congratulates a new citizen as Jude Del Preore, trial court administrator in Burlington Vicinage, looks on. Grant administered the Oath of Citizenship and Allegiance to 28 foreign-born residents from 16 countries.



### 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.*