

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts

Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All

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D.C. COURTS HOLD TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

By Meredith J. Saladyga, Executive Office Intern

On September 29, 2005, the D.C. Courts held their 24th Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the third-floor atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse. The well-attended ceremony was an opportunity to formally recognize the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the D.C. Courts' staff.

Anne Wicks, Executive Officer, presided over the ceremony which opened with an impressive rendition of the National Anthem by Andrew Moore of the Civil Division and continued with welcoming remarks by Chief Judge Eric Washington of the Court of Appeals and Chief Judge Rufus King, III of the Superior Court.

Several employees were specially recognized for their significant contributions to the D.C. Courts. Jonathan Motley, Deputy Clerk in the Probate Division, received the Unsung Hero Award for his work for the division.

Jonathan offered to update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to incorporate CourtView into the daily workings of the Probate Division. He also coordinated the English to Spanish translation of general probate information.

Paul Trudeau, Domestic Relations Branch Chief, earned the Management Achievement Award for his dedication and specialized knowledge in the management of the Domestic Relations

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Congratulations!

Constance Hill receives recognition for 40 years of service from Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric Washington and Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus King.

Branch, which includes areas such as divorce, custody, visitation, and legal separation. A 30-year veteran of the Superior Court, Paul has been instrumental in many developments in his area, such as the cross-training of the Domestic Relations Branch staff across the Family Court, the creation of the Family Court Self-Help Clinic, and the establishment of the Family Court Case Coordinators.

Shirley Whitfield, Deputy Clerk in the Southeast Field Unit of the Social Services Division, received the Public

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The music world's newest sensation, Deaf Dog and the Indictments, brought down the house!

New Court of Appeals Judge: Noël Anketell Kramer

By Marie Robertson, Senior Court Manager, Executive Office

The Courts celebrated Judge Noël Anketell Kramer's investiture as a Court of Appeals Judge in a September 12, 2005 ceremony in the Moultrie Courthouse atrium. Chief Judge Eric T. Washington presided over the event, attended by scores of judges, dignitaries, friends, court staff, and other well-wishers. Judge Kramer's immediate family, Franklin Kramer, her husband, and Katherine Anketell Kramer and Christopher Anketell Kramer, her children, participated in the ceremony. Numerous members of her extended family – including several lifelong friends from Bay City, Michigan – were also present.

The Ballou High School Color Guard presented the colors, and Renard Rhinehart, of the Superior Court, sang the National Anthem. Superior Court Judge Cheryl Long, who told the audience she has known Judge Kramer since they were both prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's office in 1976, gave an interesting insight: white gloves. Judge Kramer was raised to wear white gloves to church, Judge Long related, and she continues to use that training, both in her gracious demeanor and in "mentally wearing white gloves," or doing the right thing at all times. Judge Long cited examples of Judge Kramer's thoroughness and toughness, elements of mentally wearing white gloves: doing her own crime scene investigation to find the key piece of evidence to win a conviction or going into her courtroom's cellblock to help subdue an altercation among prisoners.

Andrew Marks, Esq., former President of the D.C. Bar and a partner at Crowell & Moring, called Judge Kramer a strong leader and a consensus builder, saying she is erudite, practical, and creative. Perhaps the most moving speaker was Ms. Yvonne Moore, ANC Commissioner in Ward 7 and Vice President of the Fairlawn Civic Association, who talked about Judge Kramer's interaction with the East of the River community as the presiding judge of the Community Court. Ms. Moore told the audience that the community was delighted and overwhelmed to have a judge come to the neighborhood, attend meetings at night, and learn the community's

concerns. Judge Kramer became a part of the community, Ms. Moore said, through her commitment and her fondness for the East of the River residents she met.

Judge Schwelb reflected on his long friendship with Judge Kramer before he administered the oath of office, assisted by the judge's husband, Frank Kramer. The judge's daughter Katherine, son Christopher and Ms. Jacqueline Waller, her JAA of 18 years, assisted in the robing.



Judge Kramer waits for her daughter Katherine to complete her robing; Clerk of Court Garland Pinkston, Judge Kramer's JAA Jacqueline Waller, the judge's husband Frank and her son Christopher look on.

Judge Kramer served as a judge on the Superior Court beginning in 1984. She was a member of court committees that instituted the one-day-or-one-trial jury service system, that prepared a code of conduct for the judges of the D.C. Courts, and that formulated the plan that changed the standards for qualifying to represent indigent defendants in the Superior Court, which has served as a model for changing similar standards in the Family Court, the Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court.

In 2002, Chief Judge King appointed her the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, a position she held until 2005. As Ms. Moore described, during Judge Kramer's tenure as the Presiding Judge, she helped to establish the East of the River Community Court, which heard all misdemeanor cases arising from arrests in the area east of the Anacostia River (except domestic violence).

Judge Kramer has also been involved in the D.C. Bar and in addressing issues pertaining to women lawyers. In 2000, she served as the President of the National Association of Women Judges, and in 2002, she chaired its 25th annual meeting here in the District of Columbia. She is also a long-time member of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia, which in May 2005 named her the Woman Lawyer of the Year.

Before becoming a judge on the Superior Court, Judge Kramer was an attorney at the firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering and an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia, where she was the Chief of the Grand Jury Section.

Judge Kramer was born in Bay City, Michigan, which is located on the shores of Lake Huron. She was raised by her mother, Ruth LeRoux Anketell, and her grandmother, Alice King LeRoux. She graduated with honors from Vassar College and from the University of Michigan Law School, where she served as the Constitutional and Criminal Law Editor of the Law Review and as the first president of the University of Michigan Women Law Student's Association, now the largest student organization on the campus.

The Full Court Press is published by the District of Columbia Courts to provide information about the D.C. Courts. Inquiries should be submitted to Room 1500.

Leah Guowitz, Editor

JUDGE LAURA CORDERO'S INVESTITURE HELD IN SEPTEMBER

By Meredith J. Saladyga, Executive Office Intern

Judge Laura Cordero was sworn in as the newest Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court in a well-attended ceremony held on September 2, 2005. Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III presided over the investiture, while Judge Ricardo M. Urbina of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia administered the oath of office. Judge Cordero's mother held the Bible and she was robed by her three daughters, accompanied by her husband.

The Honorable James A. Parker of U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico spoke of Judge Cordero's reputation for hard work and her pleasant demeanor, compassion, and team-player attitude. Judge Cordero served a two-year term as Judge Parker's law clerk following school. Judge Parker added that selecting Judge Cordero as a law clerk was



Judge Cordero receives congratulations from her husband Poli Marmolejos and daughters Sofia, Cecilia, and Amalia, as Chief Judge King and Superior Court Clerk Duane Delaney look on.

one of his "best decision[s] in many years on the bench."

Judge Cordero attended DePaul University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1985. She then earned her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1988.

Following her clerkship, Judge Cordero continued her dedication to pub-

lic service, as she worked in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division for the Department of Justice under the Attorney General's Honor Law Graduate Program. In 1993, she joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. In 1999, Judge Cordero was assigned as the first Community Prosecutor stationed at the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District, as part of the United States Attorney's Office citywide community prosecution program.

Immediately prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Cordero was the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for External Affairs, where her responsibilities included developing, coordinating and maintaining effective partnerships with federal and local law enforcement, government agencies and the community in the District of Columbia. In this position, she also coordinated an extensive community engagement network. Welcome, Judge Cordero!

Open Season Plan Highlights

Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Open Season: November 14th to December 12th, 2005

FSA and FEHB are pretax benefits to help cut costs for qualifying medical and dependent care expenses. The FEHB Open Season allows employees to enroll in a health care plan or make changes to their current plan. During the FSA Open Season employees may enroll in the Health Care Savings Account and/or the Dependent Care Savings Account. Employees who are currently enrolled in the FSA program must re-enroll to have their benefits continue in 2006.

Employees can meet with representatives from FEHB carriers in two different information sessions. On November 28, 2005 at Gallery Place from 12noon to 2pm, federal health insurance carriers will explain their plans and the coverage provided. Employees may ask specific questions about what is covered by each of the various health insurance plans. On December 1, 2005 in Moultrie Courthouse room 3300 from 10am to 2pm, federal health plan representatives will have materials available and can answer general questions about their respective health plans.

Deferred Compensation Plans

The 2006 IRS maximum deferral limit is \$15,000 for participating employees. The catch-up contribution IRS maximum is \$5,000 for a total contribution of \$20,000 in 2006, for eligible employees (those 50 and over). Employees may make changes in their TSP enrollment at anytime, the TSP Open Season has been eliminated.

For more information about FSA, FEHB, and the Deferred Compensation Plans, employees may go to the HR intranet page at <http://dccweb.gov/opencms/export/courtsystem/hr/index.jsp>.

Hispanic Heritage Month

A little singing



A lotta dancing



and an appreciative audience made the first Hispanic Heritage Month event a big success.

2005 CORO Awards



Achievement Recognition Award recipient Denise Gilman, Esq., speaks passionately about the courage of her clients and how they inspire her.



Anya Sykes of Ayuda, recipient of the Legal Community Award, spoke of the needs of the immigrant community and her satisfaction at being able to provide much needed legal representation.



Juvenile Probation Officer Freddie Valentín, recipient of the Allan Klein Special Recognition Award, speaks to the CORO Awards audience.



Representatives of the Gang Intervention Partnership Unit, MPD Sergeant Juan D. Aguilar and Officer Travis Barton, receive the Community Agency Award presented by Judge Rafael Díaz.



Members of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Superior Court, directed by Paul Roddy, accept the CORO Community Outreach Award.



24th Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony



Paul Trudeau, winner of the Management Achievement Award and a 30 year court employee, with Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus King and Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric Washington.



District of Columbia Court of Appeals Records Management & Courtroom Support Unit staff receives the Public Service Award (group) from Chief Judge Eric Washington and Chief Judge Rufus King.



Jonathan Motley, winner of the Unsung Hero Award, with Chief Judge Rufus King and Chief Judge Eric Washington.



Ken Foor, Greg Hale, Joe Kerrick, Barbara Hillebrand, Yuan Burns, and Sid Hare of the Information Technology Division receive the Enterprise Service Award from Chief Judge Eric Washington and Chief Judge Rufus King.



Shirley Whitfield, winner of the Public Service Award (individual), receives her award from Chief Judge Eric Washington and Chief Judge Rufus King.

SUMMER OF HONORS

By Meredith J. Saladyga, Executive Office Intern

During the summer months, several Superior Court judges received honors for their contributions and dedication. These honors span a wide range of impressive accomplishments, and the D.C. Courts congratulate all three members of our judicial community on their hard work!

The National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) recently named Superior Court **Judge Herbert Dixon** as the next Chair of the conference. The NCSTJ is a leading conference of general jurisdiction trial judges in the nation and is a branch of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association. Judge Dixon has already



implemented several new initiatives as Chair, including increasing use of the Conference Listserv to put judges across the nation in contact with one another for discussion of Conference topics.

Judge Joan Zeldon joined the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on



Uniform Laws when the Conference named her to the position at its August meeting. The Executive Committee, the governing body of the Conference which mostly consists of its past presidents, heads the Conference in drafting the important uniform laws which shape modern United States law. Prior to this appointment, Judge Zeldon was chosen by Mayor Williams to be a Commissioner on the Conference, where she served on the Drafting Committee on the Uniform Adoption Act, the Drafting Committee for the Uniform Arbitration Act and the Drafting Committee for the Uniform Mediation Act.

In August, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute named **Magistrate Judge Karen Howze** a 2005 "Angel in Adoption." This award recognizes individuals and organizations from each state and the District of Columbia for outstanding work and dedication to orphans and foster children in the United States. Members of Congress select the recipients of the award.



Continued from page 1.

Service Award (individual) for going beyond the call of duty to provide public service to the clients of the Unit. Shirley provides assistance to clients by offering tutoring services for reading and writing, and she provides needy clients with valuable resources including food, clothing, and bus tokens.

The Public Service Award (group) went to the Records Management and Courtroom Support Unit for the Court of Appeals, which consists of four members: Kevin Brannon, Shawn Dickerson, Ricardo Green, and Supervisor Willie Conyers. This professional and dedicated team was recognized for meeting deadlines and providing exemplary public service, which included filing over 1,000 customer requests for information, 500 calendar and screening sets, and filing 10,000 court documents in active cases, among many of their other responsibilities.

The Information Technology Division, led by Ken Foor, received the Enterprise Service Award for their excellent project management skills, implementing several major initiatives, including the new Integrated Justice Information System. The division's strong sense of teamwork and excellent coordination of multiple projects ---

lauded by the Government Accountability Office -- was noted by Executive Officer Anne Wicks in presenting the award.

Many of the D.C. Courts' staff received recognition through the Performance Incentive Awards, which acknowledge those employees with "Outstanding" performance and performance that "Exceeds Expectations." Additionally, employees were presented with Length of Service Awards for their lasting commitment to service at the D.C. Courts, with almost twenty employees receiving recognition for over thirty years of service. Constance Hill of the Probate Division was honored for her dedication to the Courts with a record-setting forty years of service!

The ceremony was capped off by musical performances by Debra Swinson-Stokes of the Executive Office, and "Deaf Dog and the Indictments," a Courthouse ensemble consisting of Judges Franklin Burgess, John Campbell, Russell Canan, and William Jackson and Magistrate Judges Dennis Doyle, John McCabe, and William Nooter. A wonderful reception followed the ceremony. Special thanks goes to the Awards Ceremony Committee, headed by Willard Stephens of the Social Services Division.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE – CONSTANCE HILL

By Meredith J. Saladyga, Executive Office Intern

Looking around her office, you would have no idea that Constance Hill, Branch Supervisor of Small Estates, Probate Division, has worked with the D.C. Courts for 40 years. Once you start speaking to Constance, however, you quickly discover the years of dedicated service she has provided to the Courts and all of the wonderful stories that go with that service.

Originally from Richmond, Indiana, Constance attended Earlham College in Indiana. Prior to working at the Courts, she was a dental assistant and stay-at-home mom. Constance began her tenure at the Courts in the Probate Division on March 16, 1964, after interviewing and getting hired on the spot. At that time, the Probate Division was part of the U.S. District Court, so Constance and her colleagues worked in the U.S. District Court building across the street from the Moultrie Courthouse.

Constance has held six different positions as a court employee, including Records Clerk and Branch Supervisor of Administrative Services. She moved to Small Estates in 1987 and became the Branch Supervisor in 1989. Additionally, Constance was the first part-time Courtroom Clerk for the Probate Division, working under now - Senior Judge Theodore Newman, Jr. In 1998, she received



Reflecting on her many accomplishments, Constance proudly wears her 40 year service award pin.

the “Employee of the Year” award.

When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Constance quickly replied that she loves “working with the public and individuals.” The area of Small Estates involves property and estate matters, and with that duty comes the opportunity to help families in difficult times.

Constance, a self-described “people person,” loves to help and strives to send people away happy. She notes that Small Estates is her “heart” and that having a client call just to thank her for her help in an estate matter is one of the most rewarding parts of her job. In addition to the opportunity to assist the public, Constance also loves to work with her two specialists, with whom she works closely on client matters.

Constance has a very active life outside of the Courts. Married to attorney Ronald Hill, Constance has

two children, business owner Earl Abdulmalik Mohammed and Veronica Hill, an attorney. She also has six “bright and magnificent” grandchildren and three sisters. An avid fan of the fine arts, Constance enjoys both visual and performance art, including opera and classical music. She also enjoys to travel, read, and write poetry.

Reflecting upon her time at the Courts, Constance recalls several memorable experiences, including the time she met Robert Kennedy, who came to the U.S. District Courthouse for the investiture of Judge Spottswood Robinson. She also remembers being one of the first black female employees to work in the Probate Division. Affectionately called the “Historian of Probate Matters” by her colleagues, Constance has thought about writing a book on her experiences at the Courts.

Perhaps Constance’s secret to a successful career at the Courts is derived from the enjoyment of her work and her strong standards and work ethic. At the end of each day, she strives to say, “I’ve done my very best” because she says, “you can’t lie to yourself.” Constance has undoubtedly done her very best for the Courts, and we thank her for her many years of dedicated work!

NEW EMPLOYEES JOIN THE COURTS

By Meredith J. Saladyga, Executive Office Intern

Heather Schofield joined the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division team in July 2005 as a Staff Assistant for ADR Programs. Heather currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia and received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from East Carolina University, and a Master of Science in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. Prior to arriving at the Courts, Heather worked in publishing for 13 years, starting as an Administrative Assistant at the National Geographic Society and ending as a Production Editor for the National Academy of Sciences. She also spent many years volunteering as a certified Small Claims Mediator for the Virginia Court System. Heather came to the D.C. Courts because she decided she wanted to “work with people instead of paper.” She also wanted a change of career that would permit her to “work in the field of conflict resolution,” as she became interested in mediation several years ago. Heather felt that she would be able to quickly gain a great deal of experience in this field by working for the D.C. Courts’ court-referred mediation program, which, she notes, has an “excellent reputation [nationwide].” Heather reports that the best parts of the job are the staff, who made her feel very welcome, and the wonderful feelings associated with helping people resolve conflicts in a productive manner. In her spare time Heather has developed an interest in hockey now that she works in such close proximity to the MCI Center, home of the Washington Capitals. Welcome, Heather!



graduate, and Brandon, a sophomore at Hampton University. Outside of work, he enjoys reading science fiction and partaking in his wife’s cooking. Welcome aboard, Edward!

Estrellita Hicks started work as a Family Court Mediator with the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division in August 2005. A native of Oakland, California, Estrellita moved to the D.C. metropolitan area in 1991. She comes to the Courts with a broad range of educational experience, earning a Bachelor of Science in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Saint Mary’s College of California and a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University. Prior to coming to the Courts, Estrellita’s work history, spanning over 13 years, includes the positions of Therapist, Manager of Training & Development, Intensive Clinical Case Manager, Senior Health Information Specialist, Hotline Shift Coordinator, and Mental Health, Crisis Intervention, and Substance Abuse Counselor. As a Family Court Mediator, Estrellita feels privileged to have the chance “to help people reach mutually acceptable agreements that meet their needs and the needs of their children” and finds this work “is incredibly meaningful...and a tremendous honor.” When she is not working hard at the Courts, she enjoys playing Scrabble, contemporary art, and classic martial arts movies. Welcome, Estrellita!



Edward C. Clayton joined the Courts in the Information Technology Department as a Quality Assurance Computer Specialist in August 2005. A resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, Edward attended the University of Maryland, College Park. Edward has a depth of experience in quality assurance: over the past 15 years, he worked as a quality assurance consultant with several companies, including MCI, Fannie Mae, and General Electric. Having worked as a consultant/contractor, Edward seized the opportunity to be a “permanent contributor” to the Courts’ long-term IT goals, which include implementing and maintaining CourtView. Edward most enjoys “being part of an outstanding team [and] working on a state-of-the-art solution to the Courts case management responsibility.” Edward has been happily married for twenty-four years, and he is the proud father of Dhonielle, a 2005 Wake Forest

Yolanda C. Mills joined the Courts as a Courtroom Clerk in the Criminal Division in July 2005.



A native of Washington, D.C., Yolanda received a Bachelor of Arts from American University and plans to complete a Master of Science in Administration from the Central Michigan University Extended Learning Program in April of 2006. Yolanda previously worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer for the

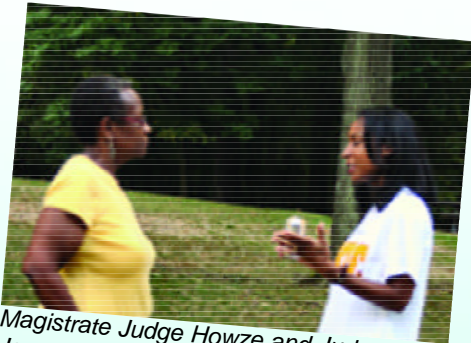
State of Maryland, and was also a Staff Analyst for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The possibilities for career growth and opportunities to use her various skills appealed to Yolanda when she chose a job at the Courts. Yolanda’s favorite part of her job is working with her colleagues because they are “patient, nice, and extremely hardworking.” Welcome to the Courts, Yolanda!

“ONE FAMILY - ONE PICNIC”

By Toni F. Gore, Supervisor, Domestic Relations Branch, Family Court

Under the vigorous and dedicated leadership of Presiding Judge Lee F. Satterfield, Deputy Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring, and Family Court Operations Director Dianne King, the Family Court team members are developing a bond that transcends the physical boundaries of the Moultrie Courthouse.

On Saturday, September 10, 2005, at Rock Creek Park, that bond was highly visible at the annual Family Court picnic, a collaboration between the Family Court judicial officers and court personnel. In addition to that collaboration, other factors in the picnic’s success included perfect weather, good conversation, a delicious assortment of food, t-shirts and tons of fun-filled activities for the children and the adults. The theme of the day was “One Family--One Picnic.” Like most memorable events, special moments were captured on film and each picture is truly worth a thousand words.



Magistrate Judge Howze and Judge Josey-Herring take a break from the festivities.



Toni F. Gore, Janeta Cousar and Magistrate Judge Julie Breslow prove they are 'family-oriented'.



Geneva Murphy and Sheila Gilstrap pose for the camera.



Stephanie Minor-Harper and Dianne King listen intently.



Gideon, Kerry, and Mark take part in different activities.



Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo and daughter Lourdes enjoy the festivities.



Charles Gaines - the wild gourmet.

COMMUNITY COURT CONFERENCE INCREASES PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

By Michael O. Francis, Community Court Coordinator, Criminal Division

On Thursday, September 29, 2005, the Superior Court hosted a conference: "Community Courts: Working Together for D.C." The conference was an initiative of the Criminal Division's Management Action Plan to enhance the Community Courts by strengthening their partnership with D.C. government agencies.

The all-day conference began with an overview of the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court, the East of the River Community Court, and the community court movement nationwide. The presenters then detailed the need for increased access by Community Court defendants to social services provided by D.C. government and private non-profit agencies, and discussed the need for D.C. government agencies to provide an increased number of community service opportunities for defendants. The conference then provided a forum for attendees to strategize on ways to address crime to improve the quality of life in the District.

Officials and representatives from the D.C. City Council, government agencies, criminal justice agencies, the Superior Court Trial Lawyers Association, private non-profit



social services agencies, and the D.C. Courts were invited to the conference. Attendees included Chief Judge Rufus King; Judge Noël Kramer, Judge Ann Keary, Magistrate Judge Richard Ringell, Councilmember Carol Schwartz; Deputy Mayors Edward Reiskin and Neil Albert; DMV Director Anne Witt; Pretrial Services Agency Director Susan Shaffer; Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti; CSOSA Director Paul Quander; PDS Director

Avis Buchanan; Tom Hibarger, Chief of the Superior Court Branch of the D.C. US Attorney's Office; Tara Jones, Interim Director of the D.C. Office of Neighborhood Services; Commander Evelyn Primas of MPD; Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Executive Director Nancy Ware; and June Kress, Executive Director, Council for Court Excellence (CCE).

Judge Kramer and Chief Judge King opened the conference with some very inspiring welcoming remarks that set a wonderful tone for the conference. Criminal Division Director Dan Cipullo followed with a history of the Community Courts in D.C.

Other highlights of the conference included:

- ◆ A dynamic keynote address on the topic of "The Importance of Partnerships in Enhancing the Quality of Life of City Residents" by Rev. Donald Isaac, Executive Director, East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership.
- ◆ A thought-provoking panel discussion on "Partnering with the DC Community Courts" with Judge Keary, Magistrate Judge Ringell, Elizabeth Wingo from the D.C. Attorney General's Office; Lisa Baskerville Greene, from the D.C. US Attorney's Office; Joseph Jorgens, a defense attorney; Ed Moody, from the D.C. Department of Employment Services; and Keelon Hawkins from the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency.
- ◆ A presentation by Chris Watler from the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) on "The Community Court Model." (CCI has provided extensive assistance to the D.C. Community Courts and in 1993 launched the nation's first community court, the Midtown Community Court in Manhattan).
- ◆ Informative overviews of the East of the River Community Court Needs Assessment and Recommendations Reports prepared by Criminal Division staff and CCI, and the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court Needs - Assessment and Recommendations Report prepared by CCE.
- ◆ Luncheon remarks on "How Community Courts Improve Criminal Justice in D.C. But Require Partnerships" by CJCC Executive Director Nancy Ware.
- ◆ An interesting and lively group discussion on "Developing Solutions to Support the Community Courts."
- ◆ An important outcome of the conference was that the attendees identified additional potential partnerships between the Community Courts and D.C. government agencies. Steps have already been taken to begin implementing these ideas.
- ◆ Conference organizers would like to thank the Offices' of the D.C. Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and D.C. Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders, as well as D.C. Court staff for contributing to the success of the event.

***** **Rave Reviews** *****

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2005 7:33 PM
To: webmaster@dcsc.gov
Subject: Superior Court feedback

I was called for and reported for one day/one trial jury duty in the Superior Court on October 21, 2005. I had requested an automatic deferral because of a work travel conflict, and was pleased with the simple deferral process. A larger pool of jurors was on hand than I have seen in previous years. Nonetheless, I thought that the system worked efficiently and smoothly and **the clerks** were professional and helpful. I was impressed with the manner in which **Judge Retchin** managed her courtroom. Her explanations of the proceedings were clear and direct. Although I did not get the opportunity to serve on the jury (the jury was filled two slots before me), I thought the experience was very positive.

Lynn Flanagan

September 15, 2005

Juror Office Superior Court of The District of Columbia 500 Indiana Ave NW Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mrs. Bailey-Jones,

I am writing this letter to show my appreciation of your employee Mr. **Gary Farris**. Mr. Farris displayed outstanding customer service and professionalism from the time he answered the phone. The department is lucky to have such a courteous and capable employee. Mr. Farris made what could have been a stressful situation into an accommodating and pleasant experience.

Re: Sasha Vance's Excellent Customer Service

Dear Mr. Monroe:

I am writing this letter by way of expressing my sincere appreciation for the assistance Ms. **Sasha Vance** recently provided to me in my efforts to obtain records of my daughter's name change. Since my daughter currently lives abroad and needed proof of this to present to the U.S. Embassy by a certain deadline, time was of the essence. As a result of Ms. Vance's help, I was able to get the certified copies to my daughter ...and she will be safely back on these shores by the end of this week. For this I am grateful.

Again, mere words cannot express how much I appreciated the help I received in this matter. Excellent customer service was clearly demonstrated by your office and it meant a great deal to my family.

Sincerely,

Sondra M. Bennett

June 8, 2005

Dear Judge King:

I write you concerning Ms. **Tanna McDowell**. She is the Courtroom Clerk assigned to courtroom 120, commonly known as Traffic Court. As you know, on any given day that calendar may have over 40 matters, from status hearing to trials.

Each time I have a case in there I am amazed at Ms. McDowell's ability to run an extremely hectic calendar with poise, efficiency and courtesy. Ms. McDowell is pleasant and professional to all parties and defendants. That calendar only proceeds in a fair and effective manner because of her hard work and meticulous organizational skills. She is a pleasure to work with. I would ask that this letter be placed in her personnel file.