

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts
"Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All"

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NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGES ADDED TO THE FAMILY COURT

By Jennifer Pastore, Executive Office Intern

Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus King presided over the installation ceremony of five new magistrate judges on Thursday, December 12, 2002. Four of the five appointees, Karen Howze, John McCabe, Tara Fentress and Julie Breslow will handle cases of abused and neglected children, and Joan Goldfrank will chair the Mental Health Commission. Upon appointment, the new judges commenced training in issues involving children and families, how to conduct court hearings in such cases, and general administrative topics.

U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar Kotelly administered the oath of office to Joan Goldfrank. Her husband, Michael Brustein, held the Bible while her daughter, Tess, performed the robing. Ms. Goldfrank received her B.A. degree, *cum laude*, from Emory University and her J.D. from Emory University School of Law. She has served in the Department of Justice for eight years. Ms. Goldfrank previously served in the Legal Advisor's Office at Saint Elisabeth's Hospital, advising on various legal matters



Magistrate Judges Johnson, Deull and McKenna welcome their new colleagues Magistrate Judges Joan Goldfrank and Tara Fentress.

and representing the hospital in court. She has taught professional responsibility at the American University Washington College of Law and Vermont Law School.

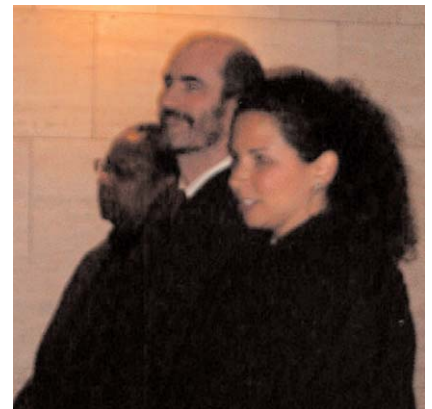
Karen Aileen Howze was also sworn in as one of the new Family Court magistrate judges. The Honorable Lee F. Satterfield administered the oath of office. Ms. Howze brings varied expertise to her

position. Between January 2000 and June 2001, she served as Family Division Special Master. In July 2001, she was named Director of Adolescent Health Programs for the ABA Center on Children and Law. Previously, she opened a law office focusing on abuse and neglect and mental health law. Ms. Howze later added Probate, Special Education, Adoption and Domestic Relations to her caseload. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Hastings College of Law. Ms. Howze's mother, Dorothy Howze, held the Bible at the ceremony. Her daughter and sister performed the robing.

Judge Satterfield also administered the oath of office to John F. McCabe, whose family was in attendance. Mr. McCabe graduated from Duke University with a degree in economics and earned his J.D.

cum laude from Tulane University Law School. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney, where he prosecuted felony and misdemeanor trials in the Superior Court. From 1990 to 1998, Mr. McCabe served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel handling cases of child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence issues in the Intrafamily Offense Unit. Mr. McCabe was also selected as the first Chief of the Domestic Violence Section. His mother robed him and his father held the Bible.

Tara Fentress, also sworn in by Judge Satterfield, enjoyed the company of her family at the ceremony. Both her parents and her brother, Mark were present. Ms. Fentress graduated from Wesleyan University and completed a studies abroad program at the City of London Polytechnic. The following year she moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Georgetown University Law Center. In 1992, Ms. Fentress established her own law practice where she worked on child welfare



New Magistrate Judges Karen Howze, John McCabe and Julie Breslow.

Continued on page 3

Included in this issue:

- 1 **New Magistrate Judges Added to Court**
- 2 **Strategic Planning Update**
- 2-3 **Pictures**
- 4 **RAVE REVIEWS**

STRATEGIC PLAN TO BE RELEASED IN MARCH

By Lisa VanDeVeer

One year ago the Strategic Planning Leadership Council (SPLC) was established to develop a strategic plan that would provide direction and identify priorities for the Courts. The SPLC conducted research, and gathered information and input through surveys and focus groups from over 1,500 employees, judges, attorneys, other justice system agencies and the public to guide the future direction of the D.C. Courts. Recently adopted by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, the Courts' Strategic Plan for 2003-2007, entitled "Committed to Justice in the Nation's Capital", will be available in the next few weeks.

The Courts' strategic plan is a roadmap that demonstrates how we can all work together to achieve our vision: "Open to All,

Strategic Issues

- **Enhancing the Administration of Justice**
- **Broadening Access to Justice and Service to the Public**
- **Promoting Competence, Professionalism & Civility**
- **Improving Court Facilities & Technology**
- **Building Trust & Confidence**

Trusted by All, Justice for All". Although the development of the courtwide strategic plan is complete, its implementation is just beginning. We are embarking on a new way of conducting business in the Courts, and the success of the plan and the ability of the Court to make its vision a reality depends upon each court employee.

The strategic plan defines issues facing the Courts, identifies goals that address these issues, and outlines the strategies we will use to accomplish each goal. In addition, the plan lists "priority actions," which are projects or tasks identified by

SPLC as needing immediate attention and which typically involve more than one division or office. A number of the priority actions were created in direct response to issues raised in the surveys or the focus group discussions and reflect the collective wisdom of court employees, attorneys, judges, and members of the public who are in the courthouse for a variety of reasons.

All employees will be invited to attend information sessions about the Strategic Plan in the coming weeks and will be asked to help develop management action plans (MAPs) so their divisions or units can contribute to the Courts' success in fulfilling their vision. More information on the Courts' strategic planning process will be provided in a special edition of the *Full Court Press* next month.



Eleanor Nazareno gets ready to rehearse with the carolers for the holiday season.

The Holiday Season ...



The party begins at the Executive Office Holiday open house.



Denine Murray, Beverly Gibbs and Deirdre Gee celebrate during one of the holiday activities.



Ken Foor, Joe Sanchez and Zsolt Szalay enjoying the holiday season.

Chief Judge Rufus King and Lisa VanDeVeer find time to relax at the open house.

The *Full Court Press* is published by the District of Columbia Courts to provide employees with information pertaining to court operations. Inquiries should be submitted to Room 1500.

Leah Gurowitz, Editor



Cont. from page 1.

and personal injury cases. She has served as mayoral appointee for the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. As a member of the Domestic Violence/Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force, Ms. Fentress facilitated the "2002 Summit on Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment." In addition to her legal endeavors, she is the editor of a children's book series and sings with Grammy Award Nominee "Richard Smallwood & Vision."

Julie R. Breslow was sworn in by Judge Lee Satterfield. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Union College and received her J.D. from Albany Law School in 1989. She has served as trial attorney in the Child Support Enforcement, Juvenile Delinquency, and Child Abuse and Neglect sections of the Office of the Corporation Counsel. In September 1999, Ms. Breslow joined



Magistrate Judge McCabe celebrates at the December 12th event.

the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia where she served as Chief of the Victim and Witness Assistance Unit supervising victim advocates and witness security specialists. At the ceremony, her father held the Bible and her mother performed the robing.

With the appointment of the five new magistrate judges, the Family Court is well underway. The magistrate judges bring to the Court great expertise in issues ranging from abuse and neglect to mental health issues. Along with their predecessors, these new magistrate judges will enhance the Court's ability to handle these critical cases more effectively, better serving children and families in the District. Congratulations to all five new magistrate judges.



Libby Wicks does the honors, drawing a door prize winner as Eleanor Nazareno, Carroll Boswell and Anne Wicks anxiously await.

2002 Courtwide Holiday Party



Mildred Bailey displays the beautiful poinsettia she won.



Carroll Boswell demonstrates how to get down (or did he lose a contact?)



Garland Pinkston leads the electric slide during the courtwide holiday party.



Lori Edley and Darlene Ellis waiting to hear if their numbers will be called for a door prize.



Everyone enjoyed the refreshments, entertainment and dancing.

CCCCCCCC **Rave Reviews** CCCCCCCC

Dear Ms. Buie: The purpose of this e-mail is to bring to your attention the E-X-C-E-L-L-E-N-T and P-R-O-F-E-S-S-I-O-N-A-L service given by Ms. **Shavon Smith**. It is a pleasure to work with her in your department. Why? She always answers any questions asked professionally (even though she's probably been asked the same question all morning), knows the status of all the cases for the day and most importantly greets everyone with a smile. The Superior Court is indeed fortunate to have such a professional, talented, helpful and pleasant young woman in its employ.

Regards, Jack H. Kindsvatter

I write to express to you the outstanding performance of Mr. **Arthur Broaddus** of your office. I found my experience with Mr. Broaddus to be exemplary and far beyond that expected ... Mr. Broaddus ... returned our calls, assisted in our questions and went as far as calling us when he had received the file back from the Court when no one appeared because he was concerned. Seldom have I come across such a diligent and proficient individual as Mr. Broaddus

Mr. Broaddus not only had an excellent attitude but he was also very articulate and his appearance was very professional. His pleasant and personable attitude was reflected by the people that he worked with and his handling of my case made me feel like I was receiving personal attention rather than "just another case" in the system.

I commend your office on having such an outstanding person such as Mr. Broaddus representing your department and wish you and all the best for future endeavors.

I want to thank you for your help and the exceptionally prompt attention which your office provided in sending to the Court our Petition for Probate. **Mr. Labriola** called me Monday morning to advise that our Letters of Administration were ready. We picked them up that afternoon.

Again, many thanks for your help.

I had the pleasure of being assisted by Ms. **Lane Azeez** in the Appeal Coordinator's Office several weeks ago. She was polite, courteous and equally important, knowledgeable about her specific job. It was such a pleasure to interact with her due to the sheer professionalism she extended to me. In one word, she performed her job in an "exemplary" manner.

On January 16, 2003, Mr. Thomas L. Sansonetti, Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice, presented **Judge William M. Jackson** of the Superior Court of the district of Columbia with a plaque acknowledging Judge Jackson's work over the years with the Nicosia High School Environmental Law Program. This was apparently a surprise to Judge Jackson, though no surprise to us that he would be honored. Congratulations from all us.

Dear Ms. Marshall:

This is a commendation of Mr. **Keith Robinson**. His ideas, energy and professionalism are beyond compare.

Mr. Robinson knew what questions to ask and was able to design a full day course of study for staff. Whether over the phone or via e-mail, Mr. Robinson was professional in every sense of the word.

Mr. Robinson manages to elicit a high degree individual and group participation. His commitment to the subject matter is sensed by the attendees and reflected in their level of activity. He clearly enjoys what he does.

Jon P. Peterson, Deputy Director
Civil Division

Congratulations to **Judge Vanessa Ruiz**, who was honored by the Hispanic Bar Association of DC at its Equal Justice Awards Dinner on November 14. Judge Ruiz received the **Judge Ricardo M. Urbina** Lifetime Achievement Award.