

Full Court Press

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

July 2003
Volume XV · Number 3

STRATEGIC PLAN WELL-RECEIVED AT KICK-OFF

By David Bell, Administrative Assistant to Strategic Planning Director

The implementation phase for the Strategic Plan of the District of Columbia Courts got off to an excellent start with a Kick-Off Celebration on April 25th. More than 500 employees and judges attended the briefing held in the Jurors' Lounge.

The Kick-Off Planning Committee did an excellent job creating a festive atmosphere in the lounge and adjoining hallway that helped in educating court employees on the Strategic Plan.

Chief Judge Annice Wagner and Chief Judge Rufus King welcomed everyone with introductory remarks. Chief Judge Wagner reminded all employees that "as public servants, ...our solemn responsibility [is] to do our best to be open, accessible, and fair." She pointed out that to be implemented successfully, "the Strategic Plan will require change...and that may not be comfortable. But change is a part of life . . . We want to determine what changes should occur, to make sure they

become a reality. Change for change's sake is a waste of time; but change that results in improvement and efficiency and greater service to our community is well worth our time and effort. It is the goal to which we must all be committed. Today we make the commitment to each other and to this city to work to ensure that our Courts are the best possible."

court participants with a safe, secure, functional and habitable physical environment."

Judge Washington outlined some of the next steps in implementing the Strategic Plan, including the development of Management Action Plans (MAPs) by all divisions and units. MAPs, to be developed by a team of 10-12 persons in each division, will describe activities that divisions will undertake to help achieve the court-wide goals. The teams will be made up of employees from all units and levels of the division, the division director and the presiding or deputy presiding judge. This process has already begun on a pilot basis with the Criminal, Research and Development, Information Technology, Budget and Finance, and Probate Divisions.

Judge Washington ended the presentation with reminders of what we all can do to help achieve the Courts' Strategic Plan. He asked that everyone become familiar with the Plan—a process made easier by distribution of the Strategic Plan booklet and several items imprinted with the Courts' new Vision Statement.

Mission Statement

To Protect Rights and Liberties,
Uphold and Interpret the Law,
And Resolve Disputes Peacefully,
Fairly and Effectively
In the Nation's Capital

Judge Eric Washington and Judge Ann O'Regan Keary, Co-Chairs of the Strategic Planning Leadership Council, or SPLC, gave an informative presentation on the Plan. Judge Keary explained that the Plan will help the Courts "to continually focus on our fundamental mission while adapting to a changing environment." She also discussed how the plan was developed with extensive input from court employees, attorneys, and other stakeholders, and how the Plan's goals and strategies are designed to move the Courts toward our vision for the future.

Judge Keary gave specific examples of how information obtained from employees through focus groups and surveys was used by the SPLC to determine goals and strategies for the Courts that were included in the Plan. For example, one of the most critical issues facing the Courts, according to employees, is the need to enhance court facilities. Judge Keary explained how this feedback was translated into Strategic Issue 4, *Improving Court Facilities and Technology*, Goal 4.1—"The Courts will provide personnel and

Vision Statement

Open To All
Trusted By All
Justice For All

Anyone with ideas or suggestions as to how their unit or division can help implement the Strategic Plan is encouraged to share those ideas with their managers or judges, or email them to the Strategic Planning Leadership Council at strategicplanning@dcsc.gov. Additionally, suggestion boxes will soon be installed throughout the Courts as another method to share ideas.

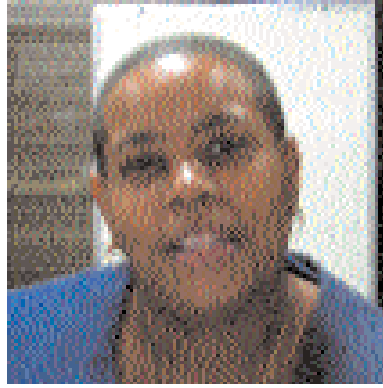
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NEW EMPLOYEES IN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

By Tarah Blazek, Executive Office Intern

Princess Duffy joined the Courts on May 5 as Information Clerk. Her previous experience was with the D.C. Chief Financial Officer. Princess began in that office as a receptionist and worked her way up to Staff Assistant, where she became interested in working in customer service. That interest lead her to this position with the Courts. Princess is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of Eastern High School. She is an avid collector of frogs (miniatures, not live frogs...or formerly live frogs!).



effort and has received awards for reaching 100% of the agency goal of “Fair Share Givers.” Before that she served in the U.S. Military for 22 years and was stationed all over the world. Rhonda is married and has two children.

Rodrigo Gobantes joined the Courts in March as a Building Engineer, after fifteen years with the D.C. Public Libraries. He has also worked for Service America Corporation. Rodrigo was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the area in 1982, attending school here and graduating in 1985. He is married with two children and his hobbies involve building and repairing machines.



Stan Morel joined the Courts on May 19 as Project Manager. He previously served as the Operations Facilities Manager in the D.C. Office of Chief Financial Office. Prior to that, Stan was employed by the Arnold and Porter law firm for 25 years, working his way up from mailroom courier to Director of Support Services. He is married with 3 children and 8 grandchildren.



Rhonda Horton joined the Courts in January as Office Services Supervisor. She comes from the D.C. Government, where she held a similar position at the Office of Tax and Revenue. In addition to her regular duties there, Rhonda lead the One Fund



Marvin King joined the Courts as Capital Project Manager on May 5. He comes to the Courts from D.C. Government where he worked in the Office of Property Management. Marvin brings a wealth of experience; he has been in the field for over 25 years. He attended Cleveland State University and the

Electronics Technology Institute of Design. Marvin has worked on four Presidential Inaugurations, responsible for setting up the viewer stands. He also served in the Navy in the Seabees.

NEW EMPLOYEE IN HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION

By Tarah Blazek, Executive Office Intern



Nancy Matos joined the Courts as Bilingual Human Resources Specialist on April 7. Originally from Puerto Rico, Nancy came to the East Coast to attend college. She graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park with a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Business. After graduation, Nancy went back to school and received a Certificate in Human Resource Management. She had eight years of experience in Human Resources in the private sector before coming to the Courts. Nancy is proficient in both Spanish and English. She loves trying ethnic foods and traveling. Nancy also likes gardening.

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

SUPPLY ROOM RELOCATES

by Terah Blazek, Executive Office Intern



Philip Campbell mans the phone.

The Courts' Supply Room has moved from the JM Level of the Moultrie Courthouse to the lower level of Building A. The move was necessitated by

space in the Moultrie building for the IJIS pro-



ject. The new Supply Room hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Everyone is welcome.

Orders can be sent by fax; orders sent before 3p.m. will be ready for pick up the same day. Bring the original signed form to pick up your order. The fax number is x2-0495.

Kevin Bishop is the key contact in the supply room. He strives for excellent service and a friendly atmosphere. Kevin is assisted by **Philip Campbell**, a volunteer from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which assists the Courts in many ways. Both look forward to working with you.



Kevin Bishop provides some excellent customer service to Steve Newman.

FAMILY COURT NEW SELF-HELP CENTER IN COURTHOUSE

by Terah Blazek, Executive Office Intern

On Thursday, April 24, the Family Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, the D.C. Women's Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association Foundation, and the private law firm Steptoe & Johnson hosted an Open House celebration to mark the sixth month of operations for the Family Court Self-Help Center Pilot Project located in D.C. Superior Court. Located in Room JM 165, the Center provides information and on-site assistance with family law matters *pro bono* to members of the public who do not have attorneys. The Center is operated by the sponsor organizations in partnership with the Family Court and is staffed entirely by volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students.

The Self-Help Center was created by a group of volunteer attorneys who provide essential services to those who cannot afford quality legal advice. "The Family Court Self-Help Center will serve as a convenient 'on-the-spot' courthouse-based source of information for anyone involved in or contemplating a family law proceeding in the District," according to Valerie Despres, Family Law Attorney at the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program. Services offered by the Self-Help Center include assisting litigants in completing court forms, providing education materials, providing detailed information on Family Court rules and procedures, preparing child support calculations and referrals to legal service providers and community agencies.



Vera Stanley volunteers at the Self Help Clinic.

BUILDING PLANS MOVE AHEAD

Master Plan for Court Facilities

The Courts have developed a long-term Master Plan for Facilities covering all of the D.C. Courts' buildings in the Judiciary Square area. The Master Plan provides a blueprint for capital improvements in the Courts' physical plant for the next ten years. It was completed in December 2002; copies are available in the Court of Appeals and Superior Court libraries.

The Courts are currently in four buildings on the square: the Old Courthouse at 451 Indiana Avenue, the Moultrie Courthouse at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., and Buildings A and B, which are located between 4th and 5th Streets and E and F Streets, N.W.

The Master Plan for D.C. Courts Facilities incorporates significant research, analysis, and planning by experts in architecture, urban design and planning. During this study GSA analyzed the Courts' current and future space requirements, particularly in light of the significantly increased space needs of the Family Court. The Master Plan examined such critical issues as: alignment of court components to meet evolving operational needs and enhance efficiency; the impact of the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 (Public Law Number 107-114); accommodation of space requirements through 2012; and planning to upgrade facilities, including, for example, security, telecommunications, and mechanical systems.

The Master Plan projects a 134,000 sq.ft. space shortfall by 2012

and includes three elements to meet this need: (1) renovation of the Old Courthouse for readaptive use by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, which will free space in the Moultrie Courthouse for trial court operations; (2) construction of an addition to the Moultrie Courthouse, with a separate Family Court entrance; and (3) the



451 Indiana Avenue -- the "Old Courthouse" which will be restored for readaptive use by the D.C. Court of Appeals.

future occupation of Building C, adjacent to the Old Courthouse.

In addition, older buildings will be renovated over time and space will be "restacked." Some operations will move to temporary space while their offices are renovated. Others will move directly into new space, configured to optimize the available square feet and provide more efficient layouts. Planning for these moves will be extensive; detailed program information and layouts will be developed with significant input from the staff of each division that will move.

Judiciary Square Master Plan

The National Capital Planning Commission has required that the Courts develop a Master Plan for Judiciary Square – essentially, an

urban design plan – before construction can be commenced in the area. In late 2002, the D.C. Courts began working with all stakeholders on the Plan, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the National Law Enforcement Museum, the Newseum, and the Metropolitan Police Department.

The Old Courthouse, the centerpiece of the historic Judiciary Square, is one of the oldest buildings in the District of Columbia. Inside the Old Courthouse, Daniel Webster and Francis Scott Key practiced law, and John Surratt was tried for his part in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The architectural and historical significance of the Old Courthouse, built from 1821 to 1881, led to its

listing on the National Register of Historic Places and its designation as an official project of Save America's Treasures. The restoration of the Old Courthouse for the District of Columbia's highest court, the Court of Appeals, is pivotal to meeting the space needs of the court system. Investment in the restoration of the Old Courthouse will improve efficiencies by co-locating the offices that support the Court of Appeals and by providing critically needed space for Superior Court and Family Court functions in the Moultrie Courthouse.

This project will impart new life to one of the most significant historic buildings in Washington, D.C. It will meet the needs of the Courts and benefit the community through an approach that strengthens a public institution,

PROFILE:

Bertrand Grell, Budget Analyst, Office of Budget and Finance

By Tarah Blazek, Executive Office Intern

Bertrand Grell, who is the third of eleven children, grew up in Forest Reserve, St. Patrick, Trinidad. Throughout his childhood, Mr. Grell played soccer with his friends, and went on to train in the sport at the San Fernando Technical Institute while receiving his Third Year Special Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. He went on to a five-year apprenticeship with Texaco Trinidad Incorporated and joined their apprenticeship soccer team. After making the Trinidad National Team, Mr. Grell played in the 1967 Pan American games in Canada and won the Bronze medal.

At the age of 24, Bert decided to leave home and migrate to Canada...only to find out that American scouts from Atlanta, Georgia had traveled to his hometown in Trinidad to make him an offer to play soccer professionally. He contacted the scouts and in 1968 was signed onto the Atlanta Chiefs (of the National Soccer League which played in the summer) and the Washington Darts (of the American Soccer League which played in the fall). In 1968, Bert and his team, the Chiefs, won the National American Soccer League Championship.

The Darts were the reason Bert first came to Washington; and he soon decided that this is where he wanted to make his home. He and his coach negotiated a trade with the Atlanta Chiefs so that Mr. Grell could stay in Washington, D.C. permanently. Bert took a break from soccer in 1973 after deciding not to follow the Darts when the franchise moved to Miami, Florida. Bert joined the Washington Diplomats when they came to D.C. in 1974. He retired from professional



Bert (far right), playing with the famed soccer great Pele (at left).

soccer in 1976.

In 1969, Bert Grell began his career with the Courts as a Bailiff in the Criminal Division. The team trainer, Frank Gabrielli, had informed him of a position at the courthouse since practice was at night and the players had the days free to pursue other endeavors. Bert then moved to a clerk position in the Budget and Finance Office. His self-discipline and hard work moved him through the Budget and Finance Office working as an Accountant Technician, Supervisor, Deputy Finance Revenue Officer, to his current position as Budget Analyst.

Two of Bert's children have worked in the D.C. Courts, Bryan in Civil Division and Leyla, who still works in Family Court. Bert also

played touch football with the Courthouse Dragons, the Courts' football team. (See picture, p.6) Bert has been an active member of the Trinidad Tobago Association of D.C. since 1968, holding positions as parliamentarian and currently Treasurer. He also has been active in youth soccer by coaching the All-Stars Soccer Team from 1976-1986 and serving as the District of Columbia Youth Soccer Commissioner of Ward 4 in 1986.

Bert believes that soccer taught him discipline, respect, and to have fun with what he was doing without expecting anything from it. The most memorable time for him during his soccer days were when he was playing in Trinidad just for the fun and love of the game without the worries money can bring. Other memories of travelling and meeting people from different countries put a smile on his face as well. When asked what he felt was his biggest accomplishment, Bert replied, "I left home as a young

man not knowing what was in store for me and I was able to weather the storm and come out strong and successful. I grew a lot and learned a lot over the years."

Bert has always enjoyed working for the court system. The thing he loves most is being able to help see things get balanced and done properly. He believes that you should do work that you enjoy, otherwise it is not worth the effort. He derives satisfaction from the accomplishment of goals he has set for himself. It is important to stay focused.

Bert's motto for life is, "You do not know where life will take you, it seems like yesterday I was a little boy in Trinidad not knowing what the future would bring and today I am living in D.C.— It's by the Grace of God."

A Blast from the Past --



The DC Court Dragons football team: Can you spot the employee from Civil Division? Finance? Social Services? And which Superior Court judge is pictured?

28TH ANNUAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2003

The New Family Court presentation closed with a rendition of "My Judge" performed by the world renowned Family Court Singers.



Conference attendees.



JUDICIAL/MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP -- MAY 2003



Senior Judge Morrison and Magistrate Judge Howze listen to Magistrate Dalton explain a technical legal point.



And the winners are: Magistrate Judge McCabe, Dan Cipullo, Chief Judge King, and Judge Lopez ... in that order.



Steve Newman and Lula Raye prepare for registration of the more than 100 training conference participants.

Judge Judith Macaluso leads the walkers.



Eleanor Nazareno, Laura Banks-Reed and Clarence Meyers coordinate logistics for the training conference.



Clif Grandy, Lula Raye and Marie Robertson relax in preparation for two full days of training.

Magistrate Judge Pamela Gray, Magistrate Judge William Nooter, Willard Stephens, Judge Puig-Lugo and Wanda Starke wait to register.



INDEPENDENT COURTS SAFEGUARD OUR LIBERTIES

By Peter Gardner, Law Day Essay Contest Winner

The Supreme Court of the United States is designed to interpret laws and protect the most basic of our rights as citizens, the rights set forth in the Constitution. From its position as the ultimate judicial body in the land, the Supreme Court must mete out justice in accordance with the Constitution and the rights granted therein. To accomplish such a difficult task, it is not only necessary, but it is essential that the Supreme Court provide and maintain an image of utter independence from any external factors. It is precisely this separation of law from political, social, or personal biases that makes the Supreme Court such a crucial and mandatory body for it is the independence of the Court from peripheral concerns that protects our dearest liberties.

There are numerous instances where the Court has proven that it is willing to turn a blind eye to public opinion or political pressures and instead dole justice out with an even hand. In the case of *Texas v. Johnson*, the Court determined, in the face of severe public outcry, that the right of a person to burn a flag in protest is completely acceptable, in fact it is considered to be one of our most precious liberties, that of free speech and free expression. The simple fact that burning an American flag was unpopular did not dissuade the Court from its decision. The reason that the Court was able to rule in this fashion is because of its ability to close the conference room door on protests, on amicus curiae briefs, and on political lobbyists while the justices arrived at their decision.

Our liberties are no doubt severely contested by many citizens. Some believe in the right of women to have abortions, others believe that abortion is murder (*Roe v. Wade*). Some believed (and still do) that African Americans should not be allowed to attend the same schools as white children (*Brown v. Board of Education*). There



Peter reading his winning essay.

are members of society who make it their duty to suppress speech, believing that it is detrimental to society (*FCC v. Pacifica*) while others take a looser attitude and permit the open use of language. Whatever the public stances on issues are, the Supreme Court may nonetheless determine for itself what the Constitution mandates. This therefore, lays a burden of immense judicial weight on the shoulders of the nine justices. They must weigh the arguments in a case to arrive at a suitable conclusion consistent

with the Constitution. If they are unable to perform that duty, then all of their legitimacy is lost. The founding fathers understood this and as such they wrote into the Constitution provisions for maintaining the Court's autonomy.

The Courts' independence must be maintained at whatever the cost. The Court must never be subjected to external forces that have the possibility to alter a justice's viewpoint from the Constitutional one to one of their own bias. To achieve this goal, justices must be chosen for their dedication to the Constitution and their desire to create judicial standards consistent with the Constitution. The Executive branch must never be allowed to influence or "stack" the Court. The Congress must be strictly prohibited and restricted from impeachment of justices. While these measures are currently employed, and the risk of them being retracted is small; they are the safeguards of our liberties and they must be guarded as such.

The Constitution sets out the foundations for the governmental institutions. When it outlines the framework of the Supreme Court, it states "The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour" it is sending a message. That message is that virtually nothing, with the exceptions of high crimes and misdemeanors, may threaten a justice with the loss of his or her job. This sovereignty is

Continued on page 9.

what permits the Justices the freedom to fly in the face of politics, the President, the Congress, and the public opinion should they feel it necessary. This ability of theirs to separate themselves from the murky waters of politics protects our liberties extremely well. If there is a governmental body that has a political agenda including outlawing abortion, the Supreme Court is more than able to

strike that agenda down and decapitate any further attempt simply by pointing to its interpretation of the 14th Amendment. In this way, our sacred liberties, the ability to express thoughts, to go to school, to shield our privacy, is protected by the Supreme Court. In turn it draws much of its power from the fact that the justices stand to lose nothing if they voice opinions in opposition to the social, political, or personal party line.

Cynthia White, Executive Director of BADC; Robert Weinberg, President, BADC Foundation; District of Columbia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Annice Wagner; Law Day contest winner Peter Gardner; and Superior Court of the District of Columbia Chief Judge Rufus King at the annual Law Day celebration.



Chief Judge Wagner and Chief Judge King with essay winners from Maret School.

Chief Judge Wagner and Chief Judge King with the Banneker Senior High School winning mock trial team in the annual high school mock trial competition.



March 29, 2003

TO: Ms. Laura Reed, Esquire
RE: Excellent, Conscientious Response

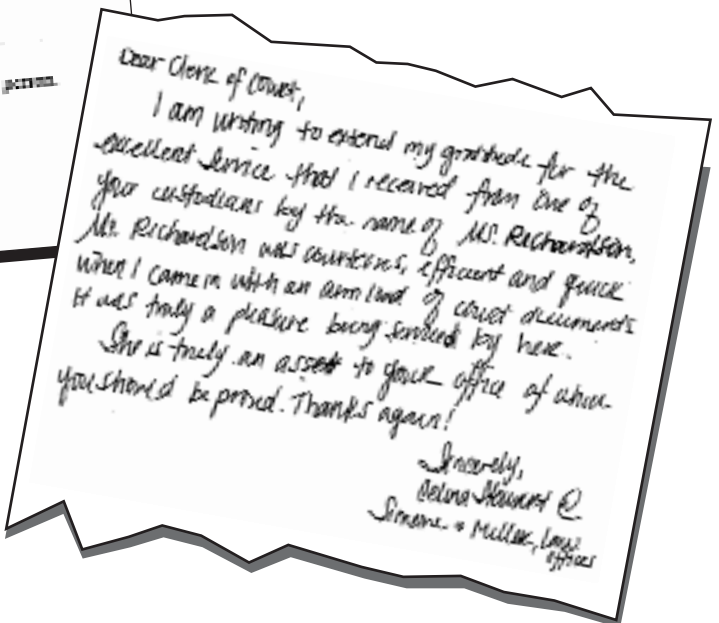
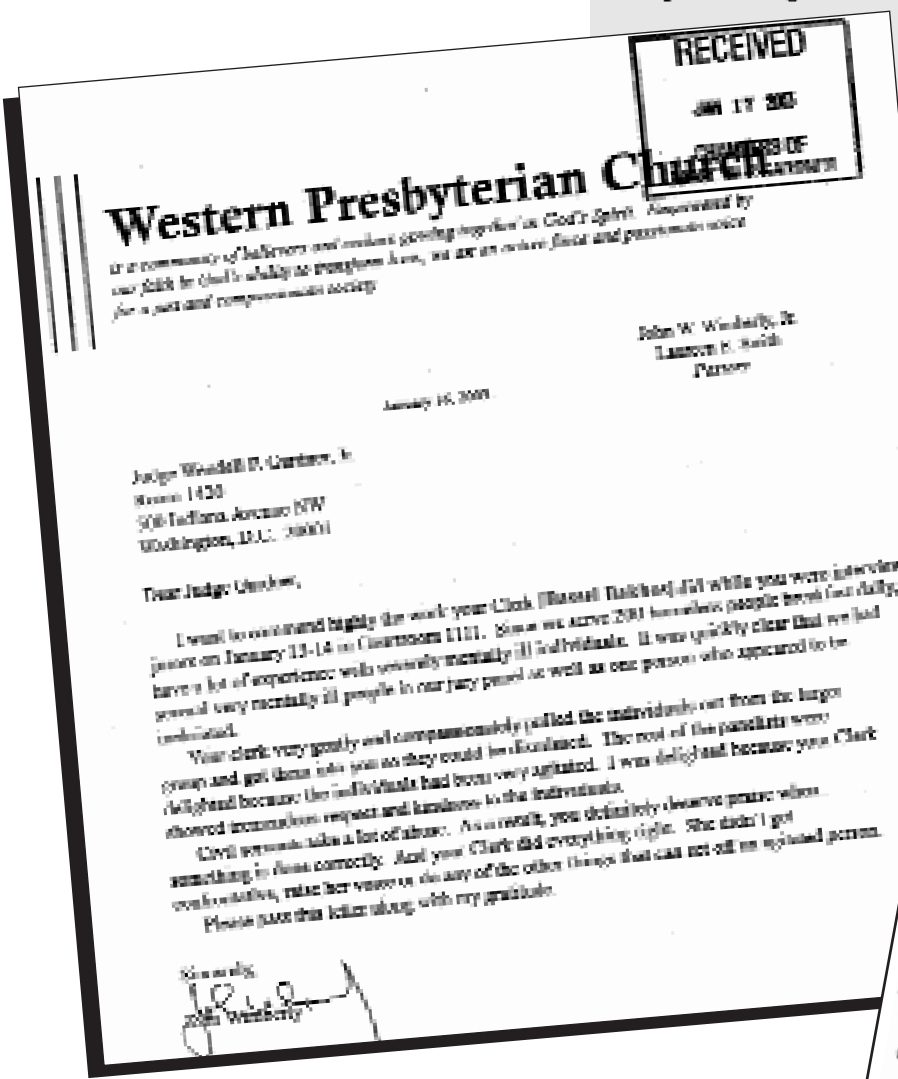
Dear Attorney Reed:

Please accept this correspondence as an agent of gratitude. As you recall, we encountered some difficulty relative to servicing a select group of clients that were referred to us by your staff. Upon my calling this to your attention, I was blessed indeed by your prompt, compassionate, and competent response.

You are indeed a praiseworthy credit to the D.C. Superior Courts specifically, and to your profession generally. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your clients, and for your very kind response to the needs of our agency, Afro-American Counseling & Psychotherapy Institute, Inc. With my warm personal regards and best wishes for your continued success, I remain

Very Sincerely,

Roosevelt M. Johnson
Roosevelt M. Johnson, Ph.D Licensed
President & Principal Therapist
Professor Emeritus, Counseling & Psychotherapy



Swedish National Courts Administration
Utbildningssektionen
Date: May 29, 2003
Re:



Domstolsverket

Cassandra Lucas
Superior Court of the District of
Columbia

Dear **Cassandra**, [Penn-Lucas]

On behalf of the Nordic justices, as well as the Swedish National Courts Administration I want to express our sincere gratitude for the excellent program that you organized. Please convey our thanks also to the various people [Judge Steffen Graae, Dan Cipullo; and from the Civil Division, Jon Peterson, Edward Jenkins and Joy Jefferson] in the court who generously contributed their time and imparted their knowledge. Best Wishes,

John

John S. Panofsky
Jur. kand.
Training Section

G

The Gallaudet University
Graduate School

PRESENTS THIS
**OUTSTANDING EXTERNAL
COLLABORATION AWARD**

TO
Michael E. Barnes, Ph.D.
AND THE
**D.C. Superior Court
Child Guidance Clinic**

In recognition of their major
Contributions to the training of
Gallaudet University's
Clinical Psychology
externs through the years
May 15, 2003

Center for Social Justice
Research, Teaching & Service
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Certificate of Recognition

presented to

Northwest Juvenile Probation Office

in honor of your outstanding work as a community partner in social justice

Kathleen Maar Weigert, Ph.D., Director

April 28, 2003

Oops !! Correction !!

APOLOGY FROM THE FULL COURT PRESS

The Full Court Press apologizes to Judges Odessa F. Vincent and Hiram E. Puig-Lugo whose names were regrettably omitted from the list of judges participating in the Youth Law Fair. Learn more about Court System Fourth Annual Youth Law Fair article in the April 2003 issue. We sincerely regret this oversight and, thank both for their contribution to the event.

"Dear Ms. **Grimes**,
"Thank you for expediting my request for a transcript of the last hearing for child support contempt with my ex-husband. I have a court hearing next week and got the transcript in time to consult a lawyer on behalf of my kids. Thank you again!"

restores a historic landmark, and stimulates neighborhood economic activity.

Buildings A, B, and C, dating from the 1930's, are situated symmetrically along the view corridor comprised of the National Building Museum, the Old Courthouse, and John Marshall Park and form part of the historic, formal composition of Judiciary Square. These buildings have been used primarily as office space in recent years, with a number of courtrooms in operation in Building A. Work is underway to move the Superior Court's two highest volume courtrooms, Small Claims and Landlord and Tenant, into Building B by year's end. This move will free much needed space on the JM level of the Moultrie Building for the Family Court, which will include three new courtrooms, three new hearing rooms, a centralized intake facility, a family-friendly waiting area and District government liaison offices for Family Court matters.

The H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse, built in the 1970s, while not historic, is also located along the view corridor and reinforces the symmetry of Judiciary Square through its similar form and material to the municipal building located across the John Marshall Plaza. The Moultrie Courthouse is uniquely designed to meet the needs of a busy trial court. Built in 1978 for 44 trial judges, today it is strained beyond capacity to accommodate 62 trial judges and 24 magistrate judges in the trial court and 9 appellate judges, as well as senior judges and support staff for the two courts. Essential District criminal justice and social service agencies also occupy office space in the Moultrie Courthouse. The Courts have clearly outgrown the space available in the Moultrie building.

Family Court in the Master Plan

Interim Family Court Space Plan The Master Plan incorporates an Interim Space Plan for the Family Court that provides the facilities necessary to fully implement the Family Court Act, as well as a long term plan that optimizes space and programmatic enhancements for the Family Court. The Interim Space Plan for Family Court will be complete in the fall of 2004.

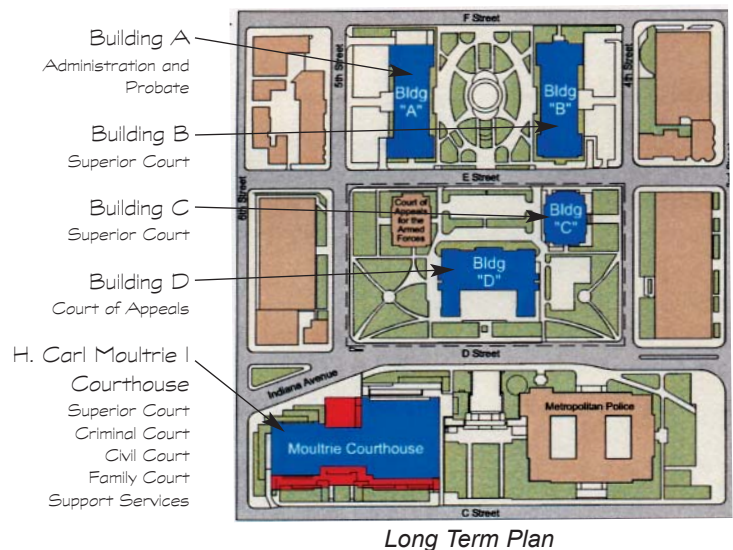
To date, the Courts have constructed and reconfigured space to accommodate the nine new Family Court magistrate judges and their support staff and constructed four new hearing rooms for Family Court magistrate judges hearing child abuse and neglect cases.

A key element of the Interim Space Plan is the JM-level construction of three new courtrooms, three new hearing rooms, the Mayor's Services Liaison Office, the Self-Help Center, a

Centralized Family Court Filing and Intake Center, a family-friendly child waiting area, and a new Family Court entrance from the John Marshall Plaza to the Moultrie Courthouse. In addition, the corridors and hallways along the courthouse's JM-level will be redesigned and upgraded to create family-friendly seating and waiting areas.

Long Term Plan The long term plan includes expansion of the Moultrie Courthouse. Once complete, it will provide a state-of-the-art, family-friendly facility for Family Court operations, with its own identity and a new separate entrance, which will be a model for the nation. The Courts envision a facility designed to alleviate the inevitable stresses on the families who come to the courthouse seeking justice. The Family Court will be inviting and welcoming to families with small children, to families with teenagers, to all families. A customer-friendly facility, it will incorporate the "one-stop" concept by locating all related court units in one place and making it easier for families to access needed social services from D.C. government agencies. The interim Family Court plans are designed to transition smoothly into this long term plan and to maximize the efficient use of time and money.

There will be changes and some inconvenience as the Master Plans are implemented in the coming years, but once implementation is complete, the D.C. Courts will have the facilities we need to most effectively serve the community and pay tribute to our architectural heritage.



Long Term Plan