

# Full Court Press

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

October 2004  
Volume XXI Number 3

## THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW FAMILY COURT

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

On Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, over 300 guests – including members of Congress, judges, city officials, court employees and community supporters – gathered to open the newly renovated Family Court on the JM-level of the Moultrie Courthouse. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held beneath a tent outside of the JM-level of the Moultrie Courthouse. Despite the dreary afternoon weather, the cause for celebration brightened the spirits of the entire audience.

Chief Judge Annice Wagner of the Court of Appeals welcomed all attendees by thanking several key players in the opening of the Family Court and providing a brief overview of the exciting new changes about to take place within the

Courts, including further renovations of the Moultrie Courthouse and the relocation of the Court of Appeals to the Old Courthouse. Chief Judge Rufus King of the Superior Court spoke of the new facilities, services and resources offered by the Family Court. He emphasized the enhanced ability of the Courts to serve the children of the District and the implementation of the “one judge, one family” principle in the Family Court cases.

Next, the leaders of the new Family Court, Judge Lee F. Satterfield, Presiding Judge, and Judge Anita Josey-Herring, Deputy Presiding Judge, introduced the special guests of the event. These guests were the original sponsors of the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001: House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, our own Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana.



Chief Judge Rufus G. King, Chief Judge Annice M. Wagner, Congresswoman Eleanor Holms Norton, Judge Anita Josey-Herring, Judge Lee F. Satterfield cut the ribbon at the New Family Court opening.

### *Included in this issue:*

- 2 Employee Recognition & Awards Ceremony
- 3 Performance Incentive Awards
- 4 Meet More Bilingual Court Employees
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- 7 Employee Profile: Stacy Roach
- 8 News & Notes

Majority Leader Tom DeLay described how the establishment of the D.C. Family Court is the realization of a dream and emphasized that the decisions made in the new Court will affect the future of children in the District. He finished by saying that so long as children suffer, there is still work to be done.

The other House sponsor of the D.C. Family Court Act, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, said in her remarks that she is proud that Congress answered the great need for a Family Court in Washington, D.C. DeLay’s passion for improving foster care and Norton’s concern for the children of D.C. were a winning combination in the passage of the bill, so that the vision of many could become a reality. Norton spoke on the need to strengthen the African American family so that children do not have to come to the Court.

Finally, the Senate sponsor of the bill, Senator Mary Landrieu, who is also the ranking member of the Senate D.C. Appropriations Subcommittee and an outspoken advocate for foster care and adoption, shared her remarks

# 2003 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

On Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the courthouse community gathered in the atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse to thank and recognize outstanding employee performance and service to District of Columbia citizens. The event opened with the presentation of the colors by the St. John's College High School ROTC Color Guard under the direction of Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rebecca Crocker. The national anthem followed, performed by Heather Collier, law clerk to Judge Ramsey Johnson.

Chief Judge Wagner and Chief Judge King then shared their thoughts, thanking Court employees for their remarkable service in the past year. They spoke about the changes occurring within the Courts and key accomplishments over the past year, including the Grand Opening of the new Family Court. Chief Judge Wagner and Chief Judge King presented special Employee Awards and Executive Officer Anne Wicks presented the new Enterprise Service Award. The following employees were recognized:

**Sharon Holiday** was awarded the **Unsung Hero Award** for going above and beyond the call of duty in her role as the Family Court Reengineering Committee's Business Process Coordinator.

**Mitchell Fleming** was awarded the **Management Achievement Award** for his exceptional leadership as Branch Chief of the Family Court Central Intake Center.

**Alan Reid** was awarded the **Public Service Award** (individual) for excellence as a Courtroom Clerk in the Family Court.

The **Domestic Relations Branch** was awarded the **Public Service Award** (office) for demonstrating quality customer service and teamwork. The team includes **Denise Johnson, Marcia Johnson, Darlene Squirewell, Evelyn Payton, Ebony Weston-Hicks, and Angela Carroll**, under the leadership of Branch Chief **Paul Trudeau**.

The **Capital Projects Team of the Administrative Services Division** was awarded the **Enterprise Service Award** for tremendous work in improving court facilities. The Capital Projects Team, under the leadership of **Joseph Sanchez**, includes **Zsolt Szalay, Mary Ann Satterthwaite, Marvin King, Stanley Morel and Marka Joyner**.

Garland Pinkston, Clerk of the Court of Appeals and Duane Delaney, Clerk of the Superior Court, presented Length of Service Awards where plaques were presented to twenty-eight employees who have served 30 years at the Courts. In addition, 150 employees were recognized for outstanding job performance and received the Courts' first ever "Performance Incentive Awards, or cash bonuses." Court employees Taimaiko Jackson, Debra Swingon-Stokes, and Brenda Young shared their beautiful voices with the audience in musical selections throughout the program. After the awards and recognition presentation, a reception was held for all attendees. Delicious food completed this ceremony, which was an enjoyable display of gratitude for all members of the D.C. Courts "family." Congratulations on an outstanding year!



Sharon Holiday



Mitchell Fleming



The Capital Projects Team



Domestic Relations Branch



Alan Reid

*The Full Court Press is published by the District of Columbia Courts to provide information about the Courts.*

*Leah Gurowitz, Editor*

## PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE AWARDS

*William Agosto  
 Anita Alexander  
 Marilyn Alexander  
 Darryl Allen  
 Glenda Bailey  
 Suzanne Bailey-Jones  
 Michael Barnes  
 David Bell  
 Sandra Benton  
 Robert Black  
 Barbara Bland  
 Yolanda Bowman  
 Sophia Boyette  
 Stephen Bradford  
 Robert Briggs  
 Ernest Brooks  
 Janice Buie  
 Helen Bullock  
 Sherman Bunch  
 Yuan Burns  
 Stephanie Burrell  
 P. Allene Butler  
 Paula Byrd  
 Barbara Cain  
 Lovette Carraway  
 April Carter  
 Kaprice Chambers  
 Soloman Chi  
 Edwina Chism  
 Kathy Clemons-Noel  
 Rosann Colovos  
 Quentess Davis  
 Darlene Davis  
 Jeffrey Dellinger  
 Christopher Dix  
 Cheryl Dixon-Wheeler*

*Malcolm Drezwery  
 Patricia Dunmore  
 Lori Edley  
 Freda Emerson  
 Cyril Erugo  
 Nicole Farrar  
 Mitchell Fleming  
 Dana Friend  
 Charles Gaines  
 Ruth Gantt  
 Tanisha Gray  
 Wroyce Gray  
 Gregory Hale  
 Sidney Hare  
 Theresa Harris  
 Lisa Hatcher  
 W. Louise Henderson  
 Elnardo Hicks  
 Barbara Hillebrand  
 Levi Holliday  
 Sharon Holliday  
 Rhonda Horton  
 Virginia Hubbard  
 Vernice Hughley  
 Kevin Hurd  
 Joyce Hurd  
 Benjamin Hyman  
 Willie Irick  
 Cynthia Jacobs  
 Joy Jefferson  
 Dwayne Jenkins  
 Edward Jenkins  
 Vicky Jeter  
 Hubert Jones  
 Washington Jones  
 Marka Joyner  
 Loretta Kaczorowski*

*Louis Kelly  
 Marvin King  
 Linda Kumi  
 Kenneth Labriola  
 Terry Lambert  
 Estebania Lastra  
 Stefanie Lea  
 Tonya Lee  
 Wallace Lewis  
 Jacqueline Ly  
 Wilernita Mangum  
 Rosanna Mason  
 Nancy Matos  
 Emogene Mc Neill  
 Veda McCormick  
 Janice McDowell  
 Annie McIlwain  
 Patria McMillian  
 Antinello McWain  
 Derek Mitchell  
 Judy Mitchell  
 Derrick Monroe  
 Stanley Morel  
 Clarence Myers  
 Eleanor Nazareno  
 Francis Nowicki  
 Tamekia O' Neal  
 Tonia O'Bryant  
 Joseph Osei  
 Louis Parker  
 Linda Patton  
 Marquette Pierce  
 James Plunkett  
 Veronica Price  
 Reginald Ramdat  
 Donna Richardson  
 Marie Robertson*

*Brenda Robinson  
 Thomas Ronan  
 Tina Sandvik  
 Rhonda Sanes  
 Gaskin Sankoh  
 Rhea Santiago  
 Mary Ann Satterthwaite  
 Antonio Savage  
 Francine Segall  
 Dwayne Segar  
 Monica Slade  
 Gloria Smith  
 Mildred Smith  
 Shavon Smith  
 Michael Stanley  
 Wanda Starke  
 Evelyn Stephens  
 Michael Stewart  
 Gayla Stringfield  
 Bilal Syed  
 Zsolt Szalay  
 Gregory Taylor  
 Claudette Taylor  
 David Tedhams  
 Angela Thomas  
 Terrell Thomas  
 Jeanette Togan  
 Ardina Van  
 Lisa VanDeVeer  
 Giao Vu  
 Maxine Walker  
 LaVerne Stephens  
 Washington  
 Monica Wilkerson  
 Lakesha Williams  
 Benita Winfield*

## NEW BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

**Doris Chavez** is a new bilingual Deputy Clerk in the Juvenile/Neglect Branch. She is responsible for updating data on CourtView and filing jackets and orders and pulling cases for judges, in addition to interacting with law clerks, courtroom clerks and the public by providing information as needed. As a bilingual employee, Doris has the ability to communicate with any Spanish-speaking customer of the Courts to provide assistance and make them feel welcome and comfortable.



Doris was born in El Salvador and came to the United States in 1996. Before coming to the Courts four months ago, she worked as an Administrative Assistant with Southern Management Corporation for four years. Doris is currently in her second year at Montgomery Community College majoring in Psychology. In the future, she would like to earn a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Psychology. In her free time, Doris likes going out with her friends, traveling, reading, listening to music and dancing.

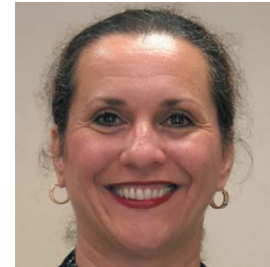
**Miguel Huicochea** recently joined the Courts as a bilingual Deputy Clerk in the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Branch of the Family Court. As a bilingual Deputy Clerk, his job includes aiding Spanish speakers, setting court hearings, acting as an intermediary between lawyers and judges and processing court documents. Of his start



at the Courts he says, "It's been six months of intense learning and, by the same token, quite a rewarding experience." What he likes most about his job is that he is constantly learning about new procedures and how the law works, while gaining insight on the working dynamics of the judges and lawyers. He believes that the most important aspect of his job is being able to help people by translating to make sure that their needs are being heard and attended to.

As a first generation Mexican-American, Miguel was born and raised in Chicago by Mexican immigrant parents. He is the oldest of four children and is the first in his family to venture out on his own to another state. Miguel received a degree in Spanish and International Business at Rosary College (now known as Dominican University) in River Forest, Illinois. He then worked in the international import and export industry before coming to Washington, D.C. to pursue a graduate degree in Latin American Studies at American University. Before starting work at the Courts, Miguel worked as an educator in the Mt. Pleasant Community for over two years. There he did work with the homeless, HIV prevention, interpreting and as a Spanish and Latin American culture teacher. His passion is working with organizations that are trying to ease the integration of immigrants into American society. In his leisure time, Miguel likes to take long walks and visit museums. He is an avid supporter of the arts and loves to attend gallery openings, plays and music recitals and writes and reads poetry on the side.

**Yvonne Martinez-Vega** is the new Deputy Director of the Criminal Division - Yvonne's family is from



Puerto Rico, but she grew up in New Jersey. She says, "As a bilingual employee, I believe that I contribute to a

diverse workforce within the court and am able to contribute to ensure access to members of the Latino community who are unfamiliar with the court system." Before coming to the Courts, she was the Executive Director of Ayuda, Inc., which is a legal service organization that serves the Latino and immigrant community of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Yvonne worked at Ayuda for 25 years, serving the organization as Administrative Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Executive Director.

Yvonne graduated from Douglass College at Rutgers University. She also attended the Center for Creative Leadership and took executive courses at the Kennedy School of Government. Her work experience includes grant writing, management, program development and review. Yvonne has served as a hearing examiner for the D.C. Bar's Board of Professional Responsibility and also helped organize the first Open House for the Latino Community sponsored by the D.C. Courts several years ago. Yvonne is a strong advocate for ensuring that the needs of low-income members of the Latino and immigrant communities are met. She is the proud mother of her two children, Louise and David Javier.

## NEW SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION EMPLOYEES

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

**Michael Carter** came to the Courts as a Juvenile Probation Officer in April and is from Fort Washington, Maryland. He received his degree from Bowie State University in Sociology/Criminal Justice. Michael has worked as a Juvenile Detention Counselor, Senior Counselor and Deputy Director of the Teen Living Foster Care program and a Program Coordinator/Assistant Director for two homeless shelters.

After an internship as a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Courts, Michael enjoyed what he was doing and decided to work for the Courts fulltime. His hobbies include spending time with family, shooting pool, cooking and riding motorcycles.

**Janel Daniel**, a new Probation Officer in the Juvenile Diagnostic Division, came to Washington, D.C. all the way from St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands! She received a Master's in Social Work from Howard University and has had experience as a Social Worker with the Child and Family Services Agency in D.C. Janel recently made the transition to the Courts because she wanted to work with juveniles in a criminal justice setting. When she's not on the job, Janel enjoys singing, reading, eating and spending time with friends and family.

**Michael Harrison** joined the Social Services Division in May as an Electronic Monitoring Technician. Michael was born, raised and currently resides in Washington, D.C. and received his degree at the University of the District of Columbia. He began his career with the D.C. Public Schools and then started working in the Courts ten years ago in the Administrative Services Division. Michael chose to work at the Courts because of the many opportunities. Outside of work, he enjoys listening to music, running and cooking.

**Twonell Hayes** is a newly hired Drug Surveillance Monitor. Originally from East Orange, NJ, Twonell received his education at Chaminade University of Honolulu and the



Michael L. Hamson, Tosha Layton, Marsha Murray Shillea, John Smith, Janel Danel, Michael Carter, Lisa McCants, Twonell Hayes, and Twanna Blocker.

University of Maryland University College. After working as an Outreach Prevention Specialist, Twonell came to the Courts in August looking for more challenge. Outside of work, he enjoys coaching Little League sports and watching sporting events, physical fitness, attending poetry readings and com-

edy shows and listening to neo-soul music.

**Tosha Layton**, a new Intake Probation Officer, was born and raised in Frostburg, Maryland. She graduated *cum laude* from Frostburg State University with a degree in Political Science and Justice Studies and a minor in Sociology. Tosha then moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue graduate studies at the University of Baltimore with a focus on Legal and Ethnic Studies. Prior to coming to the Courts, Tosha worked for the Maryland Department of Justice as an Aftercare Probation Officer for adjudicated young male offenders for over 6 years. This year she felt it was time for a change and accepted a position as an Intake Probation Officer at the Courts. She has enjoyed her time here and says that if all goes well, she will retire here. Tosha also enjoys playing tennis and doing aerobics, reading, eating Italian food and watching her favorite TV shows, *NYPD Blue* and *Law & Order*.

**Lisa McCants** has been part of the D.C. Courts family for over ten years and recently was hired as a Juvenile Probation Officer. Lisa is a native Washingtonian with a degree in English from Virginia State University. Lisa's late father, Coolidge McCants, was an attorney who handled many cases in the then Family Division. As a young adult, Lisa would file pleadings for her father and, at an early age, found the Courts very interesting. Following in her father's foot-

## OTHER NEW EMPLOYEES AT THE COURTS

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

**Nakia Hewitt** became a Human Resources Clerk at the Courts in August. She is from Washington, D.C. and graduated from Ballou Senior High School in 2002. She then completed one year at Delaware State University majoring in Radio and Television Broadcasting, but decided to take a break to enroll in an apprentice program. Nakia has had various work experiences in Washington, D.C. including her most recent job doing telemarketing, which she later discovered was not the place for her! She came to the Courts for a new experience. In her spare time, Nakia enjoys reading novels, spending time with her family and going out with her close friends.



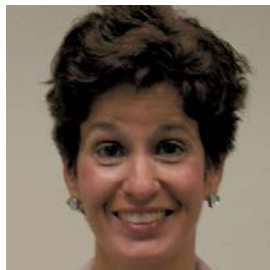
Hewitt

July because the new Family Court is one of the most innovative reform-minded Family Courts in the country. She says, “I wanted to be a part of this successful team effort. My ultimate goal is to reduce the time abused and neglected children who come through the Court spend in foster care.” Aside from work, Andrea enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending her son’s soccer games, bicycling along the Potomac, reading murder mysteries and doing crossword puzzles.

**Beverly Mahoney** recently moved to the Superior Court from the U.S. District Court to work as a Court Reporting Supervisor. For the past 17 years, she has worked at the District Court as a Court Reporter and in a supervisor position for the last 10 years, serving Judge Stanley Sporkin and most recently Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle. Although it was difficult to leave her coworkers at the District Court, Beverly has been very happy at the Courts and especially enjoys working for her supervisor, Tilly Ellis. She says, “Everyone has made me feel so welcome since my first day on the job. I feel honored to be part of the D.C. Courts family.”



Mahoney



Larry

**Andrea Larry** is a new Family Court Attorney Advisor. Andrea is from North Tonawanda, New York and received her undergraduate degree at the University of Buffalo and a law degree from the University of Notre Dame. Andrea spent over four years at the Council for Court Excellence, ten years at the Department of Justice, three years at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Houston, Texas and was a Law Clerk in New Orleans for two years. Andrea says she came to the Courts in

*cont. from page 1.*

on the importance of a strong Family Court and foster care system. She said that placing children in loving homes should be the top priority because the government cannot raise children and children cannot raise themselves; only families can raise healthy kids.

As the perfect addition to the ceremony, the Jefferson Junior High School Choir, under the direction of Ms. Robin Williams, provided entertainment. The choir began the ceremony with a rousing version of the “Star Spangled Banner,” and ended it with an inspirational rendition of R. Kelly’s “I Believe I Can Fly.” Several of the singers shared their amazing voices in solos as the entire choir collaborat-

ed for a motivational grand opening of the new Family Court.

A reception followed in the atrium of the Family Court, where guests mingled among the walls adorned with artwork created by children in D.C. Public Schools. The Grand Opening was a great reflection of the promising future ahead for the D.C. Family Court.

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[www.dccourts.gov](http://www.dccourts.gov)

## PROFILE OF STACY ROACH,

By Melissa P. Tanguay, Executive Office Intern

The new Family Court Central Intake Center (CIC) is off to a strong start with the help of friendly and customer-service oriented staff members like Stacy Roach. Stacy has held the position of Deputy Clerk at the Courts since January 2002. Though there are still a few kinks to be worked out, she finds the recent changes in the Family Court to be positive and believes that the CIC will help the Courts work better for customers. The transition has been smooth because Stacy says the public likes the idea of a “one stop shop.” When asked what she likes best about her job, Stacy replied, “I love the people I work with and providing a service to the public. My top priority is pleasing the customers, and I like being able to help people in the Family Court by telling them what they need to do.” Always with a smiling and friendly face, Stacy has been part of the Greeter’s Program at the Courts where she really enjoyed meeting and greeting people on the JM-level of the Moultrie Courthouse.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Stacy has had a variety of experiences before coming to work at the Courts two years ago. After graduating from Ballou



Senior High School, Stacy enlisted in the Air Force as a dental assistant in Tampa Bay, Florida for two years. Though it was a brief experience, Stacy says it was an interesting one. She then returned to the area and attended the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) for two years, studying accounting. After UDC, Stacy worked for a short time as a secretary in the Naval Inspector General’s Office and then worked for nine years at the Department of Defense as a secretary in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Aside from her day job at the Courts, Stacy fulfills several other roles as well. Family is definitely a priority to Stacy; she loves spending time with her husband of ten years, her nine-year-old son and her two stepchildren at their home in Temple Hills, Maryland. One year ago, she decided to follow another dream and became a licensed real estate agent in Maryland. Stacy loves real estate and is working to build her own business in her off hours. In the future, she would like to devote more time to real estate as she continues to enjoy her family. It comes as no surprise that Stacy’s personal motto is “Always treat people with kindness and you will receive it in return.”

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*cont. from page 5.*

steps, Lisa began her tenure at the Courts in 1993 as a File Clerk and over the years she has held the positions of Data Transcriber, Calendar Clerk and Courtroom Clerk in the Family Court. While working as a Courtroom Clerk for Judge Josey-Herring in the Juvenile Drug Court, Lisa became interested in pursuing juvenile justice. She currently works in the juvenile justice and neglect system and enjoys helping to guide young people in the right direction. Lisa plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Social Work in the future and likes to read, travel, listen to music and hang out with friends in her free time.

**Marsha Murray-Shillea** joined the Courts in June as a Probation Officer in the Juvenile Drug Court Branch. Marsha is a native of Washington, D.C. and holds a degree in Social Work from the University of the District of Columbia. She is currently a second year graduate student at Howard University pursuing a Master’s degree in Social Work.

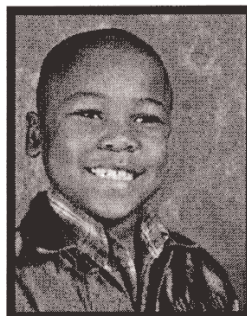
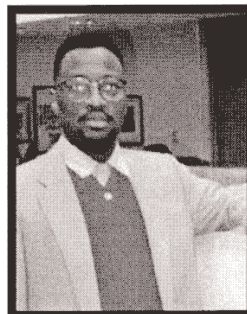
Before coming to the Courts, Marsha worked as a Case Manager with the Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Health Right and the Edgewood Brookland Family

Support Collaborative. Ever since she interned in the Adult Probation Division at the Courts in college, Marsha’s goal has been to become a Probation Officer. In her free time, she likes to read, watch movies and spend time with her family, which includes her twin sons and daughter.

**John Smith**, a new Probation Officer in the Juvenile Probation Supervision Branch, came to the Courts after working for the D.C. Department of Human Services in the Income Maintenance Administration for ten years as an Intake and Recertification Specialist for Medicaid, Welfare, TANF and Emergency Assistance. He wanted more involvement in the lives of his clients and is enjoying his work in juvenile probation. John was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and graduated from The Catholic University of America with a degree in Psychology. When he is not at the Courts, John is a singer, keyboard player and composer. He performs at weddings and other religious functions. John also co-founded and is the Musical Director of a gospel ensemble called CHOSEN.

**HEADS UP SPOTLIGHTS**

**Marvin Davis**



Top: Marvin Davis  
Bottom: Marcellus

While neither a student nor teacher, Marvin Davis spends a lot of time in school. Three to four times a month, he can be found at Amidon Elementary School, talking – and most importantly – listening to students. In recent years, Davis has volunteered his time to help search for a new school principal, as well as serving as a classroom parent partner and a cafeteria monitor.

“I kept hearing all this negativity about children from adults who weren’t doing anything,” says Davis. “Many of those young people who act out in class are really just looking for attention, for someone to listen to them,” says Davis, who strives to be that someone.

As the father of an Amidon student, Davis is well aware of the challenges young people face. His eight-year-old son, Marcellus, was having trouble in school, getting poor grades, and being singled out by teachers for his inability to pay attention. In an effort to improve the situation, in the fall of ‘03 Marcellus enrolled in the Heads Up program, in part, to focus on his reading.

“Since he’s been going his attitude toward school-work has changed,” says Davis. “He’s reading better, doesn’t have to have his own way, and isn’t as shy when it comes to raising his hand.”

Davis attributes Marcellus’ improved grades and outlook to the care and individualized attention he received through his Heads Up mentors. He’s also come to value Heads Ups’ peer-to-peer approach, recognizing that young people will relate – and listen – to other young people in ways they often don’t with parents and teachers.

To express his gratitude, Davis organized a special recognition ceremony in honor of the Heads Up mentors at the school. In doing so, he enlisted the help of every child who benefited from their efforts. “I wanted the students to see that after you’ve received, it’s time to give back,” he says.

At the ceremony, each Heads Up mentor received a certificate of appreciation. Most importantly, those students engaged in the program were given the chance to express their appreciation, for says Davis: “If someone takes the time to do something for you from the bottom of their heart, you need to do something for them.” \*

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**WANTED: CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

The *FRIENDS of the Superior Court* of the District of Columbia announced the kick-off of the Children’s Book Project for the new Family Court. They are collecting books in good condition and suitable for children ages 1 to 18. Family Court Judges will then distribute the books to the children in cases before them. If you have any questions or would like to donate books to the Children’s Book Project, contact Sara Lucas at the Child Care Center at 879-1759 or see her in Room C185. Thank you!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler, Associate Judge of the Superior Court. Judge Saddler was awarded the Community Service Award by the Washington Section of the National Council of Negro Women for her outstanding service to the District of Columbia community. She was presented this award on June 26, 2004, which Mayor Anthony Williams declared “Washington Section National Council of Negro Women Day.”

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

The Courts would like to thank Carl Johnson of the Social Services Division for organizing the *La Amistad* trip on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Carl’s trip allowed over 100 students from Ballou Senior High School and Jefferson Junior High School to travel back in time aboard the replica slave ship. The day’s events offered a hands-on journey into history and proved to be an enjoyable time for all involved.

**Thrift Savings Plan Open Season October 15<sup>th</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Thrift Savings Plan program is designed to help FERS and CSRS employees save for their future. The Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, allows employees to put pre-tax money into up to five investment funds to save for retirement. For FERS employees, the Courts contribute up to 5% of an employee’s salary. Starting this December FERS employees can contribute up to 15% of their pre-tax salary, while CSRS employees may contribute 10% of their pre-tax salary. For more information about this program please log onto their website, [www.tsp.org](http://www.tsp.org).