



PHOTOS BY JAMES M. THRESHER — THE WASHINGTON POST

Beverly Mahoney, who coordinates D.C. Superior Court stenographers each day, goes all out for Halloween.

Scaring Up Some Fun And Fright In Court

D.C. Superior Court doesn't scare easily.

But every Halloween, Beverly Mahoney, who coordinates the court stenographers each day, does her best to add a little fright to her corner of the courthouse on Indiana Avenue NW.

With a few days of decorating, she and her staff members give a ghoulish feel to her office and the corridors around it.

A tombstone sits atop her conference table, surrounded by scraggly tufts of moss. A cauldron full of boiling bones gurgles nearby. And a spectral figure identified as "Frank K. Stein, Official Court Reporter" stands sentry in the hall outside her door. A sign warns visitors, "Enter If You Dare."

Candy, of course, is readily available for her staff of 32 court reporters and for other court employees lucky enough to know to stop by.

Decorating has been a tradition for Mahoney since she started at Superior Court a few years ago, and she doesn't stop at Halloween. Just about any big holiday that lends itself to lots of color and creativity is a chance for Mahoney to trick out her office in the latest decorations.

It's her way of spreading a bit of holiday spirit among her co-workers.

"They're like my family," she said.



Mahoney, above, fills the hallway with scary figures. Court reporter Kathy Jackson, below, passes the decorations as she goes into her office.

