

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts

July 2009

Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All

Volume XXV Number 3

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE RE-DEDICATED AS HOME OF THE D.C. COURT OF APPEALS

By Leah Gurowitz, Executive Office

The Ceremony

Following a four-year restoration, the Historic Courthouse was rededicated on June 17, 2009 as the new home for the District's highest court, the D.C. Court of Appeals. In addition to providing much-needed space for the courts, the project brings new life to one of the most significant historic buildings and public green spaces in the nation's capital.

D.C. Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Eric T. Washington opened the official re-dedication ceremony just after 5pm on June 17, welcoming all in attendance in the ceremonial courtroom. Kimberly Brinkley then sang the National Anthem. Chief Judge Washington then asked his predecessor, former Chief Judge Annice Wagner, to come to the podium and talk about the rich history of the building, and how the courts were able to secure funding to restore the architectural and historical treasure. Chief Judge Wagner, who clearly loves the building and is devoted to its history, talked about her efforts to begin the



The new front of the Historic Courthouse, a National Historic Landmark and one of the oldest public buildings in the District of Columbia. Photo by Dennis Shipley

restoration process, including a visit by a Member of Congress who saw a "little critter" run by as they toured the building. Next Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton came to the podium and congratulated the courts on a great day. She joked with Chief Judge Wagner that she had not even thought to recommend releasing a 'little critter' to help persuade other Members of Congress of the need for rehabilitation of the building! The Congresswoman then spoke of the building's glorious history and how important a part of the city it is. She praised the courts for the work they did in getting it restored and spoke of the skills of two of her classmates from Dunbar Senior High School – Annice Wagner and Inez Smith Reid, both now judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals! At the end of the ceremony, Chief Judge Washington asked all of his colleagues on the bench to join him in gaveling the building dedicated, which they did.

The History of the Courthouse

Originally designed by George Hadfield in 1820 to serve as the Courthouse and City Hall for the

District of Columbia, the Historic Courthouse is a National Historic Landmark and one of the oldest public buildings in the District of Columbia. Located midway between the White House and the U.S. Capitol, Judiciary Square was designed by Pierre L'Enfant to be one of the most important green spaces in Washington, second in

importance only to the National Mall. Prominently located at the heart of Judiciary Square, the courthouse was the setting for several notable events in our nation's history. Daniel Webster and Francis Scott Key practiced law in the building, and John Surratt's trial for his part in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln took place there.

Recently, the courthouse was designated for inclusion in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The designation of this nearly 200-year-old building was based on its part in the amazing story of the struggle of enslaved people for freedom and justice and those who helped them, including, for example, the trial of the ship captain and ship owner of the *Pearl* which attempted to sail 77 slaves to freedom in 1848.

The Renovation

A central feature of the renovation design is a new glass-and-steel entrance pavilion on the north façade of the building, which

Historic Courthouse, Continued on Page 9.

Included in this issue:

- 2 Courtwide Employee Conference
- 4 34th Annual Judicial Conference
- 6 Meet Bob Williams
- 8 Truancy Diversion Program
- 9 D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court
- 10 Keeping on Track
- 11 New Employees
- 11 Kim Beverly
- 12 Rave Reviews

2009 COURT WIDE EMPLOYEE CONFERENCE:

Great People Make a Great Place to Work

By Eddie Holiday, Executive Office Intern

The second annual Court-wide Employee Conference was held Friday June 19, 2009. This year's theme was 'Great People Make a Great Place to Work.' Hundreds of court employees came to the event. And they were in for a treat: Dr. Michael Fowlin and Mr. Greg Gray were the keynote speakers. For those of you who don't know Dr. Fowlin or Mr. Gray, here's a bit of information. Dr. Fowlin

received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Evangel University and attained a doctorate degree in clinical psychology from Rutgers University. Although his educational background is quite impressive, what's even more impressive is his acting ability. Dr. Fowlin generally combines his professional acting talents and his academic psychological training in all of his seminars; this time was no different. Greg Gray received his bachelor's degree in Communications from Oberlin College and has more



Employees listen intently to Dr. Michael Fowlin's presentation about mutual respect and the dangers of discrimination.



Chief Judge Satterfield addresses the audience during the conference.



Dr. Michael Fowlin

than 25 years of experience working in sales, training, and customer service. Mr. Gray is becoming one of the most sought-after speakers in the nation and he attributes his success to consistently using themes of personal responsibility to which

everyone can relate.

The first session of the Conference started at 10:00 a.m. and ended at noon. During this time, Dr. Fowlin educated the audience about mutual respect and the dangers of discrimination and prejudice, pre-judging, through a theatrical performance. The title of his performance was "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me." In this one-man-show, Dr. Fowlin portrayed six different characters focusing on different aspects of dis-

crimination (sexual orientation, race, gender, mental illness, and physical disability). Each character had their name, dress, and problems. The first character was a young boy who explained, "We learned how to hate from the 1st grade. We were encouraged to 'X' out things that were different." He further went on to say "Why couldn't we put smiley faces next to the things that were different? By the time we got to the third grade, instead of 'Xing' out differences on paper, we started to 'X' out people that looked different from ourselves." At this point, everyone in the audience was silent, seriously contemplating

Benjamin's words, and thought back to when they may have first learned to "X" people out. Dr. Fowlin portrayed five other people: an African-American athlete who was hiding behind a mask because he was gay, a bi-racial high school girl who was sent to detention because she stood up for women's rights, an All-American student athlete who everyone thought had the world in his hands but suffered from clinical depression, a wheelchair-bound man, and a child who contemplated suicide. Everyone in the audience could find something in themselves mirrored in one, or several, of the characters. At the end of the performance, Dr. Fowlin recited the Langston Hughes poem *Still Here* and challenged the audience, "Pay attention to one another, take care of one another, and smile to at least ten people a day, it really helps."

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

Leah Gurowitz, Editor
Dennis Shipley, Creative Director

Employee Conference, Continued on Page 3.

After Dr. Fowlin's riveting performance, there was a two-hour break for lunch.

Mr. Gray's presentation revolved around the theme "Desperately Seeking Service." Filled with comedy, the session was extremely entertaining. Gray explained what a Customer Service Warrior is—someone that doesn't let "small things go" and the top six reasons why customers leave one company to do business with another. The business principles applied equally well to government service. There was great interaction with the crowd and everyone could relate to certain interactions with customer service representatives. Gray gave an experience of poor customer service,

"I called the customer service line, and the customer service woman said, 'How did you get this number?' After talking to her for a couple of minutes, I got so frustrated and just asked, 'Don't you guys care that I have a problem?' and she responded, 'the person that cares isn't here today.'"

After giving the crowd an example of terrible cus-



Greg Gray

tomor service, Gray outlined the five steps of providing "thrilling customer service" - one must do ordinary things extraordinarily well, take ownership for mistakes, give the customer options, under-promise and over-deliver, and finally, be humble. "It's not about satisfying your customer," Gray explained. "It's about thrilling them, because if you

drop the ball while your standard is merely 'satisfying,' then that leaves your customer unsatisfied. But if you aim to thrill your customer, then even if you drop the ball, they'll still be satisfied."

This year's employee conference was definitely a hit. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and if the goals of this conference were to learn to be a better customer service agent, raise staff morale, and have fun, the Courts definitely exceed their goals.

Below are some comments from very satisfied customers:

From: Bailey, Lisa D.
Subject: RE: Message for all court employees from the Center for Education and Training...

Thank you so much for the conference it was greatly appreciated. The food was delicious.

From: Harris, Patricia D.
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 2:29 PM
To: Gurowitz, Leah H.
Subject: RE: Message for all court employees from the Center for Education and Training...

Thank you so much for an awesome CET day. I thoroughly enjoyed the first speaker. He really knew how to engage the crowd. Additionally, the food was absolutely delicious and there was plenty. Whoever was responsible for the organization did a superb job.

Patricia D. Harris

Greetings,

I always say to clients and people in general, I don't listen to what you say, I listen to your behavior. Well on Friday what you demonstrated to the Court family did indeed speak volumes. The time, effort, and expense along with the incredible weather made for a phenomenal employee conference! Those speakers were thought provoking, insightful, and truly gifted!

We get caught up, complain, even whine sometimes but we are incredibly fortunate to work here and while we know it deep down, on Friday we felt it. Thank you.

Jo-Ella J. Brooks

From: Janifer, Stephanie Y.
Subject: RE: Message for all court employees from the Center for Education and Training...

I had the pleasure of attending the 10:00 am session with Michael Fowlin, it was quite a treat. He made a lasting impression on me. I want to simply say thank you to you and all the staff members who made it possible.

ANNUAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON TECHNOLOGY

By: Eddie Holiday & Marie Robertson, Executive Office

The D.C. Courts held their annual judicial conference on Friday, June 19, 2009, with the theme of "The CSI Effect: Computers, Science, and the Internet - Impact on the Administration of Justice." The conference examined current and emerging issues faced by practitioners and courts regarding the use of new technologies, and the ethical and practical issues lawyers and judges encounter with these technologies. Attorney General Eric Holder, a former D.C. Superior Court judge and former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, was the keynote speaker and spoke of the influence of technology, especially DNA, on crime prosecutions.

Chief Judge Eric Washington of the D.C. Court of Appeals kicked off the event, speaking about how eventful this year has been. In particular, he explained how excited the Court of Appeals family was to move into the Historic Courthouse. "The finished building surpassed my vision of what the new Court of Appeals was to be," said Washington. In addition to speaking about the renovations to the Historic Courthouse, he also lauded the project team for renovations in the other buildings, such as the new Moultrie entrance and the extensive work in Court Buildings A and B. Washington then went on to explain the financial situation of the courts. He assured everyone that the courts are financially strong and are extremely fortunate compared to other courts across the country. He then thanked the court staff and praised them as the "Courts' most valuable resource." After those complimentary words, he challenged the staff to improve their performance in all tasks to make the Courts a more efficient place to work.

After Chief Judge Washington spoke, Chief Judge Lee Satterfield of the D.C. Superior Court spoke, reviewing the changes, triumphs, and challenges the Superior Court faced in the past year and will face in the year ahead. For example, Satterfield spoke about the retirement of some judges and the introduction of new judges. In addition,



Keynote speaker Attorney General Eric Holder talked about the breakthroughs in criminal investigation technologies.

Photos by Dennis Shipley

tion, he commended the Youth Law Fair on its ten-year anniversary. He also spoke of the "problem-solving" courts and their service to the community. Satterfield thanked all employees for their work ethic and for making the courts a more pleasant place to work. He outlined a number of improvements in the area of technology, such as online dockets and a pilot technology courtroom. He

announced that the Court would improve the quality of the attorney panels by evaluating panel members every four years. Towards the end of his remarks Satterfield explained that the Court isn't perfect, but it's definitely on its way. He challenged court staff to maintain their dedication to public service.

Session I - How the Media Shapes Public Perception of 21st Century Justice

The first panel focused on how the media affects the public's sense of the judicial branch. Judge Reggie Walton, now of the U.S. District Court in D.C. but formerly with the D.C. Superior Court, talked about the need to work with reporters who are covering a case, in the hopes of ensuring accurate coverage and finding a workable balance between the First and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution. Judge Bartnoff talked about the high level of press interest in relatively obscure cases, "news of the



Panel discussion about "How the Media Shapes Public Perception of 21st Century Justice".

Judicial Conference, Continued on Page 5.

weird” type cases, and how some reporters pay more attention to the sensational aspects of the case than to the laws involved. Attorney Billy Martin talked about how attorneys on both sides are aware of press coverage and try to use it to their advantage. Lucy Dalglish, Executive Director of the Reporters’ Committee for Freedom of the Press, spoke about the difficulties reporters face in covering courts, especially now when there are far fewer reporters and at the same time a huge demand for instantaneous news updates. Traci Hughes, the Communications Director for the Metropolitan Police Department, spoke about the challenge for public relations staff at law enforcement agencies of providing information without harming the government’s case at trial. Tracy Schmalzer from the U.S. Department of Justice talked about the need to keep pace with technological developments such as YouTube and podcasts

At lunch, Attorney General Eric Holder spoke of the day-by-day breakthroughs in criminal investigation technologies and the need for the government to utilize such technologies to find those who are guilty and to exclude those who are not. Holder placed an emphasis on DNA in regard to future technology, because it’s been the key for exonerating those who were once thought to be guilty. “We are mindful that DNA evidence can be used to exonerate those who are wrongfully charged. Our mission at the Justice Department is not simply to win cases, but to do justice,” said Holder. At the end of his remarks he stated that the greatest risk to the administration of justice is not the emergence of new technology but the failure to “stay true” to values upon which the republic was founded.

Session II - The Tangled Web (www.) That Has Been Weaved

This session was moderated by Superior Court Judge Herbert Dixon and focused on metadata and, more specifically, on the ethical concerns for attorneys and judges regarding electronic communications. Since this session was technology-based, there were many terms that needed to be defined. First, the panel described the term “metadata.” The first definition of metadata was “data about data” and this was found to be insufficient. Judge Dixon offered an alternative: “It is more helpful to think of metadata as information about electronically stored files that is hidden within the files themselves or in a linked database.” The audience learned that metadata is essentially the little bits of

information that we think are deleted when we press the “backspace” or “delete” buttons on our computers. However, this information is not completely gone when deleted, others may find old information in its “native format”— this is, where most of the problems come from. The panel gave some examples of what could happen when people suffer from a knowledge deficiency about metadata. The audience gave their concerns about sending documents electronically. Ultimately, the panel and Judge Dixon advocated for improved understanding and



The audience listens to panel discussion about “metadata.”

competency in the area of information technology.

Session III - Are Our Courts and Juries Equipped to Handle 21st Century Issues?

The last session asked the question “Are science and technology evolving too fast for the courts?” Most of the discussion focused on significant changes in the courts’ culture from the role of trial judges dealing with decisions about the admission of scientific/forensic evidence, to the widespread acceptance by juries of hard science and its probative and prejudicial value. Panel member Tim O’Toole of Miller & Chevalier spoke about the impact of new technology and its probative and prejudicial value in jury trials. He stated, “People like science because it seems real and true, not subjective or subject to bias.” He further explained that most jurors want scientific evidence because it makes their job easier: it relieves them of their responsibility to make hard judgments. In addition, he gave examples where forensic science was helpful. However, O’Toole also gave the audience examples in which forensic evidence had actually lead to wrongful convictions. At the conclusion of the session there was a consensus from the panel members that science is evolving quickly, and that the courts are taking a little longer to catch up, but that everyone is open to new technologies that can aid in the administration of justice.

PROFILE OF BOB WILLIAMS, AUDITOR, INSPECTOR GENERAL, AND WASHINGTON GENERAL

By: Eddie Holiday, Executive Office Intern

Sitting in his recliner, “educating” his twin daughters about the good ‘ol days by having them watch baseball games from the 1960’s, Bob Williams had no idea that he was about to be interviewed for the “profile” section of the *Full Court Press*. As I spoke with Mr. Williams, I was amazed at all of his professional accomplishments within the government, but I was equally amazed with all of his professional accomplishments in athletics. This profile is nothing more than a brief glimpse into the fascinating life of Bob Williams.

Mr. Robert Williams was born and raised in Pleasantville, New Jersey. During his years in Pleasantville High School, Mr. Williams was a student-athlete. He dominated on the

fields as well as the classrooms. He participated in varsity football, basketball, and baseball exhibiting incredible athletic prowess. But what’s more impressive than his athletic skills, is that while playing sports he graduated *magna cum laude*, and was even the top college preparatory student in his class. After Mr. Williams graduated from Pleasantville High School in 1963, he received a full-tuition scholarship from Rutgers University to play football.

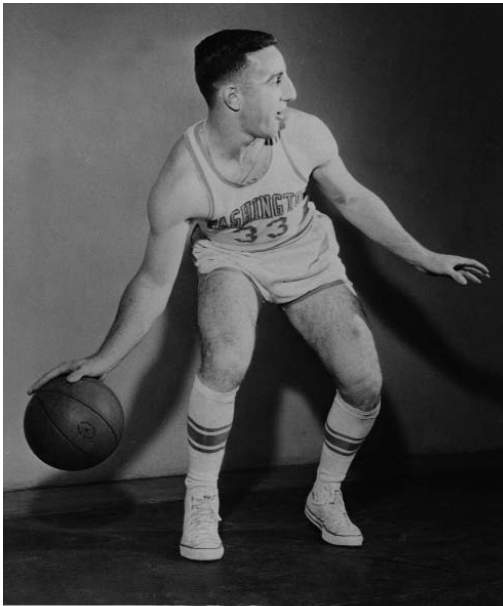
His time at Rutgers was short lived: he left the university after his freshmen year. He didn’t



Bob Williams today.

Photo by Eddie Holiday

leave because of the intense course work, he didn’t leave because of family obligation; Mr. Williams left Rutgers University after his freshmen year to play basketball with the Harlem Globetrotters. When asked how this came about, he explained; “I was playing basketball in a gym and a guy came up to me and said, ‘You’re pretty good. Do you want to travel with us and play basketball?’ and I said “Sure.” That nonchalant conversation led Mr. Williams on a cross-country circuit.



Bob with the Washington Generals.



Bob at bat for the Minnesota Twins.

From the Brooklyn Bridge in New York to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, he played for the Washington Generals against the Harlem Globetrotters and, of course, lost every game. After a few years of playing with the Globetrotters, Mr. Williams became

tired of traveling from city to city every other night, so he decided to come back home to New Jersey, but that wasn’t the end of his athletic career.

As soon as he got back to Pleasantville, he was asked to play professionally again, but this time it wasn’t basketball. One day Mr. Williams was watching a high school baseball team when a scout from the Minnesota Twins came up to him. “He told me that he had been watching me in high school and asked if I was interested in playing in the minor leagues for the Minnesota Twins,” explained Mr. Williams. He responded in the exact same way as when the

Bob Williams, Continued on Page 7.

Globetrotters asked him to play, saying "Sure!" The next day Mr. Williams was off to the land of cold air. After playing for two seasons, he left the game after his arm was broken when pegged with a fastball. While his arm was in a cast, healing, Mr. Williams knew it was time to put the sports aside for a while and finish his education.

When he returned to New Jersey from Minnesota, Mr. Williams went back to college. Instead of going back to Rutgers University, he decided to finish his education at Monmouth University in Long Branch, New Jersey. As in high school, he was an exemplar student, receiving the Faculty Award for academic excellence, graduating *magna cum laude* and receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting in 1972. He later went on to earn his Master of Arts in Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey. With two degrees Mr. Williams was ready to be a part of the executive work force and he decided that government was a good place to start.

Mr. Williams didn't start his government career at the D.C. Courts. In fact, he didn't start working for the Courts until thirty years after being employed in the executive branch of government. His thirty-year sojourn to the Courts can be broken up into two fifteen-year periods. The first fifteen years, Mr. Williams worked in the Department of Defense (DoD). The second fifteen years, Mr. Williams worked in the Department of the Interior (DoI).

Although he worked in two different agencies, Mr. Williams performed the same task; he completed the duties of an Inspector General of Audits. While at DoD, he was an Assistant Inspector General. Ultimately, as an Assistant Inspector General, Mr. Williams was charged with investigating various offices and divisions and making sure that they use government funds in an economical and efficient manner. During his time



Bob proudly displays the Faculty Award for academic excellence.

in DoD, Mr. Williams traveled across the country and even lived in Germany for three years, performing audits of DoD facilities there. Mr. Williams then moved to DoI, and served as an Assistant Inspector General. Through hard work, dedication, and plain common-sense Mr. Williams eventually became the Acting Inspector General. It was during his time as an Auditor that he received many awards such as the Ameripay Award, two Inspector General Awards, and a Top Auditor Award. He even received the Meritorious Service Award from the DoI Secretary General (making him the first Inspector General to receive the award). After all the years of

service, Mr. Williams came to the D.C. Courts through an "Interagency Personnel Agreement."

Not an Inspector General anymore, Mr. Williams still works with audits. His official title for the court is "Auditor of Financial Consulting." He works for the Executive Office and performs audits, helps with financial statements, and works with the budget and finance staff. "I work with the budget and finance staff and we look at the policies and procedures of the D.C. Courts and determine if those policies are economically efficient," he explained. When asked what brought him to the Courts, Mr. Williams said, "The people are really dedicated and easy to work with. Dealing with finances and making things more economically efficient is always complex and challenging. That challenge brought me to the Courts. Just being a part of a group that's dedicated to making things better is rewarding."

At the end of the interview, I asked Mr. Williams, "To what do you ascribe your success?" It wouldn't be very Mr. Williamsesque if he didn't relate back to sports, "Sports, jobs, and life in general have something in common... a competitive edge. Just being competitive made me want to do my best—going the extra mile, staying extra hours doing whatever it takes to get the job done. I've always lived by the phrase, 'Hard work yields good results.'" With hard work and competitive persons like Mr. Williams, the D.C. Courts are sure to yield good results!

TRUANCY COURT PROGRAM GRADUATION AT BROWNE EDUCATION CENTER

By Quincy Booth, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

The Superior Court's Truancy Diversion Program is an integral part of a comprehensive strategy to assist children who have had problems involving truancy. Under the leadership of Browne Education Center Principal Keith Stephenson and his staff, a team identified and screened families to determine eligibility for participation in the spring Truancy Diversion Program. Participating families were enrolled in early March 2009. Magistrate Judge Mary Grace Rook held weekly Truancy Court sessions at the school for ten consecutive weeks. The Edgewood Brooklyn Family Collaborative provided comprehensive assessment of the needs of each child and his or her family, and coordinated their recommendations into an individualized plan for that child. Students were rewarded and corrected according to their compliance in order to assist them in maintaining focus on their education. The Browne Truancy Team also convened individual family conferences to determine the case plan, to monitor the progress of the students, and to recommend next steps.



Truancy Court Graduates and Magistrate Judge Rook hear from NFL star and co-founder of the House, Stephen Fitzhugh.

Photo by: Quincy Booth

Truancy Court Diversion Program accomplishments included: Increased understanding of the legal attendance mandates on the part of parents and students; increased personal responsibility and accountability of parents for their children's attendance and school performance; improved academic performance; increased attendance; decreased disciplinary referrals; and serving as a model for a coordinated multi-agency approach to truancy.

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, seven young men and women graduated from the Truancy Diversion Program at Browne Educational Center. The graduation consisted of opening remarks from Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield, who was the first judge to preside over a Truancy Diversion Program, in his case it was at Garnett Patterson Middle School. Each graduate made personalized presentations to an audience full of parents and family members, teachers, Superior Court judges, Family Court Social Services Division staff, D.C. Public School administrators, Edgewood Brooklyn Collaborative staff, D.C. government employees, local reporters and members of the community.

The keynote speaker for this graduation was former NFL star and co-founder of The House (a youth center in Southeast D.C.), Stephen Fitzhugh. Mr. Fitzhugh spoke with young people about how he overcame the obstacles he encountered as a youth, such as an abusive home and community violence. Mr. Fitzhugh also spoke about his career in the NFL and his current philanthropy work in the Anacostia section of Washington, D.C. He closed by encouraging the youth to stay in school, aim high, and accomplish their dreams.

The truancy court graduates received D.C. Superior Court Certificates of Completion, as well as gifts such as an alarm clock, movie tickets, game and a personally-selected novel.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Employee Awards Ceremony

9-17-09

2:30 p.m.

District of Columbia Courts
2007
Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony
Tuesday, September 16, 2008
Third Floor Atrium
H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse
2:30 p.m.

Open To All • Trusted By All • Justice For All

SAN FRANCISCO DELEGATION VISITS D.C. SUPERIOR COURT

By Michael Francis, Community Court Coordinator

On Monday, March 9, 2009, a San Francisco Chamber of Commerce delegation of 42 elected officials, city, business, and labor leaders visited the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court (DCMTCC) in courtroom 115 and met with Judge Ann O'Regan Keary, Magistrate Judge Michael J. McCarthy, Criminal Division Director Dan Cipullo, and Community Court Coordinator Michael Francis. Court officials were joined by officials from local DCMTCC partner the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District or BID. The theme of the Community Court's presentation was "A Safe, Clean Downtown: D.C. Community Courts and the Downtown Business Improvement District." The San Francisco delegation was interested in knowing how the D.C. Community Courts partner and work with the Downtown D.C. BID. (Since 2003, the Downtown D.C. BID has been a community service site for defendants with cases in the D.C. Community Courts who receive a community service requirement in order to have their case dismissed.)

Also in attendance at the meeting were Community Court Assistant Ed Rhodes, representatives from OAG, Pretrial Services, MPD, US Attorney's Office, CSOSA, DMH, D.C. DOES, APRA, DOH, CJCC, PIW and one of the DCMTCC's duty day attorneys.

The Court officials, BID officials, and the representatives from the Community Court stakeholder and partner agencies addressed a number of questions raised by the San Francisco delegation: How is the D.C. Misdemeanor and



Judge Ann O'Regan Keary welcomes members from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce delegation.

Photo courtesy of Ed Rhodes

Traffic Community Court (DCMTCC) organized and funded? How does the DCMTCC deal with defendants with substance abuse, mental health, and workforce training or assistance issues? How do the DCMTCC and Downtown D.C. BID coordinate activities and programs? How is the Downtown D.C. BID organized? Did the impetus come from the business community?

After the meeting several members of the San Francisco delegation stayed to observe the DCMTCC in session and handling cases.

The D.C. Superior Court would like to especially thank our Community Court stakeholders and partners for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

Historic Courthouse, Continued from page 1.

replaces the north portico that was removed during the early 20th century. Serving as the ADA-accessible main entrance, the new pavilion re-oriens the courthouse to once again face Judiciary Square and engage with the surrounding buildings (Court Buildings A and B and the Building Museum). The south façade and previous entrance, with its grand steps leading to a colonnaded portico, has been preserved and the Lincoln statue which has stood at the base of those steps since 1868, has been



Back portico of the historic courthouse.

Photo by Dennis Shipley

renovated and restored to its place.

"We look forward to D.C. residents visiting the courthouse and seeing it as a centerpiece of our city and, more specifically, the heart of the Judiciary Square neighborhood. The renovations will allow the courthouse to once again serve its historic role as a symbol of the proud history of our city and our commitment to equal justice under the law," commented Chief Judge Washington.

KEEPING ON TRACK AT WORK, WITH VACATION ON YOUR MIND

Based on an article by Eileen Smith, Federal Occupational Health, U.S. Public Health Service,
Department of Health and Human Services.

It's important to plan time off, even if it's just a short break.

Perhaps if you could pitch a beach umbrella in the middle of the office, it would help you feel better about spending the summer behind your desk. Everyone, it seems, is on vacation. Everyone except you. So how can you keep your nose to the grindstone when your mind is in a beach chair at the water's edge contemplating nothing more challenging than a foamy drink and a frothy novel?

Here are some tips on remaining sunny when it seems as if everyone else is at the beach (from Kenneth W. Thomas' book *Intrinsic Motivation at Work: Building Energy & Commitment*);

- Start building a positive vocabulary in your thoughts and comments about work. Thomas suggests beginning with the word "progress."
- Reward yourself for milestones.
- Become the architect of your own success by building time off into your schedule.
- Don't eat lunch at your desk. Utilize that time constructively by taking a break from the workplace.
- Re-assess your goals. If you yearn for a vacation, perhaps it is because you no longer enjoy your job. Think about what once made you passionate about your work — and see if that re-ignites the fire.

"It's essential that people plan for time off," said Gerald Lewis, a psychologist and director of Compass, a behavioral health practice in Framingham, Mass. He says that setting aside as little time as a long weekend can be emotionally uplifting because you know some kind of respite is on the horizon.

Weekend Vacations

Indeed, the weekend vacation is gaining popularity in the United States, according to the Travel Industry Association of America. Heavy work schedules make it tough to carve out a full week or two for vacation, so harried workers compromise by taking several briefer trips throughout the year, the trade group's William S. Norman said.

We are a nation in which workers are increasingly responsible for keeping themselves on track. That means most folks are faced with the

daunting task of maintaining their own focus when they would rather be hopping a plane. Workers who are well-organized can make the trend toward self-management work in their favor by finishing projects early so they can get a jump on vacation.

Summer's longer days also naturally provide opportunities for relaxation, exercise and socializing before and after work, when the weather is more temperate.

Lewis points out that all workers have the power to grant themselves a brief respite from their labors by resisting the temptation to bring the job home with them at the end of the day.

"When you leave work, leave work," he said. "It will all be there tomorrow."

~~~

For more articles like this one, check out

[www.FOH4You.com](http://www.FOH4You.com).

*FOH is a service unit within the Department of Health and Human Services' Program Support Center.*

*FOH is a component of the United States Public Health Service, which was created by Congress in 1798.*

*FOH provides the Employer Assistance Program at the D.C. Courts.*



## NEW COURT EMPLOYEES

By Eddie Holiday, Executive Office Intern

### Marcelle Sanchez

Welcome to Marcelle Sanchez, new deputy clerk of the Criminal Division. Marcelle was born in Washington, D.C., but lived most of her life in Maryland. Currently she is studying at the University of Maryland striving to earn her Bachelors of Arts degree in Finance. Before Marcelle came to the D.C. Courts, she was a Senior Branch Account Executive for Citigroup. In that position, Marcelle handled everything loan-related, from managing loans to controlling delinquencies. After working a couple of years in the finance sector, she made a career change and joined the D.C. Courts in May of this year. When asked what brought her to the courts Marcelle responded, "I'm very interested in the legal field and I want to expand my horizons and learn new things. In addition, the courts offer great opportunities for upward mobility." After speaking



Photos by Eddie Holiday

with Marcelle for only thirty minutes, I could tell that she's compassionate, hardworking, ambitious, and definitely has a good heart. When not working at the courts, she is taking care of her five year old daughter, Sunashi. (Sunashi means "Pure" in Zapotecan—an ancient language of those that lived in southern Mesoamerica) One thing you probably don't know about Marcelle is that she is the oldest in her family and has ten brothers and sisters! We're expecting great things from Marcelle and we know that she'll keep up the good work.

### Tiffany P. Williams

In March, the D.C. Courts added a new deputy clerk to the Superior Court's Mental Health Division: Tiffany P. Williams. A native Washingtonian, Tiffany was born and raised in the District. After graduating from Eastern High School, Tiffany began her education at Virginia Commonwealth University



(VCU). While at VCU, Tiffany made the Dean's list; and in 2007, she graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology. Immediately after graduating, Tiffany entered a Masters program for human resources management. However, after she finished a few classes, she decided to get some real world experience. She left the capital of Virginia and returned to the nation's capital. When asked why she came to the D.C. Courts Tiffany explained, "The government provides excellent stability, I like the consistency aspect of it." However, Tiffany added a caveat: "Even though government offers stability, I know that the courts will offer a great opportunity to change and grow as an individual and employee." Tiffany definitely plans to start her career at the courts and stay here a while. "I look forward to moving up the ranks, becoming a better communicator, better leader, and eventually advising those that come to the courts after me." Tiffany we look forward to your tenure here.

---

## KIM BEVERLY RECEIVES GRANTS MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

By: Eddie Holiday, Executive Office Intern

Kim Beverly, Deputy Director of Research & Development, is the definition of a team player and tries to avoid the limelight. However, after graduating from the *Grants Management Certificate Program*, it's only right that the *Full Court Press* acknowledge her accomplishment.

The Grants Management Certificate Program is a series of courses offered by Management Concepts, a private company that presents training opportunities to improve performance of their clients. Kim explains why she entered the program, "I wanted to further my knowledge about all of the requirements involved with receiving and administering federal grants."

The Grant Management Certificate Program has multiple tracks, each one involving a different aspect of the grant process. Kim was in the recipient track, which focused on how agencies can receive grants and then how to utilize them according to requirements.

There were a range of courses that needed to be completed in the recipient track, including: Applying for Federal Grants & Cooperative Agreements, Managing Federal Grants, Cost Principles, and many more. Kim finished all of her required classes in about three years; and was rewarded with a Grants Management Certificate. When asked what she learned from all those classes, Kim replied, "The training has provided me with a foundation about the federal regulations and standards that can be used to assist the D.C. Courts as a recipient of grant funds."

When all is said and done, she said, "I just want to ensure that the Courts are in compliance with federal grant regulations and advise project directors as they administer grant funded projects." Clearly the Courts will benefit from Kim's expertise in this area. Again, from the entire court family, congratulations to Kim on a very significant achievement!

Ms. Yuan Burns  
Director, Information and Technology Division

June 8, 2009

Dear Yuan:

As you know, the remaining branches of the Civil Division - Civil Actions and Quality Review as well as the Director's Office - relocated from the John Marshall level to the fifth floor on March 23, 2009. A great deal of planning and coordination were expended in this huge effort. I want to bring to your attention the extraordinary efforts of Ms. **Cynthia Davis-Logan**, HELP Desk Computer Specialist, in assisting the division with any and all technology requests. Ms. Davis-Logan gave special care to the employees' IT requirements, ensured that the contractors understood divisional needs and monitored all aspects of the operation. Ms. Davis-Logan worked around the clock over the weekend to make certain that operations were up and running on the following Monday when our doors opened to the public. I felt confident that our operations would not be negatively impacted by any technological problems because Ms. Davis-Logan was overseeing the effort.



Photo by Dennis Shipley

Ms. Davis-Logan's willingness to assist divisional operations is not new; she has consistently displayed an excellent work ethic when the division has any technology requests. She listens to the problem, designs a suitable manner of resolution and always does it with a smile. She is an employee who represents the epitome of a great public servant. I am certain that you are proud to have Ms. Davis-Logan as an employee who always strives to satisfy both internal and external customers. When we met with the parties involved in the move (coordinated by Mr. Marvin King, Administrative Services), Ms. Davis-Logan listened attentively and came prepared to do whatever necessary to ensure a successful transition to the fifth floor. To date, she continues to communicate with staff regarding technological issues and they trust her judgment and expertise. She also displays great interpersonal skills in her routine interactions with staff.

It is clear that Ms. Davis-Logan has embodied the true spirit of what it means to be a public servant. She has certainly demonstrated the type of commitment and cooperation that should be evident throughout the division and court system. I am extremely grateful to Ms. Davis-Logan for all of her efforts that contributed to a successful move for the Civil Division.

I look forward to continuing our cooperation and teamwork with the Information and Technology Division staff.

Sincerely, Deborah Taylor-Godwin

Friday, June 05, 2009

**To: The Staff and Volunteers**  
**D.C. Courts Open House**

This is a short note of thanks to everyone involved with the Open House on May 1, 2009. You all organized a spectacular open house. It was interesting seeing Mr. Wolf stand trial for the damages that was perceived to be a result of his actions. More so, having the different judges give us an overview of the various activities that take place within the courts which they represent was highly informative. I also had the privilege of actually seeing one of your judges who spoke about his work at the town hall preside over a hearing later on that day. Even though I have been studying different areas of Criminal justice for the last few years, I managed to discover some interesting issues while sitting in on a few of the court cases you all had on that day and from the individuals, along with the resources that were provided at the information tables. I must add that some of the unique cases that were brought before your judges opened up my mind to the weight that they sometimes carry when rendering a decision. While speaking with a few of the administrative support personnel whose work is similar to the work in my current field, only a different setting from what they have at the court house, I also found out some of the critical responsibilities that they have which I never knew rested on their shoulders. It was a reminder that unless you have 'walked in another person's shoes' or witnessed what they face everyday, you really do not know how heavy the load may be that they are carrying.

Even though I currently reside in Maryland, it was a pleasure being able to come in and observe the activities that you all put together for the public and boast about your open house in the work place and in the classroom with other students. I want to conclude by thanking all of you for making Law Day an extra special day.