

Full Court Press

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SECOND MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM CLASS GRADUATES

By Keith Robinson, Education Specialist, Center for Education and Training

On October 3, 2008, 21 employees representing various divisions in the D.C. Courts graduated from the second Management Training Program sponsored by the Center for Education and Training and the Management Training Committee. The Class of 2008 graduation ceremony was held in the D.C.



Class of 2008

Photo by Dennis Shipley

Court of Appeals courtroom before an audience of approximately 150 family members, friends, supervisors, co-workers, and judicial officers. The graduates received their certificates of completion from D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington. Graduates were then congratulated by a cadre of court leaders, including newly-appointed D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield, Executive Officer Anne Wicks, D.C. Court of Appeals Clerk of Court Garland Pinkston and D.C. Superior Court Clerk of Court

Duane B. Delaney, and various members of the Management Training Committee. This year-long program is designed to help educate, train and empower employees to become more aware of their innate leadership abilities and to arm them with the knowledge and skills needed to handle greater

management responsibilities. The D.C. Courts' Management Training Program is a series of monthly classes, co-taught by senior court leadership and nationally recognized experts. The classes focus on topics such as team building, court administra-

tion, leadership and personal effectiveness, human resources, and budgeting and finance skills, among others. During the course of the program, the participants are divided into five teams. The purpose of the teams is to complete a team project that includes developing an idea to further the mission of the Courts. This year's team project winners were David Bell, Janice Butts, Thomasine Marshall and Jorge Salazar. Their project was "Stay on the Right Side of the Law: An Introduction to the District of Columbia Courts and the Law," a program designed to implement a "Courts in the Classroom" program in all District of Columbia Public Schools third grade classes. The purpose of "Courts in the Classroom" is tri-fold: to foster enhanced individual behavior, demonstrate positive conflict resolution as a way to increase constructive social behavior in students, and enhance perceptions of the court as an open, accessible and positive community institution, thereby increasing public trust and confidence in the Courts. The team mentor was Laura Banks Reed, Director of the Crime Victims Compensation Program and Chair of the Management Training Committee.

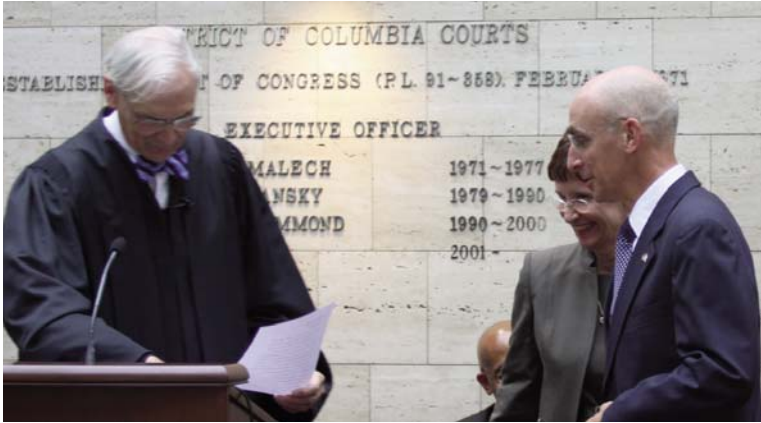
The Management Training Committee, faculty members, team mentors and co-facilitators did an outstanding job of leading and coaching the participants from start to finish. "It was very nice to see each participant blossom where they were planted

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ANTHONY C. EPSTEIN SWORN IN AS ASSOCIATE JUDGE IN D.C. SUPERIOR COURT

By Wanda Johnson Starke, Senior Operations Manager, Office of the Clerk of the Court



Chief Judge King swears in Associate Judge Epstein as his wife Karen looks on.
Photos by Gerald Ashby

Chief Judge Rufus King, III presided over the investiture ceremony of newly appointed Associate Judge Anthony C. Epstein on Friday, September 12, 2008 in the atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse. Chief Judge King administered the oath of office and Scott Coffina, White House Associate Counsel, presented the Presidential Commission. Judge Epstein's family, associates and close friends joined him for the ceremony. Judge Epstein's wife Karen Epstein held the Bible as he took the oath of office, and their daughters Katherine and Claire assisted in robing their father. The Superior Court's junior Associate Judge Carol Dalton escorted Judge Epstein to his place among his colleagues.

Irvin B. Nathan, General Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke about his friend and former colleague's new endeavor as associate judge, assuring the attendees that "the Bench, the Bar and our community are extremely fortunate to have as our newest judge a person with the intellect, the temperament, the judgment, the commitment and the sense of humor of Tony Epstein." Mr. Nathan remembered that when he first met Judge Epstein in 1976, there were three traits that were immediately apparent: his capacity and willingness to work very hard; his exceptional writing and analytical skill; and his gentle sense of humor.

Judge Epstein had been a partner with the law firm Steptoe & Johnson LLP since 1999. Before entering private practice, Judge Epstein served in the U.S. Department of Justice as an attorney in the Antitrust Division, as Special Assistant to Deputy Attorney General Charles B. Renfrew, and as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. Immediately after graduation from law school in 1977, Judge Epstein clerked for Charles B. Renfrew when he was a United States District Judge. Judge Epstein received his law degree from Yale Law School

in 1977 and his undergraduate degree from Yale College in 1974.

In private practice, Judge Epstein handled a wide range of civil and criminal litigation in state and federal courts around the country and before federal agencies in Washington, D.C. His clients ranged from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses to local governments to non-profit organizations to individuals. Throughout his career in private practice, Judge Epstein displayed a significant commitment to *pro bono* work, including serving as a volunteer in the Family Court Self-Help Center.

Judge Epstein served for a decade on the D.C. Court of Appeals' Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law, including the last eight years as chair. He was involved in a variety of D.C. Bar activities, including serving as Vice Chair of the D.C. Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee when it recommended a comprehensive revision of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct, which the D.C. Court of Appeals adopted effective



Judge Epstein's daughters help their father don his first judicial robe.

2007. He also served on the D.C. Bar Multi-jurisdictional Practice Committee and on both the Steering Committee and the Court Rules Committee of the D.C. Bar Section on Courts, Lawyers, and the Administration of Justice.

After a month of presiding over a misdemeanor calendar, Judge Epstein said of his new position: "This has been an incredibly challenging and rewarding experience, and I'm so thankful for the welcome and support from the entire Superior Court family."

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information about the D.C. Courts.
Inquiries should be submitted to Room 1500.*

Leah Gurowitz, Editor; Dennis Shipley, Creative Director

HEIDI M. PASICHOW SWORN IN AS NEWEST ASSOCIATE JUDGE IN D.C. SUPERIOR COURT

By Wanda Johnson Starke, Senior Operations Manager, Office of the Clerk of the Court

The October 31, 2008 investiture of Associate Judge Heidi M. Pasichow was presided over by Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield on the third floor atrium of the H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse. Well over 200 invitees attended the joyous ceremony—with a large turnout from Judge Pasichow's proud former colleagues at the United States Attorney's Office. Arguably, the proudest attendees were the judge's parents, Milton and Betty Pasichow who traveled from Florida to hold the Bible as the oath of office was administered by the Honorable Sylvia Bacon. The judicial commission was read by the John Smith, Associate Counsel to the President. Judge Pasichow's brother, Bill Pasichow, and his daughter Julianne, both of California, were beaming as they robed the judge after the oath was administered.

Judge Pasichow attended the evening law program at The American University, Washington College of Law. During that time she was a student attorney with the District of Columbia's Law Student's in Court Program, a Legislative Assistant for a member of the United States House of Representatives, and a Law Clerk in the Office of Civil Rights at the United States Department of Commerce. After receiving her Juris



Judge Sylvia Bacon swears in Judge Pasichow as her parents hold the bible.

Photos by Gerald Ashby

Doctor degree in 1981, Judge Pasichow worked in the area of occupational health for administrative law judges on the Benefits Review Board at the United States Department of Labor.

Judge Pasichow turned her sights to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she would spend over 22 years serving the community. From 1983 to 1985, Judge Pasichow served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Sylvia Bacon of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, an experience that changed the path of her legal career and



White House Counsel John Smith congratulates Judge Pasichow.

eventually brought her into the D.C. Superior Court as a litigator.

In 1986, Judge Pasichow was sworn in as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where she remained until her appointment as Associate Judge. During her tenure, Judge Pasichow served as Deputy Chief of the Homicide Division, Chief of the Violent Crime Section, District Chief of the Community Prosecution-Major Crimes Section for the Second and Fourth Police Districts, and Special Counsel for Professional Development in the Superior Court Division. In those roles, she managed line prosecutors and their caseloads and worked to advance the Office's presence in and participation with community crime-solving efforts. Judge Pasichow worked closely with the Survivors of Homicide organization and assisted in coordinating the expansion of the United States Attorney's Office's community prosecution efforts.

Commencing in 1989, Judge Pasichow handled complex criminal cases and prosecuted serious violent offenders detained pre-trial. The following year, in 1990, she was promoted to the Homicide Section where she began to prosecute homicide cases. In 1994, as Deputy Chief of the Homicide Section, Judge Pasichow supervised the screening, grand jury investigation, and prosecution of homicide cases. She also assisted in coordinating efforts to establish a law-enforcement protocol for child deaths and served as the U.S. Attorney's Office's representative on the Child Death Fatality Review Committee.

In 1998, Judge Pasichow was promoted to Chief of the Violent Crime Section and led prosecutorial efforts to bring justice to victims of violent offenses city-wide. In 1999, the United States Attorney expanded the community prosecution effort to all seven police districts

Pasichow Investiture - Continued on page 12.

NEW EMPLOYEES

By Gerald Ashby, Jr., Executive Office Intern

Nana Perry

Nana Perry is the new Program Manager in the Probate Division's Guardianship Assistance Program. She was born in Ghana and raised in Virginia! Nana attended James Madison University, studying psychology, and went on to receive her Masters in Social Work from Catholic University. Before joining the D.C. Courts, Nana served as a contractor for the Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan. As a social worker, Nana has previous experience working with family courts and child welfare, and she credits this with inspiring her desire to work within a court system. As the Program Manager in the Guardianship Assistance Program, Nana is thrilled to have the opportunity to "lay the framework of this new program," and she also appreciates that she has the opportunity to interact and teach social work students. When she isn't in the office, Nana enjoys running, yoga, and spending quality time with her husband.



Brenda Clarke

Brenda Clarke, a native of North Carolina, serves as a deputy clerk in the Family Court. Brenda earned her Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from American University. She is a self-made woman, spending the majority of her career as an entrepreneur, small business owner, and personal trainer. Brenda has also worked for the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation in its senior citizen division. When asked about her decision to join the D.C. Courts, Brenda replied, "I love the law." Brenda saw this as an educational opportunity, a chance to expand her knowledge of the law through



hands-on experience, and she continues to learn about various facets of the judicial system each day. In her free time, Brenda enjoys playing the saxophone, gardening and lying out on the beach.

Carla Wilson

A native Washingtonian, Carla Wilson serves as a deputy clerk for the Small Claims Branch. Carla grew up in Northwest D.C. and attended Dunbar Senior High School. Although she is new to this position, Carla is no stranger to the D.C. Courts. She has been working as a volunteer and file clerk with the Courts since she was 14. Carla says that the D.C. Superior Court is like a second home. Carla loves her position and feels welcomed by her colleagues. When Carla gets free time, she enjoys reading and writing poetry.



Autumn Burrows

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Autumn Burrows joins us as a Deputy Clerk for the Probate Division. Autumn grew up in the Shaw neighborhood and attended Dunbar Senior High School. Before joining the Superior Court, Autumn worked with the organization Helping Young People Excel and Develop (HYPED). Autumn started this past summer as a junior level deputy clerk awaiting the opportunity to transition the job that she loved into her career ... which she did when she was hired in October as a full-time deputy clerk. When she is not in the office Autumn is being a super mom attending the practices and games of her two boys.



Photos by Gerald Ashby, Jr.

MARITAL BLISS AT THE D.C. COURTS

By Debra Swinson Stokes, Executive Office

On Friday, October 10, 2008 Janelle Reid, Criminal Division Courtroom Clerk, and David Neumann, Jr., a Deputy U.S. Marshal, were married by Judge Gregory Jackson in his courtroom. This exciting and joyous occasion was well-attended: the audience included family members, friends, court staff and U.S. Marshals. We wish Janelle and David the best!



Photo by Debra Swinson Stokes

YUAN BURNS: CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER FOR THE D.C. COURTS

By Gerald Ashby, Jr., Executive Office Intern

Yuan Burns, most recently Acting Director of the Information Technology Division (I.T.), has been named the Chief Information Officer for the D.C. Courts. Yuan said her plans are to continue to revolutionize court technology systems through strategic planning and aligning I.T. goals and projects with the business goals of the Courts.



Photo by Joseph Osei

Yuan was born in Shanghai, China and grew up there with her parents and younger brother. Yuan was always drawn to technology and found it to be her passion as a student at the University of Shanghai, where she received her undergraduate degree in electronic engineering. Yuan became well-traveled early on, living in Belgium and the United Kingdom, where she received a Masters Degree in Computer Aided Building Design from the University of Strathclyde. After acquiring her masters degree, Yuan became a research fellow with ABACUS Corporation in its research unit. Upon completion of her fellowship, Yuan went on to work as a software engineer with Integrated Environment Solutions Limited and later a senior software engineer with Foster Wheeler, an international energy company, all the while working on her PhD in computer-aided urban design, a unique program integrating architecture with computer engineering at University of Strathclyde.

Yuan arrived in the United States 11 years ago

and first worked as a program manager for Systems Applications Inc. and then a database manager for Computer Sciences Corporation. After working in the private sector for so many years, Yuan felt it was time to give back, to serve the public. Yuan joined the D.C. Courts in 2002 as a database web development manager; in March 2006 she was named Deputy Director of the I.T. Division; and in January 2007 she was named Acting Director of the Division. In her six years here, Yuan has been part of a dramatic

improvement in court technological systems, something she intends to continue. Yuan has shown extraordinary leadership on projects including the web voucher system, Internet development, mainframe decommissioning, infrastructure upgrades, and implementation of the new juror management system.

Anne Wicks was delighted to announce the new appointment: "I am so pleased that Yuan has accepted this challenging position, given all the I.T. projects, initiatives and improvements that she has been a part of over the past six years and all her plans for the future. Yuan has the respect of her I.T. colleagues, court managers and judges; I am confident her contribution as CIO will be significant."

Yuan accredits her success to her I.T. colleagues. She knows that without the support of her teammates, so much of what has been accomplished may never have been. Yuan thanks her team and the Courts for their continued support of her efforts and looks forward to a bright – and we are sure techno-savvy — future.

*The Center for Education and Training (CET)
has a Holiday Gift for the Courts!!*

Starting December 12, 2008, tutorials will be available on the D.C. Courts' intranet on a range of topics, including Word, Excel, Power Point, Clip Art and basic Spanish. Contact CET for more information.

D. C. COURTS CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2008

By William Agosto, Bilingual Attorney Negotiator, Domestic Violence Unit; Wilfredo Gaitan, Quality Review Supervisor, Small Claims Branch; and Nancy Matos, Bilingual Human Resources Specialist, Human Resources Division

At the first event of the D.C. Courts' celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 2008, Uno, Dos y Tres... Bailemos otra vez [*One , Two, Three... Dance with Me*], Dr. Werner Wothke and Ms. Maria I. Osorio performed a demonstration of salsa, a unique dance rooted in Hispanic culture, teaching court employees some basic dance moves. Maria is from San Juan, Puerto Rico; Werner is from Cologne, Germany. They have been dancing together for over eight years, making a name for themselves in such



District of Columbia Court of Appeals Associate Judge Vanessa Ruiz presents Superior Court Magistrate Judge Marisa Demeo with her award. Photos by Dennis Shipley

venues as the Chicago Southshore Center. The couple met while taking dance lessons and have been dancing together ever since. Employees listened intently to the instructors as they counted "one, two, three" and indicated "left, right" as



James Plunkett serenades the crowd.

salsa music played in the background. After the lessons, employees and guests enjoyed some Hispanic cuisine courtesy of Lauriol Plaza, while enjoying music played in the background so employees could continue to practice their newly discovered dance skills.

The setting for the Hispanic Heritage Month festivities was enriched by artwork created by artists from the Life Skills Center, D.C.'s only trilingual center — Spanish, Vietnamese, and English — for adults with mental retardation. The Center offers various programs, including a Studio Arts Program, the products

of which were on display in the Jurors' Lounge for all to enjoy.

The second Hispanic Heritage Month event was the D.C. Courts' 2008 CORO Awards Ceremony, which took place Friday, October 24th. Each year, the Courts host the CORO

Awards to honor those whose outstanding service has enhanced the lives of Latinos in the greater D.C. area. "Coro," the Spanish word for "choir," stands for Community, Outreach, Recognition and Opportunity. This year's honorees included the Spanish Education and Development Center (Community Agency Award), Kenia Seoane Lopez (Legal Community Award), Magistrate Judge Marisa J. Demeo (Achievement Recognition Award), Executive Office Staff (Community Outreach Award) and Rodrigo Leiva (Allan Klein Award).

James Plunkett provided two lively musical interludes between presentation of the awards. After the ceremony, attendees got the opportunity to dance to DJ "Travieso" Richard Guerra from El Zol 99.1 FM radio station. Also, we enjoyed "Antojitos" (appetizers) catered by Ms. Evelyn Ortiz.

The members of this year's Hispanic Heritage Committee are Nancy Matos, William Agosto, Dilma Fuentes, Wilfredo Gaitan, Doris Chavez, Yvonne Martinez-Vega, Leah Gurowitz, James Plunkett, Lula Raye, and Ana Roque. Thanks to all for a wonderful

celebration of Hispanic Heritage and the contributions of Latinos to the greater D.C. community.



Staff attending the event demonstrate their dancing skills to the salsa music playing in the background.



Kenia Seoane-Lopez accepts her award and talks about the joy of giving back.

JUDITH SMITH INSTALLED AS NEWEST MAGISTRATE JUDGE

By Leah Gurowitz, Executive Office

Judith A. Smith was appointed a Magistrate Judge by Chief Judge Rufus G. King III, on September 15, 2008. Her official installation ceremony took place a month – and a chief judge – later, on Friday, October 17, 2008. Judge Franklin Burgess, for whom Magistrate Judge Smith clerked when first out of law school, made brief remarks. He said that in appointing her, former Chief Judge King “...recognized that the talent, the commitment, the demeanor, and the skills that she has demonstrated all her career will make her a fine judge in the Family Court, where these traits are needed perhaps more than anywhere else on our court.” He added that she will join “...a team of judges and particularly magistrate judges who deal with neglect and other family cases that present daunting challenges. We will find out that children, parents, the legal community and our Court are lucky to have her on our bench.”

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield then gave the oath of office while the judge’s parents, Richard and Sarah Smith, held the Bible. The judge’s son, sister, brother-in-law and niece were all in attendance. Magistrate Judge Marisa Demeo, formerly the most junior magistrate judge, then escorted Magistrate Judge Smith to her seat with her colleagues.

Judge Smith was born in Columbus, Ohio and raised in Grove City, Ohio. She received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting, with High Distinction, from The Pennsylvania State University in 1985. Upon graduation from college, Judge Smith began employment with Price Waterhouse. She obtained her Certified Public Accountant license from the State of Ohio in 1988 and became Comptroller of Clarke & Company, a Boston-based advertising and public relations agency.

Judge Smith relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1989 to attend the Georgetown University Law Center and received her Juris Doctor in 1992. While at Georgetown, Judge Smith was the Chair of the Equal Justice Foundation and the student member of the Student-Faculty Financial Aid Committee, assisting in raising more than \$50,000 to fund law student summer



Chief Judge Satterfield gives Magistrate Judge Smith the oath of office, as her parents look on.

employment in public interest law and increasing loan repayment assistance program funding for graduates practicing public interest law. As a law student, she taught Street Law at the Lorton Prison facilities, as part of Georgetown’s Street Law Corrections Clinic. Also during law school, Judge

Smith interned at The Legal Aid Society for the District of Columbia, the National Criminal Justice Association, and at the D.C. Public Defender Service.

Upon graduation from law school, Judge Smith clerked for Judge Burgess, an experience she described as one of the most rewarding and challenging of her legal career. Following her clerkship, Judge Smith opened her own law practice, representing juveniles and adults in delinquency and criminal matters before the Superior Court. She also successfully litigated several administrative matters as a *pro bono* attorney for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. While in private practice, Judge Smith returned to Georgetown Law Center as Adjunct Professor of the Street Law Corrections Clinic, instructing and supervising law students teaching Street Law at the Maximum Security facility of Lorton Prison. She also handled neglect and child support matters.

In 1994, Judge Smith began the first of her several positions at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). During this tenure at PDS, Judge Smith represented more than 250 clients in special education and competency matters and was active in assessing the adequacy of the education program at Oak Hill Youth Center as part of the ongoing class action, *Jerry M. vs. D.C.*

In 2001, Judge Smith left PDS to become Executive Director - Mediation and Compliance and then Executive Director - Federal and Family Court Monitoring, in the Office of Special Education

Magistrate Judge Smith - Continued on page 13.

JUDGES AND JOURNALISTS – AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Leah Gurowitz, Executive Office

In September I spent two weeks in the Ukraine doing something I have often done in the US: talking to judges and journalists about what they do and how they can get along better. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has established a Rule



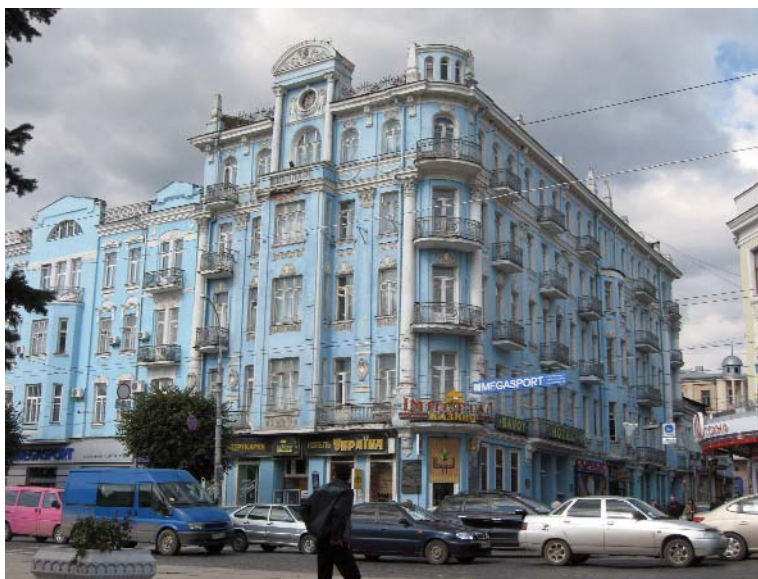
Journalists attending a seminar on covering the courts, held in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

of Law Project in Ukraine to assist that fledgling democracy in establishing an independent judiciary governed by the Rule of Law.

After participating in a seminar held last spring at the Newseum for a visiting delegation of Ukrainian judges and journalists, I was invited by USAID to travel to Ukraine for 12 days to participate in a series of seminars for judges and journalists in three very different locations: Kyiv (also known as Kiev), the capital city; Lviv, a lovely city in Western Ukraine with clear Austrian and Hungarian influences; and Vinnytsa, a

small town in central Ukraine that was nearly annihilated during World War II. The invitation was a particular thrill for me because my paternal grandparents were born and raised in Odessa, in southern Ukraine, in the early part of the 20th century. They fled persecution there, going first to Shanghai, China and then eventually coming to the United States, where my father and uncle were born.

To understand Ukraine, one must first understand its history. The country, or at least parts of what is now Ukraine, has been part of Poland, the Austro-Hungarian empire, Russia, and most recently, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). To understand how Ukrainians feel about having been part of Russia, imagine asking Thomas Paine or John Hancock how they felt about having been part of the British empire. Until 1991, Ukraine was one of the



Main Street, Vinnytsa.

Photos by Leah Gurowitz

socialist republics that comprised the USSR...and not by choice. Moscow dictated all aspects of life, including the language, insisting that the people speak Russian rather than Ukrainian. Many Ukrainians now speak both languages fluently (and everyone who works at the Rule of Law Project spoke those two languages and English with a fluency that amazed me).

To understand the challenges the Ukrainian judicial system faces, you must understand the impact that years of totalitarian views have on a people, as well as the difficulties all new countries and new democracies face. Imagine trying to set up an independent, democratic government with a judicial branch that is governed by the rule of law when none of the people

involved has ever lived in a democracy or been in a court where the verdict wasn't dictated by the ruling party. The challenge is great.

When I met with the judges and journalists, at first it was 'just like home.' I have participated in enough judge/journalist sessions that I can almost predict the commentary: judges will say that journalists should spend more time learning about the cases they cover and understanding the law;

journalists will say that judges do things for arbitrary reasons and are not enthusiastic enough about press coverage. And that debate rages on in Ukraine just as it does in the U.S., but in the Ukraine the debate takes on several new dimensions.

While judges and court managers in the U.S. strive to increase 'public trust and confidence,' in the Ukraine the goal is more one of trying to overcome a widespread perception that judges are corrupt and that

Ukraine - Continued on page 9.

verdicts can be bought. This corruption allegedly reaches all the way back to law school, where many lawyers report 'buying' good grades from their professors, and to the nomination process, where it is alleged that lawyers must pay the equivalent of \$20,000 to \$30,000 for a seat on the bench. Developing trust in a system that has not operated independently and in which there is evidence of corruption – possibly not as bad as is perceived, but certainly a significant amount – is a real challenge for a new democracy.

That's where USAID's Ukrainian Rule of Law (UROL) project comes in. UROL is a team of approximately 20 people - lawyers, policy experts, and scholars – assembled to assist the Ukrainian government to improve the country's judicial system. They hold seminars in judicial assessment, court performance, and court-media relations. The staff is a dedicated group and their schedule is incredibly busy: they have several



Judge Olga Shapovalova is with the Appellate Court of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

projects going on at the same time and there is a minimum of one seminar a month.

I saw that some judges are more open to the press, and to changing how things are done, than others. I heard stories of reporters being

kicked out of courtrooms solely for being there to report on a case. One reporter told of being asked by a judge whether he was a reporter and when he responded in the affirmative, being told to put down his notebook (ironically, this anecdote was relayed just after a judge had complained of the inaccuracy of media reports on the courts).

The UROL team certainly has its work cut out for it. But there are numerous reasons for optimism. One judge, from Crimea, is the spokeswoman for her court and frequently explains cases and relevant law to reporters, enhancing the accuracy of their coverage. Another judge, who mentioned that he had been on the bench for 28 years, said in a discussion at the end of a seminar that he had learned a great deal, that he had not always been open to press, and that he now saw the important role the media played in a democracy and said he would be more open in the future. That one comment was concrete evidence of how effective these seminars can be, how important it is to have a dialogue, and how helpful it can be to share our experiences here in



Kyiv's opera house.

the United States.

As my colleague from the National Center for Courts and Media (NCCM) explained to the Ukrainian crowd, it's not that we have things perfect here, far from it. But we are over 200 years ahead of them in running a democracy and we have learned a few things during that time. We have learned that judicial independence is essential if a democracy based on a three branches of government model is to work. And we have learned that the press, sometimes referred to as "the Fourth Estate," is an essential guardian of the people's interest...an imperfect guardian, but a guardian nonetheless. We have learned that the rule of law isn't always popular, but we have a consensus that ours must be, as President John Adams said, "a government of laws, not of men."



Irina Storozhuk (UROL); Marguerite Sitnik (TV reporter); Natalia Petrova, Deputy Chief of Party (UROL); Gary Hengstler (NCCM); Yuliya Golovonova (UROL); Judge Galyna Yurovska; the author; Judge Bohdan Futey (U.S. Court of Federal Claims); Irina Chernenko (UROL-translator); Olga Davyd, Court PIO, Lviv Administrative Appeals Court; David Vaughan, Chief of Party (UROL).

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION TRAINING GRADUATION

By Katie Hockey, Executive Office Intern

In June, a graduation ceremony was held to honor fifteen new employees who completed Social Services Division (SSD) training. The assembled men and women varied in profession: the majority were new probation officers, others were deputy clerks, one was a psychologist, yet another was a program analyst. Despite these dramatic differences, they shared one crucial trait: all have the potential to make a marked difference in the life of a child.

The rigorous fortnight of training will help them seek to understand the character and disposition of the juvenile offenders whom they serve – as well as those juveniles' needs. As Superior Court Clerk Duane Delaney explained in his keynote address, the children the Family Court Social Services Division sees are often products of broken or dysfunctional homes; by adolescence, they have often seen more than many adults will ever see. Usually, by the time they meet with their probation officer, the youth in question have little hope for their future, resigning themselves to the idea of incarceration.

That is precisely why SSD is such an important division within the Courts. Juvenile probation officers work to help juvenile offenders to “achieve and maintain a satisfactory social adjustment in the community.” In addition to this, SSD employees frequently look to assist the family as a whole and to improve the quality of their lives through counseling and other services.



Photos by Katie Hockey

The graduation ceremony opened with a Ms. Terri Odom, the Division Director, who informed the graduates assembled there that they are “the very best of the best.” In his keynote remarks, Mr. Delaney recalled his own experience as a probation officer, describing the trials of the children and teenagers he had worked with in his career. However, he advised the new employees to look not to these children’s pasts, but to their futures, encouraging employees to try innovative approaches and to share new ideas.

Ms. Anne Wicks, Executive Officer, and Ms. Odom performed the traditional recognition of graduates and handed out diplomas, balancing humor and light-heartedness alongside the dignity and respect the occasion merited.

Following an impromptu speech, in which he gave his own perspective and shared his heartfelt experience with the Family Court and the Social Services Division, Judge Frederick Weisberg administered the oath. After all 15 had been sworn into office, he solemnly administered his closing remarks.

Without preamble, he stated that he had good news as well as bad news, but he had more good news to chase the unpleasant news. The first tidbit in the series was that they all had the opportunity to make a vast difference in a child’s life. The second was that there was a very high – and very real – chance they might fail. The third? That even “just one kid whose life you bettered makes this job – and it *is* difficult – entirely worth it.”



The graduates take their oath.

RIBBON CUTTING FOR URGENT CARE CLINIC

By Michael Francis; Community Court Coordinator, Criminal Division

On Thursday, October 2, 2008 in the first floor of the Moultrie Courthouse, D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, Judge Ann O'Regan Keary, Mayor Adrian Fenty, Councilmember David Catania, D.C. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Director Steve Baron, and Psychiatric Institute of Washington CEO Ken Courage, had an official ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Superior Court Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic. The Clinic, which began seeing clients on June 23, 2008, is an initiative and partnership with the D.C. Superior Court, the D.C. Department of Mental Health, and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington (PIW) and is located in Room 1230 of the Moultrie Courthouse. The Clinic provides defendants and other courthouse visitors who have mental health concerns with immediate access to mental health services and treatment.

At the ribbon-cutting, Chief Judge Satterfield, Judge Keary, Mayor Fenty, Councilmember Catania, Director Baron, and PIW CEO Courage all talked about the need for and importance of the Urgent Care Clinic. Magistrate Judge Michael McCarthy, who presides in the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court courtroom and who makes referrals to the Clinic, and Dr. Steven Steury, a psychiatrist and chief clinical officer for DMH, talked about the impact that the Clinic is already having in helping people in need. The clinic was Dr. Steury's brainchild and clearly will benefit many D.C. residents.



Chief Judge Satterfield, Judge Keary, Councilmember Catania, Department of Mental Health Director Steve Baron, Mayor Fenty and Ken Courage, CEO of the Psychiatric Institute of Washington.

Photo by Gerald Ashby, Jr.

Management Training Cont. from page 1.

and make the very best of a learning situation. And, they all did that during the program.” The Class of 2008 demonstrated a real appreciation for the learning opportunity they were given and were willing to encourage other employees’ participation. When some of the participants were asked about their experiences and what they would say to the Class of 2009, they said: “[T]he value of this program will remain with you forever. Enjoy, absorb and execute.” “This is the beginning of a new chapter in your life. When the challenges become overwhelming, you must rely on each other for strength, understanding and courage. This is the formula for a successful team. Also, your differences are your greatest asset, so dare to be different.” Other advice included, “Embrace it and enjoy it” and “Meet, enjoy and interact with other participants. Sit in different places with different people each session. Each person is unique and has much to offer in the way of knowledge and experience— both in life and at work.” “Use this opportunity wisely. Though it may seem uncomfortable, move around and sit with people you don’t know. The value of networking and the connections you will make throughout the court are unmatched.” “Understand the difference between doing things right, and doing the right things!” “Keep an open mind. Stay focused. Take plenty of notes. Ask questions. Share what you have learned, and remember you have to put something into the program to get something out of it.”

The class spokesperson, Derrick Monroe, a Branch Chief in the Civil Division, illustrated his experience in the riveting speech he delivered during the graduation ceremony entitled: “*It Is Never Too Late To Be What You Might Have Been.*” Monroe stated,

For each of us, this process has a different meaning and intent, but for me, it has manifested something very profound and I hope the same holds true for you, and that is this: IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO BE WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN!! I was told that there are basically two types of people: not Democrats or Republicans, or Conservatives or Liberals, but basically DREAMERS, who are leaders, and NON-DREAMERS, who are followers. We all know what a dream is, a sequence of thoughts, a vision or a preferred future. So, let’s thank the Courts for being a Dreamer and having a vision of a preferred future in us!! So, trust your Dreams, it is never too late!

The ceremony concluded with a charge to the Class of 2008: Strive to be an exceptional leader, yet understand that it is a very daunting task: direct reports will always rely on you to make quick tough decisions, envision the future, inspire their success, and most importantly, overcome the difficult challenges.

Heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2008!

in an effort to enhance effectiveness in crime prevention, reduction, and prosecution by addressing issues unique to each particular community.

In 2002, after over 13 years of prosecuting or supervising the prosecution of violent offenders, Judge Pasichow was appointed Special Counsel for Professional Development, a position that focused exclusively on the professional development and advocacy skills of prosecutors practicing before the D.C. Superior Court. She has also instructed Assistant United States Attorneys across the country in areas of trial advocacy, criminal procedure, and evidence, at the United States Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center.

During her distinguished career in the United States Attorney's Office, Judge Pasichow coordinated law enforcement efforts in hundreds of death and homicide investigations, conducted or supervised hundreds of grand jury investigations and grand jury presentations of violent crimes and homicides, resolved hundreds of these cases pre-trial and brought more than 60 cases to jury trial. She personally handled some of the most serious homicide prosecutions brought in Superior Court: the unprecedented application of the felony murder statute to a vehicular fatality that left a four year-old child dead at a bus stop, the shooting rampage at a public food market brought on by a turf war that ended with eight victims and one fatality, and the violent rape and stabbing murder of an elderly woman by her 18 year-old neighbor.

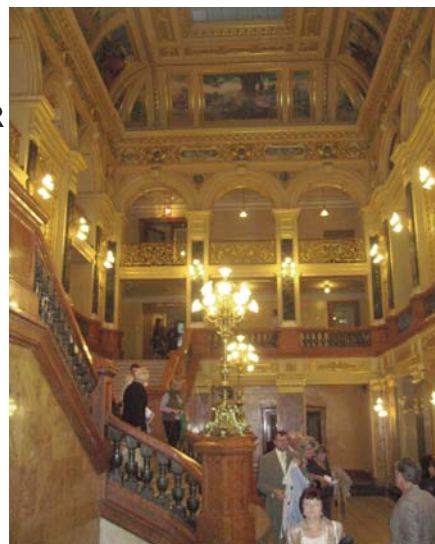
Judge Pasichow's guest speaker, former United States Attorney Wilma A. Lewis, heralded the judge's experience and commitment, remarking, "For over 20 years she has served this community by devoting to the cause of justice her incredible talent, her fine intellect, her good judgment, her uncompromising integrity, her undying commitment and her infectious enthusiasm. From nuisance crimes to the most heinous and horrific violent crimes, from work in the trenches to the supervision, mentoring and training of fellow Assistant United States Attorneys, from major federal crimes to cold-case homicides, from prosecutions to problem-solving, from the well of the courtroom to the heart of the community, Heidi Pasichow has made her presence felt in profound and immeasurable ways. It is this wealth of experience and the wisdom gained therefrom that Heidi brings to her new position as Associate Judge of this distinguished Court."

Judge Pasichow is active with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, serving as a faculty member since 1998. She teaches basic and advanced trial advocacy skills to attorneys through the Georgetown University Law School's Continuing Legal Education/NITA Program. In 2007, Judge Pasichow was honored with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's Justin D. Simon Award for Excellence in Teaching.

I learned a great deal from my trip, from the UROL staff, from the many judges and journalists I met, from the several different tour guides and translators who taught me about the country, and from Victor Voloshin, a colleague here at the D.C. Courts. Victor's family fled Ukraine and came to the US in early 1991, just months before the August coup that led to the December 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union. I gained a sense of the long and rich history of the country, now it is not just one of the many Soviet socialist republics that comprised the USSR prior to the 1990s. It has a rich history, a personality, a culture and an emerging national identity. I was honored to be chosen to serve as an 'expert' for these three seminars and to have the opportunity to assist my grandparents' homeland. I was more honored by the openness and graciousness with which the Ukrainian people welcomed me to their country.



Judges attending a conference in Vinnytsa on dealing with the media.



Inside of the Lviv opera house.

of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), working to assist the school system in complying with thousands of administrative hearing decisions and federal and family court orders on special education matters. After assisting DCPS in reaching a Consent Decree in the long-running federal court class action, *Blackman-Jones vs. D.C.*, Judge Smith left DCPS to return to the Public Defender Service as Coordinator of its Juvenile Services Program, supervising attorneys and law clerks representing youth in aftercare revocation and disciplinary hearings at the city's two detention centers.

In early 2008, Judge Smith joined the newly expanded Office of the State Superintendent of Education, in the General Counsel's office to spearhead the agency's legal compliance with a number of federal court orders in class action cases and directives from the U.S. Department of Education.

Judge Smith has been a Big Sister as part of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program in D.C. for nearly 20 years. She has maintained a relationship for more than 17 years with her first Little Sister match, who was at the installation ceremony.

OPEN SEASON IS HERE!!!!

By Rhonda Pearson, Senior Benefits Specialist, Human Resources Division

Benefits open season is here! From November 10, 2008 until December 8, 2008 eligible employees are able to do the following:

- Elect to participate or make changes in the Federal Employee's Health Benefits (FEHB);
- Elect to participate or make changes in the Federal Employee's Dental and Vision Insurance Programs (FEDVIP);
- Elect to participate in one or both of the Federal Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAFEDS);
- Elect to participate or make changes in the D.C. Courts' Ameritas Dental plan;
- Elect to participate in the D.C. Courts' VSP Vision plan;
- Elect to add eligible family members without having a qualifying life event;
- Elect to discontinue participation in any of the plans.

After Open Season ends, the above-mentioned options will only be available due to a qualifying life event such as marriage, divorce, loss of coverage, birth of new baby, adoption, death of family member on the plan.

If you are completely satisfied with your current selections in the FEHB, FEDVIP, D.C. Courts' Ameritas and D.C. Courts' VSP plans you do not have to do anything and *they will continue next year*. **In order to participate in the FSAFEDS plan for 2009 you must re-enroll.** Please keep in mind that many plans have made revisions; you must review the 2009 Plan Summary brochure, which was sent to current members by mail, to be aware of all the changes made within your plan.

Representatives from insurance plans will be available to answer employee questions at the D.C. Courts' Benefits Open Season Fair on December 5th, 2008. More information will follow.

REGISTER TO RECEIVE YOUR 2008 W-2 ONLINE!

To learn more about how to get your online W-2, log in to www.webw2.com and follow the easy step-by-step instructions.

Special Notice: You are automatically registered to receive your 2008 W-2 online if you received or viewed your 2007 W-2 online. There is no need to re-register.

***** Kabe Reviews *****

October 13, 2008

Ms Lori Edley, Supervisor
Court Reporting

Re-. Ms. Tamera Mottley

Dear Ms. Edley:

I would like to commend Ms. **Tamera Mottley** for the wonderful assistance she provided me in sorting out the numerous hearings and trials for the purpose obtaining the appropriate transcripts.

I very much appreciate her competence and patience in carrying out her duties.



Photos by Gerald Ashby

September 30, 2008
Washington, DC 20011

Ms. Barnett
Mr. Monroe
Room JM 170



I came to the court house to get information about filing a law suit, something I know nothing about ever had to do. I had a bad experience to start of with, but nevertheless on being upset and crying before I started to leave, but came back to the window to discuss my situation Ms. **Blanche Richardson** whom I have never met came to the window and asked what the problem and I begin to tell her, and you know something about her gave me a feeling that it, was going to be alright.

Before leaving she told me what I needed to do and the paperwork to fill out and when I come back she will help me. That means a lot to know you have experience people working for the public that have your concerns at heart. I been coming back a few times and always the same pleasant face and smile I get with her. I appreciate you for having an employee working for the Courts Systems who is very much appreciated by a satisfied customer. She deserves an Award of Appreciation and I am giving it to her and hope you do too. (THANKS: Ms. Richardson you are very much appreciated.)

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Ms. Laura Reed

Program Director
Crime Victims Compensation Program
515 5th Street, N W, Rm. 109
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Laura Reed;

The purpose of this letter is to let you know how much your claims examiner, **Monica Slade**, has assisted me with my case. She has shown nothing but extreme professionalism with me each and every time I call. Ms. Slade is always extremely patient, courteous and kind when answering my numerous questions. I really appreciate all that she has done for me since my injury. She always seems to make me feel a little calmer with I call feeling very anxious. I just wanted to let you know that Ms. Slade in my opinion is a very valuable employee and an asset to your office. If I could, I would recommend her for a promotion.

Sincerely,
Rodney T. Lindsay



September 22, 2008

Re: Excellent Employee in Small Claims Court — Ms. Johnson

To whom it may concern:

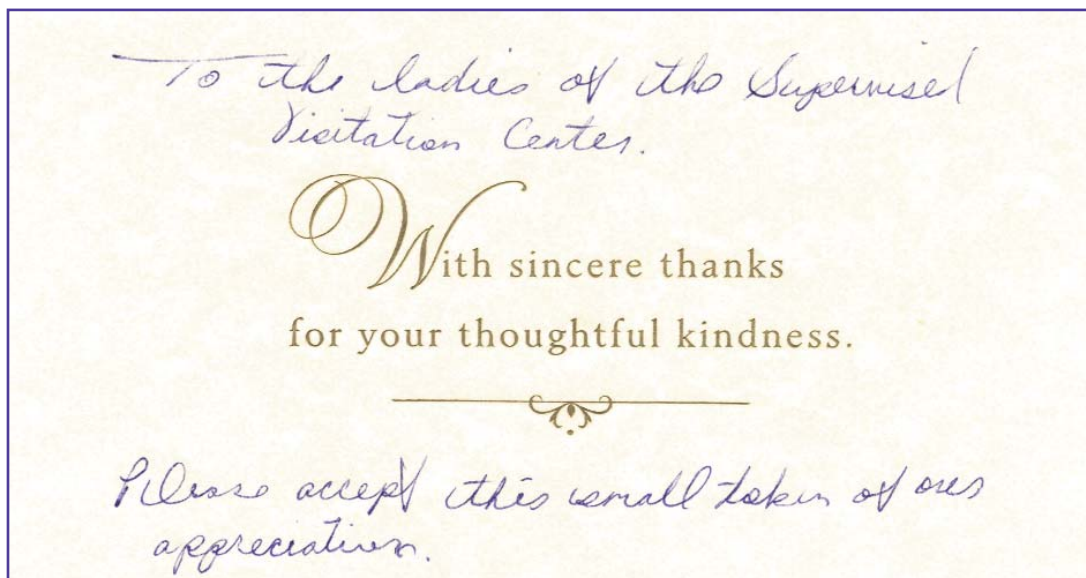
I called the small claims court a couple of weeks ago stressed out and upset because I have a judgment against me and it has put a holdup on me getting my house refinanced. I had no idea that there was a lien on my house, I just found out and was told to call the Small Claims Court with the docket number and my name and someone would help. As a rule for me every time I have to deal with a government agency it has always been they are rude and rushing you off the telephone or saying you have the wrong office and transfer you to someone's voice mail. Well this was not the case when I called the Small Claims Court a few weeks ago and got a very pleasant person on the phone, her name was Ms. Johnson.



Photo by Gerald Ashby

Not only did Ms. **[Debra] Johnson** not transfer me to another person, or tell me to hold the line — and never come back, she read the documents that were on file with my case — word for word. She told me how much the paper work would cost for me to do a vacate judgment and literally walked me through it over the telephone. Then she really shocked me when she said “I can put these documents in the mail to you today if you like,” because I told her the pressure I was under and that my mother was ill and I needed to have this judgment vacated so I can refinance my house and get the proper care for my mother established, wheel chairs, ramps, etc. installed in my house. I had to put her on hold once to answer a phone from my job — and she was still pleasant. It is a pleasure to know that not all government workers are in a hurry and rude because we all have things we have to do and could have a bad day and that could come across to the person on the other line. Ms. Johnson was so helpful I wanted to give her a hug right through the telephone. I ended up telling Ms. Johnson that I would come down and pick the documents up from her because the mail would take a couple of days, and she started right up telling me the hours of the Small Claims Court, and that Wednesday which is the day I was speaking with her was the late day, that they would reopen at 6:30 and that there are Saturday hours also which she told me the time. I was so shocked. I told her that I would be down tonight when they reopen and could I please meet her because she was so nice. She told me that she would be there that night and when I got there she was there and was still the same pleasant person that I had spoken with on the telephone earlier that day.

Ms. Johnson deserves something very special because she is a rare employee in our government agency. I wish she could be cloned.



October 10, 2008

Mr. Paul Roddy,

I wanted to take this time to express my gratitude and utmost respect to the members of your staff who work at the Supervised Visitation Center. They went over and beyond looking out for the best of my interest of my daughter during a difficult time in our lives.

I met the staff at the supervised visitation center due to false allegations against me that were being investigated during a custody hearing. Based on the nature of the center, I was concerned about the opinion that was formed against me, but the ladies of the center had an unbiased eye and treated me with respect. When it seemed as if there was no hope, Ms. Hall facilitated the reconnection between my daughter and I whose relationship had been severed because of lies.

There is truth to the saying that "there's a silver lining within every gray cloud" and Ms. **Courtney Hall** and her staff were that silver lining.



Photos by Dennis Shipley

October 31, 2008

Re: **Shanda Fulwood, Appeals Coordinators Office**

Dear Ms. [Anita] Alexander:

I am writing to express my complete satisfaction with one of your employees, Ms. Fulwood. I have one question: Can you clone her?

Ms. Fulwood is a shining example of what and how an employee should represent the courts or for that matter any business institution. The first time I called, she was helpful, polite, calming, articulate and very much aware of the process and procedures associated with the call. Although I was a little hyper, because of my past experiences dealing with my issue, she helped assure me that things would be taken care of if it had anything to do with her. She also assured me that once her office was done with their part, she would call me back and let me know. Of course I shrugged that off as knowing I would not get that call.

This morning, at approximately 11:00 am, Ms. Fulwood called like she said she would. My goodness, how delighted I was! She kept her word.

Ms. Alexandria, we are quick to step up to the plate when something goes wrong but rarely take the bat when someone does something wonderful. I would appreciate you passing on the word to Ms. Fulwood that her efforts do and did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I am thankful for her help and think she should be acknowledged for it. Thanking you ...

