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YOUTH LAW FAIR 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

Cyberbullying was the topic at the 2011 Youth Law Fair, and over 400 high school-aged participants, nearly double the number at last year's event, packed the third floor atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse on March 19, 2011. Students came to the 2011 Youth Law Fair to discuss the timely topic, as well as participate in a mock trial.

The Youth Law Fair is sponsored by the Superior Court and the D.C. Bar Association. Now in its 12th year, the event aims to provide area youth with a positive experience with various aspects of law, resulting in a better appreciation for the judicial system, the laws, and how both impact their communities. It is a free, full-day educational event at the Superior Court that brings students, lawyers, judges, and educators together to explore current issues facing teens.

Judge Melvin Wright opened the event, saying how impressed he was with the large turnout, and thanking those who came to participate, as well as the volunteers. Chief Judge Lee Satterfield followed by recognizing the positive growth of technology and commending the young people who use it so well, but reminding everyone of the Youth Law Fair's objective for the day. "As you will learn today, you are equally responsible for what you say on the web as what you say in person," Satterfield said. "Many times people find it easier to harass or intimidate behind the confines of a computer screen, but words, pictures, and videos on the web can be just as cruel and humiliating, especially given that thousands or even millions of people can see them."

After Chief Judge Satterfield finished his remarks, Curtis Etherly, vice president for public affairs and communications with Coca-Cola, kicked off the "youth speak out" session. Etherly

walked between rows of participants with a microphone, stirring up conversation and engaging the youth by asking questions that addressed the roots of the cyberbullying problem. The speak-out session not only had young people participating, but also prompted input



Judge Josey-Herring and her teen counterpart oversee a mock trial.

Photos by Tom Feeney, Jr.

from parents, teachers, and police officers who were present.

The mock trials followed the speakout session, with participating students filing into third floor courtrooms. Students took on the roles of the various actors in a typical court case, after brief training from volunteers who were experienced litigators. The volunteer attorneys prepped the students, enabling them to play the parts of prosecutor, defense attorneys, and witnesses. Superior Court judges sat next to the student judges and guided them

as they conducted the courtroom proceedings, ruling on motions and objections. After both sides wrapped up their arguments, a jury of students deliberated on the case, and returned with their verdicts.

The mock trials were based upon a hypothetical scenario which described the situation of a high school student who was bullied over the internet, leading to a fight after school. The defendants were charged with Assault and Cyberbullying, where the local law was assumed as: "A person is guilty of cyberbullying if that person harasses or intimidates another by any means (written, verbal or electronic communication) with the intent to cause physical harm, property damage, or interfere with education opportunities." In each hypothetical, the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The students returned from the courtrooms and were provided lunch, then settled in for a final speak out session with Curtis Etherly. The students reflected on the lessons learned in the courtroom, and from the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of their responses, it was clear that Youth Law Fair 2011 was a great success!

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Emcee Curtis Etherly engages the students in a speak out session.

CHIEF OF POLICE CATHY LANIER AT COURT SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARENESS MONTH 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

On April 12, 2011, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy Lanier was the keynote speaker at a seminar hosted in the Board of Judges Conference Room at the Moultrie Courthouse. The program was part of a series of events hosted during Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Awareness Month. Lanier focused her presentation on the growing improvements and strategies of MPD since she was named chief of police in 2006, and also provided insight into her future plans for addressing crime in the District.

Chief Lanier opened her presentation by thanking the judges and court employees present for attending, and then offered background on her childhood and how it helps her understand the problems faced by many of the District's residents today. When Lanier took over her current post in 2006, she said that she wanted to focus on reaching deeper into the community. Since then, she has added approximately 360 foot patrol officers into D.C. neighborhoods, has created a community listserv, and an anonymous text hotline. Lanier said the improvements have led to a significant increase in detailed anonymous tips, as well as improvements in community safety.

Chief Lanier said that one of her goals when she began in 2006 was to shed the titles "murder capital" and "unsolved murder capital" that have historically been tagged to the District. Since 2007, the murder rate in D.C. has steadily fallen, and the Cold Case Unit solved 32 cases in 2010, compared to 12 in 2007. Lanier said that she hopes to see the District's murder rate continue to fall in the future, and will continue to work on proactive approaches to policing and crime. "Lanier was very informative about recent crime trends, her approach to crime-solving, and MPD communications with the community," said Court Security and Emergency Awareness Month Chair, Clifton Grandy. "Her presentation was inspirational as well as informative



Police Chief Cathy Lanier speak to D.C. Courts employees.

Photos by Tom Feeney, Jr.

because she wove her own story into her message."

Lanier's presentation was just one event in the April series of Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Month. Since its inception in April 2008, the month dedicated to court security has not only addressed security within the court complex, but also personal, and information security for employees.

On April 6, Arnold Passman, Vice President of Live Safe America presented on Personal Safety & Crime Prevention. Arnold touched on safety in the home, personal safety in public and office settings, confronting road rage, and carjacking. On April

13 Paul Borghese, Systems Security Administrator from the Courts' Information Technology Division presented a seminar on Personal Computer, Network, and Internet Security Issues.

This year's Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Month also offered participants the chance to become trained in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and the performance of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The program successfully doubled the number of court employees trained.

Throughout the month, security tips of the day were also placed on the intranet. Tips were provided on workplace, personal, and information security.

A Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Information Fair was held on April 13 on the third floor atrium. Nearly 20 organizations gathered at the Moultrie Courthouse to provide the public with any resource necessary to ensure safety and security. This year's Information Fair was the largest ever in terms of the number of participating exhibitors. The Information Fair



Representative from the District of Columbia Humane Society at the Security Awareness Information Fair.

was thorough, and reflected the achievement of the entire program. A special thanks to the members of the Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Awareness Month Committee for putting together the series of comprehensive and informative events.

CIVIL DIVISION HOSTS MEMBER OF MONGOLIAN PARLIAMENT

By Jon Peterson., Deputy Director, Civil Division

On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, Mr. Khishigdemberel Temuujin paid a visit to the Small Claims Branch of the Civil Division. Mr. Temuujin is a member of Mongolia's Parliament. Mongolia has been a democracy for only 20 years and the Parliament, at the direction of the relatively new president, has fast-tracked many legal reforms.

Of particular interest to Mr. Temuujin was the Small Claims Courtroom, presided over by Magistrate Judge Michael McCarthy. Escorted by Kala Fin and Veronica Scafaru of the National Center for State Courts, Mr. Temuujin sat in the Small Claims courtroom as the day's heavy 156-case calendar was being finished. Fortunately, there were few litigants in the courtroom and Judge McCarthy, very graciously, was able to explain exactly what was happening in each of the cases that Mr. Temuujin was able to observe.

After the courtroom observation, Mr. Temuujin, his interpreter and their National Center for State Courts escorts adjourned to a meeting room with Jon Peterson, Deputy Di-



Left to Right: Wilfredo Gaitan, Ms. Veronica Scafaru, Jon Peterson, Mr. Khishigdemberel Temuujin, Lori Gunn.

rector of the Civil Division, Lori Gunn, Branch Chief of the Small Claims Branch and Wilfredo Gaitan, Section Supervisor of the Small Claims Branch. This meeting provided Mr. Temuujin with a description of the many statistical and case inventory reports available to measure case processing efficiencies. Additional topics of conversation included performance standards, the CourtView case tracking system, the Small Claims

Resource Center, the Small Claims paperless case filing system, and the availability of Small Claims case histories online.

Upon gaining an understanding of our case processing, Mr. Temuujin, expressed admiration for what he had seen. As you might guess, they do things differently in Mongolia. For example, small claims filing fees in Mongolia are a percentage of the relief being sought whereas here, they are a flat \$5, \$10 or \$45 depending on the claim amount. Imagine having a claim but not being able to afford the filing fee.

It's nice to think that Mr. Temuujin's brief time at DC Superior Court might influence the establishment of laws of Mongolia.

DEAF DOG AND THE INDICTMENTS PERFORM AT ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

On Saturday, April 2, 2011, the six-judge band "Deaf Dog and The Indictments" took the stage at St. Elizabeths Hospital to perform a non-stop, 90 minutes rock concert for patients and employees of the hospital. For those unfamiliar with the renowned band's members, they include Judge Russell "Top Dog" Canan, Judge William "Dawgg" Jackson, Judge John "Trash Can" Campbell, Magistrate Judge John "Cartwheel" McCabe, Magistrate Judge Bill "Blue Dog" Nooter, Judge Frank "Professor" Burgess on keyboards and psychologist Dr. Marc Feldman on drums. The Motown/rock-and-roll tunes were well-received, with several people dancing to the music, and the audience responding loudly to Judge Jackson's call-out on *Stand By Me*.

The band has played at several local venues – from the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the Children's Hospital, and FOP hall to the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. "We always enjoy getting out into the community and sharing our music." said Top Dog Russell F. Canan. Professor Frank Burgess, echoing the sentiment, said he "thought we played well before an attentive, appreciative audience, which seemed to have a lot of fun listening to our tunes."



Judges Nooter, McCabe, and Jackson performing at St. Elizabeths Hospital.

Photo by Leah Gurowitz

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

“A Glimpse of Glory,” was the theme for the D.C. Courts’ Black History Month celebration this year, and for five straight Fridays starting in late January and ending in February, the Black History Committee presented events that were both enlightening and entertaining.

The Courts’ 2011 Black History Month Program kicked off with a ‘Divine Nine Step Show,’ which featured the Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the Morgan State University’s Gamma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Judge Robert Rigsby, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, pumped up the crowd with his opening remarks. Earnestine Dawson, Family Court Courtroom Clerk, followed with her presentation on the History of Stomping and Chanting.

On February 4, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric Washington opened the ceremony by reminding those in attendance that “we are here to celebrate our heritage, and pay tribute to those who are famous, as well as those whose names have been lost to history.” Karen Cooper of the Criminal Division then introduced the Buffalo Soldiers, who dressed in replica Civil War apparel, equipment, and made the Buffalo soldiers’ story come alive for the audience. Hari Jones, the Assistant Director and Curator at the African American Civil War Memorial Museum, followed the Buffalo Soldiers with a resounding recount of the integral role African Americans played in securing victory in the Civil War. Superior Court Clerk Duane Delaney, closed out the ceremony by acknowledging the force of the presentations, and asked the crowd to “focus on the strength of our ancestors, the paths they cleared for us, the history and culture and traditions they created for us, and the rich life they have provided us.”

After opening remarks from Judge Harold Cushenberry on February 11, Dr. Sandra Jowers-Barber, Assistant Professor at the University of the District of Columbia, gave a presentation on the contributions of black inventors throughout the history of the United States. Motivational speaker, LeCount Holmes, Jr. followed with his portrayal of Frederick Douglass. In closing, Judge Anita Josey-Herring praised the realism of the Frederick Douglass’ portrayal, recognizing that “it takes special talent to not break character like that!” The following week’s presentation featured Senior Judge Arthur L. Burnett, who after an introduction from Judge Zoe Bush, recounted the intertwining paths of the civil rights movement and his own impressive career as an attorney and judge.

The Courts’ 2011 Black History Month commemoration concluded with a “Celebration



Brenda Young, Nakia Hewitt, and Linda Boyd show they are supremely talented.

of the Arts” finale. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield opened the finale with remarks and an introduction of local artist Joanne Perodin, who displayed her work to the audience.

What followed was a talent show with a series of performances that literally ‘brought down the house.’ The show was emceed by Aaron Tinch of the Family Court Social Services Division, a stand-up comedian with his own court-based routine. Edward

Anderson from the IT Division performed as Bobby Brown,



Michael Harrison and other Administrative Services Division staff perform the Ike and Tina Turner Revue.

Photos by Tom Feeney, Jr.

Debra Swingon-Stokes of the Executive Office as Aretha Franklin, Linda Boyd of Family Court Operations as Mahalia Jackson, and Judge Gardner’s Law Clerk Christian Washington as Gerald LeVert. Aaron Tinch interspersed the musical performances with jokes, then introduced the final acts. Jonathan Hopkins of the Family Court Operations Division performed the Purple Rain instrumental on guitar, Ricardo Middlebrook of the Multi-Door Division performed as Al Green, and then a group of women in flashy costumes came on stage: Brenda Young, of the Budget and Finance Division, Linda Boyd of the Family Court and Nakia Hewitt of the Human Resources Division. The final performance was an Ike & Tina Turner Revue featuring the Ikettes, presented by Princess Duffy, Michael Harrison, Rhonda Horton, Jeanette Howard, Nicole Farrar, and Yasmine Ali (all from the Administrative Services Division).

Black History Month Committee Program Chair Linda Boyd thanked everyone for coming, and gave special praise to the hard-working members of the 2011 Black History Month Committee. Judge William Jackson wrapped up the ceremony with concluding remarks, saying “the camaraderie it brings amongst all court employees” is what inspires him most about the Black History Month at the DC Courts.



Mahalia Jackson, aka Linda Boyd.



A Buffalo Soldier greets Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington



LeCount Holmes as Frederick Douglass.



Jonathan Hopkins performing Purple Rain.



Jeanette Howard, Rhonda Horton, Princess Duffy, and Yasmine Ali perform.



A member of the Fort Washington Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority performs at the Divine Nine Step Show.



D. Ricardo Middlebrook as Al Green.



Aaron Tinch displaying his ever-present humor as he emcees and performs.



Bobby Brown, aka Edward Anderson.



Christian Washington wows the crowd.



Members of the Morgan State University's Gamma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity perform at the Divine Nine Step Show.

Photos by Tom Feeney, Jr.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

By Joseph E. Sanchez, Director, Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division

The District of Columbia Courts are in the process of implementing a multi-year Facilities Master Plan to address current space and security needs, as well as long term space requirements. Initiated in 2002, the plan lays out a program to address security, accessibility and growth through the incremental upgrade of the Courts' infrastructure and space campus-wide.



The Historic Courthouse's new entry.

Central to the plan is the restoration of the Historic Courthouse, consolidation of Family Court, and the re-occupancy of Building C. Over the past six years we have witnessed the initial phases of the facilities plan implementation, including:

- relocation of several Court Systems divisions to Gallery Place,
- restoration of the Historic Courthouse and adjacent grounds and construction of the southwest garage,
- renovation and exterior refurbishment of Buildings A and B,
- restoration and cleaning of the exterior of the Moultrie Courthouse, and
- construction and consolidation of Family Court Operations on JM level (new entrance, Central Intake Center, family waiting rooms, etc.), which is scheduled for completion this November.

The focus of the activities for the next four years will be concentrated within the Moultrie Courthouse, where significant work remains even after completion of the renovation of the 6th floor office space and the Arraignment Court on the C-level. Among the activities projected to occur in the short term are:

- on-going renovation of the JM level which will continue the Family Court consolidation and include improvements to intake and public areas and expanded office space,

- conversion of Suite 1500 (formerly the Executive Office space) into new Associate Judges chambers,
- renovation of hearing rooms, public spaces and Courtroom 200, 201, and 202, including extension of the prisoners corridor, new holding and courtroom facilities,
- phased renovation of spaces currently occupied by the Criminal Division (4th Floor west),
- phased renovation of

Photo by Dennis Shipley

spaces occupied by the Court Reporting Division, and Associate and Senior Judges on the fifth floor (east), and

- a systematic phased upgrade of all courtrooms and public space.

These projects will run concurrently with on-going infrastructure, security and life safety improvements, public corridor and atrium refurbishment, and renovation of the adult cellblock space run by the US Marshals Service.

Longer term projects presently include:

- Moultrie Courthouse Expansion on C Street. The undertaking will add 108,000 square feet of new courtroom, chambers, and support spaces and renovate an additional 100,000 square feet of adjacent existing space. The project will be constructed in two phases and be available for occupancy in July 2015, assuming sufficient funding is received.
- Construction of the Northeast Garage which will be located below grade adjacent to 510 4th Street, and "F" Street, NW.
- Completion of site-wide hardscape security improvements which are currently being implemented in phases as building and landscape construction projects progress.

The next major change coming to the Courts will be the completion of the renovation of Building C and its occupancy by the IT Division and the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division at the end of the 2011.

Kabe Reviews

April 4, 2011

Mr. **Thomas Whittaker**
Supervisor
Domestic Relations Branch



Dear Mr. Whittaker,

I am writing to express my appreciation for your help obtaining a certified copy of my late husband's divorce decree from his first wife; without your help, I would be waiting still to receive my survivor benefits from his federal service.

As of today, I am able to draw my first survivor benefit check and start paying my bills—thanks to you!

You and I have never met, but I wanted you to know that your job has a direct impact on the health and happiness of complete strangers, and that one of your customers—ME!—recognizes how valuable you are.

Please feel free to pass this letter along to your supervisor, so that he or she will know how appreciative I am of your help.

This is in reference to your employee Mr. **Andre Jefferson**. Since presenting my paper work at the Small Claims Court, in 2009, Mr. Jefferson was a great help in getting my case through.

Each time I came to court and the defendant did not cooperate with the Judge's rulings, or did not show up Mr. Jefferson always explained to me the next step to take.

If not for Mr. Jefferson, I think this process would have been a lot more difficult. Mind you, he did not give me legal information as if he were a lawyer, but just explaining the process to me was very, very helpful and just knowing you had someone to help you through this.

Mr. Jefferson is a very patient young man and he takes his time to explain the small claims process and whenever I called him about my paper work or had questions, his attitude never changed. He still presented himself the same way each time.

Tell Mr. Jefferson to keep up the good work, and keep his pleasant attitude, his smile and being helpful to others.



Photos by Tom Feeney, Jr.



2011
Dear Ms. Stake,
Thank you so much for all of your help in planning, organizing and ensuring that the third Annual Capitol City Challenge was a success. This National Trial Competition would not have been possible without your efforts. The Mock Trial Honor Society is grateful for all that you do.
Sincerely,
Brenda & Jack, Washington College of Law Mock Trial



February 25, 2011

Subject: Job Well Done! [**Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division**]

Being a native Washingtonian and a 20+ year employee at the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, I wish to express **my gratitude and sincere thanks for the repairs, renovations and upgrades occurring to the court buildings**. Although it is an expensive endeavor and is taking several years, the effort will pay dividends for decades to come. The buildings now look much better and are on the same level as other government buildings in our fine city. The landscaping will be the finishing touch, just in time for spring in Washington, DC.; our prettiest time of the year.



Dear **Judge Dixon**,

On behalf of Jim Apple and the International Judicial Academy, I am writing to extend my thanks for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with our delegation of judges from China two weeks ago at the DC Superior Court. The participants really enjoyed your presentation!

Please find attached one of the pics with the group
Thank you again for your time.

Tiffany Adams-Moore, Esquire
Landlord & Tenant Branch

Dear Ms. Adams-Moore:

I experienced and completed my first assignment in Landlord & Tenant last week. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the assistance and guidance that I received from your staff. I found each member of your staff dedicated and hard working.

As you know, this assignment is high volume and fast pace with a multitude of challenging legal and procedural issues. Your entire staff, at all times was professional, effective and efficient in handling the cases and interacting with the parties.

Please share with them my sincerest thanks for their assistance.

Arthur S. Martinson
Washington, DC 20011

Subject: Customer Service

As an ordained and registered Deacon/Wedding Officiant in DC, I need to take the time to write your office and let you know how efficient and pleasant it is to work with the **Marriage Bureau**. I have always been on the "back-end" of the weddings, in that the couple always has the certificate.

For the first time, recently, I picked up a certificate: painless. For the first time, VERY recently, I had to bring the application in for a couple: again, painless.

In addition, **Judge Winfield** was VERY helpful in that she graciously expedited the certificate because the couple has had a family medical emergency, has faced a possible government shutdown, and can ONLY drive up from Florida on Saturday. With the DC government closed this Friday, this expedite allows them to marry.

I thank you, and I am sure they thank you, too.

Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011
Subject: PAC Program

Good Morning Mr. **Darrell Hale**,

I just want to personally thank you for the Mediation/Court System Overview you gave last Saturday to those attending the Parenting Class. It put a lot of things into perspective (along w/the other material presented by the 2 psychologists).



THANK YOU!