

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts

October 2011

Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All

EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

On September 22nd, hundreds of D.C. Courts' employees packed the third floor atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse to celebrate a year's worth of accomplishments at the 30th annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony. It was an awards ceremony filled with talented performances, hard-earned recognition, and comedic relief.

D.C. Courts Executive Officer Anne Wicks described the ceremony as "an excellent opportunity for us to recognize the employees of the D.C. Courts for their dedication, professionalism and exemplary work performance." Three individuals were recognized with Special Employee Awards, honored for displaying the attributes previously described by Ms. Wicks.

Aletre Barnett-Reid, Branch Supervisor of the Civil Actions Branch, received the Unsung Hero Award for her professional approach in implementing innovative programs in the Civil Division. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield presented Aletre with the award.

Kitty Huggins, Program Officer for the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, was the proud recipient of the Public Service Award for an individual. D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington presented Kitty with the award, recognizing her efforts in reaching out to the Latino community.

Norma Thompson, Supervisor of the Courtroom Technology Branch, received the

Management Achievement Award. Norma was instrumental in the implementation of several new courtroom technology initiatives.

Chief Judge Washington and Chief Judge Satterfield also presented recognition awards to three consummate teams. The Family Court's Marriage Bureau received the Public Service Award for exceptional public service to customers seeking to wed, or seeking authorization to perform weddings in D.C. The Working on Wellness (WOW) Committee received the

Enterprise Service Award. The WOW program provides court employees with wrap-around services that include nutrition and health seminars, as well as popular workout classes. The team project winners from the 2011 Management Training Program were also honored at the ceremony. Their project is titled "Being Informed Before the Storm."

Employee entertainment is always a crowd favorite at the Employee Awards Ceremony, and this year's performances did not disappoint. Ayesha Upshur from the Crime Victims Compensation Program opened the ceremony with her rendition of the national anthem. The Dunbar Senior High School ROTC presented the colors as Ayesha sang.

Marion and Jonathan Hopkins performed "True Colors," (see picture above) and received a standing ovation after their performance. Chief Judge Washington conceded that the song was an impossible act to follow. The duet of Antoinette Smith and Lewis Neal also wowed the crowd with a lively and graceful hand dancing performance.

Aaron Tinch, a comedian from last year's ceremony, revamped his stand-up routine to laugh at the topics court employees talk about today.



Marion Swingler and Jonathan Hopkins performing "True Colors" at the Employee Awards Ceremony.

Photo by Tom Feeney Jr.

Included in this issue:

- 2 Chief Judge Washington
- 3 D.C. Safe Surrender
- 4 C-Nats Softball Success
- 5 Employee Awards, continued
- 6-7 Management Training
- 8 Presumption of Believability
- 10 New Employees
- 11-12 Rave Reviews

Continued on page 5

CHIEF JUDGE ERIC WASHINGTON NAMED HEAD OF TWO NATIONAL JUDICIAL ORGANIZATIONS

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington has been elected President of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), a national organization that promotes the interests and effectiveness of state judicial systems by developing policies and educational programs designed to improve court operations. CCJ also acts as the primary representative of the state courts before Congress and federal executive agencies. Chief Judge



Former CCJ President, Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson of Texas (left), and current CCJ President, D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington (right), at NCSC meeting.

Washington will also serve as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), a non-profit organization that works to improve the administration of justice through leadership and service to the state courts.

As President of CCJ, Chief Judge Washington says that his focus will be on addressing the important issues facing judicial systems nationwide, which include “securing adequate funding for state courts,” and “ensuring appropriate language access to the courts for persons with limited English proficiency.” Chief Judge Washington also wants to promote pre-trial justice reform “that will honor the presumption of innocence while protecting our communities.”

The dual position, both the Chair of the Board of Directors for the NCSC and CCJ President, will provide Chief Judge Washington with an excellent opportunity to shape court policy nationwide and have a real impact on due process. Both organizations will benefit from the chief judge’s distinguished track record.

“For 16 years, Chief Judge Washington has been a leader in the judiciary, and we are fortunate now to be able to rely on his leadership of our Board,” Mary C. McQueen, NCSC President said.

Chief Judge Washington’s tenure at the D.C. Courts began in 1995, when President Clinton nominated him to the Superior Court bench. He presided over more than 100 criminal trials, as well as cases in both the Drug Court and the Domestic Violence Unit. In July 1999, President Clinton ap-

pointed Judge Washington to the D.C. Court of Appeals. He was named Chief Judge of the court just six years later, and his term was renewed for another four years in August 2009. In his role as Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, Washington serves as the chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, the policy-making body of the D.C. Courts.

Before he was nominated to the

D.C. Courts, Chief Judge Washington had a distinguished career in the public and private sector. A graduate of Tufts University and Columbia University Law School, Washington began his legal career as an associate with Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston, Texas. A few years later, Washington relocated to D.C. to serve as Legislative Director and Counsel to Congressman Michael Andrews of Texas. He subsequently rejoined Fulbright & Jaworski in Washington, specializing in administrative litigation, but returned to public service first as Special Counsel and then Principal Deputy at the Office of Corporation Counsel (now called the Office of the D.C. Attorney General). From 1990 until he took the bench, Chief Judge Washington was a partner with the DC office of Hogan & Hartson.

Aside from his tireless work at the D.C. Courts, Chief Judge Washington has been active in many professional, civic and charitable organizations and currently serves on the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Foundation.

The *Full Court Press* is published by the District of Columbia Courts.

Inquiries should be submitted to Room 6680.

Leah Gurowitz, Editor
Tom Feeney, Writer:
Tom.FeeneyJr@DCSC.gov

D.C. SAFE SURRENDER 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office

For three consecutive Saturdays in August, the Moultrie Courthouse hosted D.C. Safe Surrender, an opportunity for persons who were wanted for non-violent felonies or misdemeanors in the District of Columbia to surrender voluntarily in a safe environment. The program was held on August 13, 20, and 27, and on each day a line of participants began forming at 7:00 am, two and a half hours before the doors opened.

The goal of D.C. Safe Surrender was to reduce risk in neighborhoods where fugitives live, as well as reduce risk to the law enforcement officers who pursue such fugitives. The program provided persons with a safe way to turn themselves in, without the risk of being arrested at home, in front of their family and children, on the job, or during a routine traffic stop. The Safe Surrender program recognizes that many persons are looking for a way to resolve their outstanding warrants, and this provides them a perfect opportunity.

The 2011 DC Safe Surrender program saw more participants turn themselves than at the first Safe Surrender program, which was held at Bible Way Baptist Church in 2007. This year on the first day, 226 people turned themselves in. On the second Saturday, 179 turned themselves in. And on the final day, 268 turned themselves in, an impressive turnout despite poor weather conditions caused by Hurricane Irene (the program stopped accepting people at noon.) The final total from all three Saturdays was 673. This far exceeded 530 individuals who turned themselves in during the 2007 program. In addition to the Saturday's, fugitives turned themselves in during the weeks in-between, raising the total number of surrenders to 856 (with 912 total warrants quashed.)

Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield expressed his satisfaction with the turnout of the program and the efforts of staff both leading up to and on the days of Safe Surrender. "The success of the Safe Surrender program is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our court staff and partnering agencies," said Satterfield. "Staff at all levels worked to create a professional environment for program partici-



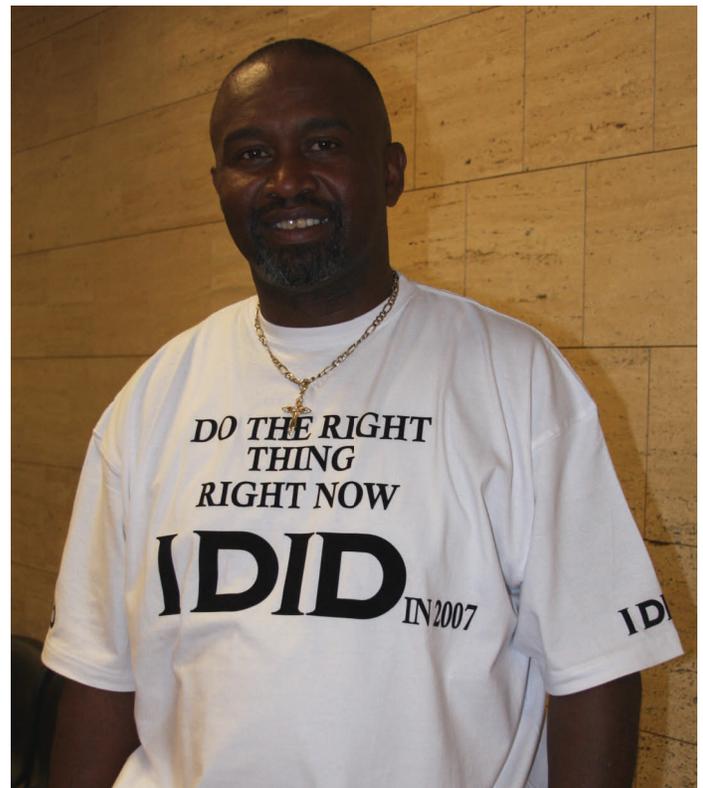
Alongside partnering agencies, Criminal Division staff works on a Saturday at D.C. Safe Surrender.

Photo by Leah Gurowitz.

Defender Service; DC Superior Court; Deputy Mayor's Office for Public Safety and Justice; Metropolitan Police Department; Office of Attorney General; Pretrial Services Agency; US Attorney's Office; and US Marshals Service.

The combined efforts of all the agencies made for a powerful outreach effort. The Courts' Criminal Division of sent out over 15,000 personal letters to the

Continued on page 9



2007 Safe Surrender Participant Willie Jones encourages fugitives to turn themselves in.

Photo by Leah Gurowitz

C-NATS SOFTBALL TEAMS CAP OFF SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Brittany Williams, Executive Office Intern

Another season has drawn to a close for the Courthouse Nationals softball team, better known as the C-Nats. The C-Nats were organized in 2008 by former court employee John Milligan, and current team manager Zabrina Dempson. The C-Nats have grown over time, and this summer featured three teams of court employees, as well as family and friends. The teams were C-Nats Blue, coached by Derrick Monroe and Mike Stewart. C-Nats Gray, coached by Herbert Files and Mike Stewart. And C-Nats White, coached by Alvin Milton and Charles Jones.

The C-Nats White finished the Spring/Summer slow-pitch regular season with a record of 5-5. The C-Nats Gray finished the season 6-3-1, and C-Nats Blue finished 8-2. Games were held every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening throughout the summer. The final games for all three teams took place on Saturday, August 13, where each team had a chance to advance through the playoffs and potentially play for the championship.

The C-Nats Blue team had playoff success, defeating first round opponent and number one seed, "Bats of Mass Destruction." C-Nats Blue advanced and went on to defeat "Mood Swingers," 17-16. The C-Nats Blue would see their playoff run end in the next round, losing in the division finals, but earned runner-up honors and a hefty trophy to show for it.

The C-Nats Gray team also had a successful playoff run. The team won their first playoff game, beating up on the lowly "DC Mudhens," 11-1, and carried momentum into their next matchup against rival squad, "The Stepdads." C-Nats Gray jumped out to an

early lead and thought they had the game won. But a scorebook discrepancy, in which "The Stepdads" allegedly added a mysterious two runs to their own tally, led to an unexpected loss for the C-Nats Gray team. Like the C-Nats Blue team, C-Nats Gray were the proud recipients of a trophy, recognizing their trip to the division finals.

The C-Nats White team lost in the opening round. But the remaining members from the three

teams say they look forward to the fall league, and hope to build on the success and experience they gained on the field this summer.

Congrats to the C-Nats! Please check the rosters below to see who represented the D.C. Courts on the diamond this summer (court employees listed only).



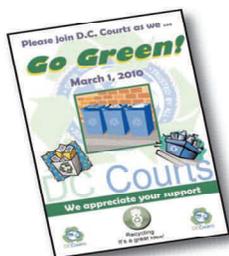
Players and managers of the three C-Nats teams: White, Blue, and Gray. For roster of all three teams, please see end of article below.

Rosters:

C-Nats White: Angel Alston, Courtenaye Nelson, Tasha Layton, Zabrina Dempson, Christopher Duncan, Frank Edwards, Herb Files, Phil Medley, Stephen Bradford, W.L. Stokes.

C-Nats Gray: Blanche Richardson, Bonita Lilly, Carolina Medina, Chinae Albritton, Joan Burrell, Tiffany Williams, Calvin Bellamy, Fernando Bendana, Lynn Long, Phil Brown, Terrell Thomas, Erica Hartsfield

C-Nats Blue: Chandra Jordan, Dionne Braxtion, Francoise Maybin, Navah Spero, Aaron Manzo, Darron Guide, Dwayne Segar, Emmanuel Stinney, Jerome Leake, Leslie Taylor, Sherman Bunch.



Don't forget
to
RECYCLE!



EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY 2011 (continued)

"The Adminettes," Yasmine Ali, Donnell Davis, Princess Duffy, Nicole Farrar, Rhonda Horton, and Jeanette Howard combined to perform their version of "Respect," and had the costumes and attitude to back it up.

Julio Castillo, Clerk of the D.C. Court of Appeals, presented the Length of Service Awards to the worthy recipients. In addition to the numerous employees who were honored for reaching the 10 and 20 year mark, nine court employees were honored for 30 years of service. Emanuel Allen (Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division), Arlington Sellers (Information Technology Division), and Lisa Hatcher (Domestic Violence Division), were honored for a remarkable 40 years of service. Retirees from 2010 were also acknowledged.



Yasmine Ali, Donnell Davis, and Princess Duffy (left to right) performing "Respect."



Aaron Tinch delivers his stand-up comedy routine.

Ms. Wicks praised the Employee Awards Committee, as well as Committee Chair Willard Stephens, for outstanding effort in putting together another successful celebration. The ushers were also thanked.

Before the ceremony came to a close, the Employee Awards Committee presented Dennis Shipley of the Executive Office with a caricature portrait of himself to honor his retirement. Dennis' last day of work was the day of the ceremony, and the committee honored him for his efforts on the Employee Awards Committee, as well as his other numerous projects at the D.C. Courts, including the production of the *Full Court Press*. Dennis' professionalism and expertise will be missed!



Antoinette Smith and Lewis Neal perform hand Dancing.



Willard Stephens presents Dennis Shipley with a caricature portrait.

Photos by Tom Feeney Jr.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM: CLASS OF 2011

By Tom Feeney Jr., Communications Assistant, Executive Office



The Management Training Program Class of 2011. Top row, left to right: Sandra Johnson, Pamela Boyd, Rosemary Montero-Burgess, Leyla Grell, Darlene Squirewell, Charmaine Koo, Patricia Glover, Patrice Brady, Milind Panwalkar, Nicole Stevens, Front row, left to right: Michael S. Johnson, Stephanie Parks-Perez, Jeremie Johnson, Darnetra Walker, James Plunkett.

Photo by Tom Feeney Jr.

On September 23, fifteen D.C. Court employees graduated in the fifth class of the Management Training Program (MTP). The program, which is sponsored by the D.C. Courts' Center for Education and Training and the Management Training Committee, groups five court employees into three separate teams and pairs them each with a mentor. Under the guidance of their mentor, the teams work to create innovative projects which aim to improve court operations. At the same time, the students learn and develop critical leadership skills that cultivate teamwork and proper management. For two full days each month throughout the year they attend classes taught by national experts and court officials.

The Class of 2011 graduation ceremony was held in the D.C. Court of Appeals ceremonial courtroom. Each graduate was presented with a certificate and plaque from Anne Wicks, Executive Officer and Julio Castillo, Clerk of the Court of Appeals. They were also presented with a recognition pin from Deputy Executive Officer, Cheryl Bailey. After receiving the certificate, plaque, and pin, graduates were given the opportunity to reflect on their experience with the audience.

Prior to graduating, the three teams had to present their projects on September 7th before both Chief Judges. According to Dr. Keith Robinson, MTP Co-Facilitator, the groups and their projects are as described:

Team 3, the winner of the program, featured Patricia Glover, Michael S. Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Stephanie Parks-Perez, Darlene Squirewell. Mentored by Deborah Taylor-Goodwin, their project was titled "Being Informed Before the Storm: A Guide for the Community and Those Who Serve the Community." The goal of the project is to develop a community guide to the courts that will provide access to those who do not have access to the courts because of the digital divide that exists in the city.

Team 1 was comprised of Pamela Boyd, Rosemary Montano-Burgess, Darnetra Walker, Leyla Grell, and James Plunkett. Led by Mentor Laura Banks Reed, Team 1 presented "Open to All. Video Remote Interpreting at the touch of a button." The goal of the project is To offer use of video or web cameras to provide sign language interpreting services to deaf and speech-impaired individuals.

Patrice Brady, Jeremie Johnson, Charmaine Koo, Milind Panwalkar, and Nicole Stevens were the members of Team 2, mentored by Louis Parker. Their project was titled "Helping Hands," which aims to enhance student learning through participation in community service, while encouraging civic engagement, social responsibility and development of workforce.

Congratulations to the Management Training Class of 2011!

Below is an abridged version of a speech given by Michael S. Johnson, a 2011 Management Training Program graduate from the Family Court. Michael gave the speech at the September 23rd Graduation Ceremony.

What We Require To Grow!

Just when you think the journey is over, you discover that it's just begun. Before I begin, I would like the MTP graduates of 2011, to stand and applaud those of you who have supported and counseled us during our journey. We truly appreciate all that you have done.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for selecting me as class spokesperson. I'm humbled by this honor, and I hope that my words are received as intended to express the collective energy and spirit of the 2011 MTP Graduates.

My words today come from the mind and spirit of each graduate. When given this task I asked each graduate to share with me their thoughts and feelings about their MTP experience because each one of us has come away with something different. We have all been touched in different ways.

For many, the MTP was not so much about the things that happened or the events or the people. It was more about the conception and birth of new ideas. The MTP gave us facts, formulas and concepts, but most importantly it gave us a mirror. It gave us insight into our hearts, minds and spirits. It has provided us with that opportunity to look at ourselves as not only individuals, but as team players and employees unique in the history of this court seeing how we fit or in some cases, don't fit.

The MTP has given us "What We Require to Grow." To quote the father of modern management", Dr. Peter Drucker, "in order to lead others we first have to lead ourselves."

So, what is required for our growth? I believe we



Jeremie Johnson, Probate Division, gives his mentor Louis Parker a gift on behalf of his team.

Photo by Tom Feeney Jr.

require **Gratitude**, **Responsibility**, **Opportunity**, and **Wisdom**.

We require an attitude of **gratitude** for having been chosen to participate in this program. We have been privileged to valuable information and insight in to ourselves and our jobs. We have become better employees, better friends, spouses and better leaders. We have grown because we can see our place in this court and in this universe in a different light.

We require an acceptance of the **responsibility** to take what we have learned and share it with our peers. In benefit to this court, that responsibility includes encouraging, motivating and actively participating in the growth and development of those around us. We have become trailblazers for those who will come behind us.

We require an open door of **opportunity** which has been given to us and exposed us to the mind of Dr. Peter Drucker, to learn from the many excellent facilitators such as Dr. Daniel Straub, Professor Terry Curry, Jackie Middleton and our own Mr. Fred Horowitz. Where else would we have had the opportunity to hear "These things I know," from Mr. Louis Parker, or Dr. Robinson admonishing us to take copious notes. The opportunity to be in the presence of these great men and women has provided us with the tools to go back to our jobs with renewed hope and purpose.

We require unlimited access to the **wisdom** that comes from education and life experiences. Wisdom has taught us the value of using tools like a Management Action Plan. Wisdom has taught us the importance of understanding the procurement process. Such wisdom comes with an understanding of the Strategic Plan and how what we do is related to the successful operation of the court. Wisdom knows that each success we have here at the court starts with teamwork. Wisdom teaches us that an essential element of our growth comes from listening, learning from others, communicating and sharing our thoughts



Michael S. Johnson thanks the colleagues who supported him during the Management Training Program.

Photo by Tom Feeney Jr.

Continued on page 9...

“PRESUMPTION OF BELIEVABILITY”

By Senior Judge Bruce Mencher

I recently read an article by a distinguished lawyer on the subject of what do lawyers believe. As I read, memories returned of my first days as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia in 1961 assigned to the Law Enforcement Division.

I had arrived there after completing an Honors Program year with the Federal Government. Hard work, travel, rule making and litigation primarily before Hearing Examiners (now ALJs) was the order of the day, but no one on one, face to face, “Believe it or not” conversations/confrontations. Indeed, the question of lawyers’ believability never surfaced. When another member of the Bar told me something was so, it must be so! I was a believer.

All of this was soon to change along with the loss of my then (I guess) naiveté.

I was set to go to trial one morning when defense counsel approached and told me that his client was going to plead guilty and that I could therefore dismiss my witnesses. I thanked him and proceeded to do just that. Thirty minutes later when the case was called I told the judge what defense counsel had told me. Defense counsel told the court he had said no such thing and they were ready for trial!

I was almost (but not quite) at a loss for words. I repeated what I had just said to the judge adding that defense counsel had also told me I could dismiss my witnesses! As I had done just that, I now was not ready for trial.

Defense counsel pounced. He moved for a dismissal as this was the trial date and the District of Columbia was not ready to proceed adding that he may have told me that his client had been thinking about pleading guilty and maybe that is what I had mistakenly misinterpreted, “but as the Court knows, it is the client’s right to proceed to trial or plead guilty and not counsel’s.” I objected to a dismissal and prayed for a continuance.

The judge, Thomas C. Scalley, blessed with a keen sense of smell for things “Rotten in the state of Denmark” (not to mention the District of Columbia) looked at me and said, referring to the defense counsel, “Spun you around, didn’t he son.” I replied that those were not my words, but what I had just told him was exactly what happened.

Judge Scalley then said he recognized that it was the client’s right to go to trial as defense counsel had stated and he was sure that I too now understand that. He then denied counsel’s motion and asked his clerk to select the next available trial date. A date three months hence was selected. Defendant, who was then free on pretrial release, grinned and defense counsel told the judge that date was acceptable.

Judge Scalley then advised he was setting a \$20,000 surety bond and told the Deputy U.S. Marshall to take a defendant into custody. When the bond was posted, he would be released. “My client cannot post such a high bond” (or words to that effect) protested counsel to no avail.

The judge then said he had no confidence in the reliability of a defendant (to this day I believe the judge meant defendant’s counsel) who one moment is going to enter a plea of guilty and the next moment is not. The judge went on to say moreover, that such a defendant is the type who will probably flee the jurisdiction and not show up for trial. Thus the high bond.

I must admit I left the courtroom feeling somewhat vindicated, but nothing like I was to feel at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon when summoned by phone to Judge Scalley’s courtroom. When I arrived I saw defense counsel and his client standing before the bench. Counsel related that his client had changed his mind and now wished to enter a plea of guilty. His wish was promptly granted.

I never believed that lawyer again and while I cannot speak for the judge, I do not think he did either.

And so fifty years and several thousand lawyers later, what do I believe as to the believability of lawyers?

Yes there have been instances when “or not” prevailed over the “Believe it” in my lawyering days and in my courtroom. Notwithstanding, I still apply what I call “a presumption of believability” to my fellow members of the Bar and approach each court day fully expecting to hear the truth and nothing but the truth from counsel.

I suppose that makes me a believer again, although a somewhat older and wiser one. Believe it or not!

“WHAT WE REQUIRE TO GROW” (continued from page 7)

and ideas. It is that kind of wisdom that will create new opportunities and ultimately a new you and a new me.

To sum up our growth as a result of this class, I believe we have learned a lot about the operations of the court; how decisions are made, who makes decisions, and most importantly our role in the decision making process. See, whether you're the Chief Judge or a Building Engineer everything you do, each decision you make, each action you take will ultimately shape operations of the court. A wise man once said “a table, a chair, a bowl of fruit, a violin; are all branches of the same tree”. To that end so are we. Whether you're a seasoned employee or a novice within the courts, whether you're working in the criminal division or landlord and tenant, we're all part of the court family. This is true in good times but especially bad times. You see, when things happen...as they often do, the public doesn't see the Family Division or Probate, all they see is The Court. Collectively, we are one... collectively old or new, OUR goal should always be to progress and protect the integrity of the courts.



Team 3, the Management Training Program winning team. From left to right: Michael S. Johnson, Sandra Johnson, Patricia Glover, Darlene Squirewell, and Stephanie Parks-Perez.

Photo by Tom Feeney Jr.

In closing, it's about education and introspection. From teambuilding to strategic management, it's been about absorbing what others have learned, created and believed. It's also about our responses to those concepts and those convictions. If I'm asked to define

situational leadership or a crucial conversation, don't expect to hear a bunch of facts. Facts are important but they are not everything, they are necessary but not sufficient. The MTP has given us more than facts and concepts; it has prepared us for passionate ongoing engagement with facts, the ability to transform what we know into what we do! James Baldwin said; **“Your crown has been bought and paid for. All you have to do is put it on your head.”**

To the MTP class of 2012, by now you have heard all of the rumors and whispers about what to expect and what is expected of you. It's human nature to be apprehensive about an unknown journey. Our advice to you is in the form of a quote from Peter Drucker; “Get your strengths together and render your weaknesses irrelevant.” So focus on your strengths and give your best effort, most of all have fun!

Safe Surrender, Continued from page 3

last known address of those with non-violent bench warrants, encouraging them to visit the courthouse on the three days in August. Many participants walked into the courthouse with their letter in hand, a testament to the successful outreach efforts of the Criminal Division.

A Media and Public Outreach Committee put together public service announcements for radio and television, and put advertisements in metro stations. Throughout July and August, Chief Judge Satterfield, Judge Russell Canan and Police Chief Cathy Lanier were on various local television and radio shows promoting the advantages of Safe Surrender, often along with 2007 participant Willie Jones. The culmination of the committee's efforts was a press conference held on August 4th in front of the Moultrie Courthouse. Press conference speakers included Mayor Vince

Gray, Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, PDS Director Avis Buchanan, and Willie Jones. Also joining them on the podium were Chief Cathy Lanier, Acting U.S. Marshal Thomas Hedgepeth, and U.S. Attorney Robert C. Machen, Jr.

Safe Surrender's success can also be attributed to a strong grassroots campaign spearheaded by the efforts of all the agencies. The DC Courts maintained an active Safe Surrender webpage (www.dcsafesurrender.org) and Facebook page, and posted almost daily Twitter updates. The DC Courts' Administrative Services Division's Graphics and Reproduction Unit produced thousands of posters, flyers, and handouts for the program, which were spread throughout the city.

The combined effort of all agencies made the 2011 D.C. Safe Surrender a huge success, one that will serve as a model for how inter-agency outreach programs can produce successful results in the future.

NEW EMPLOYEES

By Brittany Williams, Executive Office Intern

Katrina Bulger

Katrina joins the D.C. Courts as a Deputy Clerk in the Superior Court Criminal Division. Katrina is a native of the D.C. area and attended HD Woodson Senior High School. She then went on to study criminal justice at the University of Phoenix.

Katrina wants to finish her Masters degree and become an advocate for juveniles. She also would like to participate in a number of the volunteer opportunities that are available within the court system as a way to give back to her community. Katrina enjoys her job here and looks forward to enhancing her knowledge of how the courts run and operate. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, swimming, drawing, and other creative activities. Katrina is very family-oriented and notes that above all she does, her family takes top priority in her life.



Clyde Elder

Clyde joined the DC Courts this past May. He works in the Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division as a Maintenance Mechanic. Clyde was born in Danville, Virginia and attended Cordoza High School.

He went on to attend Lincoln Tech in Colombia, Maryland where he trained in the field of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Prior to his position in the courts, Clyde worked at a Virginia Hospital for 22 years. Clyde enjoys weight lifting, watching basketball and football, cycling, and being of service to his church. He notes that his main goal is to enjoy life as much as possible, sharing life's joys with his wife of 29 years.



Jaime Porter

Jaime just recently joined the D.C. Courts as the Administrative Assistant for Judge Erik Christian. Originally from West Lafayette, Indiana, Jaime graduated from the University of Michigan, with a major in Political Science.

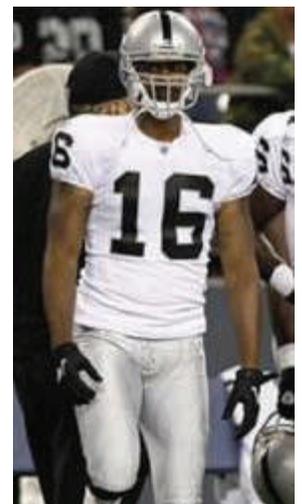
Jaime enjoys running for exercise as well as in competition. She has run both a marathon and a half marathon. She also enjoys traveling, and has been to Vietnam, India, and Italy. Jaime says that she is thrilled to be working at the D.C. Courts and is excited about meeting more court employees and getting to know her new colleagues.

Names in the News



The Family Court's Courtroom Support & Quality Control Branch's very own **Ed McGee** is proud of his son, Eddie, who graduated from University of Illinois and spent the summer playing for the Oakland Raiders .

Congratulations to father and son!



Eddie on the Raiders!

Rave Reviews

The Honorable Karen Eileen Howze:

I am pleased to inform you that you were nominated and selected to receive a **2011 Adoption Excellence Award in the category Judicial or Child Welfare System Improvement**. You have been recognized for the extraordinary contributions you made in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care.

I plan to call you personally to congratulate you on this honor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me also. Congratulations, and I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,



LaChundra Lindsey, MSW
Child Welfare Program Specialist
Children's Bureau
Department of Health and Human Services



From: Lewis, Wallace S.

To: Burns, Yuan Z.

Subject: Appreciation of a "Continued" Job Well Done!

Over the past years, I have been involved in several projects here in the Budget & Finance Division, many of which have required the exchanging, installation and or troubleshooting of equipment provided by the Information & Technology Division. I have always been able to call on your staff to assist me with these tasks and have realized that there are some of your staff who "stand-out" from the rest. *One person in particular is **Mr. Abraham Ogunsola***. Mr. Ogunsola has been very instrumental in the performance of his duties and has always gone the extra mile to ensure that customers are completely satisfied. His technical knowledge and skills have enabled him to correctly evaluate problems and provide resolution without delay. Mr. Ogunsola has never "dragged his feet" when asked to assist with any issue/problem that we have raised. Mr. Ogunsola has always worked diligently on projects even taking the time to suggest better methods on how to utilize the issued equipment (e.g. computers, printers, scanners; etc.) to minimize reoccurring problems. Throughout the past years, I have come to rely on Mr. Ogunsola not only to promptly "show up", but to address problems in a timely manner. Never have I nor anyone in this office experienced any negative feedback or lack of enthusiasm from him. Only a willingness to listen, evaluate and provide assistance. Mr. Ogunsola is always very pleasant, jovial and willing to do whatever it takes to ensure employees are able to continue providing services to the public.

As you are aware, there are certain people in your division who without hesitation go above and beyond the call of duty, Mr. Ogunsola is one of those individuals! He is a great asset to the Courts', a very professional, courteous and well mannered individual. It has always been a pleasure working with him and I would give him my "stamp of approval" anytime I am asked by other people who the "go-to person" is in the IT Division. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I send this email to your attention. It is apparent that throughout the Court, we need more people like Mr. Ogunsola to ensure that the needs and the image of not only our immediate division's are well represented, but the overall image of the organization.

Kabe Reviews (continued)

Dear Ms. Burns:

This is a letter of appreciation for **James (Mike) Martin**, System Analyst.

As you know, Mike Martin is the IT contact person with the Crime Victims Compensation Program, especially with our new system "Claims Assistant". Mike has helped with all the steps for this system to be operational: assisting the service provider with the finalization of this system for the D.C. Program, training of staff, assisting with purchase of additional hardware, solving of daily problems

This system is new to us and we do greatly appreciate his professional skills in assisting us with a number and almost daily technical problems. But we are most impressed by his kindness, patience and devotion in helping us. Anytime we have a problem, Mike makes himself immediately available to resolve it, and if it were not for his extensive technical knowledge and quick response, our Office would encounter much delay in performing its daily operations.

While Mike Martin is only assigned to help us with the "Claims Assistant" system, he is by far the most helpful IT staff to help us with a variety of other technical problems. For all of us, he is more than the "IT Expert", he is also a friend.

Respectfully submitted,

Crime Victims Compensation Program Staff

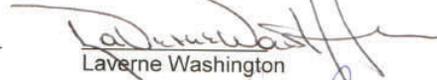

Rita Blandino

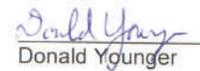

Alina Gomez


Carmella Gonzalez

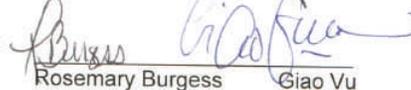

Monica Slade


Marlena Otlans


Laverne Washington


Donald Younger


LouEthel Williams


Rosemary Burgess


Giao Vu



Re: Michelle Henson

Dear Ms. Dixon-Wheeler:

It is with pleasure that I write to you concerning Michelle Henson and my experience working with her in community court.

Community Court (courtroom 221) is a busy and often hectic courtroom. The number of cases daily is large and the courtroom is always packed. The cases are called at a quick pace and to put it simply, there is just a lot going on.

Ms. Henson manages to handle it all masterfully. Her greatest talent is working with the public. She is extraordinarily kind and always patient to both defendants and their family. As defendants check in with her in the morning she has the ability to look ahead and direct individuals to drug testing, pretrial case workers or other courtrooms which serves to efficiently move cases later in the day. She is enormously helpful to both the public and the lawyers no matter how hectic the day may be.

Community Court works well on a daily basis, largely due to Ms. Henson. Superior Court is fortunate to have her and our community is certainly well served.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Burka

