

Lawmakers and AOPC Share Ideas on Enhancing Electronic Data Security

by Steve Schell

The fastest growing crime in America—identity theft—and security of Pennsylvania’s sensitive court information were the main concerns of members of the House of Representatives’ Select Committee on Information Security when they met with AOPC staff in Mechanicsburg on Aug. 9.

Information security committee chair Rep. Robert Flick of Chester County said the meeting was part of the committee’s ongoing efforts to review the security of electronic data in agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

Rep. Flick said members were concerned about the availability of court information and whether or not it could be used for identity theft. He said the meeting was called with the AOPC to learn how court information was being secured.

Judicial Automation Senior Project Director **Ralph Hunsicker** provided committee members with a judicial automation overview, covering the three statewide judicial automation systems and their interactions with JNET, the Pennsylvania Justice Network, which

allows information from various criminal justice-related resources to be shared among state, county and municipal agencies. The Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS) handles the case-processing functions for the 548 lower courts. The Pennsylvania Appellate Court Case Management System (PACMS) serves the justices and judges of the three appellate courts, chambers staff, filing offices and the Superior Court central legal staff, while the Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) handles cases filed in the county clerk of courts offices, Hunsicker explained. CPCMS users include judges, chambers staff and personnel in the offices of court administration and the clerks of courts. In total, the AOPC case management systems have approximately 10,000 users.

Several committee members shared their concerns about the control and monitoring of judicial automation systems users as well as the amount of sensitive court participant data available to the public both electronically and at courthouses and magisterial district judges’ (MDJ) offices. House Judiciary Committee Democratic Chairman Rep. Tom Caltagirone noted that we are very quickly moving into an age where all records will be in electronic form and encouraged AOPC staff to take great care in handling sensitive court information.

(Concerns continued page 14)



Members of the House of Representatives’ Select Committee on Information Security met with AOPC staff to discuss the security of Pennsylvania court records.

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New to the Judicial Branch

Counties

Vivian Appel - Lehigh - deputy court administrator
Jennifer Bucheit-Saulter - Potter - district court administrator
Nancy Gill - Chester - magisterial district judge
Tom Holman - Butler - deputy court administrator
Lisa Kishbaugh - Monroe - deputy court administrator
Tammy Joe Lambie - Fayette - deputy court administrator
Amy Ryan O'Brien - Schuylkill - deputy administrator, trial court
Lee Ann Trumbull - Elk/Cameron - assistant to the court administrator
Todd R. Williams - Franklin - magisterial district judge

AOPC

Val Arrington - Judicial Automation - systems trainer
Marisol Barrios - Judicial Education - judicial education specialist
Joseph DiGuglielmo - assistant court administrator's office - legal intern
Azad Ehtasham - Judicial Automation - LAN technician
Brent Glosser - Judicial Automation - systems trainer
Dan Kavulak - Judicial Automation - database administrator
Ryan McKinney - Judicial Automation - help desk operator
Stephanie Minnaugh - Judicial Automation - lead systems trainer
Vu Nguyen - Judicial Automation - IT specialist
Kyle Pauker - Judicial Automation - IT intern

Laurie Reed - Judicial Automation - help desk operator
Sharif Rizal - Judicial Automation - server technician
Kristi Rhine - Judicial Automation - systems trainer
Todd Somers - Judicial Automation - help desk operator
Lizanne Stamm - Judicial Automation - systems trainer
Donna Trowbridge - Judicial Automation - IT specialist
Dan Wallo - Judicial Automation - network cable installation tech
Amy Wimmersberger - Judicial Automation - network systems specialist

Other Job Changes

Counties

David Lawrence - apptd Philadelphia district court administrator

Deaths

Joseph E. Erb Sr. - former York County Common Pleas Court (sr.) judge
Edward S. Lawhorne - former Delaware County Common Pleas Court judge
Betty Lloyd - former Allegheny County district justice
John W. O'Brien - former Allegheny County Common Pleas Court judge
Maynard Reibson - former Sullivan County associate judge
Donald Riehl - former Montgomery County (sr.) district justice
Anthony A. Shuli - former Fayette County district justice
Donald E. Sparrow - former Allegheny County district justice

(Transitions continued on page 10)

10/3-10/5	Superior Court Session (Phila., Pgh.)	10/31-11/2	Superior Court Session (Phila.)	12/4-12/8	Supreme Court Session (Hbg.)
10/9	Columbus Day Holiday	11/7	Election Day	12/5-12/7	Superior Court Session (Phila., Pgh.)
10/16-10/20	Supreme Court Session (Phila.)	11/10	Veterans Day Holiday (Observed)	12/11-12/15	Commonwealth Court Session (Hbg.)
10/16-10/20	Commonwealth Court Session (Pgh.)	11/13-11/17	Commonwealth Court Session (Phila.)	12/25	Christmas Holiday
10/17-10/19	Superior Court Session (Phila., Hbg.)	11/14-11/16	Superior Court Session (Phila., Hbg., Pgh.)		
10/24-10/26	Superior Court Session (Pgh.)	11/23-11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday		
		11/28-11/30	Superior Court Session (Hbg.)		

A Wake Up Call for Our Democracy

by Zig Pines

Some days you just don't know whether to laugh or cry.

How many of the Seven Dwarfs can you name? How many of the nine U.S. Supreme Court justices can you name?

According to one of my recent e-mails, a Zogby poll reveals that 77% of Americans could identify two of the Seven Dwarfs, but only 24% could name two Supreme Court justices. By the way, that latter statistic is similar to those who can name all three branches of government.

Couple such ignorance with ideologically-driven politics and you've got a combustible combination. Simply put, our judicial system is in danger as never before.

Here is an off-the-top-of-the-head list: 1. politicians intruding in a tragic family dispute (the Schiavo case); 2. legislative attempts to strip courts of jurisdiction and judges of immunity for their unpopular decisions; 3. judges and court staff being murdered and physically threatened; 4. ballot initiatives to recall judges or drastically shorten their terms; 5. election and nomination of judges dominated by special interests; 6. secret courts and secret dockets; 7. end-runs around the judicial system in the post-9/11 quest for national security; and 8. the steady erosion of ethical restraints and proliferation of money in state judicial elections.

As the adage goes, there's nothing new under the sun.

Exactly 100 years ago, Roscoe Pound, a soon-to-be-famous law school dean and practitioner from Nebraska, warned a conservative American Bar Association convention about the public's dissatisfaction with the administration of justice. Of the many contributing factors Pound cited, two are worth mentioning: putting our courts into politics and the people's ignorance of the real workings of the judiciary due to uniformed and sensational reports in the press. His words, not mine.

In 1906 Pound's comments shocked the legal profession. Today, in our hyper-tabloid world of infotainment, we yawn. We are accustomed to seeing courts tossed like a political football for hot-button issues.

In our constitutional republic, courts have been intentionally placed in an awkward structural tension

with the other branches of government and society. We take pride in core American ideals like "checks and balances" and "separation of powers." And we understandably value "the will of the majority."

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once recognized that the courts must be responsive to the "felt necessities" of the times. But our judicial system must be, at times, non-democratic in order to protect each one of us from "the tyranny of the majority," including our elected officials.

Particularly in times of great emotional and physical insecurity, our society needs fair and impartial courts to protect the rights of all citizens. We need to have courageous judges who will fairly and impartially apply the rule of law—regardless of public pressure or the consequences to their careers. We need strong judges, not political puppets, who will be accountable to only one supreme good—our Constitution.

Fair and impartial courts are truly our last refuge against governmental oppression and societal chaos. This is not an exaggeration. We need only to look back to some of our historical experiences and tragedies to realize that courts have always been our last hope against injustice toward the unpopular or the vulnerable—the Salem witch trials, slavery, anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, nativism, internments, censorship, sedition laws, McCarthyism, racial segregation, lynchings, presidential wrong-doing, etc. History has documented our successes and failures. History shows us that responsible public debate can promote the greater good of fair and impartial courts.

The greatest challenge our courts—and society—now face is for all of us to return to and honor the fundamental democratic and civic values that have made America great. This is an urgent challenge for the courts, the press and our educational system. Knowledge, like truth, can lead us to the gate of justice.

[Zygmunt A. Pines, Esq., is Court Administrator of Pennsylvania.]

Times, People and Technology Have Changed at the AOPC over the Last Four Decades

by Patricia Kell

I started working at the AOPC on February 4, 1974. I guess it's safe to say that this was my first job.

A. Evans Kephart was the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania at the time. He was succeeded by Alexander F. Barbieri. I worked in the Statistical Unit, which was just being developed. My immediate supervisor was Deputy Court Administrator Gerald Spivack.

There were three of us in the Statistical Unit, in which we compiled data for the 1974 and 1975 annual reports. In 1975 the Statistical Unit was relocated to the AOPC Philadelphia office, and I had the opportunity to relocate. I declined the transfer. Deputy Court Administrator Robert Kent offered me a job in the Payroll Department. I accepted—and I'm still here going on 33 years.

When I started with the AOPC, we were just a small office. There were probably fewer than 10 of us. I've watched it grow these past 30-odd years into a state-of-the-art office. I remember when I started, the most exciting and frightening technology was our new electric memory typewriter. Very scary.

We used key punch machines to input information that was handwritten with the information for the payrolls. Everything was hand-typed, and computers were just a science-fiction craziness that Flash Gordon had.

It's funny to me that after all these years, there are still only four of us in the Payroll Department. Thank heavens for computers. I sure would hate to have to



Patti loves horses and competes in equestrian events in her spare time.

hand-type all the vouchers and everything else that goes with the preparation of the payrolls.

It amazes me, all the employees who work for the AOPC and all the advancements that have happened in the courts since I started. The future is only going to have more advancements, I'm sure.

[Patti Kell is a clerical assistant in the AOPC payroll department.]

Service Milestones

A number of AOPC employees have reached milestones in their UJS careers. They are as follows:

30 Years

David Frankforter - Human Resources

George Simpson - Finance

20 Years

Bunny Baum - Judicial Services



George Simpson

15 Years

David Donaldson - Legal

Glenn Deaven - Judicial Automation

Patti Campbell - Human Resources

Susan England - Human Resources

Janice Evans - Payroll

Denise Werkheiser - Judicial Automation

William Chan - Judicial Automation

Deb Chambers - Judicial Automation

Dan Swartz - Judicial Automation

Frank Antonucci - Administrative Services

(Honors & Dispatches continued page 5)

Allegheny Family Court

Pilot Program Underway in Pennsylvania to Help Children in Foster Care

by Art Heinz

Allegheny County Family Court has received a \$100,000 federal grant to become one of five model courts across the country to participate in a program designed to prevent children from being abused or neglected, and to reduce the number of children in foster care.

Each of the pilot courts assesses needs and sets priorities through a team of dedicated professionals representing the courts, human services and community leaders, who are working to enhance and better coordinate services for infants and toddlers in foster care.

With assistance from the national nonprofit organization "Zero to Three," the community teams are developing and enacting comprehensive approaches to address complex family needs in a swift and efficient manner. The organization is providing training and consultation as well as a part-time community coordinator to work directly with the family court.

Allegheny County Court Judge **Jill E. Rangos** is leading the team, which also includes Marc Cherna, director of the Department of Human Services; Dr. Marcia Sturdivant, deputy director of Children, Youth and Families and **Cynthia K. Stoltz, Esq.**, court administrator, Court Services for Children.

Other recent Allegheny County Family Court events included a grand opening and reception at the Parental Stress Center in East Liberty to celebrate a new "Safe Visits, Safe Families" program, which provides a place for children in the midst of a custody dispute.

Among those on hand were Supreme Court Justice **Max Baer** and the Hon. **Kim Berkeley Clark**, administrative judge of the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas Family Division.



Judge Jill Rangos heads the team that is participating in a pilot program to help children.

[Art Heinz is an AOPC communications coordinator and managing editor of AOPC Connected.]

Service Milestones, continued from page 2

Lori Tush - Judicial Automation

Laurie Brandstetter - Judicial Automation

Barb Holmes - Judicial Automation

Colleen Zaiane - Judicial Automation

Deb Weber - Judicial Automation

10 Years

Joe Mittleman - Judicial Programs

Owen Kelly - Judicial Programs

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Ralph J. Cappy
Chief Justice

Ronald D. Castille
Justice

Sandra Schultz Newman
Justice

Thomas G. Saylor
Justice

J. Michael Eakin
Justice

Max Baer
Justice

Cynthia A. Baldwin
Justice

Zygmunt A. Pines
Court Administrator
of Pennsylvania

In the News



(This recap of recent news stories of interest to Pennsylvania’s judiciary, culled from papers across the Commonwealth—highlighting the accomplishments of people, programs and initiatives—will become a regular feature in AOPC Connected.)

The **Johnstown Tribune-Democrat** highlighted collaborative planning among the courts, law enforcement and county to conduct video arraignments by magisterial district judges in **Somerset County**. The story noted how the technology will ease the challenges posed by travel and other factors faced by law enforcement and on-call judges in the rural county.

The **Pocono Record** described similar efforts underway in **Monroe County** where video arraignments before magisterial district judges are expected to save time and money while enhancing safety and efficiency.

“Kids have been using this technology for years, with Web cams and instant messaging,” Pocono Mountain Regional Police Chief John Lamberton told the paper. “I don’t know what took us so long.”

The **York Dispatch** detailed added security at magisterial district judges’ offices in **York County** through the installation of cameras, duress alarms and staff training. Judges lauded the action in the story, saying it likely will act as a deterrent for volatile or abusive behavior.

The **Sharon Herald** recapped similar security enhancements in Mercer County. The paper explained how the upgrades in five area district courts were part of a statewide effort spearheaded by the AOPC.

The **Sunbury Daily-Item** outlined **Union County’s** successes in affably accommodating new jurors by using informative videos during the jury orientation process. Common Pleas Court Judge **Louise O. Knight** told the paper the change has made jurors more appreciative and interested in the proceedings that follow. “Anything we can do to make it easier and more meaningful for them, we will.”

The Allentown **Morning Call** printed dispatches from former Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas Judge **Thomas A. Wallitsch** about helping war-torn Afghanistan establish a judicial system. The articles ran on Fridays, appearing on the paper’s op-ed page. Judge Wallitsch is a senior advisor in the Afghanistan Rule of Law Project of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

(In the News continued on page 16)

Keynote speaker: Steelers Coach Cowher

Allegheny County Celebrates Jurors

by Art Heinz

Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers Coach Bill Cowher joined Allegheny Common Pleas Court in honoring Pennsylvanians' contribution to the state court

system by participating in a Juror Appreciation Day ceremony.

One of many observances across the state during Pennsylvania's Juror Appreciation month in May, Allegheny County selected "Jury Service—Join the Team" as the theme to emphasize the important role of the jury as a central figure in our justice system and the need for citizens to play a vital role on the team as jurors. Cowher delivered the keynote address to about 300 people called for jury duty, as part of the festivities that also included gift bags and a raffle.

Supreme Court Justice **Cynthia A. Baldwin** and President Judge **Joseph M. James** told the participants that the justice system could not function without them. "We want our citizens to know that we respect and appreciate the critical service they provide," Judge James said. "Juror Appreciation Day is one way the court recognizes the dedicated service of our citizen jurors and educates the public about the ongoing need to fill our jury boxes with responsible members of the community."



Pittsburgh Steelers Coach Bill Cowher joins Allegheny Common Pleas Court judges in honoring Allegheny County jurors.

Around the Judiciary

Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Schultz Newman** (second from left) was among a number of participants at a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new Drexel University College of Law in Philadelphia. An alumnus of Drexel, Justice Newman also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the school in 2001. Joining Justice Newman, from left to right, were: University President Constantine Papadakis; Joseph Jacovini, Drexel Board of Trustees chair; Donna Murasko, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Carl Oxholm, general counsel and senior vice president for the Drexel Law Center. Drexel's College of Law—greater Philadelphia's first in 30 years—joins the region's five law schools. The university is scheduled to open its law school in August 2006.



(Photo courtesy Drexel's Alumni Magazine)

Increasing Use of ‘Specialty Courts’ Enhances Justice and Curbs Repeat Offenders

by Peter J. Purcaro

Lycoming County is among a growing number of communities that have made a strong commitment to problem-solving courts.

Lycoming has three established specialty courts, and is considering adding a fourth to address mental health cases:

The three are:

- Adult criminal treatment court
- Juvenile treatment court
- DUI treatment court.

The adult criminal treatment and juvenile delinquency courts are administered by Judge **Nancy L. Butts** and the DUI treatment court by Judge **Dudley N. Anderson**.

Judge Butts administers both the adult and juvenile treatment courts once a week for approximately half a day. Currently, 50 adults and 15 juveniles participate.

“Drug Court can be a first chance or a last chance,” Judge Butts said. “For some of these people it is the first time that someone has taken a real interest in them.”

Although the approach to treatment varies because of age, all participants in these two courts share a problem with substance abuse and its detrimental

impact on their lives and families. Through a collaborative effort with a team of professionals, the court oversees a one-year treatment plan that it monitors. A system of incentives and sanctions is used to encourage or punish participants, and monitoring may decrease or increase, depending on the participant.

“Drug Court has challenged me to learn a lot of new things about dealing with people of different ages and backgrounds, handling some very sensitive subjects, and recognizing when it is important to be tough,” Judge Butts added.

The court focuses on treatment and progress reported by the treatment team. Direct involvement by a judge has proven to improve treatment because of the impact of the authority of the judge and direct contact with the participant.

About two-thirds of the adult participants complete the treatment court while the remainder are removed and re-sentenced. This ratio far exceeds the general completion rates for substance abuse treatment. Adult offenders include those charged with various types of misdemeanors and felonies, excluding violent offenses.

Lycoming County has had a DUI treatment court administered by Judge Anderson for about a year and recently saw its first participants graduate.

(Treatment Courts continued on page 15)

Philadelphia Treatment Court Celebrates 95th Graduation

Luzerne County Board of Commissioners Chair Greg Skrepenak, a former NFL player with the Oakland Raiders and Carolina Panthers, was keynote speaker when the Philadelphia Treatment Court celebrated its 95th graduation ceremony during National Drug Court Month in May.

Graduates received diplomas from Municipal Court President Judge **Louis J. Presenza** who is the presiding judge of the treatment court.

Treatment court is designed to curb drug-related caseloads by creating a synergy between the criminal justice and substance abuse systems.

Since its inception in April 1997, about 2,000 people have participated in the Philadelphia Treatment Court program—Pennsylvania’s first and a role model for the planning, implementation and operation of others.

Commissioner Skrepenak helped establish a similar treatment court in Luzerne County in February 2006.

Create a Secure Password:

You Can Reduce On-line Security Risks

by Dan Williamson

A person's home is his castle, and of course every castle has to have an army, a moat, a drawbridge and keys to the doors that protect it. In a computer environment, the army protection is provided by a team of skilled network and security professionals on constant vigil for intrusions into our systems and networks. The moat and drawbridge are similar to the firewalls and security devices that our teams use to protect our systems. And the keys to the doors are the everyday passwords that each person holds which provide access to systems and services in our environment. Each of these pieces is required to keep our systems and data safe and secure. All of the security provided by the firewalls, security devices, networking and security teams is useless if the keys and passwords to our systems are not equally as secure.

Your apartments, homes, cars and just about everything you value have keys are normally kept locked up and secured when you are not using them. For each lock there is a key and most of your keys are different for each lock. You probably lock up your castle and valuable possessions, and you know not to give your keys to friends and strangers. Hopefully, you don't leave your keys in obvious places like under the front doormat!

Your computerized castle is no different. Your passwords are similar to keys and provide you access to your private and personal data or shared systems and resources. They should be protected just as you protect the keys to any other valuable possession. For each system you access, you should try to use a different key or password. You should not write the passwords down or share them with friends or leave them in obvious places where they may be misused by others. Never supply your passwords in response to e-mail requests.

The following is quoted directly from Microsoft's Web page on passwords:

It is recommended that you change your passwords regularly. This can help keep criminals and other malicious users unaware. The strength of your password will help keep it good for a longer time. A password that is shorter than eight characters should be considered only good for a week or so, while a password that is 14 characters or longer (and follows the other rules outlined below) can be good for several years.

Do not use:

1. A password that is the same as your log-in name.
2. Your own name, the name of your spouse or the names of your children.
3. A password consisting of all numbers or all the same character as these are easily cracked.
4. Any information about yourself that may be easily obtained, such as your telephone number, home address, age, social security number, etc.
5. Passwords with seven characters or less.

Things to Incorporate

1. Use a combination of uppercase and lowercase characters.
2. Use numbers and non-alphabetic characters, e.g., punctuation and special characters.
3. Ensure your password is easy to remember, and do not write it down.
4. Use a password that is easy to type so that someone watching will not be able to steal it.

Techniques to Consider

1. Choose a line from a story, song or poem that is easily remembered. "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall" becomes "HDsoawHDhagf."
2. Use numbers and letters to create an imaginary vanity license plate password, e.g., gr8sk0tN1ZE2CU!
3. Choose two short words and concatenate them with a punctuation character. E.g., "`Dog;Rain," "`Book+Mug," "' ' "Kid?Goat."

(Password continued on page 11)

Interbranch Commission Unveils New Web Site, First Annual Report

by Art Heinz

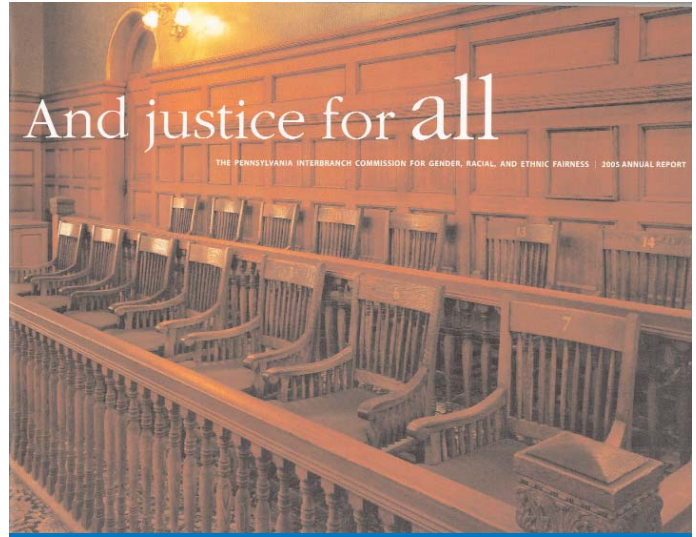
Pennsylvania's Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness presented its first annual report to the public, entitled "And Justice for All."

Believed to be the first of its kind in the nation to link all three government branches into one vehicle to promote fairness in the judiciary, the commission has been active since its creation last year in addressing recommendations from the 2003 Final Report of the Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Gender Bias in the Justice System, a forerunner to the commission.

Initial areas of focus have included domestic violence prevention, court workforce and jury diversification, and limited-English-speaking interpreter services. Commission members will answer questions from the public about their work and future plans after the report presentation.

The glossy, 24-page booklet contains an overview of the commission and its committees, pictures of its members and brief narratives outlining ongoing initiatives. Also included are personal messages about the value of the group from Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ralph J. Cappy**, Commission Chair **Burrell A. Brown** and **Lisette M. McCormick, Esq.**, commission executive director.

The report coincides with a new Internet presence for the commission that may be accessed through



The Interbranch Commission's first annual report.

the Pennsylvania Judiciary Web site. The site provides an overview of commission publications and other information and allows visitors to submit questions and comments.

(To view, download or print copies of the report, visit the Interbranch Commission's new Web site at: www.courts.state.pa.us/index/interbranchforfairness.)

Transitions, continued from page 2

Retirements

Counties

Joseph A. Cairone - Philadelphia - district court administrator

Robert T. Fallan - Schuylkill - deputy administrator, trial court

Patricia A. Fluty - Potter - district court administrator

Thomas C. Green - Allegheny - deputy court administrator

Roberta A. Meese - Fayette - deputy court administrator

Phyllis Suriano - Montgomery - deputy administrator, trial court

Resignations

Counties

Joyce S. Kean - Philadelphia - Common Pleas Court judge

Anthony J. Mangan - Monroe - magisterial district judge

Michael E. Noyes, Ph. D. - Butler - deputy district court administrator

AOPC

Rebecca Brunner - Judicial Automation - systems trainer

Nathan Cada - Judicial Automation - systems trainer

Michael Callaghan - assistant court administrator's office - legal intern

John Claus - Judicial Automation - database administrator

George Clay - Judicial Automation - database administrator

David Dunn - Judicial Automation - LAN technician

Ryan Elias - Judicial Automation - IT specialist

Armando Hartman - Judicial Automation - IT manager

Dan Kepner - Judicial Automation - comms network technician

Kevin Paul - Judicial Automation - IT Intern

(Transitions continued on page 18)

Funding Extended to Help Those in Need of Legal Aid

by Samuel W. Milkes, Esq.

The state legislature and governor have extended the expiration on the Access to Justice (ATJ) Act from October 2007 to November 2012, assuring uninterrupted funding for another five years for legal aid programs across the state.

Under the act, a \$2 surcharge is attached on various courthouse filings to help fund civil legal aid programs. Proceeds are directed to the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board, which contracts with the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network (formerly Pennsylvania Legal Services) to provide the programs. The network has eight regional programs, and six specialized programs, that together provide representation in every county. The act will provide an estimated \$9.5 million this year to assist less fortunate Pennsylvanians.

Legal Aid programs handle over 100,000 cases annually, benefiting more than 300,000 people...

Much of the original motivation behind ATJ, as expressed by many legislators, was that they had seen services in their communities decline. Families facing dire legal problems no longer had a place to go because of cutbacks in legal aid funding. So when first enacted, ATJ symbolized an expression of support for legal aid—and a stamp of approval for the good work of these programs.

In a sense, there was even somewhat of a race to reinstate this support by the sunset extension. House Bill 1746, a bill having primarily to do with filing fees in Philadelphia, contained language that extended the sunset. While this bill was ultimately the vehicle under which the sunset was extended, Senate Bill 772 would have accomplished the same result. The Senate bill, which had the sole purpose of extending the sunset, had also worked its way through the committee process and was ready for a Senate floor vote. So when the Senate approved HB 1746, it was able to choose between its own sunset extension bill and that of the House.

The House bill was introduced by Rep. Dennis O'Brien and the Senate bill was introduced by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf. Their leadership and support was invaluable to this success. The support of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Allegheny County Bar Association, the AOPC and many others also contributed vastly to this success. The AOPC, representing the courts' interests, was especially instrumental in both the House and Senate versions of the bill and in the ultimate extension of the sunset.

Legal Aid programs handle over 100,000 cases annually, benefiting more than 300,000 people, not counting those helped through the extensive community education and self-help assistance offered by legal aid.

[Samuel W. Milkes, Esq., is executive director of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network Inc. in Harrisburg]

Password, continued from page 9

The goal of this article is to give you some techniques on how to come up with secure passwords and tricks to help remember them.

Some systems may use strong, or more complex, passwords which require the use of characters from three of the following four categories:

- English uppercase characters (A through Z)
- English lowercase characters (a through z)
- Base 10 digits (0 through 9)
- Non-alphanumeric characters (!, \$, #, %, etc.)

You can make any of the above passwords into strong passwords by doing character substitution. For example substituting @ for the "a" character, "6" for the "g" character and "0" (zero) for the "o" characters. The "HDsoawHDhagf" password now becomes "HDs0@wHDh@6f".

Once you have constructed what you believe is a strong password, you can test it at the following Microsoft Web site: www.microsoft.com/athome/security/privacy/password_checker.mspx.

[Dan Williamson is the AOPC's Communications Network/Systems Security Administrator.]

Honors & Dispatches

Allegheny Common Pleas Court Judge **Kim Berkeley Clark** has become the first African-American to assume the presidency of the Allegheny County Bar Association.



An administrative judge in the Family Division, Judge Clark also became the first jurist to hold the post. She officially ascended to the post at the association's annual Bench-Bar Conference at Seven Springs Resort, Somerset County.

She succeeds Robert V. Racunas, who administers Neighborhood Legal Services.

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania **Ralph J. Cappy** was re-elected chair of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. He has served on the board since 1992 and first became chair in 2003.

Berks Common Pleas Court Judge **Linda K.M. Ludgate** was named a 2006 Woman of Distinction by the Great Valley Council of the Girl Scouts of America.

The awards recognize women in the Reading-area community who exemplify the high ideals of Girl Scouting through professional accomplishments and service to the community. Judge Ludgate was recognized for her work in the community for the last 32 years—including being a founding member of Women in Crisis and Berks Womens' Network.

Judge Ludgate also was recognized for work she has done since becoming a member of the bench in 1990 in educating the public about the courts and serving on several committees of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

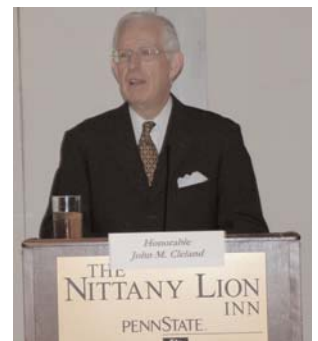
Supreme Court Justice **J. Michael Eakin** participated in a Law Day panel discussion sponsored by the Washington County Bar Association and Bar Foundation. Justice

Eakin was joined by former U.S. Congressman Frank Mascara and Washington County Commissioner J. Bracken Burns Sr. to consider "Liberty under Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers."

Monroe Common Pleas Court Judge **Art Zulick** received the Rose Schoch Award for outstanding contributions to environmental education.

Judge Zulick was recognized during the annual Kettle Creek Environmental Fund dinner at Camelback Lodge in Tannersville. He is a founder and former president of the fund, which raises money to support the Monroe County Environmental Education Center in Bartonsville.

McKean Common Pleas President Judge **John M. Cleland** received the Presidential Medal of Distinction from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.



"Judge Cleland is most deserving of Pitt-Bradford's highest honor," University President Livingston Alexander said. "As an advisory board member for more than 20 years, he has dedicated himself to advancing the mission of the university. As advisory board chairman for 10 years, he provided strong and effective leadership."

The school presents the medal to people who provide time, finances or expertise and advice or have made distinctive achievements in his or her field that has affected Pitt-Bradford. During Judge Cleland's tenure as advisory board chairman, the university reached milestones in development, enrollment and facilities.

Fayette Common Pleas President Judge **Conrad B. Capuzzi** was honored by the Pennsylvania lodge of the Order of the Sons of Italy in America for his work in law.

Also honored by the organization at a recent gathering in Greensburg were Westmoreland Common Pleas

(Honors & Dispatches continued on page 17)

AOPC Launches New Online Information Resource

by **Stu Ditzen**

Visitors to Unified Judicial System's Web site recently have discovered that the frequently asked questions (FAQ) button has changed. In its place is something new and better.

Where FAQ used to exist, there is now a new label, "Asked & Answered." On clicking there, visitors can find an entirely new array of information, including fact sheets about Supreme Court powers, policies and practices; a segment featuring official reports and speeches and a section on "Programs that Make a Difference."

The goal is to provide the public and the media with more information about the courts than has been readily available in the past, to provide accurate information on controversial topics and to make all such information easily accessible. The Asked & Answered section also is intended to be a central one-stop-shopping point for other information that already exists on the Web site such as press releases, calendars, court decisions and opinions.

The Asked & Answered label is the creation of **Tom Darr**, deputy court administrator. The content of the new section is the product of the staff of the Public Information Office. The construction of the pages is the work of **Josh Brandt** of Judicial Automation.

Fact sheets are designed to set forth in a few paragraphs accurate information on topical issues, to clarify points of confusion about court operations and to answer questions on matters in controversy. One fact sheet explains the dual judicial and administrative responsibilities of the Supreme Court. Another outlines the court's policy on open records. A third explains when judges must disqualify themselves. A fourth describes the court's rule governing lawyers who act as lobbyists. And the list goes on.

The plan is to gradually add more fact sheets to the list as logic dictates and to delete sheets that have become outdated.

The "Reports and Speeches" section is exactly what the title suggests—a repository that includes such documents as this year's report on "The State of the Commonwealth's Courts," Justice **Ronald D. Castille's** presentation to the legislature on the judicial budget and a speech given by Chief Justice **Ralph J. Cappy** on judicial independence. A great deal of information about the courts is contained cumulatively within this material. As time goes on, more documents of a similar type will be added.

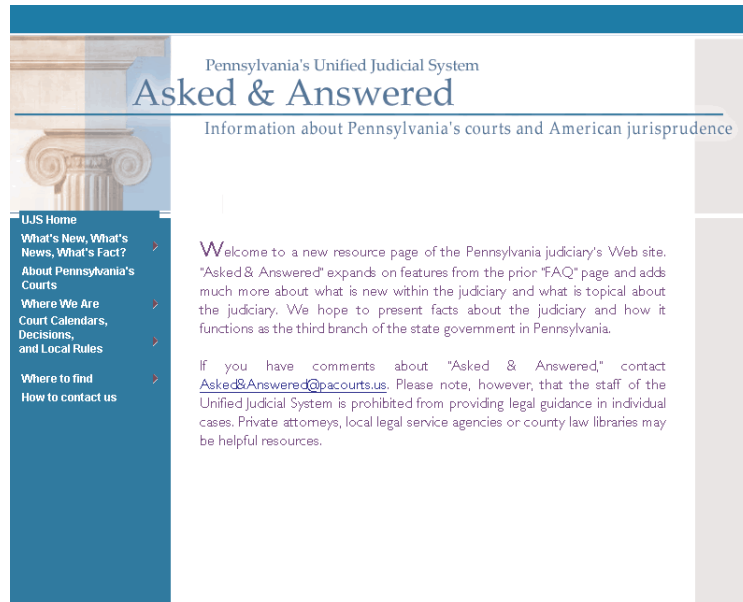
The "Programs that Make a Difference" section is designed to inform the public about the many efforts the Supreme Court and AOPC are making to improve the courts, and to provide better service to those who use the courts, all across the Commonwealth.

The section provides descriptions of five programs that are in various stages of development: the court security program, the foreign language interpreter program, the automation program, the development of drug courts and other problem-solving courts and a program to improve and accelerate court handling of cases involving abused and neglected children.

The list of "Programs that Make a Difference" will expand with time as new programs are developed.

After several months of planning, much attention to graphics and design, lots of writing and rewriting and substantial input by several members of the Supreme Court, Asked & Answered went live the week of July 30.

[Stu Ditzen is AOPC's Assistant for Communications.]



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Chairman Flick asked how the court monitors an individual's secure access. Hunsicker explained that user IDs must be updated in the CPCMS application, and although the AOPC assigns secure codes (password and pin) to the system, it does not control who gets access. In the system's application, security access levels, providing users read, write and add-on capabilities, are approved by either the clerks of courts or the district court administrators, based on the functions performed by county personnel, he explained. MDJS users must get IDs and passwords approved by the magisterial district judge or district court administrator. **Barbara Holmes**, Common Pleas Software Development Manager/PACMS Project Manager, explained that users outside the counties and MDJ offices must go through JNET, which has its own stringent security approval process.

Hunsicker noted that the AOPC can track system log-in IDs with dates and times particular users accessed particular information, assuring chairman Flick that an "audit trail" exists should a question arise regarding user activity. He also explained features of the AOPC's Unified Judicial System (UJS) Web Portal, a Web site that allows users to view criminal and appellate court docket sheets.

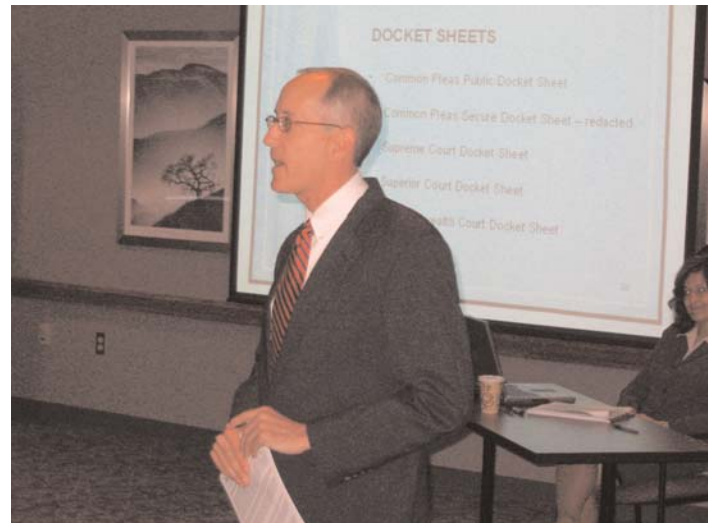
Christy Hull, CPCMS lead trainer, provided the committee with a demonstration of the UJS Web Portal, detailing the differences between what court data "public" users and "secure" users can access. The docket sheet information the public can view includes case filing date; the judge assigned; the defendant's name, year of birth, municipality and zip code; a list of charges/offenses; bail information; case disposition; sentencing and penalties; case financial information and attorney information. Secure users, she said, can view all the information that public users can, plus information such as the bail bondsmen and the defendant's complete address, full date of birth and social security number. With yet a higher level of security clearance, secure users can also see victim and witness information.

In response to a question from Rep. John Siproth, Hull explained that the secure court data cannot be manipulated or transferred to the public Web portal. Web portal users are looking at a subset of information on the AOPC's data hub and both secure and public users view the same information, she said. Some of the information is simply shielded from users based on their access level. Hunsicker added that the UJS portal is

gaining widespread use, recording 3.6 million hits in the first seven months of 2006.

Hunsicker said that data on the UJS portal is replicated to a separate data server, thereby securing the production data. In other words, production data is never directly accessed via the UJS Web Portal, he added.

Assistant Court Administrator **Andrea B. Tuominen** and Common Pleas Project Staff Attorney **David**



Senior Project Director Ralph Hunsicker gave the committee members an overview of the UJS's three statewide automation systems.

Price provided an overview of the work of the AOPC's Public Access Ad Hoc Committee. Tuominen noted that the AOPC has been providing information to the public from its automated systems since 1994, beginning with the successful design and implementation of the MDJS and later with the launch of the PACMS.

Tuominen observed that case records capture a great deal of sensitive, personal information about litigants and third parties, such as witnesses and victims. The tension between fully accessible case records and personal security/privacy has been heightened by the burgeoning use of the Internet as a data source, enhanced automated court case management systems and other technological realities of the Information Age.

Court Administrator Zygmunt Pines recognized the need to develop a statewide public access policy governing case records captured by the UJS' statewide case

Treatment Courts, continued from page 8

“It was a confounding problem in need of out-of-the-box thinking,” Judge Anderson said. “You hear about multiple shootings, high profile drug busts, but it’s difficult to realize that over half the people on supervision are there for DUI.”

The effort to start a DUI treatment court coincided with recent DUI law changes. With the law’s increased penalties and the general intent of the law to address the alcoholic driver, it seemed a natural fit for the court to come up with a sentencing alternative.

“The people who complete the program will probably tell you it’s easier to do the jail time and get out,” Judge Anderson added. “This is a voluntary program that requires a certain type of motivation.”

[Peter J. Purcaro, is Lycoming County’s Director of Court Service.]

Lycoming County specialty courts are among those at the forefront in Pennsylvania that are integrating new technology to deal with defendants with drug and alcohol offenders.

- An electronic bracelet worn by some DUI Treatment Court participants constantly looks for traces of alcohol residual through an offender’s sweat glands and transmits the data to a monitoring center. The device has been in use for the last four years as an alternative to conventional blood and urine testing.
- The county’s Adult Criminal Treatment Court is pilot testing the use of a wrist-worn device among some participants that integrates the measurement of brainwave activity — similar to that used in sleep-deprivation technology — to gauge the possible presence of drugs.

Security Concerns, continued from page 14

management systems, Tuominen explained, and established a staff committee in 2002 to craft a proposed policy that would carefully balance public access to electronic case records while safeguarding citizens’ privacy and security.

Tuominen noted that there were many serious, and often competing, factors that were weighed in the development of the proposed policy. Many other court systems have wrestled with these complex issues, she said, and come to very different conclusions. It is uncertain whether any judiciary has fully come to grips with these issues or achieved the “right balance,” added Tuominen.

The difficulties in reconciling the interests of transparency and personal privacy and security were evidenced in the committee’s deliberations and the extensive commentary it received on its proposal in the fall of 2005 and during a public hearing in March, Tuominen said, then proceeded to review the policy provisions with the select committee members.

David Price explained that the committee determined to exclude paper case records from the scope of the proposed policy because the information found in paper records, such as social security numbers and financial account information, remains in “practical obscurity,” while electronic case record information is

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At a Glance

WHAT: Specialty—or problem-solving—courts. Provide certain non-violent offenders with an alternative to jail. They are increasing in use and number in Pennsylvania and across the nation as a means of addressing crime related to juvenile delinquency, drug and alcohol dependency and mental health.

HOW: By working closely with prosecutors, social workers and other justice system partners, the specialty courts compel offenders into completing a treatment program and abstaining from repeating the behaviors that brought them to court in the first place.

WHY: Research shows that this approach has proven effective at reducing repeat offenses, and results in more defendants living healthy, law-abiding lifestyles.

MORE INFO: Contact the AOPC’s Judicial Programs Department at 215-560-6300.

In the News, continued from page 6

The **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review** featured a story about **Allegheny County** magisterial district judge **Robert Wyda**'s one-year deployment in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to work on cases against the nearly 500 terror suspects detained at Camp Delta. Judge Wyda is a commander in the Naval Reserves Judge Advocate General Corps. The story noted how Judge Wyda is primarily responsible for analyzing evidence on terror suspects captured in Afghanistan and presenting his findings to the U.S. Defense Department's Criminal Investigative Task Force.

The **Greensburg Tribune-Review** reported the positive impact a program administered by **Westmoreland County** Family Court Judge **Chris Feliciani** is having on the community. Under the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, family court judges appoint specially trained volunteers to monitor abused and neglected children who are referred to authorities. "I want the courts to have as many resources available so we can make a difference," the judge told the paper.

The **Associated Press** issued a statewide story about **Allegheny County**'s efforts to collect child support from deadbeat parents by adding more workers, retooling its structure and expanding work space in a bid to attract more federal aid. Allegheny County handles about 15 percent of the state's total child support cases and officials average about 80,000 open cases, the news wire service reported.

The **Scranton Times-Tribune** described how **Lackawanna County** is one of 15 counties nationwide that has instituted a graduated sanctions program for delinquent juveniles. The sanctions range from counseling to confinement for the most serious offenders, but also offers treatment and other services tailored to the individual, the paper said. The paper also described how President Judge **Chester T. Harhut** led a seminar on the program at the University of Scranton for members of the local judiciary and others that focused as much on options as sanctions.

The **Williamsport Sun-Gazette** featured a report on the first graduation ceremony for the **Lycoming County** DUI Treatment Court, which marked a successful 18 months in existence. Common Pleas Judge **Dudley N. Anderson**, who presides over the court, told the paper that the aim is to curb recidivism and enhance a defendant's ability to make sound future decisions. The paper also noted the contributions of Common Pleas Judge **Nancy L. Butts** who has presided over a similar treatment program for drug offenders that was established in 1998. (See story, page 8.)

The **Allentown Morning Call** ran an article that was adapted from a speech **Northampton County** President Judge **Robert A. Freedberg** gave at the dedication of a new wing at the county prison in Easton. The work addressed the subject of promoting rehabilitation in prisons to deter crime. "People are going to be better citizens when they return to the community experiencing effective rehabilitative programming in prison," the judge said.

(In the News continued on page 17)

Honors & Dispatches, continued from page 12

Judge **Alfred B. Bell** and Commonwealth Court Senior Judge **Jess S. Juliante** of Erie County. A statewide panel chooses honorees for outstanding work in law and justice from nominations received by the lodge.

PJ Capuzzi first was appointed to the bench in 1977 and has been retained in three subsequent elections. Since becoming president judge in 2003, Capuzzi is credited with taking a leadership role in enhancing courthouse restoration work. The work included the refurbishing of a signature second-floor, stained-glass dome. He also is viewed as having systematically reduced the time prospective jurors are required to report for service.

Superior Court Judge **Maureen Lally-Green** received the Anne X. Alpern Award for excellence, devotion and impact on women in law from the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession.

Established in 1994, the award is given annually to a female judge or lawyer in honor of Alpern, who in 1959 became the first woman in the nation to become a state attorney general. Alpern also served on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

"We have to recognize that this is a profession where we are to assist people and to help them," Judge Lally-Green said. "We are counselors and should never forget that we have to lend a helping hand to others in our field."

Judge Lally-Green was appointed to the Superior Court by then-Gov. Tom Ridge in 1998. She was elected to a full 10-year term the following year.

Supreme Court Justice **Cynthia A. Baldwin** received the A. Leon Higginbotham Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Minority Bar Committee. The award recognizes a judge or attorney who has "demonstrated true dedication to the legal profession and the minority community through civil, community, or legal service for a period of at least 15 years."

Washington County Senior Judge **Thomas J. Terputac** received the Clarity Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Plain English Committee during the association's yearly meeting in Hershey.

The annual award is presented for exhibiting a commitment to promoting the use of clear writing by professionals in the legal field. Judge Terputac has written and published "A Handbook of English Usage: A Guide for the Bench and Bar."

Judge Terputac was elected to the bench in 1978 and served for nearly 28 years before retiring. He was nominated for the award by Charles C. Keller, a Washington County lawyer and a past president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge **Paul P. Panepinto** spoke at the Andrews Asbestos Litigation 2006 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Judge Panepinto was part of a panel of trial court judges from Beaumont, Texas, and San Francisco. He discussed "The View from the Bench: How to Control an Uncontrollable Docket."

Thomas M. Golden, Esq., a member of the Continuing Legal Education Board, was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He replaces former Northampton County Common Pleas Judge **Franklin Van Antwerpen**, who was elevated to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Golden, who was appointed to the board in 2003, will sit in Reading.

Common Pleas Court Judge **Richard E. McCormick Jr.** of Westmoreland County has received an Everyday Leader Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The award honors Judge McCormick's work with Greensburg-Salem High School's mock trial teams. Under Judge McCormick's guidance, the school has won the state mock trial competition three times—in 2001, 2005 and 2006—and finished fourth at a national competition as well as won numerous regional competitions.

According to PBA president Kenneth J. Horoho Jr, the Everyday Leader Award is presented to "individuals who go above and beyond, sharing their time and talent to benefit others."

The mock trial program provides high school students with first-hand experience with the legal system.

Transitions, continued from page 10

Sandra Re - Finance - administrative assistant
Pamela Robinson - Judicial Automation - systems trainer
Scott Smith - Judicial Automation - communications systems coordinator

Appointments

Supreme Court Committees

Sal Cagnetti Jr. Esq. - apptd to Disciplinary Board
Mark B. Dischell, Esq. - reapptd to Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Cmte
M. Kay DuBree - Bucks County magisterial district judge - apptd chair Minor Court Rules Cmte
Risa Vetri Ferman, Esq. - apptd. to Criminal Procedural Rules Cmte
Syndi L. Guido, Esq. - reapptd to the Cmte on Rules of Evidence
James J. Kutz, Esq. - reapptd to Appellate Court Procedural Rules Cmte
Maureen Murphy McBride, Esq. - reapptd to Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security
Leta V. Pittman, Esq. - apptd to Civil Procedural Rules Cmte
Robert. A. Rovner, Esq. - apptd to Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security
Joan Shoemaker, Esq. - apptd to Pennsylvania Lawyers Fund for Client Security

Other Boards/Committees

Nathan C. Pringle Jr., Esq. - apptd. to Interbranch Comm for Gender Racial and Ethnic Fairness
Doris A. Smith-Ribner - Commonwealth Court judge - apptd. to Interbranch Comm for Gender Racial and Ethnic Fairness

Miscellaneous

Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges 2006-07 Officers

Chester T. Harhut, president
Norman A. Krumenacker III, president-elect
Stephanie A. Domitrovich, immediate past president
Rita Donovan Hathaway, first vice president
Robert J. Colville, second vice president
Arnold L. New, treasurer
Thomas M. DelRicci, secretary

Special Court Judges Association 2006-07 Officers

Richard G. King, president
James K. Reiley, past president
Fred A. Pierantoni III, first vice president
Isaac H. Stoltzfus, second vice president
Larry G. Pentz, treasurer
Allen P. Page III, secretary

Pennsylvania Association of Court Management 2006-07 Officers and Regional Directors

Peter A. Morin, president
Susan T. Schellenberg, president-elect
Mary Lou Vanderpool, past president
Roberta Brewster, vice president
Albert R. DeFilippi, treasurer
Taryn N. Dixon, secretary
Patricia A. Ranieri, eastern district
Patricia Norwood-Foden, eastern district
Mark M. Dalton, central district
Nancy Clemens, central district
Paul Kuntz, western district
Candace Graff, western district

Security Concerns, continued from page 15

available worldwide via the Internet and the simple click of a computer mouse. Consistent with constitutional and common law, the public will not be prohibited from gaining access to public information in the paper records, he added. All information in the paper files, except as provided by law or sealed pursuant to a court order, can be viewed at the MDJ offices and courthouses.

Redaction of sensitive information from paper records presents certain practical and administrative concerns, Price added. For example, if social security numbers had to be redacted fully or partially from any document before permitting public access, each document in the case file would have to be scrutinized for the

necessary identifiers requiring redaction. This intensive process, Price continued, could lead to delays in fulfilling public access requests to case records, depending on court resources; result in the inadvertent release of non-public information or impede the business of the filing office or court.

The committee, however, was cognizant of present-day concerns regarding identity theft and security, which necessitate a discussion about how to handle sensitive information in paper case records, Price noted. He explained that the committee proposed the concept of sensitive information data sheets, currently in use by the judiciaries in Washington, Kansas and Minnesota (and

(Security Concerns continued on page 19)

Honors & Dispatches, continued from page 17

Senior Judge **Livingstone M. Johnson** of Allegheny County and President Judge **Richard A. Lewis** of Dauphin Counties were awarded Pro Bono Judges' Awards by the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Judge Johnson was honored for his commitment to equality for minorities and women. President Judge Lewis was recognized for his leadership in promoting pro bono service and in forming a task force to design a program to assist pro se litigants.

Berks County Common Pleas Court Judge **Jeffrey L. Schmehl** successfully completed the National Judicial College's "Handling Capital Cases" course in Seattle, Washington. The program prepares judges to effectively conduct death penalty cases. Judge Schmehl's participation in the program was aided by a scholarship from the State Justice Institute of Alexandria, a non-profit organization that awards grants to assist state and federal courts.

Two magisterial district judges were recognized by their peers at the annual meeting of the Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania. **Delores G. Bristol** of Potter County received the 2006 Themis Award, a lifetime achievement award, and **Edward M. Lewis** of Carbon County the John T. Jeffers Award. Both awards honor outstanding service to the association.

Former Common Pleas Court Judge **Nelson A. Diaz** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Diaz, now a partner at Blank Rome in Philadelphia, was honored for this work in the advancement of civil rights and equal opportunity.

In the News, continued from page 16

The **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** profiled Common Pleas Court Judge **Kim Berkeley Clark**, administrative family court judge, and her election to a one-year term as president of the **Allegheny County** Bar Association. The paper noted how Judge Clark is the first jurist—and the first African-American woman — to assume leadership of the 6,500-member organization. The article said Judge Clark has "earned acclaim among judges and lawyers for fairness and patience with the delicate cases she tried."

The **Legal Intelligencer** published a story about **Dave Lawrence** succeeding **Joe Cairone** as court administrator of Philadelphia's First Judicial District. The story noted how Lawrence had served as chief deputy court administrator since 1992, and how Cairone had been an FJD employee for more than 30 years. The court administrator consults with the FJD's administrative governing board and helps implement its directives. The administrator also helps oversee courtroom technology and case-management issues for the FJD's 125 jurists and nearly 2,000 non-judge employees.

Security Concerns, continued from page 18

proposed by Arizona). This concept centers on attorneys and litigants refraining from inserting sensitive information (such as social security numbers) in documents filed with the court; rather, parties would provide all such information on a separate form not accessible by the public. This type of practice would eliminate the pitfalls associated with manual data redaction as well as serve to reduce the proliferation of sensitive data in the paper records over time.

Chairman Flick closed the meeting expressing appreciation on behalf of the committee members for the AOPC staff's insightful presentations regarding how they are using the latest technology to conveniently provide court data to the public while appropriately applying security measures.

[Steve Schell is a communications coordinator for the AOPC.]



Judges James, James and James—that's President J. Joseph M. of Allegheny County, George E. of Beaver County and Thomas A. Jr. of Columbia-Montour—take a moment to model their campaign hats at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. The conference was held July 20-23 in Hershey.