

The Courterly

Recognizing Special Employees



Employee Awards

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(l-r), **Debbie Teti, Roy Caraan, and Janet Donohue**, deserving award winners.

In the FJD Trial Division Civil Courts, there are thousands of filings and many hearings and dispositions recorded every year. The computer system must be able to record hundreds of possible outcomes in civil court cases. We depend on computers for setting up trials, saving information, scheduling hearings, and recording the results of trials; for doing almost everything.

And, there's another side to computers; programming them to do new things. You might come up with a great idea, but you'd need a computer to perform a special task that will help you and your co-workers to work better. A new program has to be

developed. So for the FJD Civil Court, who is it that handles all those computerized operations, dealing with all that information? Who develops new ways for the computers to help you do your job? Programmers **Janet Donohue** and **Roy Caraan** are

two of the people who do all of that, and all the time. We're spotlighting them and their colleague **Debbie Teti** who also received an award for achievement. And **Evelyn Thompson**, a wonderful woman from Civil Administration, is also a deserving award winner.

Roy Caraan and Janet Donohue maintain the database programs and reports for the Banner Case Management

System that has controlled and stored all civil case information since 1996. The system has undergone many improvements and Roy and Janet have been there to make them happen. They also work with user groups within the other departments to develop new applica-

"Service is the key for me in everything I do; to help when and where it is needed."

—Evelyn Thompson

tions. They provide support to help employees with problems when running reports, operating printers, running scanners, conducting demos, and coping with database issues. They also handle special requests from

(Continued on page 4)



"Kinda Blue" the title of the award-winning Philadelphia Flower Show arrangement by **Judge Lillian Harris Ransom and Ms. Lorraine Moore.**



Evelyn Thompson and President Judge C. Darnell Jones, II.

2 FJD Women Win High Honor

The annual Philadelphia Flower Show was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center March 2-9, 2008. Pictured below are The **Honorable Lillian Harris Ransom** and **Ms. Lorraine Moore** who were co-exhibitors in the Medium Niche class. Their floral design was entered along with those of five other exhibitors using the topic "Kinda Blue." After commenting that their design was stylish and rhythmic, the panel of national judges awarded the pair an Honorable Mention ribbon. Their arrangement, which was bathed in soft blue lighting, featured lily leaves, kalanchoe, peony leaves and white chrysanthemums.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is one of the oldest and largest in America. It began in 1829 and this year, there were in excess of 1,500 exhibitors. It has been referred to as the world's premiere flower show, attracting an estimated 250,000 visitors from around the world each year.

Judge Ransom and Ms. Moore represented Our Garden Club of Philadelphia and Vicinity. This garden club was founded in 1939 by a group of African American women who had been excluded from other local garden clubs because of their race. The club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. and of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. *Congratulations to our winners!*



Flower Show Prize for Judge Lillian Harris Ransom, Lorraine Moore



Judge Lillian Harris Ransom (left) and Ms. Lorraine Moore display the ribbon they received for their prize-winning, Medium-Niche arrangement, "Kinda Blue" shown above. The judge sits in the Trial Division and Lorraine is the secretary of the Honorable Karen Shreeves-Johns.



Cat in the Hat: Read Across America

Judge Esther R. Sylvester and Judicial Aide Tom Piselli participating in **Read Across America Day**, which honors Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Judge and Tom each read books by Dr. Seuss to students at the Loesch School in Northeast Philadelphia. Also pictured is **Mrs. Grace Casey** (Tom's sister), an ESL teacher for grades K-5.

Municipal Court Icon Frank Talent Retires



Frank Talent has been a fixture at Municipal Court for decades. During that time he has also devoted his spare time to others, but especially helping out the children of Philadelphia. In his retirement letter to **President Judge Presentza**, Frank wrote: “I will promise you, and all my friends of your Court, I will not fade away, but instead, I’ll always be available to anyone from Municipal Court because

‘my heart’ will always be there.” He added, “it’s really with a ‘heavy heart’ that I must now do what really hurts me, to say goodbye to you and ALL the great people of Municipal Court.”

Photos clockwise from top left: Frank and his commemorative watch; posing with (l-r) Joe McDermott, Judge Brad Moss, and Nick Shushkevich; Frank and (l-r) DCA Patty McDermott, Judge Massiah-Jackson, and Prothonotary Joe Evers; and finally, with City Councilman Frank DiCicco, holding the Council Resolution honoring Frank — a great guy. We’ll miss him.



Interpreters Train for Court

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the First Judicial District hosted interpreter training seminars in City Hall. The National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) and the Administrative Office of the PA Courts (AOPC) provided the specialized training focused on how to interpret in the courtroom. **Deputy Court Administrator Janet Fasy** gave welcoming remarks at the opening session. **Judge Ida K. Chen** was introduced as a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Racial, Ethnic and Gender Fairness. Peg O’Neill from Widener University also at-

tended. Interpreters were divided into groups according to language: Russian, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Korean. The training is part of the AOPC effort to standardize interpreter services across the Commonwealth and to ensure that all services are of the highest caliber. Interpreters help open the doors of access to justice so that everyone can participate meaningfully in the court process.



Inset, Hon Judge Ida K. Chen; and the scores of interpreters that underwent training.

Recognition

administration and judicial staff for statistical reports and data analysis.

They work on civil systems for the Prothonotary, the Arbitration Center, the Civil Day-Forward program, Commerce Court, Complex Litigation, Discovery Court, and Motions Court.

Roy and Janet helped to bring Orphans Court into the Banner Computer system in 2001, and in 2003 they developed the CRS (Court Reporter System) that receives, archives, and retrieves and delivers court reporter transcripts. In 2005, they worked on an Internet application to accommodate Orphans Court E-filing.

Today, Janet and Roy are working once again on the cutting-edge. Civil E-filing is the latest project; an application for civil cases where attorneys can file cases electronically via the Internet. This is a mammoth un-

dertaking because of the thousands of filings and hearings, the many users, and the numerous different departments involved in civil proceedings.

And everyday, we see the work of Roy and Janet on in-house applications for the Daily Intranet Web page such as the Quiz, announcements, and HR employee applications that are part of the Homepage. Yes, they received awards – and they more than earned them.

Debbie Teti

Debbie's been here for 26 years, working almost all of that time in the Data Processing Department compiling, graphing, and analyzing statistics. How many civil cases came in last year? How many were disposed? What about criminal cases? How many warrants were issued? Were all the defendants sentenced?

When Debbie began with the FJD around 1979, there were less than 3 pages of numbers to the civil statistical report. Today, the report is 13 pages long and the pages are crammed with numbers. And it's no longer just counting cases left in the inven-

tory. Now we have programs (Major Jury, Major Non-Jury, etc.), tracks (standard, expedited, and complex), and many other divisions and subdivisions of cases and case types to record the successful efforts of judges and employees. Essentially, Debbie describes – in great detail – how well the courts are working. After I left,

she told me that she forgot one important thing: she said, "I really truly love what I do."

Below: Debbie Teti. Bottom (l-r): Evelyn Thompson, Janet Donohue, Roy Caraan.



A Modest Reply

Editor's Note: *When I asked Evelyn Thompson for more information, she wrote back:*

"Len, you are too kind. As the Assistant Manager of the Civil Program my position is to assist the manager in all aspects of this program. I enjoy the service that we give to our Judges, Attorneys and *Pro se* Litigants alike to help their filing of motions/petitions be as smooth as possible with any question or concerns that any may have regarding this program. Service is the key for me in everything I do; to help when and where it is needed.

Thank you again Len for thinking of me. I think just a picture with all the award winners in the Courterly would be just fine. I am still so humbly thankful for all who thought of me to receive such an honor. I am not really comfortable to talk about myself or my service to others for me it is about just doing my job and servicing all."



Retirements

From January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008

Name, Position, Retirement Date, and Years of Service

O'Kane, Bonnie	Director 2	01/04/08	29
Tyson, John R	Tipstaff 2 (Gen)	01/11/08	24
Gregg, Irwin N	Deputy Chief PO	01/25/08	35
McGill Jr, Thomas L	Law Clerk 2	01/31/08	22
Davis, Julia P	Ct. Adm Ofcr 2	02/01/08	9
Johnson, Dorothy L	Court Reporter	02/01/08	30
Martin, Glenn	Tipstaff 2 (Jud)	02/01/08	16
Hurt, Arbella J	Court Adm Ofcr 1	02/22/08	32
Prete, Michael J	Probation Ofcr 2	02/22/08	32
Waterman, Jason	Legal Clerk 2	02/22/08	8
Kaufmann, Margaret	Voicewriter	02/29/08	34
Radford, Beaunie	Bail Clerk	03/03/08	12
Taylor-Thompson, C.	Warrant Investig.	03/11/08	21
Dickerson-Pugh, G.	Ct Order Pro Clk	03/20/08	39
Jetter, Howard K	Cler Asst II	03/20/08	14
Tallent, Francis R	Court Adm Ofcr 1	03/20/08	38
Hutt, Sandra L	Clerk Typist II	03/28/08	7

Retirement Photos

We'll be featuring photos from retirement parties in the Courterly. If you'd like to submit photos, email Leonard Hacking. (Hard copies may also be submitted)

Immediately below, **Dorothy Johnson** and her Retirement plaque (Ct. Reporters)

Top Row, **Julia Davis'** (Juvenile) Retirement Party (left to right): Julia and daughter Leah; Julia with **Judge John Milton Younge**, and her daughter Jeaneen Ray.

Bottom Row — **Irwin Gregg's** (Juvenile) Retirement Party (left to right): Irwin and his sister Diane Winstin; Irwin and daughter Mindy Paul; and Irwin with **Claudette Rykard** (Adult Probation).



Anniversaries 25+ Years

From January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008

Name, Position, and Years of Service

Blue, Willie L	GENERAL TIPSTAFF M	35
Gardner, Larry E	ADULT PROBATION GE	35
Jacquinto, Dominic A	FAMILY CT GRANTS-V	35
Lalli, Rose M	JUDGE ESTHER R. SYLVESTER	35
Rosado, Maria E	ADULT PROBATION GE	35
Ruth, Thomas	JUVENILE BRANCH GT	35
Uhrich, Elissa	ADULT PROBATION GE	35
Valone Jr, Philip J	PROTHONOTARY PRJ	35
Blumberg, Murray A	JUVENILE BRANCH	30
DeMuro, Sandra M	MEDICAL BRANCH	30
Klein, Eric W	GENERAL TIPSTAFF	30
Lee, Dennis R	JUVENILE BRANCH	30
Markowitz, Susan B	JUVENILE BRANCH	30
Belfield Jr, Paul J	ADMIN. OFFICE STAFF	25
Bleistine, Christina R	JUVENILE BRANCH	25
Cobrin, Michelle A	DATA PROCESSING	25
Hall, Richard J	BUILDING/FACILITIE	25
Horan, Esq., Michael	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	25
McDermott Jr, Jos.	MC CIVIL	25
Mendez, Mildred	JUVENILE BRANCH	25
Pastino, Fredric A	PRETRIAL SERVICES	25
Carey, Eileen P	MC CIVIL	20
Carter, Linda	JUDGE JAMES M. DELEON	20
Flanagan, Kevin	COURT REPORTERS	20
German, Sharon	COURT REPORTERS	20
Kalbach, Kim A	ADULT PROBATION GE	20
Kaplan, Howard S	DR CHILD SUPPORT	20
Malvestuto, Sharon P	ACTIVE CRIMINAL RECORDS	20
Manns, Esther	ADULT PROBATION GE	20
McHugh, Joseph F	DR CHILD SUPPORT	20
Parkes, Gregory	JUVENILE BRANCH	20
Pettinelli, Michael	BUILDING/FACILITIE	20
Serious, Barbara	JUDGE DELEON	20
Tarken, Steven J	GENERAL TIPSTAFF	20
Walton, Karen L	DR CHILD SUPPORT	20
Young, Valerie D	ADULT PROBATION GE	20
Zappile, Carmen	PRETRIAL SERVICES	20



New Volunteers are Always Needed!

READs Leader Linda Williams Has Some New Ideas

The READS Program continues to enjoy the support of many FJD employees who are mindful of the needs of others. They all say that they are rewarded too by the knowledge that they are helping youngsters to discover the wonders of the world of reading.

In the photo at right, **Colleen Nicholas** (left) and **Josephine Patti** work with readers Ely and Christina matching pictures with words. FJD READS Program leader **Linda Williams** had an innovative idea. To get the children more involved and increase the fun factor, she brought in sheets of pictures that the kids cut out to match

words in sentences Linda composed. It was obvious that the children enjoyed the activity and learned to enjoy reading even more while they played. Great idea Linda, and thanks for the extra effort by you and the other volunteers!

Join the Fun! Volunteer for READS today!

Email Linda Williams or call her at 3-7560

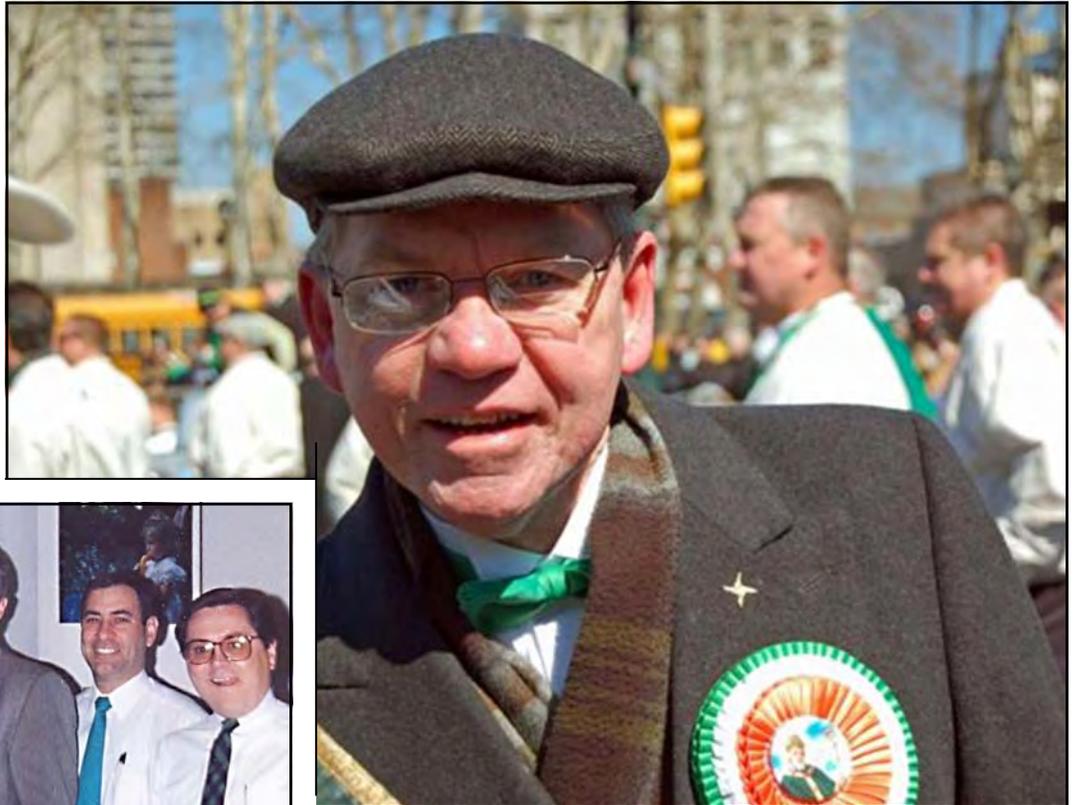
*Other pictures are below left (l-r): **Tiara Register & Linda Williams**, READs coordinator; below right (l-r): **Fran DeMuro & Tyrone**; bottom left (l-r) **Tatyana & Jackie Baionne**; and bottom right (l-r): **Diana Ionovale, Shannon, and Valerie Shotzbarger**.*



St. Patty's Day Then & Now 20 Years Ago & Today

Today (right): Len Armstrong from the Trial Division Criminal Section, walking in the 2008 St. Patty's Day Parade. (He's on the Parade Board of Directors.)

1988 (below, l-r): Len Hacking, Court Administrator's Office; **Tom Ruth**, Juvenile Probation; the late **Mike Gavaghan**, Chief, Juvenile Probation; **Joe Piselli**, Juvenile Probation (ret.); and **Joe Wulko**, Juvenile Probation (ret.).



More READS Pics

FJD employees (right) **Marilyn Young**, and (below) **Cassandra Hines** are proud and obviously happy to be working with young students. The looks of glee on the students' faces complete the story.



**FIRST JUDICIAL
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