



Charity Heidenthal, Law Clerk to Judge McInerney, works with one of the bright youngsters involved in the FJD READS program at the CJC

The Courterly

FJD Civil Courts Praised by Experts

Called the best in the nation

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The Trial Division – Civil Courts were lauded in a report from the respected experts at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The report noted that “...the [FJD Civil] Court’s performance with civil jury cases is now better than that of any large urban trial court in the United States...”

The report described a series of case management programs that, supported by dedicated court employees, created a Court/Bar Association partnership that was key to the success of the massive endeavor that slashed the number of pending civil cases from 28,000 to just over 6,000. The NCSC authors wrote that “The success of these programs has thus helped to make the Civil Section of the Philadelphia Court

of Common Pleas one of the finest and most successful urban trial courts in the country.” The Bar Association helped to obtain volunteer veteran lawyers to sit as *judges pro tem* (JPT- literally “judges for a time”) to manage the processing of cases up to the time of settlement or trial to final disposition.

Equally important was the dedication and hard work of the many employees from the Prothonotary’s Office, the Office of Civil Administration, and judicial staff. The FJD civil judges and judicial leaders played a central role and expended a great deal



Dispute Resolution and Civil Case Management Centers: Charles Pelletreau, Esq., Deborah Capuano, Paul Salter, Esq., Lokia Owens, and Frank Checkovage (Manager).

of time and energy toward the success of the programs.

As court employees, it’s gratifying to hear praise for a job well done. The success of the civil systems was due to a lot of smaller successes by individual court employees.

Special points of interest:

- **Joe Hassett: Arbitration Director, and Lifesaver. Story and photo on page 7**
- **Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections Officers: pages 6 & 7**

Victim Awareness

The Juvenile Probation Victim Services Unit sponsored a 2½ day workshop titled “Victim and Community Awareness Training.” The workshop was designed to provide the skills necessary for Victim Advocates, Probation Officers, and After Care Staff to support Victim and Community Awareness Groups in helping juvenile offenders understand

the impact and consequences of their offense on their victims and communities. Eighteen probation staff completed the training on February 22nd through 24th at 1801 Vine Street. The names of some of those who underwent Victim



Awareness Training are listed on Page 8.



Trial Division Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III (left), Civil Supervising Judge William Manfredi (Center), and DCA Charles Mapp Sr.

Prothonotary Units that Helped the Civil Courts Succeed

Civil Commencement Unit in Room 280 City Hall. Here, a court term and number is assigned, the proper fee affixed, and a docket created for each filing.

Second Filing— Filings subsequent to the initial filing are presented for docketing in The Second Filing Unit in Room 278, City Hall. Appearances, pleadings, judgments etc. are reviewed for filing and a fee affixed where

proper.

Judgment Index, Public Information—All judgment/lien indexes prescribed by statute are housed in Room 262, City Hall and available for public inspection. Copies of dockets are also available upon request.

Current Records— This is the repository for the most current civil records which are available to the public for viewing and copying.

Finance Unit—All fees tendered for escrow, filings or services are recorded and sub-

sequently and disbursed to the proper authorities.

Administrative Staff

Here, the management and clerical staff of the Office of the Prothonotary address the overall operations of the office and coordination with all court departments, the judiciary, members of the bar and the public.



*Patricia Franklin
Second Filing Unit*

Civil Commencement (First Filing) — All initial filings, civil actions, appeals, liens/judgments and original petitions, are presented at the



First Filing Unit Front (l-r) Norma McNeil, Marvella Simmons, Jackeline Courtney, Laura Paone; **Back:** Harriet Broussard, Mary Badame, Stephenie Garrett, Debbie Savage, John Sheltenberger, Mike Tierney.



Second Filing Unit (l-r) Steve Wulko, Donna Busillo, Tom Barbieri, Bob Weiss, Mike Perri, Michelle Lawler.



Finance Unit (l-r) Lucille Goodman, Joan Jackson, Ron Brunner, Carol Lento, Marie Wodack.



Current Records Unit (l-r) Greg Barbuto, Jim White, Al Hall, Reggie Harris, Shai Wynder, Jason Waterman, Charmaine Purnell.



Information, Judgment Index Unit (l-r) Christine Chanel, Phil Valone, Sean McDermott.



Administrative Staff, top (l-r) Desiree Vincent, Joe Evers, Barbara Cermele, Bonnie O’Kane, Stan Chmielewski, Kristin Wojnar.

Civil Administration Units: Teamwork = Success

Day Forward Major Jury Program — Day Forward Case Management is a system that has been created to coordinate and schedule major jury cases for trial. It provides for early intervention and continuous control of the major jury cases.

Commerce Case Management Program — The Commerce Program adopts additional features and alternative dispute resolution provisions proven helpful in managing commercial litigation in other jurisdictions.

Complex Litigation Center

The Mass Tort, Asbestos, Major Non-Jury, Class Action and Arbitration Appeals Programs are

managed within the Complex Litigation Center. It has been called “clearly one of the Court’s major achievements and a substantial service to the citizens of Philadelphia, the Bar, and the nation, given the scope of mass tort litigation and class actions.”

Compulsory Arbitration Program — The Compulsory Arbitration Program covers civil actions filed in the Court of Common Pleas with an amount in controversy of \$50,000 or less, excluding equitable actions and claims to real estate.

Civil Motions Program/Office of Civil Administration

The Civil Motions Pro-

gram/Office of Civil Administration Program is the hub of the FJD Civil courts. In addition to processing in excess of 50,000 motions and petitions on a yearly basis, the Office of Civil Administration manages several other operations of the Trial Division.

Dispute Resolution Center

The Dispute Resolution Center provides a centralized location for mandatory settlement conferences to encourage uniform procedures .

Discovery Court — Serious discovery disputes that cannot be resolved among the parties in a case are scheduled for hearings



Discovery Court Above: Dianne Williams, Dennis Brennan, (Manager); Georgette Baxter.



Right: Karen Godwin Brown, Civil Administration; and Stanley Thompson, Esq., (Manager, Civil Case Management Center).

(Continued on page 8)



Motions Court: Back: Marcia Garfield, Daniel Bupp, Evelyn Thompson, Hakim Robinson, Rachell Postell, Deborah Dailey (Manager), Melissa Graham, Eugene Haurin. Front: Anna Marie Gibson, Claire Kelly, Barbara Koch, Jerome Kelleher.



Complex Litigation Back: Mary McGovern (Manager), Norma Erickson, Coordinating Judge Norman Ackerman, Marlene Dorsey, Howard Chambers, Esq. Front: Donna Candelora Esq., Jennifer Stewart, Lillian Ryant-Davis.



Senior Judge & Motions Law Clerks: Back: Francine Donato, Esq., Benjamin Chachin, Esq., Joshua Horvitz, Esq., Susan Trepaczka. Front: Lori Marko, Lestine Banks, Martha Leto-Morris.



CAOs: Linda Kelly, Felicia Brown-Clark, Joe DiRosa, Norma Monte, Mary Doyle.



Arbitration: Juanita Cooper Robinson, Carla Martucci, Joe Ferraro, Sharon Pressley, Joseph Hassett (Manager), Lewis Hoyo.



Commerce: Liz Wolf Cippon, Esq., Catherine Hart, Matt Freund Esq., Susan Packer Esq., and Josephine Patti Esq. Not pictured: Jamie Perrapato, Esq. — Chief Law Clerk.



FJD is Once Again Proud of Our READS Volunteers

PHILADELPHIA READS continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of the FJD employees listed below. The spirit of volunteerism continues to grow here at the FJD. We now have two groups mentoring students for one hour each week: a Wednesday group, coordinated by **Bonnie O'Kane** that meets in City Hall; and a group that gathers on Tuesdays in the CJC, coordinated by Maureen Wootten. We offer our kudos to the following employees who have generously shared their time and joy of reading and helped to make a positive difference in the lives of many children.

CJC Group

Angele Peurifoy
Candida Jose
Carey Widman
Charity Heidenthal
Charles Daigre
Courtney Gussman
Dana King

Danielle Durham
Donna Candelora
Eileen Voegele
Gregory Caldwell
Henry Knox
Jean Egler
Joyce Ferrero
Keith Smith
Laura Lombardo
Lorraine Moore
Lutfiyah Al-Amin
Marisol Morales
Marlene Daehnke
Mary Williams
Matthew Market
Michelle Montano
Nicole Coppola
Rebecca Hill
Rosemarie Fields
Selena Key
Sheryl Stepner
Susan Carmody
Teresa Sarmina
Vernetta Dean
Yvonne Henry

City Hall Group

Harriet Anderson

Jacquelyn Carlton
Barbara Cermele
Benjamin Chachkin
Michelle Cobrin
Jacquelyn Courtney
Sharon Crimi
Derrick Edwards
Karleen Flowers
Donna Glynn
Linda Griffin
Joann Harris
Edith Jessup-Bullock
Lori Marko
Norma McNeil
Nilda Medina
Marlesa Newsome
Carla O'Shea
Laura Paone
Amanda Saslow
Linda Spector
Crystal Stroman
Lee Swiacki
Desiree Vincent
Shanna Walker
Tiffany Washington
Justa Widgins
Linda Williams
Marie Wodack





Retirements

(January—June 2005)

Name & Year(s) of Service

Alfreda Adams, Act crim rec 35
 George Berkelbach, JDibona 29
 Kathleen P Bruno, JField, 36
 Robert J Corcoran, J Dibona, 17
 Sandra G Dorsey, Adult prob 29
 Josephine Ellis, Child suppor 14

Leonard Ferguson, Ad pro 20
 Joseph L Fritz, Build/facil 32
 Dolores C Gericke, Juven 39
 William Gillen, Gen tipstaff 33
 Leslie Golsten, Adult prob 29
 Robert Grasso, Child support 23
 Sally Gray, Judicial Sec 36
 Olin Greenberg, Probation 33
 Robert Hager, General tc 13
 Kenneth V Hahn, Adult prob 34

Stephen Jaffe, Mc crim 33
 Mary Jennings, Pretrial 14
 John Martyn, Adlt prob 33
 William Matsinger, Chil sup 28
 Rita McDonough, Mc civil 18
 Teresa McFarland, Gen tipst 27
 Joseph McGonigle, Juven 28
 David Sherman, Tipstaff 17
 Bernard Siegel, J Djerassi 1
 Frank Staiano, Mc crim 32

Eltor Sumpter, Ad pro 1
 Sandra Sunkett, J Bright 33
 James Taylor, Prob 32
 Vincent Veldorale, DP 36
 Ernest Vincent, Pretrial 32
 Herman Walker, Juven 36
 Frank Ward, Admin 16
 Angela Zirpoli ,Mc civil 2

Probation, Parole and Community Corrections Week

Probation and Parole Officers help to safeguard communities. They act as a link between offenders and the courts, to the benefit of both.

The week of July 17 – 23, 2005 was Probation, Parole and Community Corrections Week. The Adult Probation and Parole Department had several activities planned throughout the week, the culmination of which was the swearing-in ceremony for new Probation and Parole Officers.

The ceremony began with Deputy Court Administrator David Wasson along with Co-Chief Probation Officers Frank Snyder and Robert Malvestuto introducing the

class of probation officers to Trial Division Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald III. After brief comments from the Co-Chiefs, Judge Fitzgerald read proclamations from Governor Edward G. Rendell and U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. The Administrative Judge also commended the Probation and Parole Officers for their hard work on a very important job: keeping the community safe. Further, Judge Fitzgerald encouraged them to strive to be the best at what

they do, representing the bridge between the offenders and the court. Judge Fitzgerald then administered the oath of office and welcomed the new officers to the FJD family.

**July 17 – 23,
2005 Probation,
Parole and
Community**



Juvenile Probation Officer Commendations

On Thursday, July 14, 2005, the Juvenile Probation Department conducted the first annual Probation Officer Awards and Recognition Ceremony at Family Court. The Family Division Administrative Judge Myrna Field presided over the ceremony. Aside from many of their dedicated colleagues, friends, and families, the ceremony was attended by Judges Richard Gordon, Robert Rebstock, and Lori Dumas. Also attending were Joe Cairone, Dave Lawrence, Mario

D'Adamo, Andrea Hoffman-Jelin and other notables. Nancy Pollis was instrumental in organizing the celebration. The contingent of Probation Officers and other probation-related personnel make up the largest portion of the FJD workforce.

Chief Jim Sharp and Judge Field presented the following awards: Emma Minott PO of the Year Award: Lois Santaguida; Michael J. Gavanaghan Supervisor of the Year Award: Jean Serinsky; Special Recognition Awards: Renee

Roman, Mimi Prioleau, Mike Tyson (award accepted by Mike's wife on his behalf), Ana Duarte, and Bud Mohollen.

Over 100 attendees enjoyed the festivities at this, the first of what are planned to be yearly events.



Arbitration Manager Saves Man's Life

Arbitration Center Manager **Joe Hassett**, saved the life of a litigant who collapsed during an Arbitration proceeding. Over the course of 10 minutes, Joe administered several shocks and monitored the vial signs of the patient who was lapsing in and out of consciousness. Joe's calm response using one of the FJD-supplied AED machines successfully restored man's heartbeat and breathing. He had been stricken with a massive heart attack.

Joe says the patient is recuperating nicely after undergoing triple bi-pass surgery. Congratulations Joe!



After a massive heart attack, the patient underwent triple bi-pass surgery. He is now doing well.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Victim Awareness Training

(From Front Page)

Jaime Burgos
LaShawn Nesmith
Pamela Jones-Mundy
Pamela Townsend
Colbert Partridge
Marcia Johnson
Michael Jamirson
Norine Quinn
Catherine Twardy
Danielle Dempster
Nathan Kipp

(Continued from page 3)

before Judicial Team Leaders in Discovery Court. The staff manages in excess of 20,000 motions per year.

Senior Judge Complex

Working closely with the Senior Judges assigned to the Trial Division – Civil, the assigned law clerks review briefs and memoranda submitted by

counsel to assess the accuracy of their factual findings and legal representations; conduct research; draft memoranda, orders and opinions; advise judges; and prepare memoranda for oral arguments, hearings, and trials.

Court Administrative Officers — Court Administrative Officers (CAOs) plan, assign and direct all work coming

into their respective programs. They are caseflow management specialists responsible for the preparation and docketing of court orders and trial worksheets; scheduling events; entry of verdicts and judgments; and the independent of quality control studies.



Employee Anniversaries

25 Years of Service

Elaine Thomas, Judge Herron
Harold J Palmer, Data Proc
Bernadett Finney, Adult Prob
Denise M Hanratty, HR
Phyllis D Banks, DR, Appt
Kathleen J Waters, Adult Prob
Amy R Underland, Court Rep
Theresa McGrogan, DR
Donna M Checchio, Juv
Wendell M Young, Juv Grants
Donald A Varley Jr., Data Proc
Edna M Donovan, Court Rep
Richard T McSorley, Mc Crim
Robert A Simpkins, Adult Prob
Katherine T Grasela, DR
Heidi Holloway-Johnson, DR
Helen L Durham, DR
Joseph J White, DR
Francis X Carolan III, Data Proc
Marie H Reitman, Jury
Thomas A Donnelly, DR
Theresa Taylor, Prothonotary

25 Years of Service

Madeline O Smith, DR
Clayton Carter, III, DR
Latanya Certaine, Judge Chen
Susan T McCauley, Ac Crim Rec
Sandra L Stibbins, MC Civil
Daniel B White, Tipstaff
Marianne Lassiter-Ralph, DR
Denise E Lancaster, Pretrial
Joanne E Winter, MC Civil
Michelle S Faber, DR
James P Snyder, Tipstaff
Darlene G Servance, Adoptions
Norma M Monte, Civil Admin
James Louis, TC
Dorothy L Shadding, Tipstaff
Lisa N Heyman, Adult Prob
Phillip Farling, Adult Prob
Robert H Manson Jr, Tipstaff
Joseph A Sheeran, Build Fac
Carla S Martucci, Civil Admin

30 Years of Service

Denise Ray, Juv
Edward T Halligan, Pretrial
Mildred L Vessells, DR

Gail N Gallagher, DR
Roselean A Montgomery, TC
Camille M Robinson, Procure
Francis W Sweeney II, Build Fac
Mary C Jackson, Juv
Sharon F Gibbs, DR
Glenn A Veney, Build Fac
Christine Gibson, Juv
Evans A Kemp, Juv
Michael J Loftus, Juv
Cynthia D Miller, Adult Prob
Gregory J Morrone, Juv
Michael A Perri, Prothonotary
Joyce M Ferrero, Admin Ser
Dennis J Brennan, Civil Admin
James N Cimorelli, Prothonotary
Theodore L Bryant, Prothonotary
Albert L Miklosovic, Jr., Juv
35 Years of Service
Anthony M Medaglia, Juv
Darryl Turner, Juv
Francis R Tallett, MC Civil
Henry A Matteo, Juv

Commendations



Security Officers Alexandra Lofland and Lovy Jackson were on duty at 34 South 11th Street when their diligence and attention to details enabled them to discover a client trying to enter the building with 60 bags of crack cocaine. The client was detained inside the Sheriff's Cell room until Police arrived. According to Police officials, this confiscation was considered a major drug seizure and classified as a felony.

Both officers received a formal commendation for their outstanding performance and a job well done.