



CATRINA MULLER
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FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA The COURTERLY

Fall/Winter 2004

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Best of the FJD

This year, FJD employees came together to celebrate their individuality and energetic spirit by voting on-line for the superlatives among us in the first-ever, Best of the First Judicial District. Through an Intranet poll, employees voted for whom in their opinion, was the best in each of a varied list of categories that ranged from Best Dressed and Best Fingernails to who had the Most Interesting Hobby or Outside Interest, and who was the Most Involved in Outside Community Activities.

The project involved personnel from throughout the District. For each category, winners were chosen among several finalists from each of 10 major FJD service centers: 1) CP Civil; 2) CP Criminal; 3) MC Civil; 4) MC Criminal; 5) President Judge/Prothonotary; 6) Traffic Court; 7) Court Reporters; 8) Court Administration; 9) Family Division Domestic Relations Branch; and 10) Family Division Juvenile Branch.

The polling process culminated in an all-court gathering at the Bonavita-cola Law Library on October 28th, featuring special awards, refreshments,

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The Courterly is Moving

This is the last issue of *The Courterly* to be presented in hard copy printed format. With the successful introduction and continuing expansion of the FJD Intranet Home Page, a new home for *The Courterly* was found. The intranet will continue to display brief descriptions and photos of different events throughout the District, and *The Courterly* feature will provide a source for more in-depth information. Continue to send your ideas, photos, and articles for *The Courterly* and the Intranet via email to Len Hacking in the Court Administrator's Office. You can reach Len by phone at 686-3775.



RETIREMENTS

The following retirements were announced for the period January - June, 2004.

Michael J. Armento, Data Processing
34 years
Rheba D. Burnside, Tipstaff
30 years
Thomas Cei, Domestic Relations
27 years
Jennie DeLuca, Domestic Relations
14 years
Anna Marie C. DiGuglielmo, D.R.,
21 years
Joseph DiGuglielmo, Procurement
27 years
George A. Ellmer, Building & Facilities
28 years
Juanita Evans-Casey, Administration
6 years
Frank J. Greco, Administration
20 years
William M. Iezzi, Adult Probation
32 years
Patricia K. Kelly, Domestic Relations
41 years
Salvatore Meglio, Domestic Relations
31 years
Betty J. Mickens, Tipstaff
23 years
Marilyn Miller, Child Support
23 years
John F. Mitchell, Domestic Relations
22 years
Jean Owens, Child Support
10 years
Ralph J. Pero, Juvenile Branch
29 years
Albert J. Pozza, Administration
25 years
Joanne H. Purtell, Adult Probation
14 years
Carolyn M. Queen, Court Reporters
23 years
Thomas J. Quinn, Juvenile Branch
31 years
Benjamin Rzepski, Tipstaff
15 years
Frank J. Salvatore, Building & Facilities
31 years
Rose Santore, Traffic Court
14 years
Dennis M. Share, Court Reporters
21 years
Ruth D. Smith, Administrative Services
24 years
Raymond M. Snock, Prothonotary
30 years
Nancy F. Stanert, Human Resources
23 years
Jnious R. Stanton, Juvenile Branch
35 years
Constance Trice, Traffic Court
29 years

ANNIVERSARIES

The following employment anniversaries were reached during the period January - June, 2004.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Brenda K. Ganges, Adult Probation
Marthine Blythe, Adult Probation
Joseph J. Dempsey, Adult Probation
John W. Harrison, Adult Probation
Carole A. Singlar, Prothonotary
Colleen L. McGrath, MC Civil
Richard J. Brandt, Tipstaff
Judith Wallace, Adult Probation
Alison Bell, Adult Probation
Howard K. Chambers, Jr., Civil Admin.
Carol A. Finney, Juvenile Branch
Boyd Taggart, Information Center
Christopher Adams, Data Processing
Leonard E. Ferguson, Sr., Adult Prob.
Janet M. Chestnut, Domestic Relations
Charles J. Hoyt, Adult Probation

Youngsters Introduced to the World of Work

By Junious R. Stanton

In a unique partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation, the First Judicial District Family Court provided an opportunity for 75 young people to experience employment readiness. They did so through a six-week program of real world work duties and job responsibilities in a nurturing, educational environment. The city has long offered summer jobs to qualified youth based on socio-economic criteria, but in the last three

glad we had the opportunity to offer them this six-week summer work experience. It was a collaboration of the Family Court, Philadelphia Youth Network, and the Department of Recreation. The three organizations working together employed 38 young people for six weeks. They've learned new skills and earned money. Now they have something to put on their resume. This is a win-win situation all the way around."



years, participation in the program has opened up for youngsters who have had contact with the court, or who are currently under juvenile court supervision. Through the cooperation of the Department of Recreation and the Family Court, some slots have been specifically designated for court-involved boys and girls who might not otherwise have had this experience. This year, the Court was allocated 75 positions for the six-week program. The youngsters were assigned to the Robin Hood Dell as their work site. They were paid \$5.15 an hour – comparable to the current minimum wage and worked a twenty-hour week. The program also included enrichment sessions and a group project. The youngsters aged 15-18 attended an orientation on June 29 and began work on July 6. The last day of the program was Friday August 13th. Ms. **Julia P. Davis**, the Employment Coordinator for the Family Court, explained the goals of the program. "All our youth were court adjudicated, and this year 38 graduated. We're

Family Court Administrative **Judge Myrna Field** was delighted with this year's group "This is our third year, and biggest group to complete the program. It is a marvelous program. It offers pre-work experience such as coming to work on time, coming to work prepared, coming to work with responsibilities and we hope it will transfer into their lives as they go to work as adults." As one of

the program goals, Judge Field hopes to secure permanent jobs for court-involved youth with the Department of Recreation or through the Youth Network. "They are still recruiting and we have a program for teens over seventeen who don't have to go to school anymore. It is a work training and placement program. Hopefully they will get jobs and then go back to school to finish their education."

Philadelphia school teacher **John T. Harris** served as the program time keeper. Mr. Harris feels this year's program was very successful. He helped the students work on their project, an anti-bullying campaign. They wrote to Mayor Street asking him to support an anti-bullying initiative and monument. They wrote poems and raps, as well as worked on a performance whose message was "Stop Bullying." Harris organized interactive presentations to inform and enlighten the students. "We had Officer Richmond from the Philadelphia Housing Authority Police who gives the D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T., and Explorers presentations who traveled to the recreation centers giving demonstrations on the harmful effects of bullying, the importance of gun safety, and drug prevention. He has been a remarkable help to the total program."

Timothy Creighton, 15, attends the Daniel Boone School and was one of the participants in this year's program. He confided that he enjoyed the process. "I learned how to work with others, be a team worker, clean up the community, and I'm glad I participated."

He (L)Earns It

How do people become better court administrators? The answer is: "They Learn it." **Harold Palmer**, already known as an excellent programmer manager with the Data Processing Department, has been quietly working for four years to reach the first rung of success on the ladder to his goal. Harold recently graduated from the Court Management Program (CMP) of the respected National Center for State Courts

(NCSC).

CMP is the only program of its kind in the United States. It's part of a two-phase course geared toward helping court managers improve their skills and abilities. The NCSC mission is to improve judicial administration through the development of court leaders and by providing evaluative services to help courts better serve the public. Over the years, the NCSC

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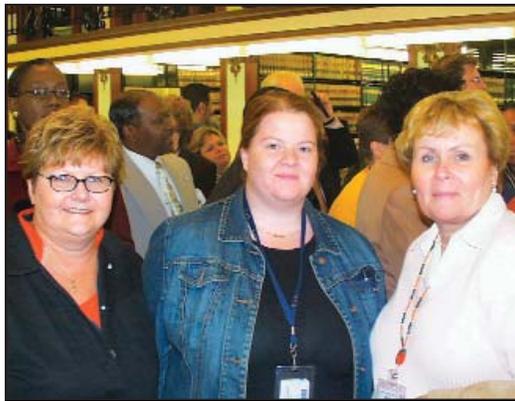
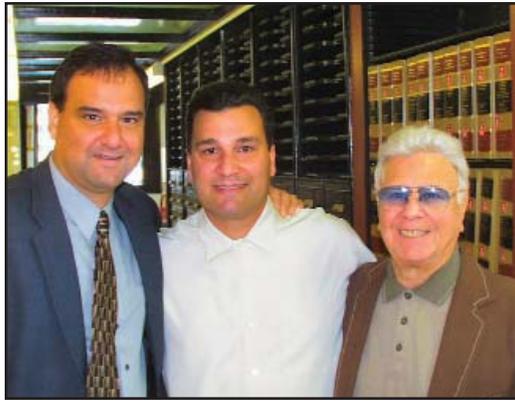
Best of the FJD

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and some of the best local talent including boxer **Jackie Frazier** (daughter of “Smokin’ Joe” Frazier), **Sonny Hill** and **Dawn Timoney** from NBC Channel 10 News. While the winners received due recognition, the celebration highlighted the fact that with such a diversity of talent, interests, and personalities, the FJD is the real winner of when it comes to the Best Employees. Moreover, everyone got to know each other better.

The project was begun and spearheaded by **President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson** heading a committee that included **Glenn Bozzacco Esq.** (Juvenile Branch Deputy Court Administrator), **Kristin Wojnar** (Prothonotary), **Don Varley** (Internet Director), **Harold Palmer** (Data Processing Programmer Supervisor), **Mario D’Adamo Esq.** (Juvenile Branch Deputy Court Administrator), **Elena Matta** (CP Office of the President Judge), **Bonnie O’Kane** (Deputy Prothonotary), **Ruth Bell Esq.** (CP Office of the President Judge), Emcee **Bob Partana**, **Nancy Pollis** (Juvenile Branch Deputy Administration), **Jim Clark** (FJD Law Librarian), President Judge Massiah-Jackson, **Joseph Evers** (Prothonotary), and **Frank Talent** (Municipal Court).

As the pictures reveal, a great time was had by all. Congratulations to the Best of the FJD!



Reporter Wins Speed Contest

In a national contest this summer, Court Reporter Catrina Muller was one of only 10 court reporters – out of 65 participants – to pass the stringent National Real-time Speed Contest at the Annual Court Reporters’ Association Convention. Real-time Transcription is a process where the court reporter takes notes of testimony which are instantly (hence “real-time”) translated and provided in visual format on monitors in courtrooms. Among other advantages, this is a real boon to the deaf and hard-of-hearing who may now read testimony as it is spoken.

Real-time court reporting has one very important requirement: the reporter must have excellent skills of the highest caliber to reliably take testimony and have it provided in real-time without additional editing.

Catrina is one such reporter. She should be as proud of her accomplishments as we are of her. Congratulations!

Working Together to Improve Performance

On July 23, 2004 the Domestic Relations Branch, under the guidance of Family Court Administrative Judge **Myrna Field**, held its first court-wide training for employees. The goal of the day was to stress the importance of achieving Performance Measures, and to relate the message that the goal can only be reached if we work together. Each and every employee's contribution to this effort is important and the Training Day was designed to relay that message.

Domestic Relations Deputy Court Administrator **Mary Lou Baker** acted as host and introduced a number of presenters. FJD Court

Administrator **Joseph Cairone** delivered the keynote address. **Daniel Richard**, Director of Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, was very entertaining as he brought home the messages concerning data reliability, program operations, and Philadelphia's accomplishments.

Other presenters included **Doug Cooper**, PASCETI Instructor, **Marilyn Youcum**, Supervisor Bureau of Child Support Enforcement (BCSE) and **Karen Ensor**, BCSE, **Bruce Eichelberger**, Supervisor Performance Review BCSE, and DR's own **Roy Chambers III**, Director, Operations and

Interstate Services. Also presenting were, Edward Lehmann, Supervisor, Data Management, and Karen Leone, Training Coordinator.

Employees were treated to breakfast and lunch. Several door prizes were given away, including gift certificates to Lord and Taylor's. The day was a resounding success. The event paved the way for future training efforts that will reach out to all employees and allow them to see how their individual efforts are important components to the overall success of the Domestic Relations Branch, the Family Division, and the First Judicial District.

Joseph G. Glackin, Adult Probation
Vincent Mancini, Domestic Relations
Theresa M. Cannon, MC Civil
Amy E. Goldman, Domestic Relations
Christopher M. Smith, Domestic Rel.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Antoinette J. Ogle, Domestic Relations
Deborah E. Dailey, Civil Administration
Jonquil D. Clark, Domestic Relations
Karen A. Leone, Domestic Relations
Clifford W. Baumbach III, MIS
Michael P. Spaziano, Tipstaff
Rochelle B. Batties, Juvenile Branch
Patricia A. Maglio, Domestic Relations
Elaine M. McCray, Juvenile Branch
Henry J. Logan, Building & Facilities
Debra H. Ballard Flamer, Court Rep.
Peter J. Fitzsimmons, Juvenile Branch
Margaret Clark, Court Reporters
Judith A. Romano, Court Reporters
William C. Schwartz, MIS
Peter P. Shelinsky, Jr., Domestic Rel.
Elizabeth P. Vanacore, Juvenile Branch
Joseph F. Pellegrino III, Procurement
William T. Rice, Trial Division
Edward J. Bogan, Tipstaff
Peggy A. Hodges, Traffic Court
Patricia A. Mollvain, Active Crim. Rec.
Celeste C. Barnabei, Domestic Rel.
Paul J. Kubach, Juvenile Branch
Andrea L. Lipford, Juvenile Branch

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Thomas R. Piselli, Judge Sylvester
Renee D. Roman, Juvenile Branch
Jacqueline Saxon, Adult Probation
Michael Manning, Building & Facilities
Lynn N. Roman, Juvenile Branch
Robert M. Mangam, Active Crim. Rec.
Robert S. Meenan, Adult Probation
Edward T. Parker, Adult Probation
Hazeline Ward, Juvenile Branch
Jerrold Rosenthal, Juvenile Branch
Arlene B. Bey, Jury Selection
Michael P. Mattia, Prothonotary
Kathleen R. Frangos, Data Processing
James H. King, Juvenile Branch
Joseph P. Martucci, Budget/Fiscal
Edward V. Quinn, Jr., Adult Probation
Alfred R. Carlone, Criminal Listings
Kathleen Fitzpatrick, MIS
Donna A. Varano, Active Crim. Records

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Geraldine I. Martin, Juvenile Branch
William J. McMonagle, Domestic Rel.
Frank M. Snyder, Adult Probation
Patricia R. Bruno-Porter, Judge Lynn
Alfreda R. Adams, Active Crim. Records

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maureen P. DiSipio, Traffic Court

Judges Address Chinese Conference

Two distinguished First Judicial District jurists recently returned from a trip to China where they addressed an important gathering

authorities to help provide insight into such basic principles as the rule of law that U.S. citizens have enjoyed since the framers of the constitution established that concept right here in Philadelphia hundreds of years ago.

China is presently trying to break free of their communist-based and controlled legal system to institute a judicial system similar to that which Americans have come to take for granted. A major topic addressed was diversity. Chinese judges and those working for the courts also know the pressures of trying to fairly resolve thousands of cases, with the numbers growing every day. In an interesting comparison, the Chinese have for thousands of years recognized the value of

mediation and alternative dispute resolution – ideas that are relatively new but growing in popularity here in the West.



Judge Lisa Rau

concerned with bringing about sweeping changes to that country's legal system. Judges **Patricia McInerney** and **Lisa M. Rau** were invited by Chinese



Judge Patricia McInerney

We should be proud that two of our own FJD judges were honored by being chosen to speak about the American legal system.

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has performed many studies that have helped the FJD to become what is arguably the premier court system in the country FJD.

Beginning in 2000, Harold studied various elements of court administration including: technology, caseload, research and analysis, budget, human resources, and the Trial Court Performance Standards that describe what model courts should be. Harold became intimately familiar with these and many other aspects of the best

practices in court management by attending classes at NCSC learning centers, writing papers, and participating in web-based classes.

While the work has been demanding, the National Center is very well-respected in its field. Harold is committed to this program. He's also quick to acknowledge the support of FJD court leaders. Harold wants to eventually achieve the prestigious status of an Institute of Court Management Fellow, and

then become a court administrator to utilize his abilities to benefit the cause of justice.

Congratulations to Harold Palmer. He's quietly working hard to improve himself, the administration of justice, and the people who have come to rely on "the premier court system in the country" – the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

Right: Harold Palmer shows off his certificate.



Around the FJD



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, the weekly Bible class that meets weekly in City Hall Women's Bible Study group again participated in Operation Christmas Child. With many additional FJD volunteers, 167 shoeboxes were packed with toys, school supplies and other gifts and \$325 cash was raised to help cover the shipping costs. This represented an increase of 60 boxes over last year, more than tripling the number packed in the first year. The largest children's Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an organization founded by Franklin Graham, the son of the Rev. Billy Graham. Since 1993, millions of shoe box gifts have been collected in the United States and ten other countries for delivery to boys and girls in over 120 countries.

Above left (front row kneeling left to right): Maria Criniti and Barbara Koch. Front row standing from left: Carole Scurry, Michelle Campbell, Lee Swiacki, Donna Candelora, Joyce Ferrero, Evelyn Thompson, and Franzella Parsons. Back row standing from left: Donna Glynn, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Chris Adair, Staci Wickizer, Debbie Dailey, Maryjo Mirarchi, and Marcia Bloomfield.

Above right: Court Administration's Lee Swiacki surveys the pile of packages.



JURY SELECTION CARES

Above: When the city asked for volunteers to raise money for breast cancer research, the Jury Selection staff rose to the occasion, raising \$2,900. Above (left to right): Patrick Martin, Arlene Bey, Michele DiPietro, Tanya Covington, and Jury Commissioner Roger Gordon.



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Above: Deputy Court Administrator David Wasson, Esquire (left) and a friend at the Criminal Justice Center holiday party.

Left: Jury Selection's Cynthia Young and Helen Holdsworth.

Roll Call Room Dedicated to Joe LeClaire

A stirring formal ceremony was held in courtroom 653 City Hall on September 24, 2004. With Municipal Court President Judge **Louis J. Prezenza**, Trial Division Administrative Judge **James J. Fitzgerald**, and Criminal Supervising Judge **Webster D. Keogh** presiding, the Warrant Unit Roll Call Room was dedicated to the memory of Sergeant **Joseph LeClaire**, who was killed in the line of duty. Also in attendance was Common Pleas Court President Judge and Chair of the AGB, **Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson**.

Once the substantial crowd of attendees found their seats, the available Warrant Officers marched in with military precision. Court Administrator **Joseph A. Cairone** presented the ceremony participants. Following remarks by judicial leaders, a plaque memorializing the dedication was presented by Administrative Judge Fitzgerald to **Tom Press**, Managing Investigator. Members of Sergeant LeClaire's family were also present. In a bittersweet coincidence, it was his widow Gretchen's birthday.

Gretchen LeClaire later wrote to say "thank you" to President Judge Massiah-Jackson, Adminis-

trative Judge Fitzgerald, Supervising Investigator Tom Press, Court Administrator **Joe Cairone**, **Dave Preski**, Deputy Court Administrator for Criminal **Dave Wasson**, **Cynthia Giacobetti**, **Gary Cenna**, and all the members of the Warrant Unit. These FJD representatives had shown Ms. LeClaire the true caring spirit that exemplifies the leaders and employees of the First Judicial District.

As it had been Ms. LeClaire's birthday, she treated it as a profoundly moving gift. She said "You have all been there for me...This has touched me so deep in my heart...I will never forget this, what this means to me. ...I will never forget what kind of people and love...comes from the Warrant Unit."

We thank you Ms. LeClaire, for your sacrifice, and for recognizing that FJD judges and employees are caring, thoughtful, and loyal to the end.

Right above: Officers stand at attention during the dedication ceremony.

Right: Administrative Judge Fitzgerald hands the dedication plaque to Supervising Investigator Tom Press.



Doctors' Note On Patient Charts

- "Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year."
- "The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1993."
- "Discharge status: Alive but without permission."
- "The patient refused an autopsy."
- "Patient has left his white blood cells at another hospital."
- "She is numb from her toes down."
- "The skin was moist and dry."
- "Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches."
- "Patient was alert and unresponsive."
- "I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy."
- "Patient has two teenage children but no other abnormalities."
- "Skin: Somewhat pale but present."
- "By the time he was admitted, his rapid heart stopped, and he was feeling better."
- "The patient was in his usual state of good health until his airplane ran out of gas and crashed."
- "When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room."
- "The patient expired on the floor uneventfully."

The Courterly Editorial Board

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All members of the FJD are encouraged to submit ideas or suggestions. Submissions may be made to the department representatives above, to Len Hacking in Room 395 City Hall or via email to len.hacking@courts.phila.gov.