

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts
Open To All, Trust By All, Justice for All

November 2007
Volume XXIII Number 3

2006 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern

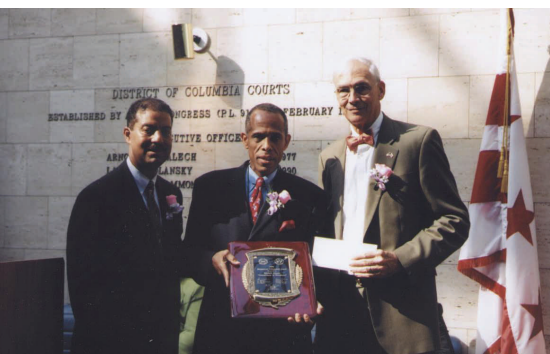
On Friday September 27, 2007, the Twenty-Sixth Annual District of Columbia Courts' Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony took place. This annual ceremony serves as an opportunity for judges and court administrators to acknowledge and thank court employees for their dedication, commitment and hard work over the past year. The third floor



Public Service Award (Individual) Recipient Mr. Julio Delgado

atrium was full as court staff waited anxiously for the event to commence. The ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the Anacostia High School JROTC Color Guard, and beautiful singing of the National Anthem by Wilernita Mangum, Deputy Clerk, Domestic Violence Unit. The attendees were welcomed by Anne B. Wicks, Executive Officer, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Eric T. Washington, and Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Rufus G. King, III.

"This ceremony looks for the best possible way to serve as a thank you to staff for service to the citizens of the District of Columbia," proclaimed Chief Judge Washington. Later, Chief Judge Washington presented the Individual Public Service Award to Mr. Julio Delgado of the Superior Court's Criminal Division. Each day, Mr. Delgado provides invaluable assistance to judges and chambers staff. His tasks include contacting each attorney the day before their matter is on



Mr. Michael Francis received the Management Achievement Award

the calendar, preparing accurate calendars, and providing training to Judicial Administrative Assistants and law clerks regarding criminal matters. He starts each day energetically and consistently performs all his duties in and outside the

courtroom with excellence.

Next, the Unsung Hero Award was presented to Mr. Derrick Monroe, Branch Supervisor of Civil Actions in the Civil Division. Mr. Monroe was described as an exceptional model employee respected by people throughout the two courts. As Civil Actions Branch Supervisor, he supervised his staff's transition to electronic filing (E-filing) and CourtView. Exhibiting the utmost diligence and dependability, Mr. Monroe is someone who truly leads by example and is dedicated to the mission of the court, exactly what is meant by "Unsung Hero."

The next recipient was someone who could be called the father of the two Community Courts. For this and other achievements, Mr. Michael Francis was presented with the Management Achievement Award. Mr. Francis created a partnership with the Howard University School of Social Work and oversees graduate level students working with defendants charged with misdemeanors. Additionally, Mr. Francis has developed partnerships with Unity Healthcare, to help those without health insurance. With this partnership, staff from Unity Healthcare come to the Courthouse Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and people without healthcare are interviewed and registered to receive free healthcare from D.C. hospitals and clinics. Over 600 D.C. residents have been found eligible to receive free healthcare because of this Community Court initiative. In October



Unsung Hero Award Recipient Mr. Derrick Monroe

2007, with the further efforts of Mr. Francis, partnerships were established with the District's Department of Mental Health, Department of Employment Services, and the Addiction Prevention Recovery Administration of the Department of Health. These departments work to provide people in the Community Courts with a variety of services, including mental health counseling, work force development, job training, and substance abuse treatment.

(Continued on p.5)

Included in this issue:

- 2 Installation of Magistrate Judges**
- 3 First Management Training Program Graduation**
- 3 Excellent Service Award to Laura Reed**
- 4 National Jury Duty Stamp**
- 6 9th Annual Back to School Bash**
- 6 The Friendship House Association Volunteer Program**
- 7 New Employee at the Courts**
- 7 Rave Reviews**
- 8 Memories are Forever**

INSTALLATION OF MAGISTRATE JUDGES IRVING AND DEMEO By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern



Magistrate Judge Alfred S. Irving Jr. and Magistrate Judge Marisa J. Demeo

On Friday September 7, 2007, Alfred S. Irving Jr. and Marisa J. Demeo were sworn in as Superior Court Magistrate Judges. Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III presided over the ceremony. In addition to their colleagues on the Superior Court and Court of Appeals, a number of distinguished guests attended the ceremony, including U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Antonia Hernandez, President of the California Community Foundation and Past President of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

Magistrate Judge Irving received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Wake Forest University in 1981. While working for MCI Telecommunications, he attended law school at Georgetown University Law Center and received a Juris Doctor in 1987. After gaining significant experience in private practice and other endeavors, Magistrate Judge Irving joined the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) as a trial attorney in 1993. He received numerous awards and commendations for outstanding service while at DoJ. Irving is an enthusiastic supporter of the arts and education. Over the years he has served as Vice-Chair of the DoJ Association of Black Attorneys, in which capacity he participated in the D.C. Bar's Voluntary Bar Leadership Group; he was elected to serve on the D.C. Bar Litigation Section Steering Committee and was recently selected to serve as its Co-Chair; and he participated in the D.C. Bar's Pro Bono Program, providing legal services to individuals through the Bar's Advice and Referral Clinic.

Magistrate Judge Demeo, a native of the metropolitan D.C. area, graduated from Princeton University in 1988, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Politics with a concentration in Latin American studies. After working as a paralegal for two years in DoJ's Civil Rights Division, she attended New York University School of Law, graduating in 1993. Having served with distinction as an Honors Program trial attorney in DoJ's Civil Rights Division Employment Litigation Section, she left the Department to work

for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, receiving numerous community service and leadership awards. In 2003, Magistrate Judge Demeo joined the D.C. United States Attorney's Office as an Assistant United States Attorney and received two awards for her outstanding work. In addition, Judge Demeo served as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law, and in 2005 was appointed by the Court of Appeals to the D.C. Access to Justice Commission.

Remarks were offered by a number of past colleagues and friends. Magistrate Judge Irving's dear friend, Devarieste Curry, praised his accomplishments and involvement in civic activities. Judge Demeo's former supervisor, Antonia Hernandez, spoke eloquently of her intellect, dedication and commitment. During Magistrate Judge Irving's investiture the Bible was held by his partner, Dr. Robert Benedetti, and he was robed by his parents Alfred S. Irving Sr. and Christine H. Irving. Magistrate Judge Demeo's partner, Angela Arboleda, held the Bible and Associate Judge Laura Cordero robed her. Following the ceremony there was a reception in the west wing of the Atrium. "I am honored by the appointment and very excited about and energized by this new adventure," remarked Magistrate Judge Irving.



FIRST MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM CLASS GRADUATES: A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern

What happens when 22 employees are competitively selected to be in the Management Training Program and participate in the difficult process of learning to tap into their leadership potential? Well, ask the first graduates of the Management Training Program and you will see what happens when learning stops being polite, and starts being real.

On September 28, 2006, 22 employees of the D. C. Courts were selected to take part in the Center for Education and Training's first Management Training Program. This year-long program was designed to help educate and train employees to become more effective leaders and equip them with the skills necessary to handle the greater responsibilities of leadership. The dynamic program consisted of two full day classes a month, often co-taught by senior D. C. Court officials and nationally recognized experts. The classes focused on topics such as problem solving, personal effectiveness, situational leadership, emotional intelligence, and team building skills, to name just a few.

The co-facilitators, Keith Robinson and Wanda Johnson Starke, took the employees under their wings and provided assistance every step of the way. "It was so very interesting to see each of the employees develop into stronger leaders and enhance their leadership skills during the program," said Keith Robinson. The criteria for employees selection into the program was at least three years of experience within the D.C. Courts, a recommendation from their respective division director, and a program application.

No one knew what to expect. When asked how they felt about the room where the introductory meeting was taking place some employees said the room was "cold, uncomfortable, and tomb-like." However, one employee, Sharon Holliday, through the course of the program developed a different view. Ms. Holliday illustrated her experience with the process in the stirring speech she delivered during the graduation ceremony.

"The room became womb like. You see it was this room that we met each other (conception), in this room we gained a wealth of knowledge that has stimulated our intellect (nourishment), in this room we wrestled with the harshness of reality as it pertains to management and leadership (development) and

from this room on the 10th of September, 2007 we emerged (birthed)."

During the course of the program the employees were divided into five teams, performed research with available resources, did journal entry activities, and were challenged to develop an idea to better facilitate the mission of the courts. The group whose project won included members Corenthia Patterson-Adams, Suzanne Bailey Jones, Edith Clipper, and Norman Barrett. Their project was "At Your Service Court Greeters Program." This program is designed to enhance the accessibility and approachability of the Courts. This group was awarded and recognized along with all the other graduates at the Annual 2006 Employee Awards Ceremony.

When surveyed about the Management Training Program 93.3% of the graduates said it was "Excellent and would recommend it to someone else." Overall the program is widely seen as a great success and achievement within the D.C. Courts, and the Center for Education and Training has gotten many plaudits. "The program showed us our strengths and minimized our weaknesses, and was overall rewarding," Ms. Holliday explained. The next class of 22 has begun their training and will graduate in September 2008. Congratulations to the first class and best of luck to the current candidates. The Courts anticipate benefiting from your leadership for many years.



Sharon Holliday, Branch Supervisor from Family Court, was the Class Spokesperson for Management Training Program Class 2007.

LAURA BANKS REED RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENT SERVICE

By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern

The non-profit organization My Sister's Place, which provides shelter and support services to victims of domestic violence, recently gave its Special Friend Award to Ms. Laura Banks Reed, Director of the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP). The award recognizes a person who provides excellent service to victims of domestic violence.

The CVCP assists innocent victims of violent crime and their families with crime-related expenses such as funeral and burial costs, medical and mental health costs, lost wages, loss of support and services, clean up of a crime scene and, for victims of domestic violence, the cost of temporary shelter. Crime victims also receive assistance in filing applications, locating victim service programs, support groups, or mental health counselors, and handling quality of life issues that arise after victimization.

The Crime Victims Compensation Program has partnered with My Sister's Place in a special project to provide therapeutic counseling and case management to domestic violence victims who are temporarily housed in hotels. The therapeutic services are provided on-site at the hotel and are extremely beneficial to the women and children who are housed there.

Director Reed, a native of the District of Columbia, has been with the Courts for 17 years. Previously she served as Assistant Deputy Register of Wills, and has been the director of CVCP for over 11 years. "I am honored to be recognized by My Sister's Place," responded Ms. Reed. Let us extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Reed as she contributes so much to the mission of the D.C. Courts.

NATIONAL JURY DUTY STAMP UNVEILED AT MOULTRIE COURTHOUSE

By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern



On September 12, 2007, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a new stamp that celebrates one of the most vital pillars of the American democratic system of government: jury service. The stamp was unveiled in concurrent events in D.C. and New York City. The D.C. Superior Court joined with the U.S. Postal service in hosting the stamp in Washington, D.C. to emphasize the importance of jury duty and our appreciation for those who serve jury duty. The ceremony took place in the Board of Judges Conference Room of the Moultrie Courthouse. Chief Judge King, Acting U.S. District Court Chief Judge (and former Superior Court Judge) Ricardo Urbina, and D.C. Postmaster Yverne Pat Moore spoke at the event, which was emceed by Superior Court Clerk Duane Delaney.

A mobile post office parked outside the courthouse sold the jury duty stamps and a unique one-day-only envelope featuring a pictorial postmark – designed by our own Dennis Shipley – for the “H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse Station” and an image of a jury box. The stamps may now be purchased at any U.S. Post Office.

Postmaster Moore said that the purpose of the stamp is to call attention to the importance of fulfilling one’s civic duty to serve on a jury, as well as to generate more interest in jury duty. Art director Carl T. Herrman and the stamp’s designer Lance

Hidy emphasized that the U.S. Constitution provides citizens the right to trial by a jury of their peers. Without jurors fulfilling this civic responsibility, this constitutional provision would be meaningless and our criminal justice system could not function.

Ms. Moore also spoke about the origins of the American jury system, which can be traced all the way back to the legal processes of medieval England. During the rule of King Henry II legal procedures known as “assizes” brought together 12 local men to settle debate over ownership and inheritance. Eventually, these procedures were also put to use in resolving criminal cases, and were carried over into the American legal system.

In addition to Chief Judges King and Urbina and Postmaster Moore, a local couple, James and Maxine Moore, also helped unveil the stamp. Mr. and Mrs. Moore met - 17 years ago - while serving jury duty together at D.C. Superior Court. Although the case for which the Moores were jurors ended up in a hung jury after several days of deliberation, they made a lasting impression on each other and decided to keep in touch. After dating for six years they got married in November of 1996 and have been living happily together on a quiet block in Northeast Washington ever since.

The Jury Duty stamp unveiling ceremony was a great event and showed those in attendance that jury duty is essential to our criminal justice system and that we all have our part to play. To see coverage of the stamp event in the *Washington Post* and *Washington Times*, as well as Fox 5, go to <http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/about/media/index.jsp>

The Full Court Press is published by the District of Columbia Courts to provide information about the D. C. Courts. Inquiries should be submitted to Room 1500.

*Leah Gurowitz, Editor
David Chin-shin Chang, Guest Creative Director*

The Defender Services Branch of the Budget and Finance Division received the Office Public Service Award for their productivity. Under the leadership of Wallace S. Lewis, III, this office, with the Court's IT Division, has substantially improved the efficiency with which court-appointed attorneys are paid through the creation, implementation, and use of the Web Voucher System (WVS). This system allows processing of 43,000 vouchers coming through the Courts each year in a timely and structured manner, saving time and money.

Ms. Anne B. Wicks presented the Center for Education and Training (CET) with the Enterprise Service Award. Committed to providing the highest quality educational and training opportunities to all of the Courts' employees, CET has worked tirelessly to develop consistently high quality, carefully planned and professionally managed training programs. This past year CET presented over 110 classes with over 14,500 training hours offered, with an attendance of over 1,800 participants. CET has achieved two milestones this year, the first court-wide Training Conference and Division Fair and the Courts' first Management Training Program for competitively selected Court personnel. Both proved to be notable successes. From the Management Training Program the Team Project Winners were: Corenthia Patterson-Adams, Suzanne Bailey-Jones, Edith Clipper, and Norman Barrett for their "At Your Service: Court Greeters Program" which will enhance the accessibility and approachability of the Courts.

Employees with 10, 20, and 30 years of service to the District of Columbia were honored with Length of Service Awards. In addition, over 130 Court employees received the Performance Incentive Award for ratings of outstanding, and more than 200 employees received the award for ratings of exceeds expectations. Special thanks and honors were given to 2006 retirees of the District of Columbia Courts as they were all asked to stand for recognition. Ms. Debra Swingon-Stokes graced the ceremony with a musical selection.

At the end of the ceremony, Ms. Wicks gave special recognition to Mr. Willard Stephens for his 13 years of work as chair of the Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony Committee. From 1995 through 2007, Mr. Stephens led the tireless efforts of this small group of enthusiastic and committed employees who plan and organize the awards ceremony, attending to every detail to make the ceremony a festive celebration and meaningful tribute to the employees of the D.C. Courts.

Heartfelt congratulations to all the 2006 Awardees!



Defender Services Branch received the Public Service Award (Office)



Center for Education and Training received the Enterprise Service Award



Executive Officer Ms. Anne B. Wicks presented a plaque in appreciation to Mr. Willard Stephens for his chairing the Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony Committee for the past 13 years.



Ms. Debra Swingon-Stokes sang a musical selection to close the ceremony



Management Training Program Team Project Winners—Mr. Norman Barrett, Ms. Suzanne Bailey-Jones, Ms. Edith Clipper, and Ms. Corenthia Patterson-Adams.

9TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BASH By Dorothy Coleman, Child Care Center Director

The Courts' Child Care Center hosted the Ninth Annual Back to School Bash on August 16, 2007. Children and parents were treated to a pizza party, with an abundance of beverages and a rich chocolate cake for dessert. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Jeffrey Lett-Scott of A Clown4U, who performed magic and got the children involved in guessing the outcome of his tricks. Ten children received door prizes, and there were prizes given to the first and last child to arrive. Parents were given a booklet, *Caring for Yourself Leads to Caring for Your Family*, including information collected by the staff of the Child Care Center. The booklet provides tips on happiness, health and the importance of Laughing, Living and Loving to a healthy lifestyle.



Child Care Center staff and volunteers from the DC Summer Youth Program show the backpacks.

Child Care Center Director Dorothy Coleman had asked that we add a note here extending a thank you to all of those who helped make the Back to School Bash a success. We are sure that they would want us to extend to her a tremendous thank you for her years of service, dedication and affection to the children of D.C., and all our best wishes on her retirement. From all of us at the D.C. Courts, we will miss you, the children will miss you, but we wish you all the rest and relaxation you so richly deserve!

The event once again brought smiles to the faces of the children who attended. (Children referred by the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Office and the Child Care Center.) The FRIENDS of Superior Court gave the children a head start with preparedness for school, providing them with backpacks stuffed with school supplies (notebooks, filler paper, folders, crayons, rulers, scissors, pens, pencils, pencil boxes and a book). The books were donated by A Clown4U. Beverley Gibbs of CCAN assisted with securing the school supplies that were given out.

Linda Allen-Benton, President of FRIENDS, which has sponsored this event for many years, said, "This is the best [one] yet!"



Mr. Jeffrey Lett-Scott of A Clown4U provided entertainment.

THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

By Deborah Taylor-Godwin, Director, Civil Division, Superior Court

In October 2006, the Civil Division asked Executive Officer Anne Wicks to consider obtaining volunteer workers from the Friendship House Program. After several weeks of discussions between Civil Division Director Deborah Taylor-Godwin and Alfreda White, Director of the Workforce Development & TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Program at Friendship House, Ms. Wicks signed a formal agreement with the Friendship House Association. The purpose of Friendship's TANF Program is to move clients from dependency to independence by helping them find gainful employment. Friendship House seeks work experience placement that will hopefully yield a job offer for the customer on the work site and/or marketable skills that can be transferred to another opportunity.

At Superior Court, Civil Division managers provide position descriptions to Friendship House, which evaluates candidates and refers them to the managers to interview. The interview, screening and 'hiring' process follows the same Human

Resources protocol as for court employees. Once the candidates are cleared by the Human Resources Division, they immediately begin work and are assigned to any of the Civil Division's four branches. Friendship House volunteers can work up to 30 hours per week, Monday through Friday, at no cost to the Court.

The program started slowly, but has definitely 'caught on.' Three volunteers are presently working in the Civil Division: Sheila Branch in the Civil Actions Branch; Ramonda Jefferson in the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch; and Shenelle Glover in the Landlord Tenant Branch. The volunteers are diligent and committed workers and have become a part of the Court family. One volunteer was recently recommended for a full-time permanent position in the Landlord Tenant Branch. Managers have expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the volunteers and hope to see more referrals in the future.

NEW EMPLOYEE AT THE COURTS

By Antonio Kizzie, Executive Office Intern



Kenneth Frazier

The District of Columbia Courts are proud to introduce one of our newest employees, Mr. Kenneth Frazier of the Criminal Division. Mr. Frazier began his employment with the Courts September 17, 2007 following his retirement as Lieutenant from the Prince George's County Police Department after 22 years of service. Previously, Mr. Frazier served within the United States Marine Corps for four years and Metropolitan Police Department as a law enforcement officer for three years. Currently, he is the Criminal Division's Arraignment Coordinator, supervising the Criminal Division Intake Office and C-10 courtroom

staff. "I am enjoying the new challenges the position offers, and I am looking forward to learning more about the Courts in my new role as a staff member," commented Mr. Frazier. With an educational background in criminal justice, and over 29 years in law enforcement, Mr. Frazier says that he "wanted to do something different while continuing employment with an agency that would offer a career and position that I was familiar with." As a seasoned veteran we can look forward to great work from Mr. Frazier and we welcome this new member of the Court family.

Rave Reviews

Comment
I want the Court to know how appreciative I am of the exceptionally courteous + efficient service given to me by Lawrence (do not know last name) in Court reporter office
Ray Shaw

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark A Bloomfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2007 10:43 AM
To: Blassic, Donna
Cc: Farris, Gary
Subject: Kudos on operation of D.C. Superior Court Juror Program

Dear Donna,
May I ask you to forward the email below to Chief Judge Rufus King III?
Many thanks,
Mark

Dear Chief Judge Rufus King III:
In today's world, too many people have no hesitancy offering criticism; yet, forget to offer kudos to things that work out well and to thank people for doing a good job and extending themselves beyond their narrow job description.
Mr. Chief Judge, may I take this opportunity to express thanks for the extremely well run petit jury process in which I participated yesterday. Yes, I have some serious problems with the court system in the District of Columbia which I was going to raise before the Judge when I was called but that urge dissipated as a result of the way Gary Farris and his colleagues handled the petit jury process yesterday. Gary could not have been more professional, courteous, thoughtful and just plain kind in handling all of us potential jurors who probably by and large did not want to be there. Ditto for the staff in the jury office for their cheerfulness, respectfulness and efficiency.
You have a first rate team and I wanted to be sure to let you know.
Sincerely,
Mark Bloomfield

Mr. Anthony Rainey
Chief Financial Officer
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.

Re: CCAN Vouchers

Dear Mr. Rainey:

It is a great pleasure to bring to your attention the immediate and excellent assistance today of the Messrs. Wallace and Conyers in a matter regarding a voucher that I had submitted in the fourth quarter of 2005.

Your office, with such a small staff, performs, in my view, miracles with respect to issuing vouchers and then processing them.

I hope you will consider these laudatory comments for the Messrs. Wallace and Conyers when you prepare their next evaluations.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Jack H. Kindsvatter
Jack H. Kindsvatter

cc: Mr. Wallace
Mr. Conyers

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Mar 6 12 16 PM '05
RECEIVED

Ms. Darlene Ellis
Deputy Director, Court Reporting
D.C. Superior Court
800 Indiana Avenue, NW
Room 5500
Washington, DC 20001

February 23, 2007

Subject: Note of Appreciation concerning Ms. Susan Quick

Dear Ms. Ellis,

For several years I have been involved in the management of human resources. Thus, I have some experience for knowing when a person deserves an encouraging tap on the shoulder and when he/she deserves a real praise and commendation for exceptional performance and work ethics.

What I am about to say concerning Ms. Quick is not an opportunistic flattery, but an observed fact. Although I know her only through correspondence and telephone conversations, in my quest of pride to her institution, On top of her great competence and efficiency, she incorporates those rare and precious human qualities that all people working in judicial institutions should possess. Ms. Quick, has the particular gifts of understanding and of compassion. She makes you feel that she is there to serve you and that you are welcome to discuss with her your problems. Such an attitude means so much for families who are under great pain and distress by having one of their family members in a tragic situation. Unfortunately, many decent civil servants who, for years, have heard too many cries and seen too many grieving people end up by being insensitive to human pain, when not altogether indifferent to it.

You can imagine, therefore, my joy to fall on such an exceptional person. What a blessing to deal with her! She has the gift of listening to you, of explaining to you and to sympathize with your pain. If there is something in her power to do, she does it efficiently and expeditiously, without making you feel that you have overruled her patience.

My humble voice bears no other force than acknowledging the merits of an exceptional civil servant. Through you, I would like to let her know how deeply grateful I am for all her kindness and assistance, and that I pray for her to have the fortitude to continue with the same kindness and understanding. I wish her great success in her career.

Thank you.

MEMORIES ARE FOREVER By Executive Office Intern Antonio Kizzie

On Friday September 21, 2007 staff, friends, and family celebrated the retirement from 36 years of dedicated service to the Courts and Criminal Division of Ms. Sophia B. Boyette. The day of Ms. Boyette's retirement celebration, the billboard in the front entrance of the Jury Cafeteria read "Memories are Forever."

Sophia Boyette, a native of Fremont, NC, graduated from Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, North Carolina before she decided to move to Forestville, Maryland with her family. Later, she attended Action School of Data Processing in Washington, D.C., graduating with a specialization in data processing. Following a brief period at the Navy Yard, a good friend of hers, Katie Taft, recommended that she try working in the D.C. Courts. "Katie said hey I heard they have an opening in data processing, you should try it," remarked Ms. Boyette. "And I thought ok, why not? Even though it was the last thing I thought I would do."

To her surprise she got accepted for the job, and began her career in the Courts on August 9, 1971 doing data processing in the Criminal Division under her first supervisor, Mary Moore. Later on she transferred to the Criminal Division where she worked on data processing and for Judge Hamilton, updating jackets and various other assignments until 1979. Additionally, in 1976 she became the first Courts female bailiff. She then worked for various other judges including Judge Joseph Ryan and Judge Harold Cushenberry. She continued clerking and data processing within the Criminal Division for an additional 16 years, and began her retirement this past summer.

When asked what was her most rewarding experience in the D.C. Courts, Ms. Boyette replied, "Being a public servant, helping people, staying neutral, interacting with wonderful judges and staff made working within the Courts very rewarding for me." Among those in attendance was her first supervisor, Mary Moore, who also began her retirement this past spring. Ms. Moore described Boyette as "very ambitious, showing initiative, and a people person with great dedication to her job and coworkers."

As people were seating themselves, D.C. guitarist John Lewis played smooth melodies of Bill Withers "Just the Two of Us" as well as "Amazing Grace" and "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Ms. Boyette is a proud mother of five children: Michael, Melanie, Danny, Kevin, and Timothy who all attended the ceremony. Additionally, Boyette has 13 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Boyette's grandchildren Antoine Grant, Timothy Boyette Jr., and Turhan Davage were also present.

The two Mistresses of Ceremonies, Karen Franklin and Yvonne Martinez-Vega, began the ceremony by welcoming guests as Sandra Cave gave the blessing. Afterwards, Ms. Belinda Carr read Boyette's biography and described her as "one tough sister." Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III, also spoke on behalf of Ms. Boyette and wished her all the best on her "next adventure."



Staff, friends, and family celebrated the retirement of Ms. Sophia B. Boyette.



Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III wished Ms. Boyette the best on her "next adventure."