

Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts

Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All

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THE COURTHOUSE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Nicole Chapman, Executive Office Intern

Black History Month 2008 celebrations kicked off Friday, February 15th. The first of two events celebrating this year's theme "The Origins of Multiculturalism" started it off with a bang. It began with Mr. Louis Kelly, Acting Program Manager, Intake Services and Juvenile Drug Court Branch, Court Social Services Division, opening the ceremony with a prediction that we were all about to witness something special happen. He was correct.

Debra Swington-Stokes, Administrative Assistant in the Executive Office, led the crowd in a rendition of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by James Weldon Johnson. District



Debra Swington-Stokes and H. Clifton Grandy led the crowd in a rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

of Columbia Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington followed Debra, advising the audience to "Take this opportunity to be reminded of our rich heritage." He then called Superior Court Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler to the stage to introduce one of the afternoon's special guest speakers. Judge Saddler enthusiastically described her friend to the listeners. She said he was an honor roll student who loves science and math, studies the violin, and was a member of the chess club. "I'd like to introduce the wonderful, I'd be here all day if I used all the adjectives I could, Iffy Marshall," Judge Saddler finally proclaimed.

Iffy Marshall, half way into his first day of being eleven years old, stood in front of the crowd and recited from memory parts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. The audience was in awe as a powerful and unwavering presentation of the speech poured forth from such a young man. The speech concluded with the crowd in an uproar as Iffy raised his hand and shouted, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

After the standing ovation, Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III invited Iffy back up to the podium to present him with a plaque of appreciation for his participation in the D.C. Superior Court's Black History Month Program. He jokingly told the young man, "Leaders suffer getting a lot of plaques, I'm sure this is the first of many." Chief Judge King also surprised Iffy by leading the audience in singing "Happy Birthday." Before the next guest speaker took the podium, Debra Swington-Stokes performed another song. She presented an original piece entitled, "Give Me a Chance to Follow My Dreams." As indicated by the title, the song expressed hope and determination to follow one's



Iffy Marshall, recites Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

Included in this issue:

- 2 Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Awareness Month Calendar
- 3 New Employees
- 4 Town Hall Meeting
- 5 C-10
- 6-7 Black History Month
- 8 Valentine's Day at D.C. Superior Court
- 9 New Employee Training
- 10 Honors
- 11-12 Rave Reviews

See Black History Month - Continued on page 6.

COURT SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARENESS MONTH CALENDAR

	April 2008					
 Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	<p>Court and Chambers Security 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. ADT Security Systems (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>Demonstration- "Bomb Squad" 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Third Floor Atrium) Presenters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADT Security Systems • Metropolitan Police Department • D. C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services 		<p>Welcome, Welcome!</p>	<p>Courthouse Security: Lessons Learned and Future Directions 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Cramer, Trial Court Administrator, Fulton County (Atlanta) Superior Court • Zygmont Pines, State Court Administrator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Thomas Hedgepeth, Supervisory U.S. Deputy Marshal (Jurors Lounge) 	7	
	8	9	<p>Preventing Identity Theft 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Department of Justice Federal Credit Union (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>Information Security 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Andrew Eng, Information Technology Security Administrator (Executive Office Conf. Rm. 1500)</p> <p>* Court Security & Emergency Procedures 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Ben Clyde Afman & John Mickle, Deputy U.S. Marshals Criminal Division Courtroom Clerks Only (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p>	10	<p>* Court Security and Emergency Procedures 10:30 - 12:30 p.m. Ben Clyde Afman & John Mickle, Deputy U.S. Marshals For All Employees (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>Internet Security 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. U.S. Marshals Service (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>Workplace Violence Awareness 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. The American Red Cross (Room 609, Gallery Place)</p>	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	<p style="text-align: center;">Holiday District of Columbia Emancipation Day</p>		<p>Judicial and Personal Privacy Protections in the Digital Age 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Honorable James R. Brandlin Los Angeles County Superior Court (Judges Dining Room)</p>	21	
21	22	<p>Individual & Home Preparedness 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Kim McCall, D.C. Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>Metro Safety & Security Initiatives 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Ronald Bodmer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WAMATA) (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p> <p>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Third Floor Atrium)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WAMATA)/Metro • D.C. Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency • National Marrow Donor Program • Metropolitan Police Department • D. C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services • D. C. Department of Health 	<p>Security on the Internet 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Andrew Eng, Information Technology Security Administrator (Executive Office Conf. Rm. 1500)</p> <p>Preventing Identity Theft 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Department of Justice Federal Credit Union (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p>	24	<p>Information Security 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Andrew Eng, Information Technology Security Administrator (Executive Office Conf. Rm. 1500)</p>	25
28	29	30		<p>* Mandatory course for all employees. This course will be offered several times during the year.</p>	31	
<p>Protecting Yourself: Burglaries, Robberies and Muggings 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Live Safe America (Board of Judges Conf. Rm. 3300)</p>						

NEW EMPLOYEES

By Nicole Chapman, Executive Office Intern



Byron Robinson

One of the newest additions to the Civil Division's Landlord and Tenant Branch is Mr. Byron Robinson. He was hired as a file clerk at the end of last year. Byron is a native of Washington, D.C. and is currently

attending the University of the District of Columbia. He is majoring in criminal justice and feels this job will give him insight into the legal field. In his spare time Byron likes to watch movies and hang out with his four-year-old son, Micah. Welcome aboard!

Jennifer Aguilar

Another native Washingtonian, Ms. Jennifer Aguilar is also a new addition to the Landlord and Tenant Branch. She was hired as a bilingual deputy clerk. Formerly an accounts payable coordinator, Jennifer now assists



Spanish-speakers in the Landlord Tenant Branch file their paperwork. She reports that most of her non-work hours are spent with her two young children who are six and seven years old. "This position provides me with a lot of opportunity to grow and I look forward to sharing this experience with my coworkers; they have made me feel so welcomed," Jennifer enthused. She certainly is!



Atrina Smith

Let us welcome Ms. Atrina Smith to the D.C. Courts. She hails from Bowie, Maryland and has prior experience at the courts. Atrina recently interned for the Paternity and Child Support Branch of the Family Court.

When that internship was up, she was hired as a new deputy clerk in the Civil Division. When not at work, Atrina enjoys singing, writing and hanging out with her friends. She commented on her new position by saying "I llove it. Everyone is nice; we do a lot of work, but we have a lot of fun doing it." We are glad you joined us!

Kisha Morris

The Mental Health Branch of the Family Court gained another strong advocate when they hired Kisha Morris. She is the new Mental Retardation Volunteer Advocates Coordinator. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Kisha graduated from Iona College. She has a long history of service in the area of developmental disabilities. Her prior employment includes working at Anchor Mental Health in D.C. and Bowery Resident Committee where she assisted developmentally disabled people with substance abuse problems. When she is not at work she enjoys reading, working out, and listening to music. Kisha encourages everyone to, "Be a voice, be an advocate, be a volunteer." Welcome!

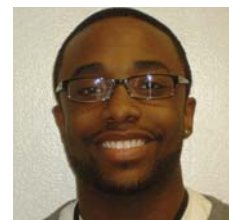


Erika Thompson

Ms. Erika Thompson joined the D.C. Courts, coming from the Maryland court system, this past December. Erika is from Suitland, Maryland and graduated from the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. She previously served as a District Court Commissioner for the District Court of Maryland, in Prince George's County. There her responsibilities included signing arrest warrants, scheduling initial hearings, and issuing protective orders. The D.C. Courts recently hired Erika as an assistant clerk in the Judge in Chambers office. She spends her free time traveling, reading, and writing poetry. "This is definitely a challenging position, but I'm up for the challenge," proclaimed Erika. We are pleased to have you!

Matthew Shumate

One of the most recent additions to the D.C. Superior Court family is Matthew Shumate. A native of Fort Washington, Maryland, Matthew currently attends Prince George Community College. A former employee of Bank of America, he joined Court staff for a more exciting career that will give him insight into the legal field. Matthew was hired at the beginning of January as a file clerk in the Civil Actions Branch of the Civil Division. He has been enjoying his time here ever since. Matthew especially enjoys working with his new colleagues from whom he learns about the legal system ...as well as about everyday life. "It is a privilege to work with such magnificent individuals whose sound principles are built upon raising people up."



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
Dennis Shipley, Creative Director*

TOWN HALL MEETING

By Michael O. Francis, Community Courts Coordinator

On Wednesday evening, November 14, 2007, the D.C. Superior Court and the Metropolitan Police Department's Seventh District (MPD-7D) joined together to host a "Crime, Criminal Justice and Community Issues" town hall meeting at Covenant Baptist Church located in southwest Washington. The meeting was part of the Community Courts' ongoing efforts to engage the community in dialogue and increase public awareness of the East of the River Community Court and the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court.

The Town Hall Meeting was well attended and provided an opportunity for residents of Ward 8 to ask questions about crime and the criminal justice system, raise community concerns, and learn more about the judicial and executive branches of the D.C. government. Residents also heard from three panels. The first panel included MPD Police Chief Cathy Lanier, Assistant Chief Winston Robinson, Commander Joel Maupin, Commander Melvin Scott, and Commander Alton Bigelow. The second panel included Judge Ann O' Regan Keary, Judge Lee Satterfield, Magistrate Judge Michael McCarthy (Judge Craig Iscoe and Magistrate Judge Marisa Demeo also attended the event), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Director Paul Quander, Pretrial Services Agency Deputy Director Cliff Keenan, Public Defender Service Director Avis Buchanan, Department of Corrections Director Devon Brown, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Rhonda Redwood, and Acting Deputy D.C. Attorney General Robert Hildum. The final panel included Department of Mental Health Director Stephen Baron; Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration Senior Deputy Director Tori Whitney; Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Director Vincent Schiraldi; Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative Director Perry Moon; Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Deputy Director Nicholas Majett; Department of Public Works Customer Service Manager Vera Jackson; Department of Employment Services Public Information Officer Dianne Johnson; and the East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership's Frederick Douglas Weed and Seed Coordinator, Eric Chapman.

The event began with the showing of a powerful film by Curtis Mozie that looked at the aftermath of various deadly shootings in the District. Lendia Johnson, MPD-7D Community Outreach Coordinator, was one of the key organizers of the event and made opening remarks. Addie Cooke, President of the MPD 7D Citizens Advisory Council, then introduced Sandy Allen, Former Ward Eight D.C. City Councilmember, who facilitated the panel presentations and the question and answer period that followed.

The D.C. Superior Court would like to especially thank Covenant Baptist Church, the Metropolitan Police Department Seventh District, the United States Marshal Service, the MPD 7D Citizens Advisory Council, as well as D.C. Courts staff for their contributions to the success of the town hall meeting.

Deaf Dog & The Indictments have their Greenwich Village Debut...

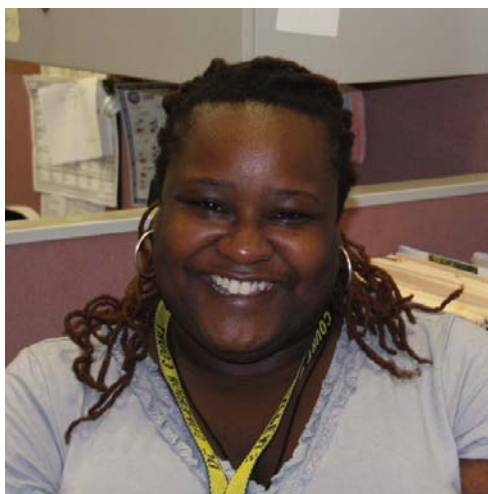


The almost-all-judge band, Deaf Dog and the Indictments, had its New York City debut Saturday, March 15 at the famed Greenwich Village music venue, The Bitter End. Their performance was a huge success, as they followed in the footsteps of the Isley Brothers, Bob Dylan, Frank Zappa, Curtis Mayfield and Stevie Wonder. The Deaf Dogs surpassed the opening act's draw by far, packing the house to the brim with a diverse crowd of all ages. Brother Joscephus, an established recording group, opened the night to a large crowd, but the Deaf Dog crowd was larger....impressing even that bands' members! Congratulations to Judge Canan (Top Dog), Judge Jackson (Dawgg), Judge Burgess (The Professor), Judge Campbell (Trash Can), Magistrate Judge Doyle (Red Dog), Magistrate Judge Nooter (Blue Dog), Magistrate Judge McCabe (Cartwheel) and Dr. Feldman (Hound Dog).

A LOOK INSIDE C-10

By Nicole Chapman, Executive Office Intern

What goes on inside of C-10? Two people who would know the answer to that question are Graciela Garaycochea-Scott and DeAndra Brown. Mrs. Garaycochea-Scott (known to most as Gigi) is a native Washingtonian whose mother is Nicaraguan and her father Peruvian. She is currently a junior at University of Maryland studying criminal justice and communications. She has 20 years' experience working in the D.C. Courts, the last six of them in C-10. She is currently a courtroom clerk. She took this position for the challenge and excitement it presents.



DeAndra Brown

DeAndra Brown, one of Gigi's coworkers in C-10, is also from Washington, D.C. She graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a degree in Print Journalism. Similar to Gigi, DeAndra is a Superior Court veteran, with 11 years of service under her belt. She is currently a case file manager.

The typical day for Gigi begins with pulling up the "lock up list." She checks who has been locked up and needs to be arraigned or presented. She then receives the jackets from the Criminal Division's Intake Office and coordinates Pretrial reports with the staff. She must also check her calendar and see which files to pull based on the information she receives from the CourtView database. At one o'clock, C-10 opens its doors and begins hearing cases. After the clerk calls the case, Gigi does all paperwork dealing with the judge's decisions and scheduling, whether the person is held or released. She also is in charge of making sure that all information is put in the database accurately and that the case files are current and complete.

DeAndra referred to her courtroom as a busy hub where all criminal cases are born. Her day, similar to Gigi's, involves a lot of

paperwork. She spends an extensive amount of time processing paperwork and using CourtView. She also pulls lock-up lists and works on the log sheet for the day (getting warrants for fugitives, for example). She also answers questions from police officers and attorneys, which has resulted in her having a very in-depth understanding of the law, outside of her specific duties.

C-10 operates six days a week, every day but Sunday, 52 weeks a year. Most times that the courthouse is closed as a result of inclement weather, C-10 is up and running, ensuring that those arrested see a judge within 48 hours at most. If there is one thing that is true about C-10, it is that it is unpredictable. When asked about the most unusual thing ever seen in C-10, Gigi described a time when a defendant was going to jail and proceeded to bang his head against the table repeatedly. This unpredictability is the reason that DeAndra decided to take her current position in the courtroom. "It's a different experience working in the Criminal Division, I find it more exciting than other divisions."



Graciela Garaycochea-Scott

Even though the atmosphere in C-10 is jovial and the camaraderie evident, it is not an easy job. Both of the women I spoke with agreed that one of the hardest things about their job is having to be so meticulous. Everything has to be correct. They must check the codes, names, dates, charges, everything in order for the paperwork to be processed correctly. Gigi says that everything has to be "...checked and rechecked to catch any mistakes before the papers can be processed."

One of the main reasons that C-10 runs so smoothly despite the need for absolute accuracy and the busy pace is because of the dedication and teamwork of the court employees and all the other agencies involved in the criminal justice system. Gigi and DeAndra are part of a team that includes six Intake Office staffers, three courtroom clerks, the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, U.S. Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Service, Criminal Justice Act attorneys, U.S. Marshals Service, and the Pretrial Services Agency. All of these agencies must work together to get the 50 to 100 defendants who appear in C-10 each day processed efficiently and fairly.

dreams when given the opportunity.

Following Debra's performance, Chief Judge Washington introduced the second guest speaker, D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray. He talked about the current events in this country that he thought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Carter Woodson, the founder of Black History Month, would be disheartened to see.

Specifically he referred to the poverty, homelessness, violence, drug abuse, and HIV/AIDS crisis, and how these problems also have a huge impact on Washington D.C. However, Council Chairman Gray said that progress is being made that Dr. King and Mr. Woodson would be proud of, and offered that more gains can be made if we take action.

"Today, we come together to fortify ourselves for yet another year of social and economic challenges as we continue the unending and unyielding quest for full equality and civil right ... to fight for the opportunity for everyone to enjoy the good life, irrespective of race, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, disability or any other factor that divides rather than unites," Chairman Gray pledged.

The fun did not end there. On February 29, 2008 the courthouse held its 2nd event celebrating Black History Month. This event, just like the first, was filled with excitement and wonderful entertainment. However, this event focused more on personal stories and perceptions concerning the topic of Black History Month. Before the speakers began, a trio from the Black History Month Choir led the crowd in singing *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

Mistress of Ceremony and Family Court Operations Division Director Dianne King took to the podium and shared personal stories from her childhood. She started with a humorous story about how when she was younger she would try to use her last name as a way to claim to be related to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She laughed at the special treatment she received because of it. Ms. King then shared another memory; it was a time when her mother went into a "Five and Dime"

store and was told that she could buy the food but could not eat it there. Her mother refused to buy from that store which left a lasting impression on Ms. King. Her past experiences took us through time past the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision, into the heart of the struggles to desegregate and busing, right up to the present. She stressed that these are not just her stories but also her history.

She is of the belief that everyone should take the time to share his or her history with the next generation. Ms. King then introduced Chief Judge Rufus King.

"I too tried to claim kinship with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but no one believed me," Chief Judge King said to the crowd. He went on to talk about how Black History Month is not

just about the past, but the future as well. He introduced the speakers for the day's events and then talked about his personal task of finding a quote to share about Black History Month. His search led him to a speech written by a native Washingtonian, a then 12th grader at Banneker High School, entitled "Why is Black History Month Important?" After a little legwork and information from Banneker, the author, Henrietta Njoku, was discovered to be a current Howard University junior. Instead of reading her words, Chief Judge King introduced Henrietta to read them for herself.

The crowd was captivated as Henrietta recited the words she had written almost four years ago. She talked about the dreadful "color line" and how it contributed to the painful experiences African Americans suffered in this country's history. After talking about the difficult past and the hope for the future she stated, "The remembrance of the continuing struggle for equality, justice, freedom, and respect is why Black History Month is important." She talked about the current ills of society, namely classism, ignorance of history, and a generation of people who are only concerned about themselves with no sense of community or brotherhood. She concluded eloquently with "Black History Month is an important celebration of the collective efforts of African Americans past



Chief Judge Washington, Chief Judge King, Council Chair Gray, the Saddlers, and the Marshall family.

and present who strive to positively change the global community one scientist, one poet, one dancer, one political activist, one singer, one teacher, one musician, one artist, one novelist, one Nobel Prize Winner, one president, one athlete, one child, one day at a time." After the resounding applause and standing ovation subsided, Debra Swinson-Stokes and the choir performed a beautiful rendition of "I Love the Lord."

Next, Ms. King introduced Duane Delaney, Clerk of the Superior Court House. Mr. Delaney, known as an amateur historian to many, told the story of Charles Hamilton Houston and his efforts to get Howard Law School accredited. "There is a lot of black history in this town, and since this is a legal community, I will focus my remarks there," Mr. Delaney began. He then gave a detailed description of Charles Hamilton Houston's life. He talked about Houston's childhood, the influence of WWI, getting into Harvard and becoming the first African American to make the Harvard Law Review. Mr. Delaney described Mr. Houston as a firm, strong, determined man when it came to Howard University and the law. He was determined not only to bring prestige to Howard but to raise the bar of expectation for black lawyers in general. His efforts have been recognized during his lifetime and long after. Howard University Law School has graduated greats, including Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Charles Hamilton Houston helped establish the legacy of Howard Law School ... a reputation for intelligence, activism, competence, and diligence.

The theme of overcoming struggles and hope for the future was continued when the Black History Month Choir sang "Joy Comes in

the Morning." After that, Ms. King introduced Reverend Colette Rice of Mt. Ennon Baptist Church. Reverend

Rice's focus was on children, particularly the impact negative music has on them. Rev. Rice is a member of the 'Enough is Enough Campaign,' which confronts artists, producers, and mainstream media for their role in promoting derogatory images of women and people of color. She talked about how music in the old days had a balance. There were songs about love but they were balanced with music that was meaningful and powerful. She also said that she believes that older music was never misogynistic, pornographic, and derogative like music of today's generation. Rev. Rice emphasized that the campaign is not about censorship but awareness, mostly on the part of adults. She stated that many of

them are removed from their child's life and have no idea what they are listening to. She gave the example of a song called "Solider Boy." Most parents think the song is nothing more than a cute dance that children do; however, it is a reference to an explicit sex act. She told the adults in the room to Google the term, and she promised that when they realized what it meant, they would not think it was cute anymore when four and five-year old children are singing along. Her message was that adults are letting the current generation down, and need to step up and get more involved.

Family Court Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring gave the closing remarks. She stated how wonderful and necessary Black History Month is. She emphasized celebrating the past but also focusing on current struggles. She ended by saying, "The work has to continue, there are still places in the United States that have problems... we've come a long way on the shoulders of others but we have a long way to go."



Chief Judge Rufus King gives Iffy his plaque commemorating his appearance at Black History Month.



Council Chair Vince Gray speaks to the audience.



"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

A VERY SPECIAL CEREMONY IN SUPERIOR COURT

By Wanda Johnson Starke, Senior Operations Manager, Superior Court

Within the Family Court Operations Division is a unique branch that performs very special ceremonies. The Marriage Bureau is responsible for processing marriage license applications, issuing marriage licenses, issuing clergy authorizations and maintaining a list of officiants who are eligible to perform civil marriages. Many tenured court staff are of the opinion that adoptions and civil wedding ceremonies are the two most touching events in Superior Court.



Thomas C. Wigglesworth and Norma Lynne Wigglesworth display their Valentine's Day marriage certificate after their wedding, performed by Toni F. Gore of the Family Court.

This past Valentine's Day, the Marriage Bureau was quite busy, as expected. A total of ten civil ceremonies were scheduled and Paul Trudeau, Toni F. Gore and this writer performed all of the marriage ceremonies. Each ceremony was beautiful and an honor to be a part of. Several weeks before, Deputy Clerks Angela Carroll and Denise Johnson, staff members of the Marriage Bureau, approached Mr. Thomas Whitaker, Supervisor, with the idea to decorate the court's civil ceremony room, play selected love songs and serve refreshments for each of the couples to be married on Valentine's Day. Along with Intern Robin Azemar, they each wore red suits and provided boutonnieres for the grooms, and corsages for the brides and officiants. The refreshments were homemade red, white and pink decorated iced cupcakes and sparkling cider served in stemware. When the couples came into the Marriage Bureau, they walked on scented rose pedals thrown on the floor leading up to the civil ceremony room. The door leading to the entrance was lined with beautiful silk flowers and paper cupids with bows and arrows. On the inside of the room the staff had placed red stuffed heart shaped pillows amidst streams of hearts and cupids strategically placed along the walls. In the background, love songs played softly on a CD player.

Word spread through several other branches about how beautifully the Marriage Bureau was decorated for this very special day and there were several visitors from other divisions who stopped by to Oooh and Aahhh primarily about the sentimentality and sacredness of a marriage ceremony in such a beautiful loving atmosphere in the courthouse. Everyone was all smiles, even Mr. Trudeau who

admitted that this was one of his most favorite duties.

The ten couples who were married that day varied significantly in their ages and backgrounds. One elderly couple, who had been friends for over 30 years, were accompanied at the wedding by both of their grown sons, who served as witnesses. Both men smiled proudly at their parents. Another couple came adorned in traditional African wedding attire. Her long white gown was adorned with lace and intricate embroidery, and his white dashiki befitting an African prince. One of their witnesses shed a few tears of joy silently as she snapped

away on a digital camera. Yet another young couple was serenaded by one of their guests who sang 'Our Love Is Here to Stay' by Carmen McRae. That groom presented his bride with a bouquet of 12 deep red long-stemmed roses. Another couple in their early thirties agreed to be interviewed by a cameraman from a local station who was taping several ceremonies for a report on Valentine's Day weddings to be aired on the evening news. The bride walked into the civil ceremony room exclaiming, "It's so pretty here." She wore an off white A-lined dress with a satin bow and the groom was equally stunning in his black tuxedo. Mr. Trudeau officiated and guided them to stand tall and look deeply into each others eyes. Before Mr. Trudeau could say anything else, the groom looked at his bride seriously asking, "Honey do you remember my name?" All the witnesses chuckled.

The Marriage Bureau performs on average about 30-40 civil ceremonies per month. In addition to the judicial officers who can officiate at these ceremonies, there are approximately seven court staff who have been deputized by Chief Judge Rufus King to perform marriages. In order to get married in the civil ceremony room, couples need to file an application, submit a card indicating that they passed their blood test, and schedule a date.

Kudos go out to all of the staff members of the Marriage Bureau, and to Family Court Operations Director Dianne King, for performing an essential function in D.C. Superior Court and for their extra-special efforts on Valentine's Day.

NEW EMPLOYEES' ORIENTATION TRAINING PROGRAM NOW REQUIRED

By Nicole Chapman, Executive Office Intern

Do you know what Personnel Policy 324 says? Well, if you are a new employee you should. Policy 324 was passed last September and put into effect November 1, 2007. It details the now mandatory training courses that all new employees must complete during their 12-month probationary period.

"When I started no one told me about the intranet; I knew of it but not how it worked." This was the personal experience of Meredith Hofford, director of the Center for Education, Training, and Development. Her story illustrates the necessity of training courses, one of which is 'Court Intranet Introduction.' Meredith, known as Merry, believes that these programs are vital to enable new employees to become successful. "These programs help new employees become part of the court community, know the rules and standards, and how things work. We also teach them the history of the D.C. Courts, how we operate, and our greater vision, views, and goals outside of the four walls of their office," she explained.

New employees should take note that this new requirement stipulates that if the courses are not completed within the probationary period, they cannot assume permanent employee status; their probationary period will be extended until completion. Even though these classes are mandatory for new employees, Merry reiterates that all courses are open to every employee. She encourages everyone to sign up for a course for the betterment not only of themselves, but also the courthouse community as a whole.

Below is the list of courses that all new employees must complete during their probationary period: Understanding Courts; Your Role in the D.C. Court's Strategic Plan; Courthouse Security; Court Intranet Introduction; Personnel Policies Overview; Ethical Behavior; Sexual Harassment and EEO Policy; and Courtview Orientation*

All courses are given at least three times a year and employees can register for any of them, and all other courses offered by the Center for Education and Training, on the intranet.

**Course only required for Superior Court Operations staff*

THE MULTI-DOOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION DIVISION CELEBRATES NATIONAL MEDIATION MONTH

Multi-Door Division employees set up a table in the courthouse lobby so that court employees and the public could learn more about the services that Multi-Door provides to the community and the D.C. Courts. Information was available to individuals presently in a dispute on which forms of mediation or alternative dispute resolution might be right for them.



Multi-Door staff members Janice Buie, Child Protection Mediation Program Manager; Karen Leichtnam, Civil ADR Branch Chief; Carolyn Talcott, Family Case Manager; and Linda Sharp, Dispute Resolution Specialist assisted court employees and the public.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 CHARLOTTE E. RAY AWARD

By Toni F. Gore, Branch Supervisor, Domestic Relations Branch, Family Court

Devoted, committed, and accomplished are all appropriate descriptors for Judge Anita Josey-Herring. On February 5, 2008, family, friends and colleagues gathered at the Charles Sumner School as Judge Josey-Herring received the prestigious *Charlotte E. Ray Award*. The award presentation was hosted by the Greater Washington Area Chapter (GWAC) Women Lawyer Division National Bar Association. Judge Josey-Herring became the 20th recipient to receive the award.

Like the late, great Charlotte E. Ray, the first female African-American lawyer in this country, Judge Josey-Herring has also paved the way for others and continues to do so with a passion that is unparalleled. After being introduced by last year's recipient, Judge Rhonda Reid-Winston, and accepting the award from GWAC Vice President, Ms. Tonya A. Sapp, an appreciative Judge Josey-Herring thanked the countless people who have contributed to her success including Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. for whom she clerked.



Judge Josey-Herring is incredibly effective as she successfully presides over and oversees the numerous and diverse operations of the Family Court. As a leader, she led the Family Treatment Court initiative and presided over the Family Treatment Court and the Juvenile Drug Court. Additionally, Judge Josey-Herring is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Lead Model Court Judge with the Family Court. Aside from the demands of her administrative and bench duties

as the Presiding Judge of the Family Court, Judge Josey-Herring further extended herself to the community by leading the Truancy Prevention Program at Kramer Middle School and Garnett Patterson Middle School. She also tutored fourth and fourth grade girls at Malcolm X Elementary School.

Judge Josey-Herring's perseverance and dedication made her most deserving of the Charlotte E. Ray Award. We salute and congratulate her for a job well done.

JUDGE ANN O'REGAN KEARY

By Michael O. Francis, Community Courts Coordinator

On Friday morning, January 25, 2008, the Criminal Division's Community Courts had a SURPRISE THANK YOU CELEBRATION honoring Judge Ann O'Regan Keary for her leadership and outstanding contributions as the Presiding Judge of the East of the River Community Court (ERCC) from 2005-2007. After three years as the Presiding Judge of the ERCC, Judge Keary stepped down and Judge Craig Iscoe became the ERCC Presiding Judge.

The celebration was held in the Board of Judges Conference Room and attendees commented that it was "a great program," "a very nice affair" and "a wonderful party." This writer served as moderator for the event and attendees included D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric Washington, D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III; Judges Noel Kramer, and Craig Iscoe, Magistrate Judge Michael McCarthy, and Criminal Division Director Dan Cipullo. The judges and Dan all paid tribute to Judge Keary and her tenure with the East of the River Community Court. Attendees also included Court staff and representatives from the Pretrial Services Agency, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Attorneys Office, Office of the Attorney General, Superior Court Trial Lawyers Association, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, D.C. Department of Mental Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration, Council for Court Excellence, MPD's Sixth District Citizens Advisory



Council, Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (A-MEN), and D.C.'s Downtown Business Improvement District.

It was clear from the comments made that Judge Keary's tenure was marked by her tireless work and constant efforts to enhance the East of the River Community Court. Speakers also emphasized Judge Keary's commitment to problem-solving justice and the community court principles that include restoring the community, bridging the gap between communities and courts, building effective partnerships, helping offenders deal with problems that may lead to crime, and providing courts with better information so that they can enhance accountability, improve the delivery of services, and make more informed decisions.

At the celebration Judge Keary was presented with a letter from D.C. City Council Chair Vincent Gray thanking her for her service as the Presiding Judge of the ERCC as well as with a unique collage/map of the part of D.C. known as 'East of the River.' Judge Keary thanked everyone for such a wonderful event.

Several members of the Court played very important and key roles in the planning and success of the celebration: Ed Rhodes, Eleanor Nazareno, Alvin Milton, J.L. Brown, Belinda Carr, Yvonne Martinez-Vega, Hazel Dent, Mike Brown, Katie Krametbauer, and Karla Miller. Thanks to all and Deepest Thanks and Best Wishes to Judge Keary!

***** Kabe Reviews *****

Zabrina Dempson
Branch Chief
Small Claims and Conciliation Branch
Superior Court of DC

Dear Ms. Dempson:


I am writing to complement and **thank you and your staff** for the help that you gave me in settling my son's Small Claims Court suit.

You became involved in my case when my son had problems receiving the check for the settlement after he had won the appeal. I am very grateful for your patience and the time you took in making sure that my son received the check (which he eventually did)!

In fact, I was impressed with your staff long before you became directly involved with the case. I made countless calls to your office, from before the time that we actually filed the suit, up through each of the scheduled hearings. I spoke with several people from your staff and each did a great job of explaining to me what was going on and what I needed to do to proceed with the case. I do not have any legal background, so I needed more guidance than most people, and your staff came through time after time.

Once again, to you and your staff, thank you for all your help!

Sincerely,



Martin Mauro



Zabrina Dempson, Small Claims Branch Chief (first row, far left); Lori Gunn, Branch Supervisor (first row, far right); and the rest of the impressive Small Claims team.

***** Kabe Reviews *****

February 17, 2008

Ms. Suzanne M. Bailey-Jones

Juror Officer

Superior Court of The District of Columbia

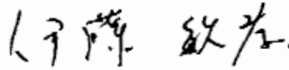
Dear Ms. Bailey-Jones:

Thank you very much for your explanation about jury system on January 23. It was a great opportunity to know about jury system in Washington D.C.. I learned a lot from you.

I had spent for 10 days in Washington D.C. and moved to New York on Jan.30. I returned to Japan on Feb. 9. People in U.S. welcomed me and I had a very good time. It was illuminating for me to experience the American culture first hand. My visit to U.S. was very fruitful and impressive.

Please feel free to call on me if you should ever have the opportunity to visit Japan.

With best regards,



Toshitaka ITO

Judge, Tokyo District Court



Daniel Cipullo
Criminal Division Director

Mr. Cipullo:

I just finished serving on a jury in a criminal case in Judge Cushenberry's courtroom (Courtroom #311). This was my second experience as a jury member. In both cases, all aspects of the case were handled professionally.

I wanted to take this opportunity to single out **Mr. Russell Barbee**, the Courtroom Clerk during this trial. Mr. Barbee was especially helpful in explaining procedures and in anticipating and answering questions about procedures. His entire demeanor and activity were very professional, friendly, and helpful. Someone in Mr. Barbee's position can make the difference for a jury dealing with complex and difficult issues, and Mr. Barbee made this jury's service as pleasant as possible. After we reached a verdict and had been dismissed, I asked Mr. Barbee for the name and address of someone to whom I could send a letter commending his work, and he gave me your name and address.

Being on a jury is a civic duty but also makes one's life difficult during the jury service. People like Mr. Barbee make jury service easier than it would be otherwise.

Sincerely,

