

# Full Court Press

Newsletter of the District of Columbia Courts

Open To All, Trusted By All, Justice For All

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## ADOPTION DAY 2009 USHERS IN A LIFETIME OF LOVE

By Gerond Lawrence, Executive Office Intern

November 21, 2009 will be a day hard to forget for the 36 children who *officially* took their places in their new-found “forever families” at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Adoption Day ceremony. Adoption Day 2009, themed “Adoption: A Lifetime of Love,” saw the creation of 28 new families as adoptive parents and children, ranging in age from 19 months to 16 years, made their way across the third-floor atrium of the Moultrie Courthouse to receive their adoption decrees and begin their new lives together.

The ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the United States Young Marines and a harmonious rendition of the National Anthem by the talented Leslie Kids of Bowie, Maryland. Presiding Family Court Judge William Jackson delivered the welcome followed by the



The Leslie Kids performing the National Anthem.

Photos by Harold Greene



The Adoption Day Committee members.

recitation of an original poem, “What It Means to be Adopted,” by young Miss Lorraine Majors.

The crowd—which was spread across the third, fourth, and fifth floors of the atrium—was then treated to inspiring remarks by Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Director of the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Roque R. Gerald, and Senior Director of the sponsoring Freddie Mac Foundation Margaret Meiers.

Congresswoman Norton was particularly well-received by the crowd as she emphasized the importance of adoption and thanked the families who “stepped forward to adopt [DC’s] children.”

Before the introduction of families and the signing of adoption decrees got underway, little Miss Tayia Jeffers (a born performer) lit up the crowd with her effervescent personality as she offered the musical selection, her beautiful interpretation of a song that had the crowd up on their feet swaying from side to side.

Of course, what everyone came to see was the adoption decrees being signed. This Adoption Day, as always, the procession of the families was the highlight of the event. Each child was introduced by Barbara Harrison—anchor for WRC-TV Channel 4 News and creator of the *Wednesday’s*

*Child* news segment. As they were introduced, the children each had their moment in the spotlight and were able to cross the atrium floor, show off their polished shoes and pressed dresses, smile for the many awaiting photographers, and say a quick word or two to the crowd. The infants and toddlers made their way in the arms of their new parents. The many siblings being adopted—including a set of triplets—walked with the support of their brothers and

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sisters, as well as the parents that accompanied all the adoptive children to the front to have their decrees signed. It was a wonderful sight to see the bright faces and dazzling smiles of the children and parents as the same judges who had presided over many of the cases from start to finish finalized the adoptions, bringing the necessary legal ending that allowed the families a new beginning.

The ceremony ended with remarks from Adoption Judge Linda K. Davis celebrating the newly

created families and encouraging the community to consider adopting or fostering a child.

In 2009, nearly 150 adoptions were finalized in the District, but CFSA is seeking adoptive parents for nearly 200 children. Of the foster children who age out, or reach the age of majority without being adopted, 20% become homeless. If you would like to find out more information on adoption or if you would like to become an adoptive or foster parent, please call the CFSA adoption hotline at (202) 671-LOVE.



*New families ...*





## RECYCLING INITIATIVE EXPANDING TO THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, MOULTRIE COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING A

In October 2009 the District of Columbia Courts launched a Recycling Program in Building B with the plan to expand this initiative across the Courts' campus in early 2010.

Effective March 1, 2010 the recycling initiative will expand to the Historic Courthouse, the Moultrie Courthouse and Building A. Recycling informational briefings, with question and answer sessions, will be conducted with all judicial officers and Court staff before March 1, 2010.

The success of this recycling initiative depends on your full cooperation and support!

SO, LET'S GO GREEN BY RECYCLING.



### “A New Year, A New Resolution”

By Amanda Gancayco, Intern, HR Division

Every New Year is inevitably accompanied by one thing: New Year's Resolutions. The start of the new year brings with it a clean slate—a chance to start over and resolve some of the things we wish we could have done in the past year or things we hope to accomplish in the future. Resolutions are easy to make—and even easier to break. Here are some tips to help you make 2010 the year you keep your resolutions:

Be very specific about your resolution: Creating your resolution is like writing your performance plan—you must create measurable and tangible goals and then set the standards or expectations of your goal. For example, if you want to lose weight, you could create a goal of how many pounds you want to lose a month.

Limit the number of resolutions you make: It's better and easier to tackle one objective at a time than to try and handle several issues ineffectively.

Keep your resolutions visible: Keep a reminder – the words of the resolution with a picture that visualizes your goal – in a prominent place to help you stay on track

Practice new behaviors that encourage success: Surround yourself with people and things that help and encourage your new habits and goals

Set incremental goals and reward yourself for steps along the way: Positive reinforcement is a good way to help you maintain your new habits and associate them with positive outcomes.

Substitute a good habit for the bad one you want to break: instead of a cigarette or a candy bar to reduce stress, try a walk, or a talk with a friend.

\*\*Remember, take your resolution a step at a time and don't get discouraged if you aren't doing as well as you intended. The year has only just begun and there is plenty of time left to achieve your goal if you keep at it!

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Inquiries should be submitted to Room 1500.*

*Leah Gurowitz, Editor  
Dennis Shipley, Creative Director*

# CLERK OF THE COURT ESTABLISHES NEW IDENTITY CONSOLIDATION UNIT

By Kennise Millner, Identity Consolidation Clerk

The Superior Court's new Identity Consolidation Unit is one to watch in 2010! The Identity Consolidation Unit (ICU) was created to identify litigants who are parties to multiple cases before the Superior Court, supporting the strategic issue of fair and timely case resolution by providing judicial officers, court personnel, and other court participants with accurate and timely information.

The D.C. Family Court Act (P.L. 107-114) requires that parties before the Family Court who are in the same immediate family or household be assigned to the same judicial officer, to the greatest extent possible. Accordingly, in July 2004, then-Chief Judge Rufus G. King issued Administrative Order 04-14 requiring collection of the same identification information on all parties. The ICU's job is to continue the work of consolidating case information for litigants and parties with multiple entries, to give judicial officers and court staff a more accurate picture of the cases to which a person is a party. This consolidation will foster efficiency in case processing and thus facilitate fair and timely case resolution in the Superior Court, in which over 10,000 cases are filed each month.

The ICU is comprised of five clerks, under the auspices of the Clerk of the Superior Court, managed by Senior Operations Manager Wanda Johnson Starke. The clerks come from a variety of backgrounds, bringing different strengths and abilities to contribute to the mission and goals of this unique unit.

**Brenda Clarke** was born in Greensboro, N.C., but has spent most of her life in Washington D.C. Brenda graduated from American University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and is currently working on a Masters Degree in herbal medicine and holistic healing. Although Brenda has over 20 years of entrepreneurial and management experience outside of the Court, she is also the only member of the team who is not new to the court. Prior to the ICU, Brenda worked as a deputy clerk in the Central Intake Center of the Family Court for over a year.

**Barbara Green** comes to the Superior Court from Marietta, Georgia, where she has lived for the past 15 years. Originally, from the Washington metropolitan area, Barbara moved to Atlanta in 1995, in time for the 1996 Olympics. Barbara brings to the



ICU members Kennise Millner, Anita Jarman, Keisha Anderson, Brenda Clarke and Barbara Green.  
Photos by Gerond Lawrence

Court a B.S. in Human Services and an A.S. in Business Administration, both from Shorter College. Barbara is no stranger to the law; she has worked and volunteered in the legal field for over 20 years. She is currently a volunteer with the Prince George's County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program and also a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

**Kennise Millner** was born and reared in Washington, D.C. Kennise attended Clark Atlanta University where she received her B.S. in International Business. After graduating from college she remained in Atlanta for several years and obtained her real estate license. After recently relocating back to the District of Columbia, Kennise worked in the private sector.

Also a native Washingtonian, **Keisha Anderson** received a B.S. in Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management. With over six years of police work with the Metropolitan Police Department under her belt, Keisha brings us the perspective of another part of the criminal justice system.

The last of the "phenomenal five" is **Anita Jarman**. Anita was born in the District and currently resides in Prince George's County. Fresh out of college, Anita received her B.A. in Mass Communications/Public Relations and Law from Delaware State University. Anita is continuing her education at Georgetown University, pursuing a Master's Degree in Sports Management and Marketing with plans to study corporate law thereafter. While attending school, Anita worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs for five years as a legal/human resources assistant.

*Identity Consolidation Unit, Continued on Page 5.*

## NEW EMPLOYEES

By Gerond Lawrence, Executive Office Intern

### Joy Jones

The D.C. Courts welcome Joy Jones, the Research and Development Division's new Development Associate. Originally from Boston, Joy has called D.C. home for more than 25 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Brandeis University and a master's in planning from Harvard University. Before joining the Courts, she worked as a fundraising and resource development consultant for nonprofit organizations both on the local and national level. Joy came to the D.C. Courts for a chance to "do the same work in a new setting" and has since developed an appreciation for how seriously the D.C. Courts work to administer justice. "Open to all - Trusted by all - Justice for all is not just a slogan here." Joy enjoys playing the piano and her two Shi Tzu dogs. She is also the proud mother of a daughter who works as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. We are glad to add Joy to the D.C. Courts family.



Photos by Gerond Lawrence

United States. "The big shock came with religion. Here, many people go to church. But in China, religion was prohibited at the time." But Qin did not let culture shock stop her from adjusting and building an impressive career in data management and statistical analysis. Before joining the D.C. Courts, Qin worked in these fields for a variety of organizations including Citigroup, JPMorgan, and most recently with the National Institutes of Health. Qin came to the D.C. Courts "because of the great stability offered by government." She does admit, however, that performing quantitative research here at the Courts is challenging. In her down time, Qin enjoys cooking and spending time with her German Shepherd. We are happy to have Qin on board.

### Ryan Cotter

Ryan Cotter, a native of Ontario, Canada, is a Research Associate in the Research and Development Division. Ryan is new to the D.C. area having just moved here in July. He holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Windsor in Ontario, one in criminology and one in psychology, as well as a master's degree in criminology. He also has a Ph.D. in criminology from Keele University in the United Kingdom. Throughout school, Ryan held various research jobs, and he also managed a juvenile crime prevention program in Ontario which has since been implemented throughout the province by the Ontario government. Ryan came to the Courts because of his interest in the research that was going on here, and he is really



### Qin Wang

Qin (CH-in) Wang, a Statistical Associate in the Research and Development Division, is no stranger to change. Born in China, Qin came to the U.S. in 1987 to pursue her Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University. As many would expect, Qin experienced a bit of a culture shock transitioning into life in the



*New Employees, Continued on Page 9.*

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ID Consolidation Unit cont. from page 4.

The ICU team is already contributing to the court family: one of the ICU staff's first team endeavors was to assist with the D.C. Courts' Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The food drive was a great success and the team members were happy to be able to contribute their time in this worthwhile courtwide effort. The ICU looks forward to participating in many more court events and activities.

The Identity Consolidation Clerks are excited to be part of these important tasks. They are ready to embark on this new journey with the Superior Court and look forward to working collaboratively with each of the divisions charged with case processing to develop business processes, standard operating procedures, and rules for courtwide identity consolidation. The members of the unit welcome the challenges ahead of them and look forward to the opportunity to meet more of the D.C. Courts family.

The Identity Consolidation Unit is located between finance and child support offices on the fourth floor of the Moultrie Courthouse. If you're ever in the neighborhood, the ICU invites you to stop by and introduce yourself.



# COMMUNITY COURT BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE MCCARTHY

By Michael Francis, Community Court Coordinator, Criminal Division

On Friday morning, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Criminal Division's Community Courts had a celebration honoring Magistrate Judge Michael J. McCarthy for his leadership and distinguished service as the Presiding Judge of the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court (DCMTCC) from 2006-2009. After four years as the Presiding Judge of the DCMTCC, Judge McCarthy will preside in Small Claims Court for 2010.

Tributes to the Judge were made by a number of different speakers: Criminal Division Presiding Judge Ann O'Regan Keary, Magistrate Judge Richard Ringell, Criminal Division Director Dan Cipullo, Community Court Coordinator Michael Francis, Community Court Case Manager Michael Brown, Kimberly Brown of the Office of Attorney General (OAG), Susan Shaffer and Cliff Keenan of the Pretrial Services Agency (PSA), Robert Athanas of the DCMTCC Duty Attorneys, Steve Baron and Dr. Steven Steury of the D.C. Department of Mental Health (DMH), June Kress of the Council for Court Excellence, Chester Hart of the Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (AMEN), and Wanda Williams of the Superior Court Trial Lawyers Association (SCTLA).

Judge McCarthy's tenure as the Presiding Judge of the DCMTCC was marked by his dedication, and commitment to (1) delivering justice, (2) having a court that operates in an efficient and effective manner, (3) having defendants "pay back" the community by performing community service, (4) linking defendants to social services that they need, (5) bridging the gap between communities and the court, and (6) building effective partnerships.

A strong believer in community engagement, Magistrate Judge McCarthy spoke at nine community events that included Town Hall Meetings, Community Court Forums, and Metropolitan Police Department Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) Meetings. His presentations and comments were always well received by the community.

Judge McCarthy had many accomplishments during his tenure and played a key role in the establishment and success of several initiatives at Superior



Community Court Coordinator Michael Francis presents Magistrate Judge McCarthy with a plaque commemorating his service to Community Court.

Photos by Ed Rhodes

Court.

In July 2006, the DCMTCC started "Next Day Community Service." This new diversion program had defendants who the OAG said were eligible for community service (and who did not want to go to trial) perform community service with the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District the day following their arraignment in Courtroom 115. Thus the tie between the crime committed and the pay-back to the community was clear and immediate. Once the community service was completed, the OAG

dropped the charges. In the 3-1/2 years since Next Day Community Service was established, over 1,010 defendants have performed over 13,000 hours of community service.

In October 2006, the Superior Court and Unity Health Care started an initiative at the Moultrie Courthouse whereby every Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm a Unity Health Care representative is available in the DCMTCC courtroom attorney/witness room to register eligible D.C. residents (who do not have access to health insurance) for health care coverage. The representative also provides valuable information regarding health care and related services.

The D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court Program Manual of Policies and Procedures was published in April 2007.

In October 2007, the Superior Court and the D.C. Department of Health's Addiction Prevention & Recovery Administration (APRA) launched an initiative at the Moultrie Courthouse to open an APRA office next to the DCMTCC. The on-site office has staff that conducts screenings and assessments of defendants and others and makes referrals regarding substance abuse treatment services.

Also, in October 2007, the Superior Court worked with the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES) to place a DOES office in the Moultrie Courthouse adjacent to the DCMTCC. The on-site office provides workforce development assessments and refers individuals to jobs, GED programs, and Apprenticeship programs.

Judge McCarthy, Continued on Page 7.

The Urgent Care Clinic (UCC) opened at the Moultrie Courthouse in June 2008. The UCC is a collaborative effort between Superior Court, DMH, and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington to provide accessible assessment services and short term mental health treatment on-site. The staff of the clinic includes a clinic coordinator, psychiatrist, supervisor, and case manager.

In February 2009, the Superior



Judge McCarthy delivers an anecdote to the audience and ...

Court and the Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (AMEN) began an initiative to bring an AMEN representative to the courthouse for two hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays to sign-up people interested in GED Classes and Job

Readiness Training.

The first brochure of the DC Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court was published in June 2009.

In December 2009, PSA started its D.C. Misdemeanor/Traffic Initiative that monitors certain DCMTCC defendants, especially those charged with DUI, DWI, and OWI, and also provides them social services.

Because of the increased interest both nationwide and worldwide in community courts and people hearing about the good work of the D.C.

Community Courts, Judge McCarthy and the DCMTCC hosted visitors from places such as London, England; Portland, Oregon; Kyiv, Ukraine; Tokyo, Japan; and San Francisco, California. The visitors included elected officials, judges, prosecutors, business persons, criminal justice administrators, social services administrators, and public information officers.

Now, being the humble person that he is, Judge McCarthy states that he was just doing his job. In fact, we know that he has a lot to be proud of

in his tenure as the Presiding Judge of the DCMTCC.

Judge McCarthy was deeply moved by the event and thanked everyone for all of their support over the four years. He handed out a "D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court-Certificate of Appreciation" signed by him to several people in attendance and stated that the DCMTCC will always hold a special place in his heart.



... Yvonne Martinez-Vega, June Kress and Whitney Stoebner, of OAG, react with a "har-har-har".

Finally, the D.C. Misdemeanor and Traffic Community Court stakeholders, partners, and friends all wish Judge McCarthy all the best. He will be deeply missed.



Magistrate Judge McCarthy displays a memento presented to him from the Office of Attorney General.



Criminal Division Presiding Judge Ann O'Regan Keary and June Kress of the Council for Court Excellence.



## TOWN HALL MEETING HELD IN WARD 8

By Ed Rhodes, Community Court Assistant, and Mike Brown, Community Court Case Manager

On Thursday November 5, 2009, D.C. Superior Court, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Seventh District and its Citizens Advisory Council, and the Anacostia Coordinating Council co-hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church in Ward 8. The theme of the Town Hall



Photos by Ed Rhodes

was "Information is Key to Empowering Citizens" and the purpose of the event was to give Ward 8 residents an opportunity to find out how their government works and what some non-profit organizations are doing to prevent crime in their communities, provide services, and enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood. In addition, community members were given the opportunity to express their views on different issues relating to crime, criminal justice and other community concerns.

The welcome and opening remarks were extended by Lendia Johnson with MPD and Ed Rhodes with the Superior Court. James Bunn, President of the Seventh District Citizens Advisory Council introduced the evening's facilitator, Philip Pannell, Executive Director of the Anacostia Coordinating Council. Mr. Pannell moderated a panel that included Judges Ann O'Regan Keary, Zoe Bush, Craig Iscoe, José López; Commander Joel Maupin, MPD 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander; Wanda Jackson, Case Manager with the Reintegrating Alternatives Personal Program (RAPP); Dionne T. Reeder, Director of Community Engagement with the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative; and Valarie Ashley, Executive Director of the Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (AMEN).

The panel presentations started with Commander Maupin reporting that crime is down in Ward 8 and emphasizing that the MPD has a number of programs to help the community including the curfew and truancy enforcement initiative. Superior Court Criminal Division Presiding Judge Keary gave a brief overview of the various divisions of the court and their roles. She also talked about several innovative programs that the Superior Court had established, including Drug Court, Prostitution Court, the East of the River Community Court, the DC Misdemeanor and Traffic

Community Court, and the Mental Health Diversion Program. Family Court Deputy Presiding Judge Bush provided a brief overview of the Family Court and the types of cases before it, including juvenile delinquency and child abuse and neglect cases. East of the River Community Court Judge Craig

Iscoe described the goals of the East of the River Community Court and the ERCC Community Advisory Board. Domestic Violence Unit Presiding Judge López told the audience that the Domestic Violence Unit handles approximately 8,000 cases a year and also described a number of services provided by the Domestic Violence Unit to help victims and, to some extent, the perpetrators of domestic violence (i.e. counseling, mediation, and the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Program). Wanda Jackson talked about the RAPP Program and its work to provide services to D.C. residents returning to the community after being incarcerated. Dionne Reeder discussed the work of the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative and its efforts to help reduce child abuse and neglect. Valarie Ashley provided information on the Southeast Ministry and its AMEN program.

After the panelists presented, the audience posed questions and presented points of view. Concerns were expressed about juvenile crime and the standards for release of juveniles pre-trial, which is governed by the DC Code, and why some juveniles who are committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services are nonetheless back in the community after little, if any, time served. Deputy Presiding Family Court Judge Bush explained that under D.C. law, DYRS has the authority to decide whether committed youth (those found involved in a crime whom the judge deems need more than probation) are kept in detention or sent home, not the Court. Others asked MPD representatives what the department is doing to reduce crime in Ward 8. Commander Maupin replied that additional officers are being deployed to higher crime areas and they are utilizing new approaches to combating and preventing crime. Judge Iscoe noted that judges are attending more

*Town Hall, Continued on Page 9.*



New Employees cont. from page 5.

enjoying his experience here. Ryan is an amateur boxer and kickboxer, and he holds the record in Ontario for the fastest stopped amateur fight; he won in 8 seconds! We are glad to have Ryan on our side.

### **Michelle Kuamoo**

Michelle Kuamoo is a Research Associate in the Research and Development Division. Originally from Arizona, Michelle moved to the D.C. area from Hawaii in 2008. Michelle has a strong background in education and worked as a contractor for the Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services before joining the D.C. Courts. She holds a bachelor's degree in early education from Chaminade University, a master's in elementary education from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Capella University. Though her new job is out of her area of expertise, Michelle really enjoys her work. "It is a new field to me, but it is interesting to see the difference between social science and education research. It is also interesting to learn the legal process." Michelle has



run in 4 marathons, the most recent being the Marine Corps Marathon. We are happy to have Michelle join our team.

### **Yoscaisa Ramirez**

The D.C. Courts welcome Yoscaisa Ramirez, a new Bilingual Deputy Clerk in the Civil Division's Small Claims Branch. Born in the Dominican Republic, Yoscaisa moved to Maryland with her family at age 11. She attended school in Montgomery County, graduating from Blake High School in 2002. Yoscaisa is currently majoring in legal studies and business administration at the University of Maryland, and she plans to cap off her education with a law degree. Before coming to the D.C. Courts, Yoscaisa worked for a local law firm. She made the transition to the Courts "for an opportunity to serve the people of the District" and to put her legal studies education to use. Yoscaisa enjoys running, recently completed a half marathon, and volunteers regularly at her church. We welcome Yoscaisa to the D.C. Courts and expect to see great things from her.



Town Hall meeting cont. from page 8

community meetings to hear from community members about their concerns. Several audience members asked questions about jobs and GED classes. Ms. Ashley from AMEN discussed in more detail the employment and education programs AMEN offers. She utilized audience participation in answering questions about the specific needs someone might have.

Interestingly, a contingent from Germany attended the Town Hall Meeting and they were very interested in learning about the Community Court and services offered by community agencies.

They appreciated being able to witness community/government interaction at such an event.

Many people in attendance thanked the host agencies for such a productive town hall meeting and pledged to take a more active role in enhancing the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods.



*Ward 8 residents asked questions of panel members.*

# Kabe Reviews

I was so impressed by the creativity of my co-worker **Patricia A. Williams** that I decided to forward a picture of one of the doors she decorated for Christmas this year. You may remember Patsy, as we lovingly call her, as the 40 year pin recipient at the Employee Appreciation Awards. Our Patsy is a wonderful, creative individual. She is truly a woman with a vision.



Thanks,

Judy L. Bouknight,  
Account Technician  
Budget and Accounting



*Some people have  
a special way  
Of knowing what to do  
To make things nice  
for others-  
And that's just the way  
with you!*

*Ms. Williams (Lou Ethel Green-Williams)  
Thank you so much  
For all you have  
done for me!*

December 7, 2009

To Whom this May Concern,

I have a case that is being processed through the Tenant and Landlord Division. I am the landlord of a property that I have received judgment on for eviction. My case was heard in front of the judge on December 7, 2009 as an oral case because I had neglected to put the quadrant of my condo on the original complaint.

I came to **Sharon Taylor** today, December 7, because my file had not been put forward to be heard. She graciously printed my case and promptly brought it in front of the judge for me to ask for judgment. I was under some severe stress, as my tenant owes me \$5,400, and I was asking for immediate eviction. If she had not assisted me, I may not have resolved the matter today.

As a result of her understanding, professionalism, and outstanding customer service rarely seen these days anywhere, I want to commend her and thank her for her assistance in this matter. Please make sure she receives my letter and my thanks. I am an active duty Army officer and understand about processing paperwork through large bureaucracies and what it means to help another human being in need.





The Honorable Herbert B. Dixon, Jr.  
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

July 5, 2009

Dear **Judge Dixon**:

Thank you for your kind letter, expressing gratitude for my jury service in the above case. I have lived in the District of Columbia since 1991, have been summoned for jury service at least five times, and each time find the process improved. WiFi service in the jury lounge is a particularly nice recent improvement, allowing prospective jurors to establish a limited mobile office while waiting. Staggered arrival times in the morning also has improved processing.

I was never actually empanelled on a jury until this case, and wanted to report back to you that I was more impressed by the experience than I expected. My fellow jurors were attentive in the courtroom, deliberative in the jury room, and at all times appeared to take the matter with the seriousness it deserved. I was also impressed with how you managed your courtroom, in terms of being authoritative yet helpful and kind. Thank you for allowing us to take notes during the questioning of witnesses, and permitting us to propose questions of them through you. Both of these things enhanced my ability to evaluate the evidence, during its presentation as well as during our deliberations.

Again, I appreciate your kindness in writing to the jury.

Executive Officer  
District of Columbia Courts

Dear Ms. Wicks,

I would like to commend your employee, Ms. **Lisa R. Johnson**, for calling and informing me that my lost check had been found on the floor in the courthouse. I had written it out to Justin Smith who is a Park Police Officer. Mr. Smith had called and informed me that he lost it but didn't know where. Not only did Ms. Johnson call my home to let me know it had been found, but she additionally called my office to be sure I got the message. I sincerely appreciate the extra effort she went to in tracking me down so there would be a resolution to my lost check. In this day and age you can never be too careful with your bank account information.

Please let Ms. Johnson know that her act of kindness was greatly appreciated. I have enclosed an extra copy of this letter if you would be so kind as to pass it on to her. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Maureen P. Carroll



July 29, 2009

To: Geneva Murphy

SUBJ: **Deena Whittington**

Today I had to come over to resolve several child support issues, and I was very fortunate to have Ms. Whittington's assistance.

I just wanted to let you know that she is a very pleasant warm person. She is also knowledgeable and willing to work. You are lucky to have her in your Unit.

She has that quality that we don't see as much as we should when people deal with the public. I truly commend her. I am also keeping her number on file.

Have a good day and I hope all is well with you. Give this card to her for me.

Thanks



## **HR Update —**

### **Commuter Transit Benefit to Increase in February**

The D.C. Courts' maximum monthly transit benefit will increase effective February 1, 2010 to \$120 (up from \$60). *If you are a current participant, you do not have to do anything.* The Human Resources Division will determine what each participant's increase will be, up to a monthly maximum of \$120. If you would like to enroll in the Commuter Option Program, please contact the D.C. Courts' Benefits Unit at (202) 879-2822.

Ms. Deborah M. Taylor-Godwin  
Director of the Civil Division

July, 6 2009

RE: **NATE SPEIGHT**

Dear Ms. Godwin:

I have been a licensed attorney in the District of Columbia since 1984. I have practiced daily in the District of Columbia Superior Court for over twenty-five years, and have known many of the Clerks in the Civil Division, Landlord and Tenant Branch, and Small Claims and Conciliation Branch, over these past years.

This correspondence is in reference to the evaluation of Mr. **Nate Speight** of the District of Columbia Superior Court, Small Claims and Conciliation Branch. I wish to whole-heartedly recommend Mr. Speight for an opportunity for a promotion, raise, and/or any other such recognition of/for his work performance in our Court system.

Mr. Speight continually displays the experience and knowledge of a seasoned professional in his handling of the huge Courtroom caseload of the Small Claims and Conciliation Branch. Mr. Speight has always been most knowledgeable, informative, and helpful in his role in the Courtroom. The highest recommendation I can give is to say that I wish we had more individuals like Mr. Speight in our over-taxed Court system.

I am grateful for this opportunity to recommend Mr. Speight in recognition of his work performance and hope that my comments can assist you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Morris R. Battino



July 22, 2009

Ms. Deborah Taylor-Godwin

**Re.: Nathaniel Speight**

Dear Ms. Taylor-Godwin

I am writing this letter in reference as to the exemplary performance exhibited by **Nathaniel Speight** on behalf of the D.C. Superior Court Small Claims and Conciliation Branch.

Being barred in multiple jurisdictions, I have had my share of encounters with court room clerks. Mr. Speight stands out because he always runs the court room, efficiently and professionally. He maintains a pleasant disposition at all times and always assists litigants and attorneys with respect and courtesy. No one party is treated better or lesser than the other. That is a personal quality that is admirable and benefits, not only the parties involved, but also the court.

I feel that Nate is the model court room clerk that others should strive to be. It is always a pleasure and honor to work with him. I could go on with my accolades but there is not enough time or space on this page.

Very truly yours,

Neal J. Markowitz

Attn: Sonya Maranda, Supervisor

Re: Appreciation

June 30, 2009

Dear Ms. Maranda:

Please be advised that I had the opportunity and pleasure to work with Superior Court employee, **Tonya Stevenson**, on the above-written date. From the time I placed my telephone call and connected with Ms. Stevenson, I was provided with courtesy, knowledge, and expeditious efficiency as to my issue. Due to Ms. Stevenson's extensive knowledge of her position, and her willingness to assist, she was able to cure the issue at hand and assure me that a resolution would be forthcoming. In fact that is exactly what happened. When our conversation came to its end, Ms. Stevenson asked if there was anything more she could do for me in such an interested and courteous fashion, that I felt the need to express this entire experience with her supervisor. Your name was provided and hence this letter directed to you. Ms. Stevenson clearly is an asset to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and I hope to work with her in the near future.

I remain, Very truly yours.  
Judith A. Montour Paralegal