



DC Superior Court Hosts 2016 Juror Appreciation Week

Herb Rouson, Director – Special Operations Division

Memorial Day is a time-honored occasion to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice that our service men and women have made to protect and defend the rights and liberties afforded to us as citizens of this great nation. There is perhaps no better way to say "Thank You" than to actually exercise those guaranteed freedoms that our fallen heroes fought, bled, and died for. And so, against that backdrop, the DC Superior Court made it a priority to acknowledge and thank the residents of the District of Columbia – who, through their service as jurors, embrace the full implications of what civic responsibility means.

The vital role of the judiciary, as the third branch of government, could not be fulfilled without ordinary citizens – through their service as jurors – providing the necessary framework to deliver justice and accountability for our community. Each year, the DC Superior Court calls over 30,000 residents, from every ward in the city, to serve as potential jurors. And each year the residents of the District of Columbia "answer the call" to participate in our collective democracy by serving jury duty.



Juror Appreciation Week is the Court's way of saying "Thank You!" to the nearly 1,000 citizens who partner with us on a weekly basis in the process of

administering justice for the District of Columbia. Their hard work and sacrifice bring our Constitution and democracy to life, through rendering decisions in cases that impact people's lives in very real and meaningful ways. Like anything worth having, protecting our freedoms through the judicial process will cost something. In consideration of the important sacrifice that potential jurors make, and with an eye towards Goal 1(B)(5) of the DC Courts Strategic Plan – "Improving the efficient use of jurors by examining new approaches for verifying trial readiness, calling jurors for service, and assembling panels" – the Jurors' Office continues to make great strides to ensure that the Court's business processes maximize the jurors' sacrifice.

Beginning with DC Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield, and followed by a member of his judi-

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Former NBC 4 Wednesday's Child McKeever Mack visited District of Columbia Court of Appeals Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby more than a decade after their first meeting. NBC 4 Wednesday's Child is a segment led by news anchor Barbara Harrison highlighting DC foster children in need of adoptive parents. Barbara Harrison also serves as host for the Adoption Day ceremony held annually at the District of Columbia Superior Court.

According to the story published by NBC4: "Just weeks before [earning] her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, former Wednesday's Child McKeever [reunited] with Judge Anna Blackburne Rigsby, who she spoke with about her own goal of becoming a judge more than a decade ago." Judge Blackburne-Rigsby was thrilled to see McKeever again.

Click [here](#) or on the link below to see the full story, including an interview with McKeever.

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Former-Wednesdays-Child-McKeever-Visits-Judge-Again-More-Than-a-Decade-Later-Washington-DC-377344411.html>

Former Wednesday's Child McKeever Visits Judge Again More Than a Decade Later

By Barbara Harrison



Magistrate Judge Tara Fentress was thrilled - and proud - to be at Thomas J. McRae Jr.'s graduation this past Saturday in Pennsylvania. She was his Family Court judge from the day he entered foster care at age 11, until his adoption at age 17. At age 22, Thomas is now a college graduate, working to help others who are in the foster care system. He has been accepted to the University of Maryland's School of Social Work, to pursue his Master's degree.

A recent visitor to the District of Columbia Courts had high praise for the assistance provided by Morena Burris, Transcript Records Clerk at the DC Courts Reporting and Recording Division.

"Thank you for your assistance in locating the recording of a hearing in a custody case I was working on. By all accounts, the recording was lost. But you went the extra mile for me and tracked it down when others had given up, and for that I am extremely grateful. You have helped me and without a doubt the family for whom justice is more easily served with the transcript in hand. Thank you again for your help."



Family Treatment Court Holds 14th Graduation

Five More Mothers Conquer Substance Abuse and Keep Their Families Together

On Friday, April 29, 2016, the DC Superior Court Family Court hosted the 14th Family Treatment Court graduation. Five women graduated to lives without drugs and alcohol, and with their children at their sides, after a rigorous year-plus of treatment, programming, and therapy to help identify the challenges to their sobriety.



they were in charge of it and not to let anyone take it away from them. Marie Morilus-Black, Deputy Director of the DC Child and Family Services Agency's Office of Well-

After the procession of graduates into the room, Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield spoke, congratulating the women and saying that despite scheduling conflicts, he was there to support them and to support Magistrate Judge Pamela Gray. Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo spoke next, also congratulating the graduates, but reminding them that while this was a conclusion, it was also a beginning. And he made sure they knew that the Family Treatment Court family would be with them always. Ms. Jocelyn Gainers, Director of the Family Recovery Program, read an inspirational poem, and then Judge Gray introduced Carson Fox, CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. Mr. Fox kept his remarks brief because, he said, the day was not about him but about the graduates. He told them that in searching for a word that would describe the day, what he came up with was 'Inspiration,' saying that the graduates were an inspiration to him, as he knew they were to others following in their footsteps in the program, to their families and to everyone in attendance. He reminded them all that they were extraordinary people.

Marquitta Duverney, Director of DC's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA), told the graduates that they each had light inside them, that

Being, acknowledged the rough road the women had travelled, but said she was confident that they could become women their children would look up to. And like Judge Puig-Lugo, she reminded the women that the support team that is the Family Treatment Court is "not going anywhere" and told them that "you've found your village." David Cook from Court Appointed Special Advocates spoke briefly and congratulated the graduates. Songstress Corisa Myers then performed *What about the Children?*, a song that included the lyrics: "And if not for those who loved us and who cared enough to show us, Where would we be today?"

Magistrate Judge Gray then spoke to the graduates, telling them that they were fabulous and courageous women and reassuring them of her confidence in their ability to succeed. Family Treatment Court Coordinator Dr. Sariah Beatty then called the graduates up to the podium one by one to receive their certificates. Dr. Beatty spoke about the progress they'd made, the obstacles they'd overcome and the unique contributions each had made. The graduates were thrilled with their certificates, their awards and the bag of gifts that each was given. The ceremony closed with another musical selection from Corisa Myers (*Wind Beneath My Wings*) and then Dr. Beatty's final thoughts and reflections.

White House Drug Czar Celebrates National Drug Court Month at DC Superior Court's May Drug Court Graduation

Michael Botticelli, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, was the featured speaker at the DC Superior Court's May Drug Court graduation. The event was joyous as graduates, their families and friends, judges, Pretrial Services Agency (PSA) staff, and program participants progressing from one phase to the next filled courtroom C-10 to capacity.

The event began with the PSA staff introducing Judge Gregory Jackson, who presides over the DC Drug Court program. Judge

Jackson gave brief words of welcome and congratulations to the graduates, as well as encouragement to those progressing through the program. Carson Fox, the CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, spoke briefly to the graduates about the joy he feels when he attends graduations and sees the programs working. Cliff Keenan, Director of PSA, congratulated the graduates and participants, praised his staff for the work they do in making the program a success, and thanked all in attendance for being there to support the program.

Director Botticelli began his remarks by telling the audience, "If you're ever having a bad day, go to a Drug Court graduation!" He shared his story, finding his moment of truth when he had to confront his own substance use disorder before a judge in Massachusetts many years ago. His words rang true for the graduates and program participants, and he stood as an example of just how far people can go when they commit themselves to overcoming their

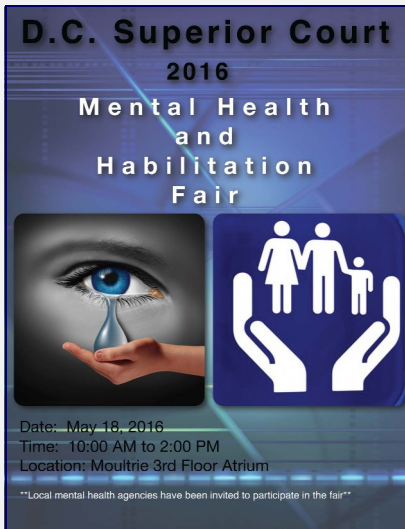


disorder and living a full life, clean and sober.

Those progressing through the various program phases were recognized and received a small congratulatory gift. The Drug Court graduates were presented with their certificates and invited to address the audience. Their remarks were heartfelt, and all expressed appreciation for their PSA case-workers and Judge Jackson. Many had not believed in themselves and

were grateful at the faith others had in them. Several said that they were skeptical at first – of the program, of the judge, of their abilities. But the graduates shared their stories and inspired those who are still progressing through the program. And Director Botticelli was right – everyone left the room uplifted for having been there!

Drug Court is a specially designed court calendar with the goal of reducing recidivism and substance use among nonviolent defendants with substance-abuse disorders. Eligible persons with substance-abuse disorders may request to be transferred to Drug Court in lieu of traditional criminal justice system case processing. Drug Court keeps individuals in treatment while supervising them closely, with the judge holding them accountable for their sobriety and the Pretrial Services Agency providing services required for recovery. For data on the effectiveness of Drug Courts, see: <http://www.nadcp.org/learn/drug-courts-work-0> .



DC Courts Host Mental Health and Habilitation Fair

The District of Columbia Superior Court sponsored a Mental Health and Habilitation Fair on Wednesday, May 18 in the Moultrie Courthouse. The month of May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Court employees and members of the public were invited to the event in an effort to share information regarding mental health and habilitation services offered within the community. The event featured representatives from both internal court initiatives, as well as external government and community agencies serving those with mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mental Health Myths and Facts

On October 5, 2010, President Obama signed bill S.2781, known as “Rosa Law” into federal law. The law removes the terms “mental retardation” and “mentally retarded” from federal health, education and labor policy and replaces them with people first language “individual with an intellectual disability” and “intellectual disability.”

These are some common mental health myths and facts:

Myth: Mental Health problems are rare and don’t affect me.

Fact: Mental Health problems are very common. In 2014, about:

- One in five American adults experienced a mental health issue
- One in 10 young people experienced a period of major depression
- One in 25 Americans lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression

Myth: Children don’t experience mental health problems.

Fact: Half of all mental health disorders show first signs before a person turns 14 years old, and

three quarters of mental health disorders begin before age 24.

Unfortunately, less than 20% of children and adolescents with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they need.

Myth: Personality weakness or character flaws cause mental health problems. People with mental health problems can snap out of it if they try hard enough.

Fact: Mental health problems have nothing to do with being lazy or weak and many people need help to get better. Many factors contribute to mental health problems, including:

- Biological factors, such as genes, physical illness, injury, or brain chemistry
- Life experiences, such as trauma or a history of abuse

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2016 Juror Appreciation Week, continued from front cover

cial leadership team (Criminal Presiding Judge Lynn Leibovitz, Judge Melvin Wright, Civil Presiding Judge Judith Bartnoff, Criminal Deputy Presiding Judge Milton Lee, Deputy Presiding Magistrate Judge Joseph Beshouri, and Presiding Magistrate Judge Pamela Gray), as well as James D. McGinley, Clerk of the Superior Court, each juror orientation group was greeted and given the opportunity to ask questions about the court system and the jury process. Additionally, jurors were apprised of upcoming initiatives such as the implementation of a Juror Call-In System and the acquisition of a new Jury Management System. Jurors learned how continuing efforts such as these would help the Court better align its daily demand for jurors with the number of jurors that we bring in each day. Jurors were also reassured that, through such initiatives, the Court is committed to improving its juror utilization rates, as well as reducing the frequency with which residents are called to serve.

The DC Courts value the tremendous effort, contribution, and role that our jurors play in helping us fulfill our mission "to protect rights and liberties, uphold and

interpret the law, and resolve disputes peacefully, fairly and effectively in the District of Columbia." Juror Appreciation Week is our way of acknowledging their "Public Service" to the community.



DC Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield kicks off the week by greeting jurors.

Mental Health Myths and Facts, continued from page 5

- Family history of mental health problems
- People with mental health problems can get better and may recover completely.
- Lower total medical costs
- Increased productivity
- Lower absenteeism
- Decreased disability costs

Myth: People with mental health needs, even those who are managing their mental illness, cannot tolerate the stress of holding down a job.

Fact: People with mental health problems are just as productive as other employees. Employers who hire people with mental health problems report good attendance and punctuality as well as motivation, good work, and job tenure on par with or greater than other employees.

When employees with mental health problems receive effective treatment, it can result in:

Myth: There is no hope for people with mental health problems. Once a friend or family member develops mental health problems, he or she will never recover.

Fact: Studies show that people with mental health problems get better and many recover completely. Recovery refers to the process in which people are able to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. There are more treatments, services, and community support systems than ever before, and they work.

DC Courts Living Our Values Update

The Living our Values initiative has continued to gain momentum and make significant progress in the past two months. Actions are being taken at both the DC Courts enterprise level as well as within each division. The purpose of this update is to provide a more detailed view of progress being made across the DC Courts.

Values Pulse Check: Since the values pulse check launched in February, over 550 employees, supervisors, managers and leaders participated in the online survey – yielding a response rate of approximately 50%. Results reveal consistently high reported levels of awareness and knowledge of and commitment to the values. When it comes to living the values, however, results varied across divisions. You can expect to see DC Courts wide pulse check survey results via a new intranet page in the near term. Stay tuned for your division specific results to be communicated this summer.

Leadership 360: As shared in the last update, managers and leaders across the Courts have participated in or will shortly participate in a 360-degree assessment aimed at gathering feedback about the extent to which they live the values and demonstrate the leadership principles. As of early June, 50 leaders and managers have completed their 360 process while 38 are currently “in process.” The 360-degree process will continue throughout the summer to ensure that everyone with people management responsibility participates.

QuickStart for Managers: Building a consistent approach to and philosophy around people management was a key opportunity uncovered in the 2014 values assessment. The QuickStart for Managers program was designed to support managers in building management consistency and in acquiring management tools, tips, and coaching. Since it's launch



ACCOUNTABILITY

We take responsibility for our conduct and are answerable for our performance.

EXCELLENCE

We provide the highest quality of service in everything we do.

FAIRNESS

We are impartial in our actions, decisions and treatment of others.

INTEGRITY

We demonstrate the highest standards of ethical behavior.

RESPECT

We treat everyone with dignity, courtesy and understanding.

TRANSPARENCY

We are open in our processes and communicate our actions and decisions clearly.

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'You Be the Judge' — District of Columbia Courts Kick off 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Process

The District of Columbia Courts are involved in a year-long process of collecting information to inform our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the fourth such plan. On May 17-19, 2016, as part of that effort, the DC Courts surveyed court users on their experiences in the Courts. The survey also asked questions to assess if DC Courts are accessible and treat people with fairness and respect

Approximately 100 judicial officers and employees, including Chief Judge Eric T. Washington and Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield, volunteered their time to hand out surveys and encourage participation. Volunteers wore "Today! You Be the Judge - Improving Justice Together" t-shirts and handed out surveys at entrances and exits of the Historic Courthouse, Moultrie Courthouse and Court Buildings A, B and C. The survey was available in English, Spanish and Amharic. The survey was completed by approximately 1,300 persons conducting business in the courts on those days.



Former DC Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus King III (left) and current Chief Judge Lee Satterfield (right).



DC Court of Appeals Clerk of Court Julio Castillo (left) and Chief Judge Eric Washington.

DC Courts Values Update — Continued from page 7

in 2015, over 140 managers (from division directors to supervisors) have participated in this mandatory nine-module management development program. Two more cohorts launched on June 10th.

Conversations@Core: In addition to management development training, staff also have the opportunity to participate in values related training. Conversations@theCore is a two-day training program that has seen over 50 DC Courts staff participate, to-date. Past participants report that the session is a quality program that helps them have high-value conversations that demonstrate the values. Sessions will continue to be offered in June, August, and the fall. Sign up for a session today!

DC Courts Intranet page: The Living Our Values initiative is getting an online home. In addition to the updates provided in Full Court press, you will be able to access information related to this initiative under the Intranet's "Courtwide Space" tab.