

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the OCA@Work Committee is to enhance both the quality of life in the workplace and communication among employees at the Office of Court Administration.

The Committee strives to be responsive to workplace concerns, as appropriate, and to provide employees with the opportunity to develop a greater familiarity with the roles of their colleagues and the various functions of the divisions and units within OCA.

The OCA@Work Committee invites suggestions from all employees on a regular basis and rotates its membership.

## CONTENTS:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| OCA RETIREMENTS.....            | 3-4 |
| WORKFORCE CHALLENGE.....        | 4   |
| TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK ..... | 5-6 |
| ALASKA! .....                   | 7-8 |
| STRESS-FREE VACATIONS .....     | 9   |

# NewsLetter

## A PREVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM

BY SUSAN GOODMAN  
*Communications*

**YOU DESCEND A WINDING RAMP TO THE ORIGINAL FOUNDATION LEVEL OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TOWERS.** Along the way, you hear the recorded voices of New Yorkers remembering;



*Timeline at the Museum*

you see their phrases projected on columns around you. "I was so happy I had gotten my son out of school," says one mother. "It was a great day in New York," says another witness, recalling the beautiful late summer weather of 9/11. "I began my day in a typical fashion," says another. Below you is the "last column" removed from the WTC site in 2002 and signed with memorial messages from first responders, volunteers and victims' relatives.

The National September 11 Memorial Museum welcomed 9/11 families, rescue and recovery workers, active-duty first responders, survivors, and lower Manhattan residents and business owners a week before its official opening. A number of staff members from the courts and OCA had a chance to visit before the flood of visitors began arriving, including Captain Rick Rosenfeld who in 2001 was in charge of security for 100 and 111 Centre Streets. Rosenfeld and Major Reginald Mebane, now retired, gathered court officers and traveled down to the WTC site in a school bus. Sergeant Thomas Jurgens, Captain William Harry Thompson and Sergeant Mitch Wallace, who all perished that day, were helping to carry the elderly and those with severe respiratory problems out of the south tower, when the building collapsed.

Captain Rosenfeld didn't think he was going to make it home that day either. As the years pass, Rosenfeld wonders how many, beside the OCA staff members who directly knew them and family and friends, will remember the heroism of the three court officers who died that day. "We don't want these men ever to be forgotten," he said. "The museum keeps the memories of their life and work alive."

## SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL MUSEUM *continued*

The museum is divided into the Foundation Hall, a massive room pictured at right, which includes one of the original retaining slurry walls and the last remaining tower, and a historical and memorial exhibition. The historical exhibition, which traces the time before, during and after the attacks, includes, among much historical information and memorabilia, a damaged chair from a Battery Park City apartment, a piece of column and façade that became detached and bent into a horseshoe shape from the force of compression, and dusty pullover sweaters from a retail store near Fulton Street. All of this “documentary” evidence is a reminder of the daily lives of New Yorkers that, on that day, were forever transformed.



*Foundation Hall, with retaining slurry wall and fragment of the last tower standing.*



*Monitor featuring victims' stories including those of Sgt. Jurgens, Capt. Thompson and Sgt. Wallace.*

intimate reflections from family, friends and work colleagues. We hear their stories, including those of Jurgens, Wallace and Thompson, and think of past and future—where we were headed that day, what the victims were going through in their lives, and where they might be today had they lived on. ■

## GREEN TIPS:

*Hard to believe the cold weather is behind us, but it is, and it's time to be ready for summer. Here, from our Green Committee, are some Energy-Saving Tips for the Cooling Season:*

- Tune up your heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system with annual maintenance—your appliances will run more efficiently and save you money.
- Change (or clean if reusable) HVAC filters every month during peak cooling or heating seasons.
- Control direct sun through windows. Block direct heat gain from the sun shining through east-and west-facing windows.
- Use fans to maintain comfortable temperature, humidity and air movement, and save energy year round. Turn up the temperature setting on your air conditioner by only three to five degrees and add a fan or two to maintain the comfort level. Each degree can save about 3 percent on cooling costs.

*For more information about saving energy during the cooling season, visit: <http://www.sba.gov/content/tips-energy-efficiency>*



## Recent OCA Retirements -

# Congratulations and thank you to three long-time OCA employees!

### MARIO BELLANTONI

On April 16th, Mario Bellantoni was feted by many colleagues and friends, celebrating his retirement after 38 years of service. Zola Hill, Print Shop Manager, and Mario's long-time, immediate supervisor, shared these thoughts about Mario: "He will be



*Mario center in his "uniform" surrounded by his Print Shop and Mailroom colleagues. (l-r) Handel Wilson, Adrian Cora, Edwin (Oz) Cortijo, Darrell Willis, Zola Hill, Mario, Josephine Peters, Fred Brucale, Robert Butler, Raymond Diaz, Dwight Clark (missing: Thomas Puckerin, Salih Dunston & Andrew Pitt)*

missed by everyone here at OCA. Mario was a constant staple in the Print Shop; he often arrived early and stayed late. He was always on hand to help with whatever needed to be done. I don't think "no" is in his vocabulary. He was also very gifted at fixing things--locks were his specialty. His hard work and long hours made complex projects look easy and because of those efforts he made the Print Shop shine. Congratulations, Mario. We wish you a long, healthy retirement. As you usually said to me after completing a job, "it's now finished, done, complete!"

### WENDY FRISBEE

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, after more than 30 years of exemplary service, OCA said farewell to a pioneer in the field of court case management technology—Wendy Frisbee, UCMS Project Manager. That evening, a gathering of over a 100 colleagues and friends celebrated Wendy's long, illustrious career. Chip Mount, Director, DoT, spoke of Wendy's numerous achievements and read letters of thanks from Sheng Guo, Chief Technology Officer, and Ron Younkins, OCA's Executive Director. Colleagues Chris Ashley, Carol Champitto and Michael McLoughlin shared memories of happy times and humorous moments with Wendy from throughout the years.



*Wendy (left) and Carol Champitto, who helped coordinate the party*

Wendy began her career as a programmer for the NYC Family Court mainframe case management system. Within just a few years, Wendy became project manager of family court automation and subsequently oversaw the development of DAFRCIS (the precursor to UCMS), the Domestic Violence Registry, and later UCMS, the first statewide Family Court case management system. Following the successful rollout of UCMS to the state's family courts, Wendy took on the leadership of the DoT Project

## RECENT OCA RETIREMENTS *continued*

Management Office and the System Architecture team. For the last five years, Wendy had returned to UCMS to lead the development and early implementation of UCMS Criminal and the inclusion of the Family and Drug Treatment module into UCMS. All the best, Wendy, you will be missed!

### WILLIAM (BILL) GILCHRIST

On April 23rd, friends and colleagues, led by OCA's Executive Director, Ron Younkens and Lauren DeSole, Director of Human Resources, toasted Bill Gilchrist, Director of the Judiciary Benefits Office and the Office of Judicial Support, on his retirement, after almost 30 years with OCA. Bill long had a reputation for excellence as a go-to person and problem solver, as well as for his genuine enthusiasm for every project and issue that he tackled. His dedication and commitment won him the respect of his colleagues both within the court system and with those in the many government agencies that the courts work with.



*Bill Gilchrist*

Bill started with the courts in 1986, in the Employee Relations Office, and was promoted through the ranks. In 2005, he was temporarily asked to assume a management role in the Judiciary Benefits Office, and, in 2006, was appointed Director of Judiciary Benefits. Since 2007, Bill also oversaw the Office of Judicial Support. In 2012, Bill received the prestigious Botein Award (given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the administration of the courts by employees in the First Department). All the best, Bill, thank you! ■

## WORKFORCE TEAM CHALLENGE



*(1-r) Marc Bloustein, Diane Bloustein, Jason Premo, Ken Sluti, Diane Thompson, Cathy Melanson, Steve Agan, Amelia Sessions, Alan Melanson, Rob Nufer, and Jen DiLallo.*



*Challenge Organizers Jen DiLallo and Amelia Sessions*

For the 10th year in a row, the Unified Court System entered a team in the Annual CDPHP (Capital District Physicians Health Plan) Workforce Team Challenge in Albany. Despite rainy weather conditions, the UCS team competed in the 3.5 mile race against more than 9,700 participants, with teams from other companies, not-for-profits and government agencies. **Congratulations to all our finishers!**

TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK

Take Our Children to Work—New York City

BY ANITA WOMACK-WEIDNER, *Workforce Diversity*



*OWD Director, Tony Walters, the students and OCA employees (l-r) Yao Chen, Doretha Jackson, Melissa Thomas, Latoya Solorzano and Helen Zhu*

**ON MAY 8, OCA HELD ITS ANNUAL TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY PROGRAM.**

Sixteen children participated, along with Office of Workforce Diversity staff Doretha Jackson and Anita Womack-Weidner.

The day began with breakfast and welcoming remarks from Tony Walters, Director of the Office of Workforce Diversity. He spoke of the value of diversity in a working environment as well as one’s personal life.

Thom Cannava, Deputy Director of Human Resources, explained that OCA’s mission is to provide the trial courts with the necessary tools to function. He was quick to point out to the children how, without the assistance provided to the courts by their OCA employee parents and family members, essential court functions could not operate smoothly. This made the youngsters beam with pride in knowing that their family members played such an important role in court operations. Stopping at the

*continued page 6*

Visiting the Court of Claims and Beyond—Albany

BY SUZETTE COLON, *Court of Claims*



*Judge Richard E. Sise with his young visitors.*

**OUR 20TH ANNUAL TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK DAY—PACKED TO THE BRIM—BEGAN AT THE NYS COURT OF CLAIMS.**

The parents of the young visitors work at the court; the Appellate Division, Third Dept.; OCA, including DoT; and the Committee on Professional Standards. Judge Richard E. Sise welcomed the children and provided a brief history of the Erie Canal and its role in the establishment of the Court.

At the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, Justice William E. McCarthy greeted the youngsters, giving them a tour of the Court’s conference room and explained how attorneys appear before the court to present oral arguments on behalf of their clients’ appeals.

The group returned to the Court of Claims for a mock trial, “The First Little Pig v. The Big Bad Wolf,” presided over by Court of Claims Judge Glen T. Bruening. Volunteers got to participate in the presentation and the jury, after deliberations, found the wolf innocent.

After the verdict, the group proceeded to the

*continued page 6*

## NYC... *continued*



*Judge Melvin Tingling, surrounded by his young visitors*

Dept. of Public Safety, Lt. Josephine Longobardi provided honorary employee photo ID cards for each child.

At New York County Supreme Court (60 Centre Street), they visited the courtroom of Supreme Court Justice Melvin Tingling, who discussed the difference between criminal trials and civil cases and introduced the members of his courtroom team.

Next stop was the Court Officers Academy at 123 William Street. The Academy staff explained the role that Uniformed Court Officers play in providing for the safety and security of all who use our court facilities. The children then participated in a variety of activities including CPR, defense tactics, and the now famous obstacle course! Finally, the children were given a brief overview of weapon safety and were told to alert an adult if they ever encounter any weapons. As always, the entire staff of the Court Officers Academy provided a very exciting portion of the program!

The day concluded at 25 Beaver Street, where Tony Walters once again met with the youngsters. Each child shared their favorite part of the program and spoke of some of the lessons that they had learned. Tony presented them with certificates to commemorate their participation in the day's activities. ■

## ALBANY... *continued*

Court of Appeals where the children were able to tour the beautiful rotunda and visit the impressive Richardson Courtroom.

Next stop was the always exciting tour of the Capital Police Station where the youngsters learned about the security measures that the police take on a daily basis and got to meet Ras, a black German Shepard, who is certified in explosive detection and search and rescue.

The day ended back at the Court of Claims, where Court Officer Chris Durant gave the students a tour of the security station, explained the duties of a Court Officer and demonstrated the magnetometer. ■



*Judge Glen T. Bruening, after presiding over the trial of the Big Bad Wolf.*

## The Alaskan Road Less Traveled

BY GENE COLON, *Counsel's Office*

Most people wouldn't call a remote cabin, with no plumbing and a smoky, 50-gallon barrel stove for a heater, sub-freezing temperatures and six hours of daylight, a prime vacation spot. But if you're looking for a little adventure, spectacular vistas and some of the best cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on the planet, Alaska in the winter might be the place for you.

Though we didn't get a glimpse of the famed, but elusive, Aurora Borealis (natural light display in the sky), or a wolf pack, and we encountered a virtual heat wave (temperatures ranged from about 15 degrees below zero to 30 above, about 25 degrees above normal for January) two of my sons and I had a national park the size of Switzerland practically to ourselves, our cantankerous guide (and renowned nature photographer), Carl Donohue, and his long-time mate and Alaskan settler, Paul, for five magnificent days of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and hearty Alaskan fare (including succulent moose ribs courtesy of hunter/cook Paul). Evenings were spent in our cabin, debating the state of the world over snowbank-cooled libations that we had hauled via sled to the cabin, about a half mile off Nabesna Road, once a miner's road, and now one of the two main roads into Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

This was my third trip to the paradise (and well-kept secret) that is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Located in the southeast corner of Alaska, it is the largest park in the United States, encompassing over 13 million acres, six times the size of Yellowstone. The Malaspina Glacier, in the southwest portion of the park, is larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined! Yet, despite its ample array of wildlife and vast back country, highlighted by some of North America's highest mountain peaks, Wrangell-St. Elias attracts no more than a trickle of visitors compared to other national parks, even in the summer high season. In winter, there are even fewer visitors. The only other living beings we encountered during our stay were a few trappers and a smattering of wildlife.



*Brave Souls Gene and sons (l-r) Jake and Dave*



*Nabesna Road*

Our trip began with the all too-familiar New York airport weather-related chaos, resulting in the inevitable cancelled flight and a missed connection to Anchorage. Not surprisingly, our luck in finally getting into Anchorage did not extend to our luggage—painstakingly packed with most of our cold weather gear—which was nowhere to be found. Fortunately, most of my gear was in my carry-on. 'Not to worry,' said Carl. Between a quick trip to the mega-REI Anchorage

## THE ALASKAN ROAD... *continued*

outdoor store, a certain store that stocked single-malt beverages, and a generous selection from Carl's stash of extra gear, we were ready to head out for our scenic, five-hour road trip to our cabin in Carl's four-wheel drive van, and leave our luggage at the airport for the week.

Our cabin, the "Viking Lodge," consisted of a large, single-room with two bunks (occupied by Carl and Paul), the aforementioned stove, a "kitchen" on the wall, a wood shed and a large loft area with plenty of room for my sons and me to stretch out our sleeping bags. Paying a visit to the outhouse required either a steely constitution or a lot of clothing and, after about 3:00 p.m., some navigational awareness, lest one wander inadvertently from the loo into the murky darkness. In addition to solving the world's problems over libations, our main cabin activity consisted of gazing out the "living room" window at the endlessly changing frozen tundra. It even made me forget the electronic hearth for a while.



*The Viking Lodge*

Though bordered by imposing mountains on each side, the trails that branched off Nabesna Road were mostly moderate, at least as far as we took them. And the ever-falling snow made it feel like we were traversing a feather bed. My favorite day was spent snowshoeing up a remote valley (my son, David, and I breaking trail for my son, Jacob, and Carl, who were on skis). We ate lunch (including thermos-warmed soup) in the shelter of a primitive cabin, and went back down in the late afternoon in a light snow, the ethereal light blurring the landscape, watching Jake glide down the trail and out of sight; then returning to our warm cabin (thanks to Paul, and a boat load of fire wood) for a well-earned hot dinner (ditto).

Thanks to the experience of our guide, some serious cold weather gear and wind, tamped down by the constant cloud cover, we managed to return with all of our fingers and toes in tact - not to mention our smiles. And that included sleeping one night outdoors (once Jake accepted the challenge, I, of course, had to do likewise).

I know that there are some (maybe most) who might not find a trip like this to be their cup of tea, but to loosely paraphrase Justice Potter Stewart, it's hard to describe the sublime profoundness of being "out there" in the wilderness—but you know it when you feel it. Sprinkle in some snow, and for me, it doesn't get any better than that. Happy trails. ■



Save the Date-Sept. 17th 12:00-1:00 P.M.  
Brown Bag-Lunch and Learn

**Feeling Stressed Out?**

Count to ten, breathe deeply and plan to attend this informative program. More info to follow. Email Cindy Martucci-Kiyar if you want to participate (Beaver St.; RTP, ESP4).

## TOP TEN TIPS TO ENSURE A STRESS-FREE, FUN VACATION!

BY SERGE BRETON, *Facilities Planning*

*Editor's Note: Serge is a frequent traveler, who enjoys talking about his journeys and particularly favors traveling at sea with friends and family. He graciously shared his favorite, tried and true hints for making arrangements in advance, smart packing and last-minute checklists, so you can go on vacation without worrying about what's happening at home.*



- Ask a friend, family member, or neighbor to be your emergency contact. Make sure that they know how to contact you in case of emergency.
- Check smoke detectors in case batteries need to be replaced.
- Make arrangements, as appropriate, for plants, animals, mail, trash and indoor lights (let the police know to watch your house). Burglars are tempted by homes with overflowing mailboxes, trash cans on the street and no lights on at night.
  - At work, make sure you meet all deadlines; set away messages and let pertinent colleagues know when you will be away and who to contact in your absence, as needed.
    - Eat or give away any perishables in your refrigerator.
    - Clean, dust, vacuum and wipe down
- your home. Ensure that the floors and counters are clear.
- If using light timers, remember to set them a few days ahead of time, if possible.
- Make packing easy, create a list of everything you need to take with you. Bonus-you can use the list, again, at the end of your trip, to make sure you're not missing anything and use the same list for future trips.
- Before you leave, do a final check of windows (blinds down), fences and doors to ensure that all entries are secure. (for winter travelers, check with your gas/oil provider to find the best temperature for avoiding freezing and burst water pipes).
- And, finally, take one last look around, note the state of your valuables and furniture, so when you get home you will notice if anything is amiss. If you have an alarm system, remember to set it.

