



BRIEFLY

The Seventh Judicial District Newsletter
161 Hall of Justice, Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 371-3266 www.nycourts.gov/courts/7jd
March 27, 2015 Vol. 35—No. 3



It's a Girl!!



Alicia Nickerson, Court Assistant, Cayuga Family Court and her husband, **Scott Nickerson**, are the proud parents of a baby girl: **Natalie Quinn Nickerson**, 8 lbs., 5 oz., 21 inches long, born February 21, 2015. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Christina (Tina) Herman has been promoted to Wayne County Chief of Surrogate Court.



Tina Herman has been with the 7th Judicial District since May 2002. She previously worked for the Wayne County District Attorney's office since August 1999. She started her court career in the Wayne County Jury office as a Senior Court Office Assistant Keyboarding and cross-trained in Supreme and County Courts. In May 2006, Tina became a Court Assistant in Supreme and County Courts.

Tina and her husband Joe like to travel on their Harley-Davidson motorcycles. They have been cross country a number of times as well as lots of local riding. Hopefully, this year a southern/eastern seaboard route is in the works. They just celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on March 19th. Tina likes to walk, read and play games on her Kindle. Congratulations, again!

It's a Boy!!



Marlene Rittler (Monroe Family Court, retired) and her husband **Kurt** (Monroe County Sheriff's Dept.) are the proud grandparents of **Evan Kurt Biller**, 7 lbs., 14 oz., born on Valentine's Day. This is the third child for **Brian and Crystal**; siblings are **Justin**, age 13 and **Tyler** age 10. Congratulations to everyone!

Wellness Event for March: Book and DVD Exchange

On March 5, The 7th Judicial District Wellness Committee held a Book and DVD Exchange for the employees in the Monroe County Hall of Justice. They also collected stuffed animals and children's books to be given to the Child Care Center in the Hall of Justice. 81 stuffed animals and six cases of children's books were collected!



Eileen Whitney, pictured left, with a child care worker, were very happy to take the stuffed animals and books and were very appreciative. Each child that attends the Center will receive a book and an animal to take home with them. Thanks to everyone who participated!!

Obituaries



Mr. Carmelo Cannizzo, **father of Yamil Barona, Court Interpreter**, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the age of 76. Mr. Cannizzo is survived by his wife, Adalgisa D'Orazio Cannizzo; son, Sandro (Jocelyn) Cannizzo; daughters, Yamil (Nestor) Barona, Mariella (George) Diaz; grandchildren, Julian (Margaret), Romina (Jon), Austin, Alexander, Gabriela, Alessandro, Fausto; great-grandchildren, Ava, J.T., Vivi, Axel; nephew, Giuseppe Trainito and family; niece, Gaetana Trainito and family and many dear friends. Memorials may be directed to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Building; P.O. Box 1000, Memphis, TN

38105. Send cards of condolence to Yamil and her family, c/o Interpreter's Unit, 7th District Office, 161 Hall of Justice, Rochester, NY 14614.

Hon. Andrew W. Fusco, 62, former judge of Auburn City Court, of Auburn, NY, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, March 19, 2015. Mr. Fusco was a graduate of Johnstown High School, Hobart College and Albany Law School, and a former Cayuga County assistant district attorney. He authored three books on auto racing. He also contributed to other books, including several on baseball, motor sports and railroads. He was involved with the Fulton County Baseball & Sports Hall of Fame, as well as the DIRT Motorsports Hall of Fame & Classic Car Museum in Weedsport, NY. Andy is survived by his wife, Andrea. They have two children, Jennifer Fusco, and Adam Fusco. Andy is also survived by his brother-in-law, Richard Franklin as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Memorial contributions may be sent to the DIRT Motorsports Hall of Fame & Classic Car Museum, 1 Speedway Drive, Weedsport, NY 13166. Cards of condolence may be sent to Andrew Fusco's family at: 105 South Herman Avenue,

Leadership Rochester: Perspectives of the Justice System



Hon. Craig J. Doran, second from right

Hon. Craig J. Doran, Administrative Judge, attended a "Perspectives of the Justice System" panel at the Rochester Police Dept. with District Attorney Sandra Doorley, Rochester Police Chief Mike Ciminelli, Monroe County Sheriff Pat O'Flynn and Public Defender Tim Donaher. There were 40+ class members in attendance and another 10 people from the planning committee. Members are here are adults, range in all ages, come from all walks of life and each year are different. Each year's class of Leadership Rochester members meet once a month for ten months. The class members are nominated by someone (usually their employer) to be part of the class and the members are there to learn about the workings of Rochester. Through the information they gather over the 10-

month period, it is with hope and exposure to issues, they can affect change to make Rochester better. Each month, they learn about a different area/function of what makes Rochester.

Thank you from Wendy Trippi, Senior Court Office Assistant in Monroe Supreme and County: Lexi (or as I call her



Princess Lexi), was diagnosed with Cushing's disease last May. Many people in the Hall of Justice have contributed time and money towards medical bills and also for us to travel to Maryland to the National Institute of Health. We traveled there in January for 2 ½ weeks of testing. We are now set to go back for surgery on March 16th. This surgery will be to remove part or all of her pituitary gland. Without the donations from the Hall of Justice employees including the Monroe County Sheriff Deputies this would have put a huge strain on my family. I will be forever grateful for all who have shown their support in any way they could. Lexi and I have felt the immense love from each and every person that I have the pleasure of working with.

Part 2 of the Black History Month Celebration in the Monroe County Hall of Justice

The 2nd part of the program took place on February 26th in conjunction with the Rochester Black Bar Association and the Black History Month Committee. Retired Rochester City Court Judge Roy King and Rochester Teen Court Coordinator Valerie Tisdale shared perspectives on some of the most pressing issues facing the Black community and community-at-large today. The session concluded with a robust question/answer segment by those in attendance. School of the Arts students also raised their beautiful voices and sang a few spirituals for the attendees. Hon. Maija Dixon from Rochester City Court is pictured in the photo on the right, introducing Val Tisdale and Hon. Roy King (retired.)



Congratulations on your retirement!

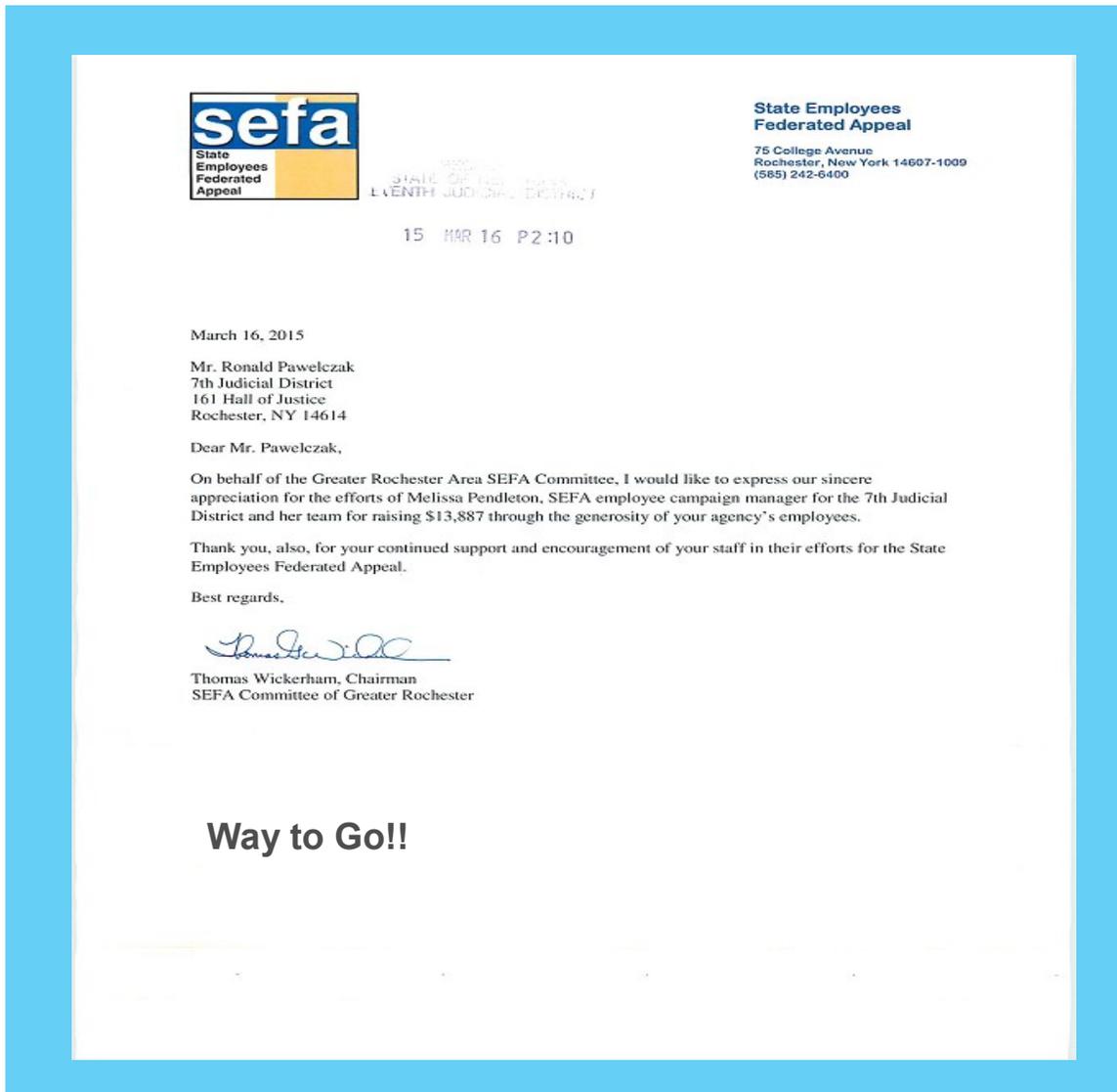


Congratulations to **Laurie Reed**, Senior Court Reporter in Monroe County on her retirement. Laurie worked 30 years as a Court Reporter and is pictured with District Executive, Ron Pawelczak and Trish Harding, Senior Court Reporter.

Congratulations to **Kathy V. Harris** on her retirement. Kathy had 31 years of service as a Principal Office Typist and a Court Assistant in Monroe Supreme & County Court.

The Justice Court Assistance Program Award:

The Hon. Craig J. Doran, Administrative Judge for the 7th Judicial District, is pleased to announce the award of \$245,226 dollars in JCAP funding to 48 Town and Village Courts throughout the 7th Judicial District for 2014-15. The Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) was established in 1999, at the request of the Unified Court System, to provide Town and Village Courts with resources and equipment to fulfill their critical role in the justice system. With the advent of the State Judiciary's Action Plan for the Justice Courts in 2006, a broad-based initiative designed to improve the efficiency and quality of local town and Village Courts, a new focus was put on the Town and Village Courts and the JCAP program was expanded both in the level of funding and the scope of projects funded. The JCAP program is administered by the Unified Court System's Office of Justice Support to improve the administration of justice and the appearance of the Justice Courts. For fiscal year 2014-15, \$2.5 million was allocated for the JCAP program.



STATE OF THE JUDICIARY: SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On March 5th, Hon. Craig J. Doran, Administrative Judge, along with Hon. John B. Gallagher, Hon. Elma A. Bellini, Hon. John B. Owens, Hon. Teresa D. Johnson and Hon. Matthew A. Rosenbaum attended the "State of the Judiciary: Seventh Judicial District" as part of a Monroe County Bar Center for Education speakers forum at The Rubin Center for Education.

Judge Doran said the Seventh District includes about 320 judges and a staff of nearly 500. The district handled 104,000 court filings last year, through mid-November, with about the same number of dispositions. The district is also working with Monroe County on building improvements at the Hall of Justice, including an atrium upgrade and places on the first floor where attorneys can privately meet with clients. The WorkForce Diversity Committee is partnering with the Rochester Black Bar Association to get the word out about available jobs in the court system. There will also be some educational programs to help those preparing to take the civil service exams.



Journey with the Mentorship Program

by Tracy Hubright, Sr. Court Office Assistant, Monroe County Family Court

I wanted to submit a brief progress report about my journey with the Mentorship Program. As a mentee paired with my mentor, Alice Reed of Rochester City Court-Civil, I'm happy to report that I have had an utmost intriguing and enlightening experience so far. It's amazing to have worked here at the Hall of Justice for over 7 years and never ventured very far from the floor upon which I work every day. What is also amazing is how many court rooms, offices, and staff that are actually here to perform the everyday court functions in this location alone. So far, all the colleagues I have encountered on this journey have been exceptional in that they are very knowledgeable, professional, and considerate. Each have given up what little extra time they have to explain processes, answer questions, and introduce me to other personnel.

At this time, I would like to extend special thanks, gratitude, and recognition to the following people that I have spent time with so far on this journey: Alice Reed, Nicholas Sprague, George Gould, Lisa Preston, Kim Keskin, Pam Geraci, Rebecca Klym, Kim Bostley, Mary Olson, Amy Zimmer, Brenda Breese, April Termine, Amy Fields, Stacy Astudillo, and Melissa Pendleton.

Additionally, I was asked if one of my emails thanking one of the above named individuals could be included in my report to reflect the gratitude...

From: Tracy Hubright
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 9:39 AM
To: Lisa Preston
Cc: Alice Reed
Subject: Follow up 1/22

Hi Lisa:

I had a great experience yesterday with Kim in the Matrimonial part within Judge Fisher's court. I was able to observe a couple of different cases and then a continuation of a matrimonial trial. Kim was excellent!! Her demeanor was awesome, she showed me the different tasks that she does, allowed me to participate with the exhibits, and introduced me to quite a few staff. It was interesting to learn a few things that I didn't realize in comparison to Family Court.

Again, I want to thank you so very much for your time, your staff's time and participation, and the wonderful experience. I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Mentorship program and being able to observe other courts and meet other people within the same building I work in every day.

Tracy Hubright
Senior Court Office Assistant
Monroe County Family Court

Stay tuned and I will report back in the near future the conclusion of my journey...

Continued from Page 5

Way To Go!!!!

From: Tracy Hubright To: Lisa Preston Date: January 23, 2015 9:39 AM Sub: Follow up 1/22

Hi Lisa— I had a great experience yesterday with Kim in the Matrimonial part within Judge Fisher’s court. I was able to observe a couple of different cases and then a continuation of a matrimonial trial. Kim was excellent!! (Kim Keskin, Court Assistant in Monroe Supreme & County Court.) Her demeanor was awesome, she showed me the different tasks that she does, allowed me to participate with the exhibits, and introduced me to quite a few staff. It was interesting to learn a few things that I didn’t realize in comparison to Family Court. Again, I want to thank you so very much for your time, your staff’s time and participation, and the wonderful experience. I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Mentorship program and being able to observe other courts and meet other people within the same building I work in every day.

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

From: Kim Keskin To: Lisa Preston Date: January 23, 2015

Good morning, I thoroughly enjoyed having Tracy shadow me. She was enthusiastic about learning Supreme Court and even assisted during our trial. She asked wonderful questions and jumped in to help where she could. She had a positive attitude and a cheerful demeanor. After having the opportunity of her shadowing me, I would like the opportunity to shadow other courts. It could not have been a more positive experience all the way around.

The Reading Room Recommends:



Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

One of the most intriguing, tender novels of 2013, this is a warm, satisfying and inspirational story of two courageous women, yearning for belonging, acceptance and the journey we must all make through life.

From Angie Whitfield, Senior Court Office Assistant in Steuben Family Court to her fellow employees:

Thank you for the nice and thoughtful cards I received while I was off. Also thanks for the beautiful plant that was on my desk when I got back.

A big thanks to everyone that did my work while I was off too. It was nice to come back to a clean desk. I appreciate all of you and am so lucky to have you as friends. Angie

2015 Perennial Plant of the Year: Geranium



‘Biokovo’ blooms in late spring with delightful masses of 5-petaled white flowers, about 3/4” diameter. This excellent groundcover perennial reaches 6-10” high. Petals are tinged pink at the base and have darker pink center stamens. The overall effect is that of a blushing pink geranium. When the flower opens the lightly tinged pink flowers provide a handsome contrast to the sepals and stamens. The aromatic foliage has rounded leaf edges, is a medium green color, and is semi-evergreen in most climates. It forms an attractive mound that offers scarlet and orange fall colors. ‘Biokovo’ does well in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. It is easy to grow and only requires deadheading (removing old flowers) to keep it looking good. It forms an attractive mound that offers scarlet and orange fall colors to your garden. Cut away any dead foliage in the spring and ‘Biokovo’ is ready for the garden season. The plant tends to be deer and rabbit resistant. This geranium spreads by sending out runners, or rhizomes. Best placement is as a ground cover or in the front of the border. It also does well in rock gardens.