

Nassau County Courts Outreach and Access to Justice Initiatives

Hon. Edward G. McCabe
Administrative Judge, Nassau County





State of New York Unified Court System

Hon. Judith S. Kaye
Chief Judge
New York State

Hon. Jonathan Lippman
Chief Administrative Judge

Hon. Ann T. Pfau
Deputy Chief Administrative
Judge for Management Support

Hon. Joseph J. Traficanti
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
Courts Outside New York City

Hon. Juanita Bing Newton
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
for Justice Initiatives

Hon. Edward G. McCabe
Administrative Judge, Nassau County

Hon. John B. Riordan
Surrogate of Nassau County

Hon. Ira H. Wexner
Supervising Judge of the County
and District Courts

Hon. Ruth C. Balkin
Supervising Judge of the
Family Court

Hon. Denise L. Sher
President of the Board of Judges

Hon. Anthony F. Marano
Supervising Judge for Matrimonial Parts

Hon. Richard J. McCord
City Judge of Glen Cove

Hon. Roy Tepper
City Judge of Long Beach

Susan J. Sharp
Executive Assistant to the
Administrative Judge, Nassau County

Daniel Bagnuola
Office of Community Relations



STATE OF NEW YORK
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
NASSAU COUNTY
SUPREME COURT BUILDING
SUPREME COURT DRIVE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501
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JONATHAN LIPPMAN
Chief Administrative Judge

JOSEPH J. TRAFICANT, JR.
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
County Court, Mineola, New York

EDWARD G. McCABE
Administrative Judge
Nassau County

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

As Administrative Judge of the County of Nassau, I am proud that I am part of a Court System that continues to implement unprecedented social and educational programs serving to benefit all of our County's residents.

Initiatives include the Nassau County Juror's Blood Drive Program, which has received more than 9,000 pints of blood donated in two years. Since their inception, the innovative Juror's Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer Screening Programs have successfully screened more than 1,000 jurors. Comprehensive education initiatives such as our School Tour and Speakers Bureau Programs have interacted with more than 4,000 students in the past year.

The Nassau Courts have forged friendships with organizations such as the Association for the Help of Retarded Children and put into place collaborative advocacy programs designed to educate and to assist victims of domestic violence in Nassau County. In addition, a program specifically created to help parents going through separation and divorce proceedings has received unprecedented recognition.

It is with the tireless leadership of the Hon. Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York, that the Nassau County Courts continue to redefine the standard of public service.

It is my hope that this publication will serve to demonstrate the level of dedication of the men and women of the Nassau County Courts.



Edward G. McCabe
Administrative Judge, Nassau County





Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and Domestic Violence Court Presiding Judge Claire I. Weinberg, present Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye with a framed purple ribbon and plaque.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

What began as a zero tolerance for domestic violence in the Nassau County Courts has resulted with the first-of-its-kind court in Nassau County specifically devoted to addressing issues arising from domestic abuse.

Hon. Claire I. Weinberg, the Domestic Violence Court's Supervising Judge, has successfully tailored a statewide model developed by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye to effectively serve the residents of Nassau County who require judicial intervention.

The success of this court lies in its design and staff. Because a case remains with Judge Weinberg from inception to completion, the progress of the case is

closely monitored to ensure the court's familiarity with all aspects of the case. The leadership of Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe, together with Judge Weinberg's continuous supervision and involvement in the case, encourages an effective resolution utilizing an alternative to a system with multiple judges and agencies.

In keeping with the Nassau Courts commitment to finding an eventual solution for domestic violence, a formal ceremony was held to conclude Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Nassau Courts had the distinct honor of welcoming New York State Chief Judge the Honorable Judith S. Kaye as their keynote speaker and honored guest. Nearly 300 guests and elected officials attended this special program to honor Judge Kaye as the person responsible for many of the innovative strategies now in place in the New York State Courts.

More than 400 purple lapel ribbons, symbolic of Domestic Violence Awareness, were given to all guests at the ceremony and employees of the Nassau Courts.

Speakers representing the Nassau County Bar Association, Coalition Against Domestic Violence and various Courts spoke on issues ranging from implementing collaborative approaches, to forging new alliances to better serve victims of abuse.

Each year the Nassau County Courts host programs specifically designed to bring awareness to the social affects of domestic violence.

Women's History Month

At a well attended program in the Supreme Court celebrating Woman's History Month, the Hon. Ann T. Pfau, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Management Support and Administrative Judge of Kings County, was honored for having a long and outstanding career in the New York State Judicial System.

Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe emphasized that Judge Pfau has made an indelible mark on the legal system of New York State. Addressing such issues as jury reform, domestic violence and treatment courts, these initiatives have the potential to improve the lives of all women and men. Along with Judge McCabe, the Honorable Claire I. Weinberg, Supervising Judge of Nassau's Domestic Violence Court, presented a plaque to Judge Pfau in appreciation for her unwavering friendship and contributions to the New York Unified Court System.



PE.A.C.E Program

PE.A.C.E (Parent Education And Custody Effectiveness) is an interdisciplinary educational program formulated to assist reorganizing families.

It provides information from judges and attorneys on the legal process including the necessary and useful information for making child-related decisions.

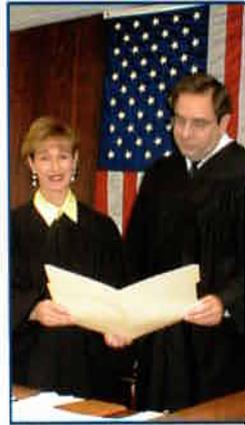
The program, created and designed with the assistance of professors and staff of Hofstra University, provide the mental health perspective relating to the child's experience of divorce and separation, as well as for the adults. The three-session program offered throughout the year, is meant to educate and inform as to the potential outcomes associated with divorce and separation.



Supreme Court Justice Joseph A. DeMaro at Hofstra University.

Supreme Court Justice Joseph A. DeMaro and Family Court Judge Julianne S. Eisman collaborate with attorneys Steven Schlissel, Sam Ferrara and Josh Gruner to facilitate this innovative program that, since its inception, has involved more than 1,000 participating parents.

Nassau County Family Treatment Court



Family Court Supervising Judge Ruth C. Balkin and Hon. Kenneth S. Diamond.

The Nassau County Family Treatment Court provides court-mandated substance abuse treatment to respondents in child neglect cases. Presiding Judge Ruth C. Balkin, with the support of Nassau's Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe, opened the Treatment Court doors to the first client on October 31, 2001.

Court sessions are held with both morning and afternoon appearances depending upon the client's schedule with respect to a treatment program. Each client has an instant drug test prior to his or her court appearance. The test results and an update detailing the client's progress in the program are provided to Judge Balkin for her review.

The success of the program is the collaborative efforts of Presiding Judge Balkin, with the cooperation and support of the Education and Assistance Corporation, Department of Social Services, Department of Probation, Department of Drug and Alcohol, Department of Health, Nassau County Legal Aid Society, the Nassau County Attorneys Office and the Department of Mental Health.

Nassau County Courts Praised for Handicap Accessibility

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, operators of facilities such as courthouses must ensure that their services and programs are available to the disabled.

In dramatic fashion, the Nassau Courts have exceeded expectations by having two courtrooms totally renovated to accommodate persons with physical challenges. The new courtrooms offer motorized lifts for witnesses and judges who may require the assistance of a wheelchair. Wider passageways and textured carpet provide assistance for visually challenged individuals.



Supreme Court Justice Peter B. Skelos and Michael Aronow, Esq. discuss the many innovative advantages in one of Nassau's newly renovated courtrooms.

Ramps and handrails have been built both inside the new courtrooms and outside leading into the building from all directions. Several courthouses in the county have also had rail gates widened to allow attorneys and litigants unobstructed access to the bench, witness and jury box.

Nassau's new courtrooms have been featured in a recent article in the *New York Law Journal*.



District Court Judges Hirsh, Jaffe, Ruskin, Sher, Marber, Marks and Gross present books to EAC as part of Judge Kaye's "Literacy Initiative."

Nassau County Courts Children's Centers

The "Baby Angelica Memorial Children's Center" opened in 1998 and was named in memory of a deceased newborn found abandoned in District Court in Hempstead. The center has provided quality drop-in childcare for nearly 3,000 children brought to court due to matters involving them or their caretakers. Each child leaves the Center at the end of their stay with a book as an encouragement to read and to be read to and also as a reminder of their pleasant visit to District Court. Gently used

children's clothing is also available. This collaborative program is a project of the Education and Assistance Corporation, a nonprofit human service agency.

The "Burton S. Joseph Children's Center" is located in the Nassau Family Court. It is operated by the Family and Children's Association and provides a separate and supervised environment for more than 300 children per month while their caregivers tend to Court business.

Educational Initiatives

More than 4,000 students from Nassau County have participated in the Nassau Courts educational initiatives during the past year.

Comprehensive programs that are tailored to meet the requirements of a particular grade level and curriculum are offered everyday in the Nassau Courts.



Supreme Court Justice F. Dana Winslow explains the Courtroom of the Future to students from the Westbury School District.

In addition to Nassau's on-site educational programs, the Court's Speakers Bureau has recently expanded to accommodate schools and community organizations that are unable to travel to the Courthouse. Coordinated by the Office of Community Relations, the Speakers Bureau present educational court-based programs throughout Nassau County.



County Court Judge Jerald S. Carter speaks to students at New Hyde Park Memorial High School's Academy of Finance.



Thanks to the Nassau County Court Speakers Bureau, our students had the opportunity to learn, first hand, about legal representation and the practical aspects of our judicial system.

Michael S. Krolick
Program Manager, Academy of Finance
New Hyde Park Memorial High School

Court Advocates

Advocates of the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence are stationed daily at the Family Court and the Dedicated Domestic Violence Court to provide on-site support services to victims of domestic violence. They assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining referrals and services, including counseling, emergency safe housing, and referrals to the Coalition and other appropriate agencies.

At the Family Court, the advocates provide support, encouragement and information to assist the petitioner. The Dedicated Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Project provides on-site supportive services to victims of domestic violence to promote victim safety. These services include information and referrals to the Coalition, for counseling and emergency safe housing.

Clergy Day

As a result of Judge Juanita Bing Newton's commitment to create unprecedented access to New York State Courts, her Clergy Day Initiative is emerging in Nassau County. Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe has assembled a steering committee, met with religious representatives and will soon announce Nassau's first-ever Clergy Day Program.

Clergy Day will provide an opportunity for representatives from the Nassau Courts to distribute information about the judicial system, by way of an educational symposium to religious leaders of all denominations. This community-oriented program

will allow members of the clergy to better serve their congregations by having a first-hand knowledge as to the workings of the Court system.

The Nassau County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Comprised of members including judges, court personnel, attorneys and other community representatives, the NCJWC addresses issues regarding gender bias within the Courts of Nassau County. Members, appointed by the administrative judge, meet at regular intervals throughout the year. The committee sponsors public programs and educational forums designed to educate employees and the public about issues of gender bias.



High-Tech Outreach

The Nassau Courts have undertaken an innovative campaign to encourage a better understanding of the Court System. Representatives of the Nassau Courts appear as regular guests on cable television

talk shows and local radio stations. Topics including domestic violence programs and the jury system are explained and discussed.

In addition to television and radio, court-relevant articles are distributed monthly to local and trade newspapers.



(L-R) Frank Naudus, CEO of Naudus Communications, Susan Sharp, Executive Assistant to Nassau's Administrative Judge, and Dan Bagnuolo of the Nassau Courts Office of Community Relations.

Self Represented in Nassau County Divorce Litigation

In 2002, there were approximately 1,400 contested matrimonial cases and 2,400 uncontested cases filed. In addition to the contested divorce litigation, each year over 500 post divorce judgment applications for relief such as support enforcement and/or modification, custody and visitation enforcement and/or modification and claims over property rights are also brought before the Court. The many families involved in this great volume of cases often con-

front the daunting challenge of multi faceted and emotionally complex litigation, the results of which can be long term and have an emotional and financial impact on the entire family unit.

Justice Anthony Marano, Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts in Nassau County, is nearing the final stages in the development of a volunteer program to provide legal representation and resources for the families involved in divorce litigation in Nassau County Supreme Court who could otherwise not afford professional representation.

The program, which will be entitled Fair Access, will match volunteer law students from the Touro Law Center with volunteer experienced matrimonial attorneys through the Matrimonial Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association to provide pro bono representation to individuals otherwise facing financial obstacles.



(L-R) Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Ross, Dean Howard A. Glickstein, Director of Clinical Education Marianne Artusio and the Honorable Anthony F. Marano.

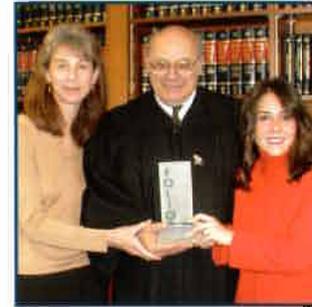
Juror Appreciation Day

More than 60,000 men and women serve as jurors in the Nassau County Courts each year. As way of demonstrating the Court's appreciation for their commitment and time, Commissioner of Jurors Thomas G. DeVivo and the Nassau County Bar Association present a day long program that provides jurors with a catered breakfast and complimentary newspapers. Digital photos are taken of jurors and prominently displayed in the Central Jury and lobby areas. Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and Bar Association President Ken Marten personally thank jurors for their continued cooperation and participation.



Nassau County Bar Association Executive Director, Deena R. Ehrlich, Ph.D. (center) with Bar representatives Hector Herrera and Elaine Leventhal greet jurors at the Nassau Supreme Court during Juror Appreciation Week.

FOLIO Award



Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe with Channel 7 Eyewitness News Long Island Bureau Chief Vicki Metz and Reporter Lauren DeFranco.

The Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting has presented WABC Eyewitness News with the prestigious FOLIO Award for Best Government/ Political Reporting for its special segment documenting the Nassau Courts Jurors Blood Drive Program.

Nassau County Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe, responsible for implementing this innovative healthcare initiative, was present at the awards ceremony when Eyewitness News was announced as the recipient. This program is run by Long Island Blood Services with the assistance of Commissioner of Jurors Thomas G. DeVivo.

Over 9,000 pints of blood have been donated by Nassau's jurors in this first-of-its-kind program in the nation.

What a fabulous concept - being able to offer community service as a potential juror and being able to save a life by donating blood.

Teresa P. Korzun
Juror



United States Army Coin of Excellence

Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and members of his staff were honored with a special ceremony whereby the United States Army's Coin of Excellence was presented to several employees of the Nassau County Court System.

Brigadier General Paul H. Hill, Commanding General of the 800th Military Police Brigade, presented the Army's Coin of Excellence to Chief Court Officer Thomas Kelly, Captain James Formato, Captain Thomas Stack and Paul Margiotta, President of the Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County.

The award is presented to those who have demonstrated unwavering support of their employees who are members of the military.



(L-R) 2nd Vice President of C.O.B.A.N.C. Donald Vetter, Chief Court Officer Thomas Kelly, Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe, Captain Thomas Stack and United States Army Brigadier General Paul H. Hill.

Breast Cancer Screening Program



(L-R) Commissioner of Jurors Thomas G. DeVivo, Justice Elaine Jackson Stack, Nassau Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and Program Director Christine Mancuso, R.N.

On November 6th, Judge McCabe, along with Supreme Court Justice Elaine Jackson Stack, Commissioner of Jurors Thomas G. DeVivo and program director, Christine Mancuso R.N., celebrated a five-year milestone. Since 1997, twice per month a mobile mammography van is stationed at Nassau's Supreme Court to offer mammographies, with no out-of-pocket expense to all eligible women over the age of 40. Since the program's inception, more than 1,000 women have already been screened for breast cancer. The program is also available at the Nassau County Family Court.

The program is funded by the Nassau Health Care Corporation and the New York State Department of Health, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and is coordinated by Ms. Christine Mancuso and Mr. Thomas G. DeVivo.

Community Court

The Nassau County Community Court is an innovative alternative to incarceration that exercises a holistic approach designed to address the underlying causes that contribute to unlawful conduct. Since its inception, nearly 300 participants have successfully completed the requirements and have returned as productive members of society.



Criminal Courts Supervising Judge Ira H. Wexner, Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and Hon. John G. Marks, former Presiding Judge of the Community Court are honored at a recent Community Court graduation.

Glen Cove Teen Court

What began in the year 2000 as the first Teen Court in Nassau County, City Court Judge Richard J. McCord and his staff have received critical acclaim for this innovative deterrent to negative teen behavior.

The Glen Cove Teen Court has established a two-tier program to educate local teens about the responsibilities of the Court System while dealing with teens who have had their first encounters with the law.

In conjunction with Coordinator Susan Altamore Carusi, Judge McCord travels to local school districts to offer an extensive training program for students.

A student prosecutor and defense attorney present evidence to the jury relevant to sentencing. After being charged by a student judge, the student jury will deliberate and pass sentence on the teen defendant.

Sentences take the form of community service, counseling and restitution.



Glen Cove City Court Judge Richard J. McCord and Teen Coordinator Susan Altamore Carusi speak with student participants of the Glen Cove Teen Court Program.

Long Beach City Court F.A.C.T.S Program

In an effort to curb underage drinking, Long Beach City Court has teamed up with the Long Beach Medical Center to provide counseling and treatment for minors. A program initiated in 2001, the F.A.C.T.S.

program (Family Alcohol Counseling and Treatment Services) is a three- week education program for minors who are found in possession of alcohol. Any minor receiving a summons for alcohol consumption is required to appear before the judge. The youths are encouraged to attend the program as an alternative to getting the maximum sentence. Upon completion of the course, the summons is dismissed in the interest of justice. Failure to complete the program could result in a bench warrant being issued.

The program has been very successful with 151 youths having been referred to the F.A.C.T.S. program and 126 successfully completing it thus far. The remainder are still pending with only six no-shows. Educating young people to the dangers of alcohol as opposed to simply having them pay a fine appears to discourage repeat offenders.

Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System

Citing a need to encourage trust and confidence in the New York Court System, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye established four committees within New York State to address issues of the Courts perception and to meet the challenge of increasing access to justice.

A Nassau County blue ribbon panel chaired by Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe and comprised of business and community leaders meet regularly to initiate innovative outreach programs and to assess the Court's progress in the community.

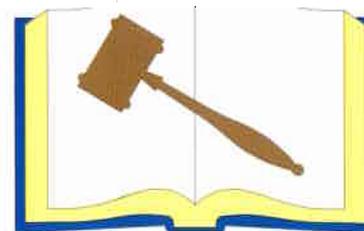
Association for the Help of Retarded Children



AHRC participants Michael Kenny and Kim Peters at the Supreme Court's Annual Holiday Party.

The Nassau County Court System and the Association for the Help of Retarded Children's (AHRC) Next Step Program have formed a first-of-its-kind partnership. Groups from the programs 160 volunteers arrive at the Court each day to provide services that enhance the participant's work and social skills. This unique and well received program was developed by Michael Rich and implemented by

Administrative Judge Edward G. McCabe. In what has been described as a win-win situation, this program has received unprecedented praise from both Court administrators and the parents of the volunteers.



Long Island

Section 14

After Anthrax, the Law Goes Online

It's a Long Way to E-Mail Jury Duty, but First Steps Have Been Taken

By NEWARJAIN

RESPONDING to a request from Nassau County's administrative judge to reduce the volume of letters court officers must screen for anthrax, an increasing number of lawyers have been using e-mail to correspond with court personnel in the county.

"The fewer envelopes we have to open, the better," said Edward G. McCabe, the administrative judge. Beyond reducing the volume of mail, his order has encouraged the legal handling of e-mails and has led to what the local legal profession is the start of sending signed original documents for routine communications.

Since Oct. 20, every piece of mail arriving at any of the county's six court buildings has been X-rayed, visually inspected and bagged opening in sealed rooms by court officers wearing masks and gloves.

The X-raying of mail started several weeks ago after postal authorities discovered a letter bomb addressed to one of the

After Anthrax Scare, The Law Goes Online

Continued From Page 1

adjournments on consent, notifying the judge of a settlement for scheduling purposes, discontinuing a case and setting up conferences.

"It's basically used for scheduling, which is most of what we do," he said. E-mail still cannot be used to enter a plea to settle a dispute or to file court papers.

"I had not thought of it until I received the McCabe memo, and then I contacted most of the calendar clerks at the law firms I deal with and encouraged them to use e-mail," he said. "It has cut down on telephone calls."

Once a lawyer gets representation in an e-mail that both sides agree, you can print out the e-mail and put it in the file," he said. "They don't have to forward a letter because an e-mail is considered a letter."

Alan N. Suttin, chief of information technology practice at the law firm of Greenberg, Trautman in Manhattan, said there had been a move to allow electronic filing for a variety of documents with government entities, like license applications, to the Motor Vehicle Bureau and other agencies.

"Technology to improve the efficiency of government has been around for many years," he said. "Lawyers as a general rule are not early adopters of new technology and tend to be very traditional. I would imagine that they would be slow to accept e-mails or faxes."

Shawn Kelly, chairman of the Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association, said that although there has

been positive reaction among lawyers to Judge McCabe's request, "lawyers are slow to react."

"But it makes all the sense in the world, and it's easy, fast, inexpensive and efficient," he said.

Mr. Kelly said all 40 employees at his firm, Kelly, Rios & Kelly in Mineola, Nassau County Administrative Judge Edward McCabe affectionately calls the green-thumbed helpers—participants in a program for developmentally disabled young adults designed to foster independence—"part of our court family."

At about 100 young people from this special program, dubbed "The Next Step" and sponsored by the Nassau County chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRIC), provide volunteer services both in and

around the courthouse throughout the year. The "New Steppers" have been volunteering at the Mineola court for the past several years, with the plants, gardening tools and related equipment for landscaping projects made available by AHRIC, via donations from local individuals and businesses.

The volunteers, most of whom are in their twenties and recently out of school, performs a variety of tasks, from gardening to affixing the string markers to the identification cards jurors are required to wear upon entering the court. The "Next Steppers" rotate assignments, alternating among several work

sites that include in-family court as well as local soup kitchens, senior homes and thrift shops. Participants are accompanied on the sites by a job coach who oversees their work and provides direction.

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JURY POOL NEWS

A New York State Unified Court System publication highlighting the latest court initiatives and related news

Buds, Friendships Flower Via Unique Court Partnership



Volunteer Michael Curiale carefully removes weeds from the front lawn of the Nassau County Supreme Court located in Mineola. He and other volunteers from "The Next Step," a program sponsored by the county's Association for the Help of Retarded Children, provide year-round help in and around the courthouse.

Just about any weekday morning from late spring through October, a small contingent of young people can be spotted tending the well-maintained perennials and other plants that adorn the front lawn of the Nassau County Supreme Court in Mineola. Nassau County Administrative Judge Edward McCabe affectionately calls the green-thumbed helpers—participants in a program for developmentally disabled young adults designed to foster independence—"part of our court family."

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Continued on Page 7

A reaction to terrorism boosts information technology.

courts. The additional precautions were instituted after anthrax-tainted letter-bombs circulating in the mail, killing five people.

Judge McCabe also published an advisory in this major legal trade paper on Long Island that "strongly encouraged" the use of e-mails wherever practical in correspondence between lawyers, law firms and the Nassau County court system.

"The safety of persons entering any of Nassau County's court facilities remains our highest priority," the advisory said. "Recent events in our nation have led us to adopt a proactive approach utilizing available Internet technology."

Walter J. Sheridan, supervisor of the mailroom at the state Supreme Court building in Garden City, said the e-mail request has resulted in a drop in the volume of letters. He said that on Mondays, the normal mail day, instead of two court officers taking as long as 90 minutes to open all of the mail, the job now averaged 45 minutes. Christopher J. Tarantola, secretary of Justice E. Dana Winans of State Supreme Court in Garden City, said he encouraged the use of e-mails for routine things like



A Win-Win Situation

On a warm, sunny morning, Michael Curiale, a Next Step participant and aspiring musician, was diligently removing weeds from a landscaped area several yards away from the facade of the Nassau County Supreme Court building. Asked how he likes working at the court, Mr. Curiale affably responded that he enjoys the gardening and other tasks he gets to do. "You get to meet a lot of people," he added. For Next Stepper Eileen Leberman, working at the courthouse is tops. "I love it. I love it. It's my favorite courthouse. I live right across the street," she stated proudly. Her gloved hands covered in dirt from weeding and "tickling" the roots of the plants to enhance growth, a trick she learned from her job coach.

Daniel Ragnuolo, the court's community relations coordinator, describes the partnership between the court and AHRIC volunteers as a win-win situation. "For these

young people, it's often their first job. The gratitude and encouragement they get from volunteering is invaluable, and it gives us the opportunity to reach out to this segment of the community. The volunteers interact with many people and have forged relationships with a lot of our employees," he says.

In fact, the Next Step participants so much look forward to coming to the courthouse, they sometimes argue over whose turn it is to work at the court, admits Laura Quere, AHRIC's activities coordinator. Ms. Quere says the court is an "up place" for her volunteers because of all the information they receive from the judges, court staff and even some of the court's visitors. Many court staffers now participate in our annual walkabout and donate clothes to our thrift shop," points Ms. Quere, who calls Judge McCabe one of the volunteers' most ardent supporters.

"We welcome and appreciate these wonderful young people,"

commented Judge McCabe, adding that their work at the court gives them the sense of purpose and self-esteem critical to a happy, productive existence. And to demonstrate their gratitude to the volunteers for their year-round efforts, Judge McCabe and his staff threw a special recognition party to them every June. At the pre-party ceremony this year, Judge McCabe handed each Next Step participant a certificate of appreciation and personalized key chain. Ms. Quere says the volunteers annually await the annual line celebration. "They've grown very attached to the people they interact with at the court," she adds.

And vice versa, says an enthusiastic Mr. Ragnuolo. "To watch them interact, it's human nature at its best. There are no gender or racial barriers. There's a purity in their friendship. They're always smiling and happy to be here. We've learned more from them than they have from us," he muses.



WESTBURY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

POWELLS LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
603 Powells Lane • Westbury, New York 11590
516-876-5124 • FAX: 516-876-5160

CONSTANCE R. CLARK, E.D.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JOHN E. OGLIVIE
Principal

December 12, 2002

Justice Edward G. McCabe
Administrative Judge of Nassau County
100 Supreme Court Drive
Mineola, NY 11501

Dear Justice McCabe:

This letter is being written on behalf of Powells Lane Elementary School located in Westbury, Long Island. We would like to express our thanks for exposing our students to the Nassau County Supreme Court House. Your innovative program has given our fifth grade students a meaningful sense of how the court system works.

This is the second year that our fifth grade students have been invited to attend a tour of the Nassau County Supreme Court House. Each student has gained valuable insight into the many facets of the jury system, as well as the roles of judges and attorneys. The question and answer session in your courtroom was interesting, informative and greatly appreciated. This experience brought our student's textbook learning into real terms.

Your dedication to working with and exposing students to real life court experiences is invaluable. This outstanding program will benefit all members involved. We look forward to continuing this wonderful relationship with you and your staff. Thank you again for your dedication to our students.

Very truly yours,

Beverly Rise Reilly
Beverly Rise Reilly
School Counselor



Powells Lane Elementary School
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Nassau County

Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.

A private, not-for-profit corporation

250 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, New York 11550
Telephone: (516) 572-0700 • Facsimile: (516) 572-0715

Domestic/Dating Violence Hotline: (516) 542-0404 • Rape/Sexual Assault Hotline: (516) 222-2293

Coalition Legal Services

Sandra Oliva, MSW
Executive Director

Lola Schwabner, Esq.
Director of Legal Services

December 16, 2002

Honorable Edward G. McCabe
Administrative Judge
Nassau County Supreme Court
1000 Supreme Court Drive
Mineola, New York 11501

Dear Judge McCabe:

On behalf of all the women and children served by the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, we would like to thank you for the support you have given our advocates for the past 15 years.

The Court's generous support of our Court Advocacy program has given us the opportunity to provide victims of domestic violence and their children information about our programs, such as safety planning, safe housing, legal services and counseling.

The Nassau County Courts have been supportive of our continuing efforts to build public awareness of the pervasiveness of domestic violence in our society, and have assisted us in our efforts to ensure victims of domestic violence access to our services.

We look forward to our continued partnership, cooperation and valued relationship.

Sincerely,

Sandra Oliva, Executive Director

SO:ls

Best
Government/Political
Reporting

**“Supreme Court Mineola
Successfully Recruits Jurors To
Donate Blood”**

Reporter:
Lauren DeFranco

Producer:
Vicki Metz

ABC 7 Eyewitness News

Imagine arriving for jury duty and ending up flat on your back, a pouch of your own blood at your side.

As ABC 7 “Eyewitness News” reporter Lauren DeFranco tells us, this is reality within the storied halls of the Nassau County Supreme Court building in Mineola, where jurors are asked to give blood as they wait to perform their civic duty. Not only do an overwhelming number agree to do it, but the juror blood donation program is now among the top 25 donor programs contributing to the New York area’s blood supply.

A unique look at an innovative approach to the continuing challenge of collecting blood.

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