



BRIEFLY

The Seventh Judicial District Newsletter
161 Hall of Justice, Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 371-3266 www.nycourts.gov/courts/7jd
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SAVE THE DATE

WELLNESS EVENT
FOR MAY

MAY 5, 2016

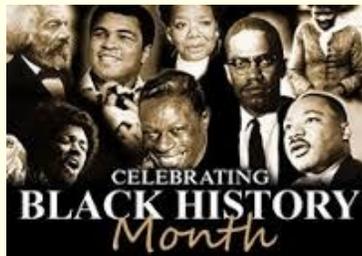
**Monroe County
Rm 165 Hall of
Justice**

Noon—2 PM

**Culinary Herbs:
how to grow them
and how to cook
with them**



Black History Month Celebration



On February 29, 2016 the Seventh Judicial District celebrated Black History Month. The 2016 theme was “Hallowed Grounds: African American Memories.” The program started with an elegant modern dance performance by Ms. Ashley Campbell. Her dance was energetic, yet graceful in movement. Ms. Campbell is the Director of Diversity Programming at the University of Rochester and is a classically-trained dancer who has studied dance for over twenty years. She has trained with famed organizations including Rochester’s own Garth Fagan Dance, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, and Duke Ellington’s Dance Ensemble to name a few. Ms. Campbell and her husband are also the owners of the Ballet Afrikana Dance Prep Academy in Rochester, New York, engaged in exposing students to the ballet art form and telling the Afrikan story through dance.

Hon. Craig J. Doran, Seventh Judicial District Administrative Judge, introduced our keynote speaker, Retired Appellate Court Justice Rose A. Sconiers. She wowed the audience with her sense of humor. She shared her wisdom, experiences, and belief that perseverance helped her overcome adversity at various times in her life. The challenges she endured empowered her to be the best that she could be. Justice Sconiers emphasized a “never give up” attitude. The program concluded with all enjoying delightful refreshments and great conversation.



History would not exist without those who have come before us. It is an earnest reminder of the positive and innovative contributions made by many great Americans. We take time to remember the hardships and struggle, but it doesn't stop there. It's a recognition of the many accomplishments and even better days ahead.

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Melissa Barrett, Rochester City Court, introducing ballerina dancer Ashley Campbell



Ashley Campbell



Keynote Speaker Hon. Rose A. Sconiers



Gift basket door prize. Items were donated by the Diversity Committee and Black History Month Committee. The basket was donated to the Center For Youth.



Stacy Romeo (L) with Rochelle Coley, both from Monroe Supreme & County Courts. Stacy was the winner of the gift basket.



L to R: Michele Jenkins, Monroe S & C, Administrative Judge Hon. Craig J. Doran and Hon. Rose A. Sconiers, Appellate Court Justice-retired

7th JD Gay Pride Celebration

The first Gay Pride Celebration was held in Rochester on March 9th at the Hall of Justice. The event was sponsored by the 7th Judicial District, 7th JD Diversity Committee and the Gay-Straight Alliance of the New York State Courts. The celebration stressed the importance of celebrating diversity as it relates to our workforce and as an Access to Justice issue. The Hon. Craig J Doran, Administrative Judge, and Ronald Pawelczak, District Executive, gave welcoming remarks. Marc Levine, President of the "Alliance" spoke about the Alliance and the importance of celebrating Gay Pride. The Hon. Joanne Winslow, 7th JD Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Ellen Yacknin, Rochester City Court, Support Magistrate Michael Rao and Amy Schwartz, Esq., Empire Justice, shared their personal stories about being gay in the workplace. The presentation was moving and informative for the 50 individuals who attended the event. (continued on page 3)



L to R: District Executive Ronald Pawelczak, Marc Levine, Hon. Joanne Winslow, Administrative Judge Hon. Craig J. Doran, Hon. Ellen Yacknin, Support Magistrate Michael Rao.

(Cont. from page 2)

For those unfamiliar with the Alliance, it is comprised of employees of the Unified Court System who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered and those persons who support issues of concern to our community. They have created the Gay-Straight Alliance of the New York State Unified Court System. The Alliance recognizes the continuing need for action to address inequality and discrimination against those who are or are perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered, both within the legal profession and within society at-large. They seek to identify ways to provide a friendly work environment and to ensure the opportunity for career enhancement within the Unified Court System, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. They are committed to fostering awareness of the importance of achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and the transgendered. Through the collaborative efforts of the judicial and non-judicial employees of our court system, the Alliance has been formed as a not-for-profit organization, in order to establish a network of ideas, activities and resources designed to promote our mission.

Congratulations to Carol Winslow



Carol Winslow has been appointed Chief Clerk of Yates Supreme & County Court and Commissioner of Jurors- Congratulations Carol!

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Celebration Open House

Monroe County Employees

*Come celebrate with your peers
after the Service Pin Ceremony*

April 28, 2016

1:00 pm—2:30 pm

**Hall of Justice, 5th Floor Lobby
light refreshments will be available**

Congratulations on your promotion!



Joseph Ciravola has been promoted to Principal LAN Administrator, Automation Unit in the 7th Judicial District Office— Prior to working for the Unified Court System, Joe worked as a systems administrator and staff instructor for a driving school. In between teaching Pre-licensing courses and Defensive driving classes he earned his Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Certification as technology was his true passion. He started working for the 7th District in 2000 as a PC Analyst for a short time before being promoted to a LAN Administrator. In 2004, he moved into a management role as a Senior LAN Admin and then as an Associate LAN Admin in 2006. Joe witnessed CourtNet grow from a network of smaller networks to the large enterprise network it has

become today. As a team, Donna Wilkins and Joe led the 7th District Automation department, which serves approximately 570 State employees and roughly 500 Town and Village employees across our District. They managed multiple technological projects and directives for our district until Donna's retirement in 2013. From there, with the help of our talented Automation crew, they have helped to fill in the gaps during our time of extreme staff shortages. "I am pleased to continue the traditions of our 7th District Automation Unit in providing excellent customer service to our colleagues and co-workers alike." Congratulations!!



OBITUARIES

Edward P. "Skip" Devine Sr., 75, *father of Michelle Devine, Rochester Drug Treatment Court*, of Clay, NY, passed away on February 29, 2016, in Syracuse. He is predeceased by his wife of 47 years, Louise Devine. Cards of condolences may be sent to Michelle and her family c/o Monroe Supreme & County Court, 545 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614.

Jeanette Ash, *mother of Tara Wiggins, Wayne Supreme & County Courts*, passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Memorials may be sent to Alzheimer's Association. Mrs. Ash is survived by four daughters, Yolanda Solomon, Mary Beth Ash-Jones, Valerie (Lou) Walters, Tara (Mike) Wiggins and son Ed (Michelle) Ash, several grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, three sisters, four brothers and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Ash was predeceased by her husband, Eddie, in 1999. Cards of condolence may be sent to Tara and her family c/o Wayne Supreme & County Court, Hall of Justice, 54 Broad Street, Lyons, NY 14489.

Hon. Herman Walz Jr., *Rochester City Court Judge* – retired, passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the age of 88. Judge Walz joined the City Court bench in 1983 and served as an administrative judge, and heard disability and small claims cases until he was 86. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Cavanaugh, daughter, Mary Beth (Harold Judd) Walz and their children, Stephen (Michele) Walz and their children; Thomas (Lynn) Walz, and their children; daughter, Martha Walz; daughter, Susan (John Caufield) Walz and their children; three siblings and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dorothy C. Kerson, "Dotti", *wife of Jack Kerson, Monroe Surrogate's Court*, passed away peacefully at Strong Memorial Hospital on March 9, 2016 at the age of 76. Predeceased by her daughter Lori and brothers George and Joe Emery. Survived by her loving son, George, devoted husband Jack; brothers Jack and Ed Emery, and her sister Kate., many nieces and nephews, including George Emery of Buffalo. There will be no calling hours, and internment is private. Cards of condolences may be sent to Jack and his family c/o Monroe Surrogate's Court, 541 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614.....There will be one less bloom among this Spring's flowers.....

The Merit Performance Award Program

Each year, the Unified Court System seeks to recognize those employees who have distinguished themselves by exceptional acts of heroism, outstanding performance in the workplace, community service and educational efforts. **The Merit Performance Award Program** honors individuals who have met the highest standards of public service. Nominations can be submitted online at www.nycourts.gov/meritaward [Learn more about past honorees.](#)

The Merit Performance Award Program honors non-judicial members of the Unified Court System (UCS) workforce who have dedicated their lives to public service.

Unified Court System employees, members of the bar, community and civic groups, and members of the public are invited and encouraged to nominate UCS employees in any of the following four categories for special recognition:

Heroism: Employees who have performed acts of heroism in the courts or the community

Outstanding Performance in the Workplace: Employees who are outstanding because of their sustained superior work performance, courtesy toward co-workers and the public, initiative or creativity

Community Service and Humanitarian Pursuits: Employees who have especially benefited the community in which they live through their involvement in community service or humanitarian pursuits

Outstanding Educational Efforts: Employees who have made substantial contributions in educating youth or the community about the law and our courts

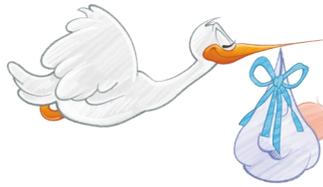
Awards: Merit Performance Award recipients are recognized in a ceremony on Law Day at the Court of Appeals.

Nominations are due no later than April 1, 2016.

Congratulations



Ann Nesbitt of Rochester City Court Criminal Branch is proud to announce the birth of her grandson, Kaiden Jeffrey Herman. The proud parents are Ann's daughter, Jessica and her husband Brad Herman. Kaiden was 8 lbs. 14 oz. and 21 ½ inches long and was born on February 16th. Kaiden is also the Great-Nephew of **Joyce Lasch**, Monroe County Family Court and the Great-Grandson of **Judy Hazen**, retired from the 7th District Office Arbitration Program.



Preparing to take the JG 18 Exam

Check out the 7th district web page to access the Updated JG 18 Exam Preparation Handout Materials at

http://inside-ucs.org/courts/7jd/jg18_test/

A special THANK YOU to the Court Attorneys that assisted with the updates.



WELLNESS EVENT MONROE COUNTY MARCH 10, 2016

On a dreary, gray day a few people showed up to try their hand at the new trend sweeping the country—COLORING BOOKS!! Hon. Jim Walsh stopped by looking fit and fantastic and we were glad to see him! From left to right: Lisa Baker, Danielle Aquilina, Hon. James Walsh, Ashley Reichert and Patti Whitcroft. A **big thank you** to the Hon. Rainbow Morse for supplying the cookies for this event!



Thank you to the Monroe County Bar Association for opening up their Grief counselor event to the employees in the Monroe County Hall of Justice. On March 3rd a casual dinner took place in a local restaurant in a conversational format with social worker, Adrienne Daniels, who specializes in bereavement issues. Adrienne gave a brief talk and then participants were able to talk and share. According to Kimberly Duguay, the coordinator of this event, it was a very powerful night; lots of personal stories, laughing and crying, with information and support from the grief counselor. Look for more events like this next year!



RETIREMENT PARTY

FOR

Lorraine Fodera

Date: Thursday, April 21st

Time : 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Place: Shadow Lake Golf Club

1850 Five Mile Line Rd

Penfield, NY

Cost: \$35.00 per person includes Hors D'Oeuvres,
Coffee/Tea, and gift. Cash Bar available.

RSVP and payment to Sonya Poormon (315) 665-8061,
or Corinne Sergeant (315) 665-8068,

c/o Wayne County Family Court, 54 Broad St, Lyons, NY 14489

Or Loreen Nash (585) 371-3484 c/o Monroe Co Family Court
no later than Friday April 15th.



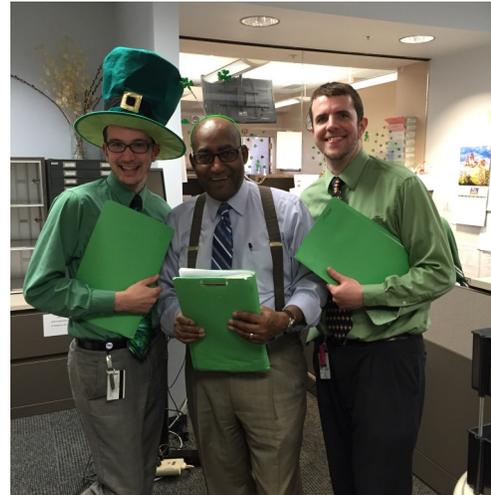
FREE FOR YOU!

Hundreds of **legal size** manila file folders **CENTER TAB ONLY** and six 4-inch 3-ring binders are available at no charge. Please e-mail Darleen Holmes if you are interested in them.
dholmes@nycourts.gov.

*happy st. patrick's day from
Bonnie B. and her cute dog, Suzie Q!*



WAYNE COUNTY NEWS—St. Patty’s Day



Wayne County got in the Irish spirit with their colorful display of green, including our very own leprechaun! We also enjoyed the traditional Irish fare of Corned Beef and Cabbage for lunch. The men were sharing a green moment of comradery around the Family court files!

Top left picture, back row L to R: Corinne Sergeant, Sonya Poormon, Leslie DeWind, Kyle O’Connor, Lorraine Fodera, Maxwell Simmons. Seated L to R: Elaine Garcia, Amy Preston

Top right picture L to R: Maxwell Simmons, Dennis Coleman, and Kyle O’Connor.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS—INTERNS & EXTERNS

Livingston County Family Court hosted four interns/externs, all students at the State University of New York at Geneseo, during the Fall Semester. The students had the opportunity to be exposed to legal proceedings in all of the state-level Livingston County Courts and gain an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities of court professionals. The experience was interactive for the students as they were able to engage in discussions with both judicial and non-judicial staff as well as other legal practitioners. Two of the students received academic credit for their participation in the internship program.



Barbara Salfarlie



Emily Gorney



Diana Chowdhury



Emilie Schmelzer



Gender Fairness Committee and Women’s History Month

The 7th Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, in collaboration with the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys and The Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership at the University of Rochester presented a Women’s History Month Program on March 21, 2016 in Courtroom 404 in the Hall of Justice called “From Petticoats to Pantsuits.” The speaker was Dr. Catherine Cerulli, Esq., Director of the Susan B. Anthony Center.



Dr. Cerulli shared with the large crowd of attorneys, judges and court staff her many insights gleaned from reviewing the letters of Susan B. Anthony. She spoke of the relevance today of the many issues Susan B. Anthony concerned herself with in correspondence, and invited the audience to consider everyday actions and how they impact the goal for equal rights for women.

Many of you may remember Dr. Cerulli from her days as an Assistant District Attorney in Monroe County, where she implemented a misdemeanor Domestic Violence Part. In her work as Director of the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership, she makes extraordinary efforts to include the community in discussions and actions on issues to improve the social fabric of our community.

The 7th Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee consists of court and community members committed to promoting gender fairness in the Courts and for those they serve. The committee does so through programs to educate the community, through effective communications and open dialogue about gender fairness issues. The Gender Fairness Committee is part of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts.



Hon. Teresa Johnson is chair of the Gender Fairness Committee.



Dr. Catherine Cerulli



Gender Fairness Committee Members L to R: Judy Dipaola, Charles Perreaud, Hon. Teresa Johnson and Josie Sheppard, Esq.

EARTH DAY IS April 22, 2016



Some suggestions: Plant a tree for the earth, recycle, bicycle to work and for play, plant a butterfly garden at home and in your community, and be kind to bees!



YATES COUNTY NEWS—

One of our Court Security Guards, Pamela House, just received an award from New York State for teaching the boater safety course to **2,145** boaters!!!! Way to go, Pam!

Pictured L to R: Ronald Spike, Yates County Sheriff, Pamela House, Court security, and Ed Nemitz, Sergeant from Yates County Sheriff’s office

WELLNESS COMMITTEE STUFFED ANIMAL AND CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE!



The Wellness Committee collected stuffed animals and children's books for The Children's Center located in Monroe Family Court. Over 300 children's books and over 350 stuffed animals were collected from the employees in the Monroe County Hall of Justice! Thanks for cleaning out your closets and bookshelves to donate to this worthy cause. Over 4,000 children are served each year in The Children's Center and each one is given a stuffed animal and a book. Your generosity is overwhelming! Thank you so much!

SPRING CLEANING

You have finished with your spring cleaning and organizing (well, almost!) and you are wondering what to do with all that STUFF you don't want anymore. If you just want it gone, have you considered recycling your items so they don't end up in a landfill for years and years? Go to **ecopark** a "one stop drop off" for residential recycling. Accepted at **ecopark** during operating hours: appliances, bulky plastic items, clean Styrofoam packing, cooking oil/grease, document destruction, electronic waste (laptops, personal computers, keyboards, monitors,) fluorescent lights, pharmaceuticals and Rx bottles, printer cartridges, propane tanks, scrap metal and much more.



Go to their website to learn more about their hours of operation, to make an appointment, and see what they do/don't accept. Appointments are needed for some items. They are located at 10 Avion Drive, Rochester, NY 14624. If you live outside of Monroe County you can find alternate

drop-off locations and times by using the **locator tool** at www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE



Do you have a gardening question you would like answered? Send me your gardening question and I'll try to get an answer for you! pdrexler@nycourts.gov