



MONDAY MORNING MEMO

Monday, June 4, 2007 ☞ Volume 2, Issue 9

Hon. Jonathan Lippman named 1st Dept. Presiding Justice; Succeeded as Chief Administrative Judge by Hon. Ann Pfau

Justice Jonathan Lippman has been appointed by **Governor Eliot Spitzer** to serve as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for the First Judicial Department, overseeing courts in Manhattan and the Bronx.

“Throughout his long career, Justice Lippman has displayed the strength of character and profound respect for the rule of law that make him an outstanding choice for this position,” said Governor Spitzer. “I have no doubt that Justice Lippman will continue to serve New Yorkers with great distinction in this new role.”

Justice Lippman is the longest serving Chief Administrative Judge in state history. He was appointed to that position in 1996 while serving as a Judge on the Court of Claims, and he has continued serving as the State's Chief Administrative Judge since that time. In 2005, Justice Lippman was elected as a Supreme Court Justice for the Ninth Judicial District, and he was subsequently appointed as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term for the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts. “To me, there could be no greater privilege than to serve as the Presiding Justice of this preeminent appellate court,” said Justice Lippman.

Prior to his appointment as Chief Administrative Judge, Justice Lippman served as a Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the State Courts, and as the Chief Clerk and Executive Officer for the Supreme Court in the First Judicial District, in New York County.

Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye announced the appointment of **Hon. Ann Pfau** to the Position of Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York. In her new position, Judge Pfau will oversee the administration and operation of the court system, which has a budget of approximately \$2.4 billion and employs 3,600 state and locally paid judges and 15,000 non-judicial staff members statewide.

“Judge Pfau’s record as an administrator for the New York Court system over the last 20 years has been exemplary,” said Judge Kaye. “She has taken on successively more challenging positions, and in each she has provided critical guidance, direction and support across all administrative areas.”

Judge Lippman added, “In her new role as Chief Administrative Judge, New York’s judicial system will benefit greatly from her familiarity with and sensitivity to the complexities of the court system at both a macro and micro level.”

Hon. Ann Pfau has served as First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of New York State since 2004, previously serving as Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Second Judicial District. Previously, Judge Pfau served as Special Counsel to the Chief Administrative Judge, as Executive Assistant to the



Deputy Chief Administrator for Management Support and as a member of the Office of Court Administration's legal staff.

Said Chief Judge Kaye, "I would like to thank Judge Lippman who, for more than a decade, has made extraordinary contributions to New York's court system as the state's Chief Administrative Judge. His leadership in that position has been defined by his exceptional administrative ability, intellectual integrity and his intimate knowledge of the courts and the law."

CASA Honored by Welcome from Seneca Nation President

Maurice A. John, Sr., President of the Seneca Nation of Indians, welcomed those gathered May 30th for an informational session about CASA, part of collaborative discussions on starting the state's first Tribal CASA Program there. He discussed the tribe's history, and how it has modeled both a government and court structure nationwide.

Hon. Sharon Townsend, Administrative Judge for the 8th Judicial District, introduced the day's agenda on behalf of the state's Court System. Discussions of CASA startup within the Seneca courts began in collaborative meetings with the Seneca Nation as part of the 8th Judicial District's Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (CIP). Seneca Chief Executive of Staff **Robert Pierce** served as moderator for the day's events, which included discussions of CASA's history in New York State, CASA's role in state courts, and the development and management of local CASA programs. **Karen Carroll**, Deputy Statewide Project Manager of CIP, and **Christa Foschio-Bebak**, CIP coordinator for the 8th Judicial District, provided overviews of Child Welfare Court Improvement Project and local efforts.

Susan Grant and **Paige Beard** from National CASA provided an overview of Tribal CASAs around the country as well as the National CASA grant process, and **Robin Robinson** from CASA: Advocates for Children and **Darlene Ward** from the NYS UCS CASA Assistance Program provided state perspectives. A panel of local CASA directors including **Grace Thompson, Laurie Schneider, Carol Demme, Jean Ingerson**, and **Wendy Wintle** provided specifics about CASA's work on child welfare case and detailed the day-to-day duties of CASA staff. One question was "Who can you possibly get to do all that work?!" The directors demonstrated that the work attracts dedicated, professional and passionate individuals.

The Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) is one of the six tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy who occupy aboriginal lands in New York State set aside by the Treaty of Canandaigua of 1794. SNI has a total population of over 7200 enrolled members and holds title to three territories in New York, one of which includes the City of Salamanca, where the informational session was held.

SNI came into formal existence in 1848 when they abolished the "chief" system and established a constitution with elected officials. It is a true democracy, in fact, one after which most of the United States government is modeled. The constitution provides for an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judicial Branch. The Judiciary Branch is comprised of separate Peacemaker, Appellate, and Surrogate Courts. Discussions to date have revolved around incorporating a CASA program into the Peacemaker Court, which handles family matters.



Also in attendance at the meeting were **Kim Thomas**, Native American Affairs Specialist with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, all of the SNI Peacemaker Judges as well as a number of court staff, representatives of the Seneca Nation Child and Family Services, and Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services. Much thanks to Suzanne Case, SNI Court Clerk; Robin Robinso; Christa Foschio-Bebak; and Shakesha Coleman from NYS UCS for their efforts at coordinating this historic meeting.

Three Youth Speak-Outs Scheduled Around the State

Each year, the Adolescent Services Resource Network (ASRN) co-hosts with regional youth leadership teams a special event for adolescents in foster care placement throughout New York State. “Speak Outs” help focus on the ways in which staff can incorporate youth development and leadership into local programs for adolescents in foster care.

Youth involvement in this event includes designing the theme and logo each year; assisting with planning and preparation of the event; facilitating workshops focusing on a variety of life skills topics; and creatively expressing themselves through poetry, short story readings, or short song or skit presentations. Each ASRN conducts their own individual event and registration.

All are welcome to attend; contact information and dates are listed below.

Region 1 and Region 2 (Buffalo-Rochester): October 27, 2007

Contact for Info and Registration:

Susan D. Tournour, Sr. Trainer

Adolescent Services Training Program, CDHS, 1695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: 716-876-7600 Ext 262; Email: SueT@bsc-cdhs.org

Region 3 & 4 (Syracuse-Albany): August 22, 2007

Contact for Info and Registration:

Erika Leveille, MA

Adolescent Services Resource Network, Professional Development Program

University @ Albany, UAB Room 417, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222

Phone: 518.956.7884; Email: eleveill@pdp.albany.edu

Region 5 (Long Island and Mid-Hudson): June 29, 2007

Contact for Info and Registration:

Carrie Steinman, MS, LMSW

Sr. Education Specialist/Child Welfare Training

School of Social Welfare/ Stony Brook University

L2-093 Health Sciences Center, Stony Brook, New York 11794-8231

Phone: 631-444-7615; Email: casteinman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Region 6 (NYC)

No date scheduled as yet; the group is looking for members. Interested individuals should contact:

Melissa Rivera

Information Services Specialist/Trainer/YIP Region 6 Advisor



CASA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Adolescent Services Resource Network, Hunter College School of Social Work
129 East 79th St Room 708, NYC, NY 10021
Phone: 212-452-7483; Email: MelissaASRN@yahoo.com

Resources

Audio Recording on Reducing Barriers to Achievement

At the “Thursday’s Child” public policy forum on May 10 in Washington, D.C., Chapin Hall Senior Researcher Lauren Rich discussed how race and socioeconomic status contribute to school achievement gaps. Other panelists discussed how residential segregation contributes to the problem, and how efforts such as housing voucher and school-based programs can help address disparities in educational achievement.

Listen to the complete audio recording “Race, Schools, and Neighborhoods: Reducing Barriers to Achievement” at:

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=g8cs84bab.0.9m6z74bab.6njaa9n6.16726&ts=S0253&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.about.chapinhall.org%2Fconferences%2Furban%2Fmay2007%2Fpresentations.html>

Next Issue

The next issue of the Monday Morning Memo will be published Monday, June 25th.

Quote of the Week

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."

-- Robert F. Kennedy

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