



Chief Justice's Memo

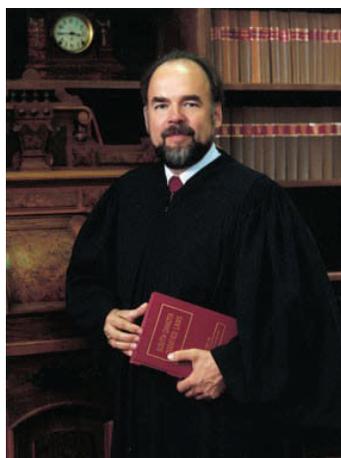
Dear Friends of the Unified Judicial System:

There are now over 500 of us who work within the Unified Judicial System. Some of you may work in a larger courthouse and others may be the sole representative of the judiciary in the more rural courthouses. However, the entire system is only

as strong as its weakest link. Since we do not have back-ups like a football team, we

rely on each person to do his or her job to the best of their ability. As we enter 2009, it appears to me that while there is always room for improvement, the UJS is successfully accomplishing the duties we are called upon by the citizens of South Dakota to undertake.

Happy 2009!



State Court Administrator Message



I'm getting my sea-legs now, with nearly 5 months on the job already! I truly appreciate the

support and cooperation I've been getting from so many of you. You've really made me feel welcome and valued. Here are a few things I've learned since August 25.

First, be careful what you ask for because you just might get it! Which means, thinking out loud can have some interesting results. (You'll have (cont'd on page 6)

Reminder: This newsletter is not for general distribution. It is for UJS employees only.

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Articles, information and feedback are welcome. Articles and information will be printed as space allows. Please email your information to Gloria Guericke.

2009 State of the Judiciary Message

Chief Justice David Gilbertson presented the 2009 State of the Judiciary Message on Wednesday, January 14th, on the floor of the House of Representatives.

In the 2009 Message, Chief Justice Gilbertson talked about how times have changed and referred to six major factors facing the System today. He also stated that “the UJS has 545 individuals who are dedicated to getting the job done.” Chief Justice Gilbertson closed his

Message by saying “South Dakota has been known as the ‘Sunshine State.’ Our state flag features ‘the state seal surrounded by a golden blazing sun in a field of sky blue.’ In reality, the sun is not stationary. It rises and sets. To me that sun is rising on South Dakota,



not setting. I firmly believe the best is yet to come.”



SCAO Attends Rural Courts Seminar

In November, Pat Duggan, Lynn Sudbeck, Janet Borchard and Judith Roberts traveled to Syracuse, New York to attend a Rural Courts Seminar conducted by the Justice Management Institute. Pat also served as faculty at the seminar.

Representatives from six other rural courts across the country also attended: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Utah, Louisiana, New York, and Vermont.

During the course of the 4-day seminar, participants enjoyed networking opportunities and both small and large group discussions regarding providing judicial services and



Janet Borchard, Lynn Sudbeck, Pat Duggan and Judith Roberts

factors that affect administration of justice in their rural areas.

The seminar included a site visit to an upstate New York problem-solving court and a presentation by several members of the New York federal-state-tribal courts and Indian Nations Justice Forum.

Working together with their colleagues in these other six rural states, the participants found more similarities than differences and heard alternative methods used to resolve similar issues.

Before the seminar was concluded, each state team worked on a plan of their choosing to bring new ideas learned at the seminar back to their state and put them into action. One of the ideas developed by the South Dakota team involved improving relationships between the SCAO and the seven circuits through, inter alia, listening meetings and site visits.

Hanson County Courthouse Fire

The original Hanson County Courthouse was constructed in 1880 in Alexandria and served in that capacity until 1901, when it burned to the ground.

The new courthouse was a two-story brick building of neo-classical design built in 1904 at a cost of \$25,000.

The courthouse was designed by W.R. Parsons and

The 104-year old building was burned to the ground so they can begin construction of the new building in the Spring.

Son of Des Moines, IA, who also designed the courthouses in Yankton, Turner, and Faulk Counties.

Structural concerns led to the evacuation of the building this past summer. A bond was passed by Hanson County voters during the November election for the construction of a new courthouse.

The 104 year old building was burned to the ground on December 1, 2008, to clear the ground so they can begin construction of the new building in the Spring.



The Hanson County Courthouse

The Hanson County Clerk of Courts office is temporarily located in a former funeral home in downtown Alexandria.



What Name Would You Suggest?

The new UJS Case Management System will need an official name.

The I/T staff came up with the names below. We would like to extend the opportunity to all our employees to name our system.

Please email your suggestion(s) to Pam Templeton. A committee will review and select the winning name.

JAMS: Judicial Access Management System, Judicial Action Management System, Judicial Administrative Management System

SD JAMS: South Dakota Judicial Applications Management System, South Dakota Judicial Action Management System, South Dakota Judicial Administrative Management System

JAMIT: Judicial Action Management Information Tracking

CLAMS: Clerks & Legal Applications Management System

SCAMS: Supreme Court Applications Management System

SD SCAMS: South Dakota

Supreme Court Application Management System

SCITS: Supreme Court Information and Technology System

SCATS: Supreme Court Adjudicatory Tracking System

SDCOST: South Dakota Courts One Stop Tracking

UJSCOST: Unified Judicial Courts One Stop Tracking

COST: Courts One Stop Tracking

UCAM: Unified Case Management

(cont'd on page 8)

Justice Sabers' Retirement Party

A retirement party was held for Justice Sabers on Friday, November 21, 2008, at the Westward Ho Country Club in Sioux Falls.

Over 210 guests were in attendance, including 15 of the 19 law clerks who worked

with him throughout his 22 years as a Justice.

Justice Judith Meierhenry was Master of Ceremonies at the retirement party.



Justice Sabers poses with his law clerks.

Judicial Branch Educator



The UJS has hired its first Judicial Branch Educator, Karn Barth, who is located in the Human Resources Office in the State Court Administrator's Office in Pierre. The Judicial Branch Educator position within the UJS provides an interrelated system of

training and educational opportunities designed to meet the personal and professional needs of judges and other court personnel. This position will also incorporate staff and organizational needs to address the image, reputation, and effectiveness of the UJS.

Karn comes to us with 9 years of administrative experience as a school principal. She has developed staff trainings, organized professional development trainings, and created programs to meet needs she identified in her school. She has experi-

ence teaching adult learners at both Kilian Community College and Augustana College. She is skilled in instructional design and adult learning styles and possesses excellent organizational and people skills. She has a B.S. in Education and an M.S. in Education Administration, both from the University of South Dakota.

We are excited Karn has joined the UJS in this important position that will be dedicated to the development and training of judicial and nonjudicial staff. Karn started her new duties on January 5.

Cindy Ibis Retires After 34 Years with UJS

Cindy was a court reporter with the UJS for 34 years. She worked under several judges, but most recently Judge Sean O'Brien and before that Judge Lee Anderson. She was stationed in Mitchell.

Cindy was presented her

retirement plaque by Presiding Judge Arthur Rusch, a proclamation from the governor by Judge Sean O'Brien, and a clock from her co-workers by Law Clerk Tony Venhuisen at her December 5 retirement party.

Thank you, Cindy, for your dedication and hard work.



Judge O'Brien presents Cindy with a proclamation at her retirement party.

Fourth Circuit's 2nd Drug Court Graduation

The Northern Hills Drug Court celebrated its second graduation ceremony on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at the Meade County Courthouse in Sturgis.

In attendance were supporters consisting of approxi-



Bruce Hubbard speaks at the Fourth Judicial Circuit's 2nd Drug Court graduation.

mately 60 people. Key-note speakers included Drug Court Judge Michelle Percy and defense attorney, Bruce Hubbard, a member of the drug court team.

Both graduates were grateful for the opportunity to have been in the drug court program. During her speech, the young female sought out the judge who sentenced her to drug court and thanked him. The other graduate, a man in his late forties, thanked his family for their tremendous support and expressed his gratitude to the



Drug Court Team: Joe Gutierrez, Bruce Hubbard, Mary Wood-Fossen, Judge Palmer-Percy, Ron Merwin, Jesse Sondreal, Mike Pisciotta, Mari Galles

Northern Hills Drug Court.

The Northern Hills Drug Court continues to serve clients in the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

Congratulations, Jessica!

On Thursday, November 20, Judge Gienapp administered the Oath of Office to Jessica Larson, Third Circuit Law Clerk, at the Brookings County Courthouse.

Bernie Lungren, 4th Circuit Court Administrator, Prepares for Retirement



Bernie has filled the position of Circuit Court Administrator in the Fourth Judicial Circuit since May 1987. She has served on many State of South Dakota committees during her years of service, and has witnessed many technology and other changes over the years. A few memorable events during her tenure include the restoration of the Lawrence County Courthouse and the subsequent move into renovated court facilities; the Corson County Courthouse fire; and the creation and establishment of the 4th circuit drug court program.

A retirement party is planned for Friday, February 20, 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Spearfish Canyon Golf Course.

Magistrate Judge Severns Retires after 33 Years of Service

Magistrate Judge William L. Severns retired on December 8, with over 33 years of service to the Fourth and Seventh Judicial Circuits.

Judge Severns was in private practice in Deadwood from 1969 to 1999, and served as a half-time law trained magistrate for the Fourth Circuit. He became a full-time magistrate judge in 1999 and moved to Rapid City and the Seventh Circuit.



Magistrate Judge William Severns

Prior to his retirement, a joint Fourth and Seventh Cir-

cuit retirement reception was held in Rapid City, hosted by his son-in-law Attorney Matt Kinney, and daughter Karie. The well-attended event also featured a live jazz band and a special song sung by his daughter, Katie.

Judge Severns' immediate plans include both travel and reorganizing his extensive jazz collection.



UJS Case Management System Upgrade in the Works

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to upgrade the UJS trial court and probation case management systems was sent to vendors on January 5, 2009. Vendors must provide notification of intent to bid by February 6, and will have until February 20 to formally respond to the RFP. The SCAO will complete an initial vendor evaluation by mid-

March.

A Case Management System (CMS) Evaluation Team consisting of circuit and SCAO staff has been appointed to evaluate vendor finalists and recommend which vendor should be selected. Vendors selected from the initial evaluation will be invited to present their so-

lution to the CMS Evaluation Team in mid-April. The recommendation from the CMS Evaluation Team will be presented to participants at the May Rural Courts' Retreat.

We will keep everyone updated as we complete the major milestones on this important project!

State Court Administrator Message (cont'd from page 1)

to ask me if you want details.) Second, there is a lot going on at the SCAO that people just don't know about. It's not just related to South Dakota either; there are national policy kinds of things, too. We are going to do a better job of letting you in on what's hap-

pening. Third, time flies whether you are having fun or not. Actually, "fun" is just not the right word. Challenging, exciting, stimulating, and interesting are much better choices. Finally, it's not true (yet) that Pierre is warmer than the rest of the state!

Enjoy the newsletter. If there are specific columns or information you'd like to see in future issues, we'd like to hear about it. And be sure to tune in for the next issue, when I'll share some of my reactions about the legislative session.

Thank You for Your Assistance

As some of you know, I have been working towards completing the Court Executive Development Program through the National Center for State Courts. As part of this program, I worked on and completed a research paper on assessing the need and feasibility of an employee assistance program (EAP) for the Unified Judicial System.

I wanted to write this brief update and thank those of you who helped me achieve my goal of completing this paper. For those of you that were not involved in the survey, an EAP is a voluntary and confidential program designed to help identify and facilitate the resolution of behavioral, health, and productivity problems that may adversely affect an employee's well-being and performance.

Typically, these programs are wide-ranging, covering

alcohol and other drug issues; physical and emotional health; and marital, family, financial, legal, and other personal concerns that may affect judges and employees negatively.



Beth Urban, Human Resources Manager

As I mentioned above, I want to specifically thank those of you that completed and returned my survey. I distributed 71 surveys and 45 were completed and returned. This is a response rate of 63%, which is wonderful!

Due in large to your responses and at the request of the Honorable Chief Justice David Gilbertson and State Court Administrator Patricia Duggan, I am continuing to work on the feasibility of implementing an EAP for the Unified Judicial System.

I also want to thank Lynn Sudbeck for her support through this entire process.

Thanks again, everyone!

*Keep steadily before
you the fact that all
true success depends
at last upon yourself.*

Theodore T. Hunger

UJS Team Wins Award

Recently, the Court Improvement Program sent a team to the National Center for State Courts training on "Fundamental Issues of Case Flow Management: Child Abuse and Neglect Cases."

The team consisted of Tony Benning, Judith Roberts and Sara Kelly.

Key objectives of the training were to assess the effectiveness of dependency court, learn fundamentals of case flow management in child abuse and neglect cases, and how to put in place an effective differentiated case management plan.

The team from South Dakota, also known as the

"Rushmore Renegades," presented an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)-themed differentiated case management plan. The Rushmore Renegades were voted the best presentation by their peers! Go Team!



Tech-Talk Column

Request for Management Proposal (RMP) Design

The RMP site design is completed and operational for project sponsors to submit proposals that require IT staff resources.

The location has not changed. You can access it directly from Internet Explorer at RMP.SD.GOV or by using the link provided on the UJS website under the *Staff Login, All Staff*, then *IT section*.

The redesign intent was to simplify the application utilizing multiple choice questions with an area for a brief explanation. Another benefit allows IT to provide better tracking and reporting of hours, resources and changes to the original request.

All requests that had not yet been started will need to be resubmitted and will then be rescored using the new scoring mechanism.

If you are unsure if an RMP is needed, send your request to the HELP desk and they will provide feedback whether one is necessary.

Video Conferencing Site Status

The number of Video Conferencing/ITV sites installed by UJS has increased to 41. This includes 29 courtroom installs and 12 sites located in the county jail or detention center. Number 42 – the

Yankton Co. Jail - is on hold, waiting for construction to be completed.

Recent installs include Burke/Gregory County Courthouse, Parker/Turner County Courthouse, Buffalo/Harding Co. Courthouse, Aberdeen/Brown County Jail and an integrated multi-media in Courtroom 5B of the Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County Courthouse.

Additional default options now installed include a monitor cable that allows connecting a tablet or notebook and displaying content locally or as part of a conference, connecting an existing phone line to use microphone and speakers as part of a telephonic conference, and installing an IR receiver to increase the remote control range and sensitivity.

If you have any interest in utilizing some of the new features, please contact the Help Desk. They will place you in touch with Cory Bouma, the UJS Video Network Specialist.



What Name Would You Suggest?

(cont'd. from page 3)

UCAMS: Unified Case Management System

SDROCS: South Dakota Records of Court System
SDROCCS: South Dakota Records of Court Cases System

SCALES: Supreme Court Automated Ledger Executable System

CORTS: Court Operations (Optimized) Reporting & Tracking System, Court Office (Operations) Resource (Reference, Research) Tracking System

JOBS: Judicial Operations (Office) Business System

COPS: Court Operation Procedure (Production) System

JOHN: Judicial Operations Help Net

HONEST: Host Of New Electronic State Tracking

JUSTICE : Judicial Unified State Tracking Integrated Case Environment

SHIELD: State Hosted Information Environment of Legal Documents

ROBES: Repository Of Buildable Enhanced Solutions

SCOUT: State Case Official

Years teach us more than books.

Berthold Auerbach