

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURTS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT



October 8, 2019

Third Judicial Circuit Courts and Community Committee 2018 Activity Report

The Third Circuit Courts and Community Committee had another very active year in 2018. Below are highlights of some of the activities that our judges and court staff participated in throughout the year as part of the Committee's ongoing effort to connect our courts to our communities and improve understanding of the role of the judicial system in our democracy.

ADULT CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Co-Chairs of the Courts and Community Committee embarked on their newest project to develop its pilot program for Adult Civics Education by partnering with the Community College of Philadelphia. Through many meetings and planning sessions, a core curriculum was developed by Judges Rendell and Rufe. The program will start in 2019 with a 10 week course offered to students. Judges from the federal and state appellate and trial courts will present on various topics centered on the Bill of Rights. It is envisioned that this pilot program can be duplicated by our Judges in other venues by partnering with county bar associations and community colleges throughout our circuit.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PROGRAMS

Judge Chats

Dozens of our judges throughout the Third Circuit participated in the "Judge Chats" program at the National Constitution Center (NCC) in Philadelphia. The Judge Chats allow school students and judges to engage in an open and informative dialogue about judging and the judicial system. Judges talk to students and teachers about interpreting law and the implications of the Constitution on everyday life. In 2018, thirty Judge Chats were held at the NCC. Many chats were conducted in conjunction with "civic holidays" such as Law Day and Constitution Day. At this year's Constitution Day Program, held on September 17, 2018, our judges participated in six Judge Chats with students ranging in age from 4th grade to college.

Civil Discourse Activities

Additional lectures and presentations of the National Constitution Center included our Judges, such as FSA fellowship summer which Judge Cynthia M. Rufe (EDPA) addressed on the topic of the First Amendment in schools. Judge Rufe also

partnered with the NCC in piloting the first Civil Discourse program which matched school classes from across the country to discuss and debate First Amendment issues from their respective classrooms in 20 minute formats utilizing Zoom technology with federal judges and volunteer attorneys as facilitators. This program and Judge Chats were scheduled monthly and continue to be supervised by our Judges.

Naturalization Ceremony

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania continued its tradition of holding its Constitution and Citizenship Day Naturalization Ceremony at the National Constitution Center.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The District of Delaware continued its High School Fellowship Program in 2018. The Program is a six-week fellowship, beginning in June and ending in August of each year. High School students selected to participate work in chambers with judges of the District Court, Bankruptcy Court and/or with other federal employees who work in agencies connected to the court, such as the Federal Public Defender's Office. These Fellows also have the opportunity to observe federal court proceedings and meet leaders in the Delaware legal system. The Fellows are paid a stipend of \$350 per week, or \$2,100 for the six-week program.

Those eligible for the Program are rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who attend high schools in Kent and New Castle Counties, in Delaware. All who are interested must submit an application, along with their high school transcript, a letter of recommendation from either a teacher or other counselor at their school and proof of their citizenship status.

Finalists interview with a panel of judges and other Delaware legal professionals. Fellows selected typically have strong leadership skills, have performed well academically, and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. Students with an interest in a future legal career may particularly benefit from the Fellowship, but having such an interest is not a prerequisite to application.

The Program was offered for the first time in 2016. The District of Delaware has continued in successive years, 2017 and 2018, to offer the Program to three talented High School students each year. The Fellows in the 2018 class successfully completed the Program. The Program ended on August 3, 2018, with a graduation and reception

attended by the Fellows, their family members and friends, and other members of the District Court family.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP

The District Court of the Virgin Islands appreciates the opportunity to assist young people in the community and continues to support the Jobs for America's Graduates Program (JAG) at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School On-the-Job Training (OJT) program by mentoring two high school students during the program's second semester. Each year the employees of the Clerk's Office willingly lend their full support to the students by making themselves available to train, explain, and demonstrate the value of developing a good work ethic.

The 2018 students were tasked with supporting the Court's records management project. In preparation for their project the students were orientated on the history of the Court's records management project and received training on the federal judiciary's records disposition schedule. While working on the records management project, the students applied their training and computer data entry skills to locate, track, and prepare items for relocation to the Federal Records Center and the National Archives and Records Administration. The students were mentored in other areas including: collaboration and teamwork; business etiquette, time and attendance; and interpersonal skills. The students also observed judicial proceedings and shadowed court employees including a Courtroom Deputy, Administrative Support Specialist, Financial Specialist, and Generalist Supervisor.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Two interns from the Virgin Islands Department of Labor's Labor Investing For Tomorrow (LIFT) interned at the Clerk's Office, St. Thomas/St. John Division for four weeks during the summer. Both interns were college sophomores pursuing careers in criminal justice. Likewise, two additional college students in the program rendered their services in the St. Croix Division. These students were majoring in criminal justice and criminal psychology.

During their tenure, the four interns primarily assisted with the archiving project. However, a training schedule was prepared to introduce the interns to the federal judiciary and the career options available locally. While assisting with the archiving project, the interns also shadowed employees throughout the various specialties

including: Court Operations, Bankruptcy, Finance, Information Technology, and the U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services.

The student interns' interpersonal skills were also honed as they were required to interview a courtroom deputy and supervisor of their choice. The interns were then required to submit a written report of each interview. The assignment was greeted with great enthusiasm as they gratefully accepted a critique of their submittals. The students also enjoyed learning practical business skills including business etiquette and competitive resume writing tips. At the end of the experience, each student expressed gratitude and recognized their individual growth.

COLLEGE INTERNSHIP

A former summer intern who served the court as a participant in the Virgin Islands Department of Labor's Six Week Summer Experience in 2015, returned to the Court in September 2018 to provide gratuitous services during her college internship. The student is currently a senior at the University of the Virgin Islands majoring in Criminal Justice and requested to return to the Court to expand on her previous experience at the Court. As such, she was offered the opportunity to assist with the records management project. The student was pleased to see how far the project had progressed since her previous experience and readily accepted the duties. She attended all the required records management training and provided an audit of the reports she received. Thereafter, she was tasked with updating the internal database and worked closely with the Administrative Support Specialist to advance the records management project. Like the other interns, her internship was also supplemented with daily court experiences. During her tenure, she shadowed a courtroom deputy, financial technician, court reporter, probation officer, court librarian, and court supervisors. She also interviewed a law clerk, observed contract court interpreters, and attended court proceedings. The student enjoyed her guided experience and appreciated the caliber of service the Court provides to the public.

SCHOOL VISITS AND MOCK TRIALS

Many Eastern District of Pennsylvania judges volunteered to work with students, or act as judges, in connection with the literature-based mock trial program of the Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement. This program reached over 1100 students in 35 classrooms, over half of which came to the courthouse in Philadelphia to hold their final mock trial, presided over by one of our judges. The Rendell Center also

hosted a Teachers Institute for 35 teachers (selected from over 300 applicants). Judge Rufe also presided over a 4th grade mock trial in her courtroom.

In January of 2018, the Middle District of Pennsylvania held a Mock Trial Competition in the Scranton Federal Building. The Semi-Final and Final Competition, Regional Semi-Final, and Final Competition were held in February.

During the week of April 8, 2018, several Camden Judges in the District of New Jersey participated in the Howard R. Yokum Elementary School's Distinguished Reader's Week Program by reading their "favorite" books to students.

For Law Day in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Judge Cynthia Rufe organized fifteen judges and 75 attorney volunteers to conduct the "Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions" program in twelve courtrooms at three courthouses in the region. They reached more than 426 high school students, teachers, and administrators from eighteen schools in one day.

On November 29, 2018, Magistrate Judge Lisa Lenihan (WDPA) participated in the Administrative Office's program "Civil Disclosure and Difficult Decisions." An entire morning was devoted to learning and teaching decision making skills to students.

On October 3, 2018, the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania held its 4th annual "Credit and the Bankruptcy Court: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Student Finances" program. For this event, the Bankruptcy Court hosted students from the region for a morning of interactive programming aimed at improving their knowledge about budgeting, student loans, credit card debt, and general financial principles. The program was segmented into three sessions: (1) a panel presentation given by Bankruptcy Judges and law clerks, (2) a trivia session hosted by the Chief Deputy Clerk and law clerks, and (3) a mock trial concerning the dischargeability of a student loan debt in bankruptcy. The mock trial was presided over by the Chief Bankruptcy Judge and acted out by a Chapter 7 trustee and local attorneys. Based on the knowledge they acquired throughout the program, students were invited to weigh in on the outcome of the mock trial.

BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

The Western District of Pennsylvania hosted four programs for the bar and the public in 2018 to celebrate its bicentennial. The first program, "Race Relations and Civil Rights Cases in the Western District," was held in February. Details of the event are as follows:

- In conjunction with the Court’s Bicentennial and African American History Month, the Court and the Homer S. Brown Section of the ACBA sponsored a panel discussion on February 7, 2018. The Program lasted approximately 2 hours with a reception afterwards.
- The panel focused on the rich history of the District Court with respect to civil rights and race relations. The substance of the program touched upon the following areas:

Judge Paul Simmons’ work, prior to becoming a judge, in the area of equal protection with an emphasis on school desegregation cases of the 1950.

A discussion of desegregation in the Western District of Pennsylvania, including the “Hoots” case. The discussion addressed the events giving rise to the commencement of the Hoots case, the socio-economic climate of the times, the parties and their perspective interests, and the progression of the case from start through conclusion. The panel also discussed the aftermath of the case and whether it has continuing relevance.

A discussion of the importance of the Federal Court system in the area of race relations.

The District Court’s role as a forum of redress and whether municipalities could be held responsible in federal court for deprivation of a citizen’s constitutional rights.

The ACLU’s efforts in the area of equal protection and race relations.

The program was CLE approved (2 credits).

In June, the second program “A Celebration of Liberty and Justice for All. The Bicentennial of the United States District Court,” was presented, and in October a panel discussion was conducted on the “Major League Baseball Drug Trials.” The final program, “The Reenactment of the Swearing In of the First Lawyers,” was held in December.

In conjunction with the bicentennial programs, a collection of court artifacts was publicly displayed, including photographs of the buildings which housed the U.S. District

Court from 1818 to the present. The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation loaned “Eagle Capital” a carved eagle that graced the ceremonial courtroom of the former building which housed the District Court from 1891 to 1934. The former courthouse was destroyed in 1966.

LAW DAY

Judges in the Middle District of Pennsylvania and Court employees and community members attended the annual Harold Miller support staff luncheon of the Lackawanna Bar Association (named in honor of the former Courtroom Deputy to Judge William J. Nealon). The Annual Law Day Ceremony honored the District’s Mock Trial Champions and was attended by the judges, community members, and families.

CONSTITUTION DAY

On October 25, 2018, the U.S. District Court in Camden, New Jersey hosted its Seventh Annual Constitution Day Program. The theme of this year’s program was “The Preamble.” The Court hosted approximately 100 students from four area high schools: Hammonton, Lindenwold, Moorestown, and Camden Catholic. The students presented a scripted Mock Trial – “Social Media and Student Rights: Student Rights, Wrongs and Responsibilities.” The Program, which is largely implemented by Law Clerks, began with Welcoming Remarks by Judge Simandle. The video presentation, “Students Reflect on Promises of the Preamble,” was followed by Judge Rodriguez engaging the students by providing his own remarks about the significance of the Preamble. Judges Kugler, Hillman, Bumb, and Altenburg presided over the trials. The trials were followed by the video “Civility is A Life Skill, Not Just a Legal Skill.” The program ended as usual with a brown bag lunch and student summaries of their Mock Trial experiences.

COURTHOUSE TOUR AND SCHOOL VISITS

Adult students, focused on careers in the law, visited the Joseph F. Weis, Jr. U.S. Courthouse in Pittsburgh last year. In May 2018 law students from Duquesne University attended “Lawyers on Location,” an event that gave students the opportunity to meet with judges, law clerks, and experienced litigators and learn more about the work being done in our courthouse and to see the law in practice.

Judge Karen Williams of the District of New Jersey hosted the incoming class of Rutgers Law School’s Minority Student Program. This event included a guided tour of

the Courthouse, and a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Clerk's Office, U.S. Marshals Office, and the Federal Courts.

From time to time over the course of 2018, the District of Delaware had small groups of undergraduate students from regional colleges visit the District Court to meet with some of the judges and observe civil or criminal proceedings scheduled on the date of their visit.

In November, the Middle District of Pennsylvania hosted Girl Scouts for a tour of the Federal Building in Scranton with a question and answer session.

The St. Croix Division of the District of the Virgin Islands hosted two schools during 2018. The students of Seventh Day Adventist School toured the Courthouse on February 20, 2018, and Reading Rainbow Middle School students toured the Courthouse on April 18, 2018. On each occasion the students and chaperones met court staff, toured the library, interacted with attorneys, and heard from Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis and Magistrate Judge George W. Cannon, Jr. Deputy U. S. Marshals also provided the students a guided tour of their facilities and explained the functions of their office. The students witnessed a presentation and demonstration by the Court Reporter. A U.S. Probation Officer also made a presentation and answered questions regarding his profession. Throughout the tours, employees stressed the importance of good character and good grades. The students were grateful for the experience and for the exposure to careers many were not aware existed.

The final round of the Virgin Islands Bar Association's 24th Annual Appellate Moot Court Competition was held at the District Court of the Virgin Islands on St. Croix on May 2 and 3, 2018. Participating teams of high school students throughout the Virgin Islands were presented with a challenging and timely hypothetical case involving a legal action for declaratory judgment in which the petitioner, whose home was destroyed by "Hurricane Irma", challenged his insurance company's denial of his insurance claim. As in past years, Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis opened the doors of the courthouse to the Bar for this annual program. Members of the Clerk's Office coordinated the logistics of the teams and their coaches during the competition. Judge Lewis opened the competition with her welcoming remarks. Best Orator awards were presented for the preliminary round and the final round. The Ivanna Eudora Kean High School team was the winner of the competition.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

In addition to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's monthly ceremonies conducted in the Ceremonial Courtroom, which school students are routinely invited to observe, the court has added new venues for off-site naturalization ceremonies, partnering with bar associations and high schools. Special venue ceremonies took place at the Pearl Buck House and at the Pennsbury Manor in Bucks County (both ceremonies included community leaders, Boy Scout Color Guards, school students and campers, Congressional representatives, and local Bar Association leaders); and at the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center in Delaware County, which included all of the above but was a collaboration with representatives of the Federal Bar Association. In Upper Darby, both Chief Judge Stengel and Judge Rufe presided and addressed middle and high school students after the ceremony. At each of these venues the League of Women Voters registered new citizens to vote. The Court added a second naturalization ceremony to its Citizenship Day programs. In addition to the ceremony now traditionally held at the National Constitution Center, at which Judge Rufe presided, a second ceremony was staged at Carpenters Hall at the request of the National Park Service, with Judge Padova presiding.

The District Court for the District of Delaware held Naturalization Ceremonies throughout 2018. On June 7, 2018, and December 6, 2018, the ceremonies for large numbers of new citizens were held at the University of Delaware and presided over by Magistrate Judge Christopher Burke and Chief Judge Leonard Stark, respectively. To coincide with Constitution Day, the September Naturalization ceremony in 2018 was held proximate to the occasion and presided over by Chief Magistrate Judge Mary Pat Thyng.

The Middle District of Pennsylvania hosted Naturalization Ceremonies in Scranton throughout 2018 with community guests, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, Rotary Anns, and students from the Howard Gardener School. Members of the VFW 6082 acted as an honor guard at the September ceremony, and in November the community guests included remarks from the President of the Lackawanna Bar Association and the Abington Rotary club.

The District of New Jersey conducted Naturalization Ceremonies in 2018 in Camden and Trenton. On September 13, 2018, Judge Simandle continued their tradition of conducting a ceremony on the Battleship New Jersey.

The District of New Jersey hosted Black History Programs in all three vicinages. In Camden, the program was spearheaded by Judge Simandle. A Reading Circle was formed to discuss “Leveling the Playing Field: The Story of the Syracuse 8” by David Marc. On February 28, 2018, members of the Syracuse 8 engaged in a book signing and led a roundtable discussion fielding questions from members of the Reading Circle, students from Leap Academy Charter School in Camden, and the audience. In Trenton, the Court family and community celebrated “African Americans in Time of War,” and in Newark “Honored Entrepreneurs” with a program featuring Dr. Randall D. Pinkett, Season 4 Winner of NBC’s The Apprentice.

Hispanic Heritage Days were held in the District of New Jersey in all three vicinages. Camden recognized “Inclusivity Makes Us A Strong Nation.” Speakers included Chief Judge Linares and Judge Rodriguez, U.S. Marshal Juan Mattos, and U.S. Pretrial Services Office Edna Galarza. This program was highlighted by students from The Leap Academy Charter School in Camden, who performed Latin musical selections and a dance routine. On October 4, 2018, the Trenton vicinage panelists Honorable Pedro Jimenez and Chief of Probation Willie Torres addressed “Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance Our Traditions.” On October 3, 2018, Newark hosted Camelia M. Valdes, Passaic County Prosecutor, who provided her perspective on “One Endless Voice to Enhance Our Traditions.”

March 31 is Virgin Islands Transfer Day, a local holiday that commemorates the United States’ purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark, thereby conferring U.S. citizenship upon the people of the Virgin Islands. The first naturalization ceremony on St. Thomas following Hurricane Maria occurred on March 29, 2018 on the lawn of the Ron de Lugo Federal Building. U.S. District Judge Curtis Gómez administered the oath of citizenship to a diverse group of fifty-two immigrants at the Transfer Day Naturalization Ceremony. A total of 600 people became new citizens of the United States through Naturalization Ceremonies held at the District Court of the Virgin Islands during the year. The St. Thomas/St. John Division held 9 ceremonies and administered 459 oaths, while the St. Croix Division held 5 ceremonies and administered 141 oaths.

With confirmed registrations of over 250 individuals, the District Court of the Virgin Islands’ Annual District Conference is the Territory’s single largest legal seminar. The event is hosted free of charge to registrants and provides Continuing Legal Education credits to members of the Bar. Each year, topics and speakers are carefully selected to appeal to issues of interest to the attendees. Unfortunately, the Court was unable to host the annual event in 2018 as both divisions were severely impacted by the 2017 hurricanes and no venues or hotels were available to meet the requirements of

such an event. Preparations for a 2019 conference appeared just as forbidding, as venues and hotel options throughout the territory were severely limited due to hurricane repairs and remodeling not scheduled for completion until 2020. Despite the venue and hotel limitations, in March 2018 the Court announced plans to host the Ninth Annual District Conference in January 2019. To circumvent the issues associated with a conference of its size and caliber, the Court held two smaller, abbreviated seminars (one in each division). The Conference was scheduled on consecutive days with the same agenda and presenters. The Conference was well received as the attendees greatly appreciate receiving such outstanding training locally.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO SUBURBAN COUNTIES

Partnering with the Legal Community, the District of New Jersey demonstrated its continued support of its Pro Bono attorneys and also hosted Brown Bag Lunches in all three vicinages. On October 6, 2018, all three vicinages featured panels of judges and attorneys who addressed several aspects of Professionalism and Ethics for Trial Attorneys.

In 2018, the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania continued its efforts to reach out to the community it serves to instruct, welcome, and demonstrate the importance of the role of law in our society. As described in the following, and in the face of a significant number of judicial vacancies and their corresponding resources, the Court sought to accomplish its stated goal through events welcoming the public into our courthouse and by engaging students, from middle school and beyond, in partnership with other local federal law enforcement agencies.

The first engagement of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania with the community is one of the first sights that greet visitors upon entry into the Pittsburgh courthouse -- the District's rotating art display program. In 2018, four art displays graced the south lobby of the Joseph F. Weis Jr. U.S. Courthouse, including a display of prints from the archive of renowned Pittsburgh photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris. Mr. Harris photographed the events and daily life of African Americans for the Pittsburgh Courier, one of the nation's most influential black newspapers from the 1930s to the 1970s.

One of the featured artists in 2018 was lawyer Sara O'Conner. The Allegheny County Bar Association Arts and the Law Division hosted a reception for others to meet the artist and view her work in the courthouse.

A final component of the Western District Court's community outreach efforts is the hosting of tours of the courthouse, where groups can observe proceedings and visit individual aspects of the Court's functions. The Court is committed to accommodating tours for any interested group and will tailor tours to the group's interests. It is the hope that in the coming year, more groups, particularly more adult-oriented groups, will visit the courthouse to learn more about the federal court system and its role in our democracy. The Community Outreach committee for the Western District of Pennsylvania has begun exploring possible avenues to reach out to adults, such as being a component of civilian police academies run by local police departments.

In April 2018, the Middle District of Pennsylvania participated in several events, which included a Continuing Education Program in Harrisburg for Big Spring School District's Honors Law II Class studying Jury Service in the Middle District with an emphasis on Grand Jury. Judges also participated in "Meet the Judges" sponsored by the Lackawanna County Young Lawyer's Division, and judges participated in PBI events.

In August, summer legal interns within the Scranton Federal Building collected school supplies and backpacks from the Scranton Courthouse agencies for underprivileged children.

In October, the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, jointly held a swearing in ceremony for lawyers, sponsors and their families. The Middle District also supported the 21st Annual Steamtown Marathon, which finishes in front of the William J. Nealon Federal Building. The Atrium and Lobby are used for massage, triage, and medical care for the runners.

In November, the Middle District held its annual Advanced Criminal Procedure Class taught by James W. Diehm, Professor of Law from Widener University. In Harrisburg, they viewed the Grand Jury Film followed by a question and answer session. Judges and community members also attended a Lackawanna Bar Association Memorial Service. A New Lawyer Swearing-In Ceremony for those who have recently graduated from law school and passed the Bar Exam was held, which included their sponsors and families.

In December, the MDPA held its Annual Holiday season collection of children's toys for Friends of the Poor, sponsored by the Scranton Federal Building Agencies. This has been an Annual event for the past 22 years.

Each year the District Court for the Virgin Islands hosts quarterly legal luncheons known as the “Brown Bag Luncheons.” The Brown Bag Luncheons are informal opportunities for participating members of the District Court bar to meet with judges and fellow attorneys regarding issues pertinent to our District. The one-hour luncheons are facilitated by the judges and Clerk of Court and include agenda items and presentations from local attorneys and judges. The four luncheons are alternated between the two divisions thereby giving all attorneys in the district an equal opportunity to attend, participate and earn Continuing Legal Education credits. The St. Croix Division hosted a luncheon on March 1, 2018 and September 6, 2018. The St. Thomas Division hosted a luncheon on June 8, 2018 and December 6, 2018.

On April 30, 2018, Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis entered the jury assembly room on St. Croix and addressed the packed room of 131 jurors to personally thank them for their efforts to report for their call of civic duty. Judge Lewis also used the opportunity to remind the jurors to encourage their family and neighbors to support jury service. She assured them that their efforts to arrive on time and participate in the jury selection process impacts the entire community. Her speech was received with a warm round of applause.

Since 2005, nurses from the Virgin Islands Department of Health's Immunization Program travel to the federal courts, set up a clinic, and offer free flu and tetanus shots to individuals who work in or have access to the federal courts in the Territory. On Friday, November 30, 2018, 21 people received a flu shot at the Court on St. Croix and 54 people received a flu shot at the Court on St. Thomas on Friday, October 12, 2018.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March 2018, Chief Judge Wilma Lewis of the District of the Virgin Islands was interviewed on the Legislative Channel as part of Women's History Month. During the interview, Judge Lewis discussed various topics, including her faith, family, community, the development of her interest in the law, educational background and experience, outside activities, lessons learned, leadership and role models.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

At the invitation of Dean Hari M. Osofsky, Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis delivered the commencement address at Penn State Law in University Park, Pennsylvania on May 12, 2018. Judge Lewis focused on encouraging the graduates to find their “professional compass” (the tiny inner voice that embodies those principles, standards, values, and

convictions that allow us to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil, appropriate and inappropriate, tolerable and intolerable, ethical and unethical, legal and illegal) and to make it their constant companion and guide. Judge Lewis challenged the graduates to give the world the best they have to offer, and the best would come back to them.

On June 15, 2018, Chief Judge Lewis engaged in a dialogue with students involved in the University of the Virgin Islands College of Science and Math Sophomore Boost-STEM Summer Program. Judge Lewis met with a group of sophomores in the University STEM program to discuss challenges they face as students; setting goals and dealing with unplanned setbacks; and methods to successfully resolve conflicts and setbacks in order to achieve their future goals.

At the invitation of the State Chair, Chief Judge Wilma A. Lewis presented the keynote address at the 23rd Annual Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Awards and Recognition Dinner on June 23, 2018 in St. Croix. The event recognized individuals and employers that supported the ESGR mission and National Guard and Reserve employees through their leadership, service, and employment practices. In addressing the attendees, Judge Lewis discussed the importance of public service, including the type of service rendered by the award recipients. Judge Lewis was presented with a Seven Seals Award in appreciation of her participation in the Awards and Recognition Dinner.

On March 4, 2018, the District of the Virgin Islands Clerk of Court, Attorney Glenda L. Lake, participated in the Ivanna Eudora Kean High School's Freshman Week activities as a guest speaker. The Clerk of Court addressed the freshman class regarding the value of a good education and reputation. She spoke about her own experiences growing up on a small island and the obstacles she overcame in her pursuit to complete her educational goals. She also addressed their responsibility to the community and the resiliency that each student already possesses. The Clerk was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her participation in the event.

Magistrate Judge George Cannon addressed students and the community at two public events held at the University of the Virgin Islands. Judge Cannon spoke to the audience of thirty to fifty students and community members encouraging them to resist the path of crime and violence and to promote peace and civic responsibility.

Judge Mannion of the Middle District of Pennsylvania spoke with students at the University of Scranton in March 2018.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Clerk's Office for the District of the Virgin Islands presented two training programs for attorneys and their staff members to receive personalized training on the eVoucher system. The first training was held on St. Croix on March 22, 2018 and was attended by 16 attorneys and staff members. The second session was held on St. Thomas on March 23, 2018 and was attended by six attorneys and staff members. During the sessions, attorneys and their staff were able to attain a working knowledge of the eVoucher system through the use of various scenarios as well as quick reference guides. The CJA eVoucher Attorney User Manual Release 5.1 was also reviewed in each session. Attorneys and their staff appreciated the training and the court-specific question and answer segment. Attorneys received 1.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education credits for their attendance at the training sessions.

The Clerk's Office provided refresher and advanced CM/ECF training to attorneys and their staff members. The in-person trainings were presented at the Court in each division. The trainings on St. Croix were held on June 5, 2018. Seventeen attorneys and staff members attended the advanced training on St. Croix while thirteen attended the refresher training. The St. Thomas/St. John trainings were held on June 7, 2018. Seven attorneys and staff members attended the advanced training on St. Thomas while six attended the refresher training. Attorneys and their staff appreciated the opportunity to refresh and sharpen their skills in this specialized training. Attorneys received 1.0 hour of Continuing Legal Education credits for their attendance at the training sessions.