

The Court Crier

Volume 10, Issue 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Summer 2007

The Judges Of the Court of Common Pleas

Hon. Alan M. Black
President Judge
Hon. Carol K. McGinley
Hon. Edward D. Reibman
Hon. William E. Ford
Hon. Lawrence J. Brenner
Hon. William H. Platt
Hon. Robert L. Steinberg
Hon. J. Brian Johnson
Hon. Kelly L. Banach

The Magisterial District Judges

Carl L. Balliet
Rod Beck
Donna Butler
Charles H. Crawford
Karen Devine
Patricia Engler
David B. Harding
David G. Leh
Wayne Maura
Maryesther S. Merlo
Anthony G. Rapp
Joan L. Snyder
Michele A. Varricchio
Patricia Warmkessel

Court Administrative Staff

Susan T. Schellenberg,
District Court Administrator

William Berndt,
Deputy District Court
Administrator

H. Gordon Roberts,
Magisterial District Judge
Court Administrator

Vivian Appel
Family Court Administrator

John Sikora,
Chief Adult
Probation Officer

Paul Werrell,
Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer

Rosemary McFee,
Director of Domestic Relations

Janet T. Woffindin,
Director of Orphans' Court

Barbara Stoneback,
Clerk of Orphans' Court

Lorelei A. Broskey,
Director of Library &
Information Services

DeAngelo Departs After Long Tenure



Andrew DeAngelo is retiring from his position as Deputy Chief of Juvenile Probation on July 13, 2007.

Andy's Lehigh County career began as a college intern in the summer of 1975 when he participated in a pilot program to professionalize the services at the Lehigh County Juvenile Detention Home. In January of 1976, Andy was hired as a childcare counselor for the detention home, and in 1978 as juvenile probation officer supervising

a caseload of 80 youths.

In February of 1980, Andy was promoted to a supervisor's position. Andy earned his Master Degree in the Administration of Justice in 1984 from Shippensburg University, and in January of 1985, he was appointed as Lehigh County's Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Active in many community organizations, and serving on dozens of local community committees, Andy has also obtained federal and state funding for additional probation personnel and initiated partnerships with local agencies. The development of community and aftercare services, community justice panels and the implementation and supervision of the first school-based probation program in the United States were also part of Andy's focus. He assisted in the development of the department's Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program and the Special Program for Offenders in Rehabilitation and Education (SPORE).

Andy has authored numerous articles on juvenile justice, and served as editor for the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Special Edition and Lehigh County Community Report newsletters. Over the years, he has spoken at numerous conferences sponsored by state and national corrections and justice organizations. He co-chaired the Juvenile Justice Personnel Safety Task Force in the mid 1990's, which brought about safety training for juvenile probation officers in the office and in the field. He also served five years as secretary for the Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association and is a member of the American Probation and Parole Victims Committee.

In 1990, he was the recipient of the Pennsylvania Governors Highway Safety Award, in 1995, the Middle Atlantic State Correctional Association Outstanding Service Award, and in 1996, he was honored with the Pennsylvania Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year award.

Elizabeth Fritz will be replacing Andy as Deputy Chief. Andy states that he truly is retiring and has not announced any future career plans.



Artistic Talents of Our Youths Recognized

On April 10, 2007, seven youths from the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department, enrolled in the Baum School of Art Program were recognized for their accomplishments. Shannon Semmel, and Tracie Davies, of the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department arranged the recognition program. Chief Probation Officer Paul Werrell and Ann Lalik, Executive Director of the Baum School of Art, welcomed the students and guests present.

Ms. Lalik indicated that over the past few years that the Baum School has been partnering with the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department, she has observed exemplary behavior of the teens who attend the class and the sense of self worth that they seem to gain from their accomplishments. She also noted the Baum School provides an emotionally safe place for the youth to learn and grow; to express themselves in a supportive environment and to learn technical skills.



The Baum school instructor, Jenny Nathan Gidley has taught this program for the entire school year and according to Ms. Gidley the works represented at this recognition event represent the hard work of talented and dedicated young people. The students were willing to try new mediums and techniques and were unafraid to challenge themselves. She appreciated their positive attitudes and indicated that she was glad to know them all.

...art is an expression of who you are, what you see, and what you believe in...



Administrative Juvenile Court Judge Robert Steinberg also spoke at the program and related that art is an expression of who you are, what you see, and what you believe in and he congratulated the youths for their efforts in this program. In addition he presented each youth with a certificate of recognition and as was done for the first recognition ceremony, he presented a special award for the most outstanding piece of artwork, which he will have framed and placed outside his courtroom.

Trial Run

What does summer mean for you?

Musings of a Court Administrator by Susan T. Schellenberg

When I think of summer, I think of family picnics, grilling outside, gardening, birding, planning for summer vacations, and slowing the pace of things just a little. For some of you, the pace remains hectic: arranging for childcare, signing up the kids for summer camp, summer school and other enrichment activities and chauffeuring kids to baseball games, swimming lessons and countless other activities.

I must confess that I'm a recovering workaholic. For years I postponed vacations, telling myself that I'd take some time after this or that project had been completed or, I'd imagine what it would be like trying to catch up once I returned to work. After years of this, I suffered major burnout, my work suffered, my family suffered and I began to resent those who did take time away from work.

My point in telling you all this is to encourage each and every one of you to plan time away from work. Although you may not be in a position to take an expensive vacation, just taking time away from tight schedules, early mornings and other stressors will help to restore you both physically and emotionally. Planning is the key to reducing the stress associated with being away. Block out those vacation times well in advance. This will give you time to prepare for the time away and also provide you with something to look forward to, especially on those days when you wondered why you came to work in the first place! It may also be helpful, with your supervisor's ok, to identify a coworker who would be willing to cover for you. You in turn would cover for that coworker when he/she takes leave time. No one should have to return to a pile of work. Frankly, if you believe that you are the only person in the office who can perform certain tasks, there is something very wrong with the way the duties are assigned.

Employers provide annual leave as a benefit because employers know that everyone needs time away. Countless studies have shown that employees who take regular vacations remain healthier and are more productive in the long run. Supervisors should monitor all leave, counseling those who have taken too little time as well as those who may be abusing leave time. I make a habit of monitoring leave time for my Department Heads, making sure that they plan for time away.

Time away is essential for wellness. Please take the time to plan some time away from the office. The demands and stresses of our respective jobs require that we be both physically and emotionally strong. Time away helps to restore and refresh us so that we can meet the everyday challenges of our jobs.

I hope that each and every one of you has a healthy, happy and safe summer!



DRS DISPATCHES

Congratulations to:

John Zarnowski - John was recently promoted to Supervisor of the department's Interstate Unit. John is an experienced Domestic Relations Officer in this unit.

Crystal Roman - Crystal was promoted to Clerical Support in Case Management. She will also be cross-trained in Customer Service responsibilities.

Amber Ebert - Amber is a member of the Docketing Unit. She was recently promoted to Secretarial Support II with additional duties relating to Superior Court Appeals.



A new class of five CASA volunteers were sworn in on Monday, May 21, 2007. The Honorable Edward D. Reibman conducted the swearing in of this eighth class of advocates. The event was well attended by members of the judiciary, human services, and friends and family of the new volunteers. The eighth

class of volunteers brings the total number of Lehigh County CASAs to 41. The new group consists of: Joan Farrell, Linda Lowe, Kathy Matthews, Marty Misenhimer and Eunice Schermerhorn. Amongst them, these willing community members bring a variety of talents and professional experiences ranging from social work to pediatrics to law.

With an active waiting list of twenty cases, the new advocates are quickly being put to work serving as the eyes and ears of the court in the lives of abused and neglected children. However, Lehigh County has approximately 1000 dependent children, so the need for more advocates remains. Anyone interested in learning more about the CASA program should contact CASA Director Elizabeth Edwards at 782-3858.



The Wedgewood Golf Course played host to the Adult Probation Department's most recent fundraising event on April 20, 2007. This special spring tournament raised funds for long-time secretary Donna Kratzer, as she continues to recover from a serious medical situation which arose earlier this year. Warm, seasonal temperatures and excellent course conditions greeted the sixty-four golfers, who, much to their dismay, could not use the weather as an excuse for their scores.

Tied for the championship with a score of 9 under par 62, were the team of Scottie and Shane Schneider, Bupper Bachman and Mike Weiner along with a group consisting of Adult Probation Officer Mike Renner, Jerry and OJ Huertas, and Rich Romano. SPORE psychologist, Dr. Bob Wisser led his cast of characters (M. Wisser, J. Davis, and P. Kelly) to a third place finish with a 7 under par score of 64. Dan Christie won the closest-to-the-pin contest and Scottie Schneider, the putting contest. To no one's surprise, not one golfer was able to claim the "pot-of-gold", awarded to a golfer who was able to land a tee shot inside a ten foot circle on a chosen par three hole. Adult Probation Officer Travis Pezzuto, fitted with measuring instruments and binoculars, had an easy day as he monitored the contest.

Other participants representing the judiciary and Lehigh County were John Sikora, Chris Wignovich, Ben Moyer, and Mark Surovy from the Adult Probation Department; John Brobst, Drew Taylor, and Nicole Miller from SPORE; Steve Miller, Jim Bloom, Tim Carver and Chris Miller from the Department of Corrections; Tom Ganser, Ryan Shaffer and Jeff Nonnemacher of the Juvenile Probation Department; the Bureau of Collections' own Curtis Whitehurst; ADA Steve Van Natten; and John Sydorak.

Golfers representing the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, Lehigh/Carbon Community College, U.S. Treasury Department, Montgomery County Adult Probation Department, and the U.S. Army Reserves also participated. Additional sponsorship and donations were provided by Estelle Paul Catering, Wedgewood Golf Course, Dr. Bob Wisser, John Brobst and Adult Probation Department employees Bonnie Nash, Pam Sheffer, Kristin Berke, Penny Repyneck, Ann Marie Egizio, Barbara Nonnemacher along with Sikora, Renner, Surovy, Wignovich and Pezzuto. Adult Probation Officer Andi Sandt again graced the course with her tireless volunteer work throughout the day.

The tournament committee is already busy planning for the department's 21st annual Labor Day Weekend golf benefit, scheduled for August 31, 2007 at Wedgewood. Look for announcements and registration materials to be released shortly.



**Want to Play in the Next
Tournament?**

**Then Save this Date Now!
August 31, 2007
Wedgewood Golf Course,
Coopersburg**

**Registration Information
Coming Soon!**

