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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 6, 2003**

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## Former Judge Richard Good to Assist Supreme Court

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Former Marion Superior Court Judge Richard P. Good has joined the staff of the Chief Justice to assist with legislative affairs and court administration projects, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Judge Good concluded his term as a Marion County Superior Court Judge at the end of 2002 and will begin work immediately for the Supreme Court. His title will be Assistant to the Chief Justice for Legislative Affairs.

"We were very grateful Dick agreed to come help us out during the General Assembly and with our many other projects. He has excellent standing with the legislature and with the legal community. I know he will be a tremendous asset to the Court and the people of Indiana," said Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

Judge Good was formerly the executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. He has had a distinguished career in public service, which includes a stint in the House of Representatives. He has also been a partner at a law firm, served as a Chief Deputy Prosecutor in Howard County and as assistant city attorney for Kokomo. He was an Army infantry officer and a captain in the Army Reserves Judge Advocate General Corps. He has taught criminal justice at I.U.-Kokomo and IUPUI and served as an instructor in trial advocacy at the Indiana University School of Law.

He has served on nearly every Indiana commission that involves criminal justice issues and was a former chair of the Indiana Criminal Law Study Commission.

During the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly, Judge Good will assist with the Supreme Court's legislative relations and with other projects.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 7, 2003**

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## Chief Justice to Deliver State of the Judiciary Address

[State of the Judiciary](#)

Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard will deliver his sixteenth State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Indiana General Assembly on Wednesday, January 15, 2003 at 1 p.m. EST.

The annual address in the chambers of the Indiana House of Representatives is required by [Article 7](#), Section 3 of the Indiana Constitution and will last about an hour. Advance copies of the speech will be delivered to the State House media at noon on January 15.

Internet users will be able to listen to live audio of the speech at by going to [www.in.gov/legislative/session/audio.html](http://www.in.gov/legislative/session/audio.html) and clicking on "Listen to Audio from the House." A videotape of the speech will be available on the Internet after the address. To view it after the speech, go to: [www.state.in.us/judiciary/supreme/state\\_jud.html](http://www.state.in.us/judiciary/supreme/state_jud.html).

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# Press Releases

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 9, 2003**

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**Ophelia Wellington  
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## Freetown Village and Supreme Court to Team Up on Play

Living history group Freetown Village and the Indiana Supreme Court are collaborating on a dramatic production highlighting the 1855 anti-slavery Supreme Court case Freeman v. Robinson, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and Freetown Village founder Ophelia Wellington announced today.

The production is based on research conducted by Freetown Village and Court Historian Elizabeth Osborn and was sparked by a case highlighted in the law review article, The Indiana Supreme Court and the Struggle Against Slavery, written by former Indianapolis attorney Sandra Boyd Williams.

**A premier will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. on January 23, 2003 in the Supreme Court Chambers in the Indiana State House.**

"We are very pleased to join Freetown Village in this wonderful partnership. This play tells an important story about the role the Supreme Court plays in the movement to combat slavery and of the tremendous challenges faced by African-Americans in Indianapolis in the mid-19th century," Chief Justice Shepard said.

Ms. Wellington said Freetown Village is looking forward to collaborating with the Supreme Court for the production that will begin touring in January 2003.

"Freetown Village is always seeking out new friends to help us share the experiences of African-Americans in Indianapolis in the 1800s. I believe this partnership will be a great benefit to both Freetown and the Supreme Court," she said.

The production will tell the story of John Freeman who was a prosperous free African-American who lived in Indianapolis in the 1850s. A Missouri slaveholder claimed Mr. Freeman was actually a runaway slave named "Sam." Assisted by a deputy U.S. Marshall, Mr. Freeman was tricked into visiting a federal office and later forced to strip so he could be examined for marks that would identify him as Sam. He was held in jail for weeks and charged for the cost of his imprisonment. Even though more than 100 citizens, including a Supreme Court jurist, signed notes for bail totaling a half-million dollars, he was not granted his release. To secure his freedom, his attorneys traveled to Georgia and Canada to find witnesses and actually found "Sam." Freeman sued the U.S. Marshall for assault and extortion. The case eventually went to the Indiana Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled that Mr. Freeman could sue the U.S. Marshall.

Freetown Village actors have performed in schools, libraries and at festivals throughout Indiana and the Midwest. The touring season is January to June 2003.



Freetown Village actors Eleanor Evonne (left) and Michelle Duchan (right) will play Matilda and Sarah Elizabeth in the production, "A Matter of Justice."

**State of the Judiciary**

This one-hour production is suitable for grades four and up. Teacher resources and exhibits are also in development. A version that will qualify for attorney Continuing Legal Education credit will also be prepared. Please contact Freetown Village ([www.freetown.org](http://www.freetown.org)) to schedule a performance by phone at 317.631.1870 or email at [freetown@ameritech.net](mailto:freetown@ameritech.net).

To read Ms. Williams article, visit [www.in.gov/judiciary/education/history.html](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/education/history.html).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 9, 2003**

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## Supreme Court Establishes Project Office for Statewide Case Management System

[State of the Judiciary](#)

The Indiana Supreme Court Judicial Technology and Automation Project has moved to new offices, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today. The Project seeks to equip every Indiana trial court with a 21st century "case management system;" to connect individual courts' case management systems with each other and with users of court information; and to provide Indiana judges and court clerks and their staffs with additional computer resources to assist them in their work and better serve the public.

### Related Stories

[07-23-02: Court Leaders Say New Statewide Court Computer System Will Bring Improvements to Citizens; Marion County to Pilot New System](#)

"In mid-2002, the Supreme Court procured, from Computer Associates International, Inc., case management system (CMS) technology that will revolutionize the way Indiana courts operate," Shepard said. "The Project, led by the Supreme Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) and the Court's Division of State Court Administration, is the largest technology undertaking ever made by Indiana courts. The new offices will house the staff and provide training facilities for this extraordinary effort."

[01-25-02: Overwhelming Response to Public Notice of Contracting Opportunities](#)

The new offices, which include a dedicated computer training facility, are located at One North Capitol St. in Indianapolis, immediately across the street from prior quarters in the office of the Division of State Court Administration at the National City Center.

Those offices became too small a space to house the growing project. The new offices will house approximately 25 court employees and 5 to 10 project staff members from Computer Associates.

In recent years, JTAC has led initiatives that have brought free email and Internet access and online legal research access to Indiana judges as well as free computer training for judicial employees around the state.

"We are quite pleased with all that JTAC has accomplished to date, but the nature of the CMS project demands a state-of-the-art environment. The new project office will be a center of development, strategy for implementation, training, and ongoing support for the case management system, serving as a hub for collaboration between stakeholders from the courts, state agencies that use court information, and the CMS staff members," said Justice Frank Sullivan Jr., JTAC's chairman.

"The CMS project is vital to the effective operations of our court system," said Lilia Judson, Executive Director of the Division of State Court Administration. "We believe that the technology we are developing will have a profound impact on the way the courts do their business and will improve vastly the services our courts provide to Indiana's citizens." The Division of State Court Administration will continue to oversee the operations of the JTAC staff, which is led by Kurt Snyder, Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology for the Division.

For more information about JTAC and the statewide case management system, visit [www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac).



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 10, 2003**

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## Judge Michael Robbins Named to Lead Local Pro Bono Effort

The Indiana Supreme Court has appointed the Hon. Michael Robbins, judge of the Lawrence Superior Court, Number 1, as the new chair of the District 10 Pro Bono Committee, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

As chair, Judge Robbins will direct a local committee that will improve civil legal services for the needy in Owen, Lawrence, Greene and Monroe counties by recruiting attorneys to do volunteer legal work.

“Judge Robbins is the exactly the kind of person who can build on the solid work the District 10 Pro Bono Committee has already completed. I am grateful he was willing to take on this new responsibility,” said Chief Justice Shepard.

He replaces the Hon. Elizabeth Mann of Monroe County, who will continue to assist the committee’s efforts.

District 10 is one of 14 Indiana judicial districts that have pro bono committees. The work of the committees is supported by the Indiana Pro Bono Commission, which distributed over \$400,000 this month to the 14 districts. The Commission works in cooperation with the Indiana Bar Foundation, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the Supreme Court to assist people of limited means find pro bono legal help.

For more information about the Commission, visit: [www.in.us/judiciary/probono](http://www.in.us/judiciary/probono).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 14, 2003**

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### NEWS ADVISORY

## Press Conference to Discuss Findings of Supreme Court's Commission on Race and Gender Fairness

Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and the chair of the Commission on Race and Gender Fairness, former Justice Myra Selby, and its co-chair, Court of Appeals Judge Ezra R. Friedlander, will discuss the Commission's findings at a press conference at 2:30 p.m., on Friday, January 17, 2003 in the Supreme Court Courtroom.

Since 1999 the Commission has been charged with the studying the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in the Indiana judicial system, ascertaining the perceptions of fairness, and making recommendations on reforms and improvements.

Over the last several years the Commission has hosted seven public forums, polled 1,250 judges, court employees, attorneys, and court users, conducted 18 focus groups, and interviewed 120 court staffers, attorneys and court users.

Results from this wide-ranging body of work will be revealed at the press conference Friday. The press conference will be webcast live at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/webcast.html](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/webcast.html) and it will be archived for later viewing at the same web address.

Indiana is one of about 40 states that have convened race and gender task forces. The Supreme Court created Indiana's 26-member commission in 1999 and asked Myra Selby, the first woman and African-American to serve on the Indiana Supreme Court, to lead the effort.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 17, 2003**

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## Supreme Court's Commission on Race and Gender Fairness Releases Findings After Three Year Study

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The Supreme Court's Commission on Race and Gender Fairness released its report Friday on race and gender issues in the Indiana justice system and urged the high court to extend the Commission's mandate to allow it to implement a sweeping set of recommendations.

In addition to continuing the work of the Commission for four years, the key recommendations included:

- Increasing the amount and quality of trained interpreters in Indiana courtrooms.
- Putting information about the Indiana justice system on the Internet in at least ten languages used commonly in Indiana.
- Convening a conclave in 2004 of the major players in the judicial system to coordinate implementation efforts and to foster discussion of race and gender issues.
- Requiring that new attorneys receive at least one hour of Continuing Legal Education that promotes awareness of race and gender issues.
- Requiring judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys to receive education that promotes awareness of race and gender issues.
- Instituting steps to end real and perceived cases of disparagement of women and minorities in the state's courtrooms.
- Urging the state's four law schools to continue their efforts at recruiting women and minorities for their classrooms and faculty.
- Studying the reasons for statistical disparities in the number of minority lawyers at law firms and the apparent under-representation of women in law firm partnerships.
- Convening a "Blue-Ribbon Panel" to review the criminal sentencing structure to assess what appears to be a disparate impact on women and minorities.
- Reviewing bail criteria for factors that unnecessarily burden racial and ethnic minorities.
- Requiring trial courts to keep statistics on the race, gender and ethnicity of criminal defendants to use in future studies.
- Encouraging the Department of Correction to increase efforts to recruit and retain ethnic and racial minorities among their employees.
- Requiring trial courts presiding over family law cases to keep statistics for two years in family law cases of the race and gender of the parties in order to determine if some groups are treated unfairly.
- Requiring trial courts to keep statistics of the race and gender of prospective and selected jurors in a selected number of jury trials for a two-year period to determine if a perception of bias in the jury selection process is legitimate.
- Requiring trial court administrators to keep statistics of the race, gender, and ethnicity of all applicants, new hires and those who leave court employment, as well as of the race,

gender and ethnicity of all court-appointed arbitrators, special masters, receivers, mediators, experts, and all other court employees to assess if racial or ethnic bias plays a role in filling these positions.

- Requiring judges and court administrators to develop and use a standard set of employment practices in order to promote uniform procedures for employment in order to enhance equity in personnel decisions.

Since 1999 the Commission has been charged with studying the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in the Indiana judicial system, ascertaining the perceptions of fairness, and making recommendations on reforms and improvements.

Over the last several years the Commission has hosted seven public forums, polled 1,250 judges, court employees, attorneys, and court users, conducted 18 focus groups, and interviewed 120 court staffers, attorneys and court users.

Indiana is one of about 40 states that have convened race and gender task forces. The Supreme Court created Indiana's 25-member commission in 1999 and asked Myra Selby, the first woman and African-American to serve on the Indiana Supreme Court, to lead the effort. Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Ezra H. Friedlander, who is a member of American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary, serves as the Commission's co-chair.

The Commission's report was released at a press conference Friday attended by Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, former Justice Selby and Judge Friedlander.

The entire report is available at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/fairness/index.html](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/fairness/index.html)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 21, 2003**

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**David J. Remondini  
317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Applications Sought for Lake County Judgeship

Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming vacancy on the Lake County Superior Court in the Criminal Division, the Hon. Robert D. Rucker of the Supreme Court of Indiana announced today.

Justice Rucker, a former resident of Gary, chairs the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission, which will interview the candidates.

Applicants will be applying for the judgeship that will be vacated by Judge Richard Maroc, who announced he will retire this March after 24 years on the bench.

Applicants must be residents of Lake County and citizens of the United States and be admitted to the practice of law in Indiana. Each applicant must submit ten copies of the completed application to the Secretary of the Lake County Nominating Commission, Karen M. Coulis, 9120 Connecticut Drive, Suite D, Merrillville, IN. Applications must be in Ms. Coulis' office no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2003.

Public interviews of the candidates will take place in the Commissioner's Hearing Room in the Lake County Government Center on Monday, February 24, 2003 and Tuesday, February 25, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The Commission will select three candidates and send those names to Gov. Frank L. O'Bannon, who will make the final selection.

Applications are available at all Lake County Clerk's Offices.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Janaury 30, 2003**

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**317.327.4160 (voice)**

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## Bench - Media Group Formed to Educate About Courts

An innovative approach to improve public understanding of the operation of Indiana Courts has been adopted through the creation of a committee of judges and representatives of the news media, Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Modeled after a unique program operating in the state of Washington, the Indiana Judicial Advisory Committee on Media Relations also intends to resolve problems that develop between the courts and the news media.

"The courts and the press have a vital interest in making sure that judicial activity is open and fair," explained Marion County Superior Court Judge David Dreyer, chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Indiana Judicial Conference, which is comprised of judges from around the state. Dreyer also chairs the newly created Advisory Committee.

A key element of the program is designed to help resolve conflicts that arise over media coverage of the courts. A subset of the Advisory Committee, informally known as "the fire brigade," will act upon requests as an informal mediator or advisor to resolve such issues that arise.



**Members of "The Fire Brigade" include judges and media representatives.**

**Left to Right:** Hon. David Matsey (Starke Co.); Hon. Stanley Levine (Allen Co.); Hon. Daniel Heath (Allen Co.); Steve Key (General Counsel, **Hoosier State Press Association**); Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo (Lake Co.); David Stamps (Executive Director, Hoosier State Press Association); Hon. Blaine Akers (Clay Co.); Suzanne McBride (Government Editor, Indianapolis Star); Hon. David Dreyer (Marion Co.); Larry Lough (Editor, The Star Press, Muncie); Don Asher (Deputy Executive Editor, Times of Northwest Indiana, Munster); Steve Sweitzer (News Operations Manager, WISH-TV, Channel 8, Indianapolis).

"The administration of justice, which is the province of the judicial system, and the reporting on this process, which is the province of the news media, sometimes produces conflict," said David Stamps, executive director of the Hoosier State Press Association, one of the participants in the new program.

"Prior to creation of this committee, individual judges and reporters were left to resolve such conflicts on their own, with predictably varied results," said Stamps. "News stories resulting

**State of the Judiciary**

from an impasse over court procedures or access to information issues often left the public wondering about the judicial system and its inherent fairness. Obviously, the public is not well served by such a result."

To address such concerns, the committee will become a reference point for the judiciary and the media prior to any given situation erupting into coverage that focuses on disagreements or misunderstandings of court rules and procedures rather than the trial or judicial proceeding itself.

Key role in the process is that of "fire chief", a term taken from the Washington system. The fire chief, a member of the Indiana judiciary, will direct the fire brigade mediation/advice efforts.

The fire brigade committee includes the entire membership of the Community Relations Committee of the Indiana Judicial Conference and representatives from the news media.

Media members include representatives from broadcast, print, and the Hoosier State Press Association. (See attached list.)

Members of the bench and media have been meeting informally for several years and have already collaborated on several projects, including a Law School for Journalists in 1999 that was jointly sponsored by the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the Hoosier State Press Association.

The Advisory Committee concept was recently approved by the Supreme Court. Its future projects include establishing a database of contacts in the legal field for the media's benefit, creation of a guide to court and media relations, and developing another law school for journalists program.

The Advisory Committee and "fire brigade" can be contacted through the Indiana Judicial Center at (317)232-1313.

---

Advisory Committee members include:

**Representing the Associated Press Managing Editors (APME)**

Larry Lough, Editor  
The Star Press (Muncie)

**Representing Indiana Courts**

Hon. Blaine Akers  
Clay Superior Court

**Representing Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA)**

Wendell Hudson, Assignment Manager  
WTWO-TV Channel 2 in Terre Haute

Hon. Robert Altice  
Marion Superior Court

**Representing the Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) membership**

Don Asher, Deputy Executive Editor  
The Times of Northwest Indiana  
(Munster)

Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo  
Lake Circuit Court

Hon. Jane Spencer  
Craney  
Morgan Superior Court

**Representing Indiana News Photographers Association**

Steve Sweitzer, News Operations  
Manager  
WISH-TV Channel 8 in Indianapolis

Hon. David J. Dreyer  
Marion Superior Court

**Representing the Society of Professional  
Journalists (SPJ)**

Hon. William C. Fee  
Steuben Superior Court

Suzanne McBride  
The Indianapolis Star

Hon. Daniel Heath  
Allen Superior Court

Keith Robinson, Indiana Bureau Chief  
Associated Press

Hon. Stanley Levine  
Allen Superior Court

David Stamps and Steve Key  
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Hoosier State Press Association  
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Hon. John Marnocha  
St. Joseph Superior

Hon. David Matsey  
Starke Circuit Court

Hon. John Price  
Senior Judge

Hon. John Sharpnack  
Indiana Court of Appeals

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 12, 2003**

**Contact: Meg W. Babcock**

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## Supreme Court to Publicly Reprimand Lake County Judge

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On February 10, 2003, the Indiana Supreme Court approved an agreement between the Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications and Judge James Danikolas, Lake Superior Court, Civil Division 3, stemming from judicial ethics charges filed against the Judge on June 21, 2002. The Commission and the judge filed with the Court a set of agreed facts relating to an Order Judge Danikolas signed on February 5, 2001 releasing a Gary man from jail without bond, after a magistrate held a hearing and incarcerated him, imposing a \$10,000.00 escrow bond. The Gary man violated a prior court order and had failed to make any payments against a \$38,400.00 judgment owed to his former wife from spousal maintenance and child support obligations incurred prior to their divorce. The parties agreed in the document they submitted to the Court that, in issuing the Order releasing the man without giving the other side of the case prior notice or an opportunity to be heard, Judge Danikolas violated the ethics rule prohibiting ex parte proceedings.

In the agreement, the parties also stipulated that the original Order of February 5, 2001, which had been in the official Order book in the Lake County Clerk's office, and which included at the top a facsimile header indicating the Order had been faxed from a facsimile machine used at times by the office of the lawyers representing the man who was released, later was replaced by a re-typed version of the Order, which did not show the fax source. Judge Danikolas denies any knowledge about the second Order; however, citing the fact that the judge's signature is on the re-typed Order, he accepted accountability for the appearance of impropriety created by these circumstances.

The Commission and the judge, through their lawyers, agreed that the appropriate disciplinary sanction should be a public reprimand from the Indiana Supreme Court. In its February 10th Order, the Supreme Court stated that a formal opinion imposing a public reprimand would be issued in due course. The parties' agreement and the Supreme Court's Order resulted in the cancellation of a trial in the disciplinary case, which was scheduled for February 18 and 19, 2003.

A copy of the Order and the Agreement is available through the office of Douglas Cressler, Supreme Court Administrator, (317) 232-2540.

Judge Danikolas was represented by Stanley Jablonski, (219) 736-7101 and Andrew Giorgi, (219) 663-3113. The Commission was represented by Meg Babcock and Donald Lundberg.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 14, 2003**

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## Women Judges Offer Scholarship for Indy Visit Logo Contest

An Indiana student can win a \$500 scholarship for designing the winning digitally formatted logo to promote the Indianapolis conference of the National Association of Women Judges, set for October 7-10, 2004 in Indianapolis.

The contest is devised to involve Indiana's school students in this annual conference and develop a digitally formatted logo that will be used on items for the conference like letterhead, tote bags, programs, coffee mugs, and T-shirts. The entry must be an original work and must be suitable for color or black and white uses. Any student enrolled in an Indiana school, at any level, is eligible to participate. Submissions must be made by May 1, 2003.

"We believe it is important for the judiciary to interact with the people we serve. This contest is one way that our judges can connect with Indiana's educational system and offer students a way to take part in our meeting. It will give our students a chance to sharpen their technical skills and earn a scholarship they can use for their education," said Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Margret Robb, Indianapolis Conference chair.

Information about the contest will be shared with the Indiana Department of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Suellen Reed. Applications and contest rules can be found on the Internet at: [www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj/contest.html](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj/contest.html).

The conference of National Association of Women Judges will be meeting for the 26th time in October 2004. The Indianapolis conference will bring together judges of diverse backgrounds to discuss issues relevant to the judiciary and the public. The theme for the 2004 conference is "At the Crossroads." For more information, please contact:

**Kelly Merkle**

National Association of Women Judges, Logo Contest  
National City Center,  
115 West Washington Street, Suite 1270  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
email: [kmerkle@courts.state.in.us](mailto:kmerkle@courts.state.in.us)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 18, 2003**

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## Supreme Court Partners with Indiana University on Court Technology Projects

The Indiana Supreme Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) and the Indiana University Kelley School of Business are engaged in a cooperative initiative for the Capstone Project Course in Kelley's Master of Science in Information Systems (MS-IS), Justice Frank Sullivan, Jr., JTAC's Chair, announced today.

"This program will provide IU graduate students an opportunity to experience research, problem solving, and reporting in a real-world environment while providing a valuable service to the Supreme Court and JTAC," said Justice Sullivan. "This is a positive partnership between a state agency and a state university that fosters progress for both."

Eighteen MS-IS graduate students have registered for the Capstone Project Course (S546) for the spring semester. These students, led by Professor Iris Vessey, PhD, will work in groups on one of four key projects that will enhance the statewide case management system (CMS) that JTAC is in the process of developing.

"Indiana University is very excited to be involved in this partnership with the Indiana Supreme Court," said Dr. Vessey. "Not only have IU and its students been given the opportunity to contribute to our community, but our community is challenging our students with a great responsibility and a practical experience that will no doubt enhance their educations." The students will research the technology required to implement each project, the feasibility of the implementation, and the improvements that each project can bring to JTAC's court technology efforts. The four projects include the development of computerized kiosks and automated voice response telephone systems as means of delivering case information to the public; methods by which the use of handheld devices to deliver case information to judicial employees can improve their abilities to perform their job functions; ways in which the CMS can improve upon current juvenile justice systems and how the CMS itself would need to be improved in order to meet the demands of this specialized facet of our court system; and ways in which the CMS and JTAC can help counties establish new or improve existing jury management systems so they may comply with new jury pool selection rules.

To learn more about JTAC and the case management system, visit [www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac). For more information about the IU Kelley School of Business, go to [www.kelley.iu.edu](http://www.kelley.iu.edu).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 20, 2003**

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## Judge Mary Willis Named to Lead Local Pro Bono Effort

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The Indiana Supreme Court has appointed the Hon. Mary G. Willis, judge of the Henry Circuit Court, as the new chair of the District 6 Pro Bono Committee, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

As chair, Judge Willis will direct a local committee that will improve civil legal services for the needy in Blackford, Grant, Madison, Delaware, Jay, Randolph, and Henry counties by recruiting attorneys to do volunteer civil legal work.

"I am confident Judge Willis will build on the solid work the District 6 Pro Bono Committee has already started. I am grateful she was willing to take on this new responsibility," said Chief Justice Shepard.

She replaces the Hon. Jack Brinkman of Madison County, who will continue to assist the committee's efforts.

District 6 is one of 14 Indiana judicial districts that have pro bono committees. The work of the committees is supported by the Indiana Pro Bono Commission, which distributed over \$400,000 this month to the 14 districts. The Commission works in cooperation with the Indiana Bar Foundation, the Indiana State Bar Association, and the Supreme Court to assist people of limited means find pro bono legal help. For more information about the Commission, visit: [www.in.us/judiciary/probono](http://www.in.us/judiciary/probono).

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## Supreme Court Pardons Benjamin Harrison—141 Years Later!

Benjamin Harrison, the only U.S. President from Indiana, will receive a judicial pardon next Tuesday, 141 years after the Indiana Supreme Court stripped him of his office as Supreme Court Reporter for abandoning his office to fight in the Civil War.

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard will present the pardon on behalf of the Indiana Supreme Court at 10 a.m. in the Supreme Court Court Room on Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

The presentation of the pardon is part of the celebration of the 115th anniversary of Harrison's inauguration on March 4, 1888 as the nation's 23rd President. Gov. Frank L. O'Bannon proclaimed March 4, 2003 as "Benjamin Harrison Day."

Harrison's dispute with the Indiana Supreme Court began during the Civil War when Harrison, a Republican, turned his office as Supreme Court Reporter over to a subordinate in 1862 and left to serve as a Colonel in the Indiana 70th. However, state Democrats considered the office vacant and nominated a candidate to run for Reporter. A lawsuit resulted from this dispute. The Indiana Supreme Court, composed of Democrats, declared that Harrison, by serving as a colonel and as Reporter, was holding two "lucrative offices," which is forbidden by the Indiana Constitution. As a result, he had forfeited his office, the Court ruled.

The mock pardon excuses Harrison for his absence from his duties as Reporter. Harrison, portrayed in costume by Ed Myers, will be present, along with Harrison's friend, famed Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley, played by Henry Ryder.

This event is sponsored by the Capitol Tour Office, the President Benjamin Harrison Home and the Indiana Supreme Court. It can be viewed live on the Internet at: [www.IN.gov/judiciary/education/special/harrison.html](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/education/special/harrison.html). An archived version of the event will also be available later on the same page. For more information go to: [www.IN.gov/judiciary/education](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/education) and click on "Benjamin Harrison Day."

**State of the Judiciary**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 4, 2003**

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## Roll of Indiana Attorneys Now Available on the Internet

Finding out if someone who claims to be an attorney is actually allowed to practice law in Indiana has become much simpler thanks to a joint effort by the Supreme Court of Indiana and the state Clerk of the Court's office, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The names and business addresses of every licensed Indiana attorney can now be found on the Internet on the Indiana Judicial System webpage at [www.IN.gov/judiciary](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary) and at the Clerk of the Courts webpage at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/cofc](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/cofc) by clicking on "Attorneys" and then "Roll of Attorneys" on either page.

"The Indiana court system has been working very hard to take advantage of the latest technology. Putting the Roll of Attorneys on the Internet was a logical step for us. To make this effort work, we have received great support from Clerk of the Court Brian Bishop, who maintains the Roll of Attorneys for our Court," said Chief Justice Shepard.

People who wish to determine if an attorney is licensed in Indiana or who simply want to find an address, need only type in the attorney's last name. Typing in the city where the attorney practices will help narrow the number of responses. Clicking on the attorney's name will display the attorney's full name, attorney number, full business address, telephone number, date of admission to the Indiana Bar and whether the attorney is currently licensed to practice law in Indiana.

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## Indiana CLEO Fellow Tapped for City Court Bench

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An Indiana attorney who was a law student in the Supreme Court's Indiana CLEO scholarship program was named by Gov. Frank L. O'Bannon as the new judge of the city court of East Chicago, Ind., Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Eduardo Fontanez, Jr., 27, is the first Hispanic to hold that post. He will serve out the remaining term of former City Court Judge Lonnie Randolph, who stepped down to run for mayor of East Chicago. His term will end December 31, 2003.

"Our Indiana Conference on Legal Education Opportunity (ICLEO) is designed to bring people of diverse backgrounds into the legal system and the selection of Mr. Fontanez shows our program is working. Most of our ICLEO fellows have always shown strong leadership traits. I am not surprised Gov. O'Bannon recognized this in Mr. Fontanez and appointed him to this position," said Chief Justice Shepard.

Mr. Fontanez was admitted to the bar in 2002 and has been working for the Lake County Prosecutor. He graduated from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis and was a member of the second ICLEO class in 1998.

At the urging of Chief Justice Shepard, the legislature created the ICLEO program. Gov. O'Bannon signed the legislation in May 1997 and the first ICLEO classe opened just weeks later. About 30 students who are about to enter law school are selected each year to attend the 6-week ICLEO Summer Institute, which offers an expansive introduction to the rigors of law school study. Students who successfully complete the Summer Institute receive substantial scholarships, job placement assistance both during and after law school, and networking opportunities. It is open to minority, low-income and educationally disadvantaged college graduates in pursuing a legal education at one of Indiana's four law schools.

For more information about ICLEO, visit [www.in.gov/judiciary/cleo](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/cleo) or contact Jana Matthews at 317.232.2542.

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## Continued Free Legal Aid Assured By US Supreme Court Case

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A U.S. Supreme Court case issued today involving a long-running challenge to interest on lawyer trust accounts helps assure that people of limited means will continue to receive free legal assistance from Indiana's volunteer lawyers.

The U.S. Supreme Court case involves a program active in all 50 states called the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. Through this program, a client's funds held in a lawyer trust account that would not generate any net interest on their own are pooled together with other client funds. By pooling the funds, significant amounts of interest can be generated and be used for charitable purposes.

Nationally, these programs generate more than \$120 million per year and largely support free legal service to the poor. In Indiana, the program is operated by the Indiana Bar Foundation and all of the funds are used to encourage Indiana's attorneys to provide free, or *pro bono*, civil legal assistance to people of limited means.

Since its inception in Indiana in October 1999, the Bar Foundation's IOLTA program has generated \$2.1 million. After administrative costs have been paid, the balance of the money is allocated to the Indiana Pro Bono Commission, a 21-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court and the Bar Foundation. The Pro Bono Commission, working in a close partnership with the Bar Foundation and the Indiana State Bar Association, then distributes the funds to 14 local groups that are coordinating pro bono assistance to the needy in their communities.

In January 2003, the Commission recommended that the Bar Foundation distribute over \$400,000 to the 14 groups. Since the Commission first began its work, thousands of needy Hoosiers have received free legal assistance.

IOLTA programs have been challenged almost since their inception in the United States in the 1980s by groups who have asserted that states which authorized IOLTA programs were "taking" the interest from the clients. Any "taking" by the government is generally considered a violation of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution unless it is taken for a "public use" and "just compensation" is given to the owner.

The U.S. Supreme Court in the 5-4 decision issued today determined that funding legal services with IOLTA funds was "taken" for "public use." But since the net loss to the clients was zero, then any just compensation potentially due to clients was zero.

Even though other legal challenges may follow, reaction from the leaders in Indiana's pro bono project was uniformly positive in light of the fact that the high court could have determined the program was unconstitutional.

"This is a great day for the people of Indiana. Our pro bono project has been recognized as a national model as an innovative way to deliver legal assistance to people of modest means.

Today's opinion will enable all the partners in our pro bono effort to focus our efforts to ensure that the lack of funds is never a bar to the courtrooms of Indiana," said Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard of Indiana.

"Equal justice under law is not just the caption on the entrance to the United States Supreme Court Building . . . It is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and in availability, without regard to economic status. With this guidance from our highest Court, the Indiana Pro Bono Commission looks forward to continuing our efforts on behalf of the less fortunate who have civil legal needs," said J. Philip Burt, chair of the Indiana Pro Bono Commission and a partner at Fort Wayne's law firm, Burt, Blee, Dixon, Sutton & Bloom.

"The ISBA is pleased by this US Supreme Court decision because the lawyers of Indiana have used the funds provided by this process to provide legal services that give Indiana citizens who could not otherwise access to our system of justice. This decision allows the system that is now in place to continue and improve," said Indiana State Bar Association President-elect Wm. Sherrill Colvin, of the Fort Wayne firm of Haller & Colvin.

"This decision ends months of uncertainty and will allow the Indiana Bar Foundation in partnership with the Indiana Supreme Court and the Indiana Pro Bono Commission to continue to provide access to the legal system to thousands of persons who would otherwise be unable to afford such services. Since its inception in October of 1999 over \$2.1 million has been made available through IOLTA. The decision today will allow us to continue to be of service to those in need, which is in the highest tradition of the legal profession, said Marsha Volk, President of the Indiana Bar Foundation, and an attorney with Pretzel & Stouffer, of Chicago, IL.

To view the U.S. Supreme Court opinion, visit:  
<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/01-1325.ZS.html>

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 1, 2003**

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## April is Proclaimed as National Drug Court Month

April has been proclaimed as National Drug Court Month across the United States and Indiana can be proud of the accomplishments of its growing drug court movement which has assisted Indiana communities by reducing repeated drug use, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard said today.

"By requiring Drug Court defendants to undergo rigorous substance abuse counseling, frequent drug testing, and job training under strict court supervision, we have given these non-violent offenders the tools to become valued, hard-working members of society," Chief Justice Shepard said.

Drug courts provide the focus and leadership for community-wide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, treatment, education, and other community partners in the fight against drug abuse and criminality.

Currently, there are 15 active drug courts and nine in the planning stages in Indiana. Nationally, there are 1,200 in operation or under development. Drug court offenders are typically non-violent adults and juveniles arrested for substance related offenses. About 800 adults and juveniles are currently participating in Indiana drug courts and over 600 individuals have successfully completed drug court programs since 1997.

"Drug treatment courts insist upon accountability by each participant for their offense. Long term treatment and supervision are improving the quality of life for the participants and the community. Because of drug court involvement, four Vanderburgh County Drug Court participants have given birth to drug free babies. In addition, there are three drug free expectant mothers currently enrolled in the Vanderburgh County Drug Court. Drug court participants have also been successful in paying child support, establishing regular visitation with their children, and having their children returned from social services," explained Vanderburgh Superior Court Judge Wayne S. Trockman.

The Indiana Judicial Center provides oversight to Indiana's drug courts and is developing standards and guidelines that will be used to certify drug courts to ensure continued quality and development.

"Drug court judges, practitioners and participants have had a positive impact on our communities by re-uniting families and reducing jail bed use. It is important that we recognize all of their contributions," said Chief Justice Shepard.

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**April 1, 2003**

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## Board of Law Examiners Unveils Improved, User Friendly Website

The Indiana Board of Law Examiners has unveiled a website that is designed to make it easier to learn how to become a lawyer in Indiana, Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

In addition to improving service to Indiana Bar Exam applicants, who will have faster, easier access to information, the new website will save money as well. Applications will be available on-line and eliminate the costs previously associated with mailing hundreds of application forms out to law schools.

"The new State Board of Law Examiners website is the culmination of thought, planning and effort on the part of the State Board of Law Examiners and the Judicial Technology and Automation Committee. We believe that this site will improve our office services and functioning and will be the first step in our continued utilization of the benefits of technology as they become available to us," said Mary Place Godsey, executive director of the Board of Law Examiners.

Applications for certification as student and graduate legal interns, for admission on foreign license and the formation a Professional Corporation, Limited Liability Company and Limited Liability Partnership can also be accessed on the new website.

This site will also post timely information pertaining to bar examinations, the posting of names of those who pass the bar exam as well as bar admission ceremonies.

Links to Indiana law schools, bar review courses and other sources helpful to students and attorneys alike will also be available on the site.

In addition to saving money on postage and labor, the new website enables the Board of Law Examiners office to keep records up to date by allowing bar applicants and attorneys admitted on foreign license to electronically file changes of address.

To view the site, visit: [www.IN.gov/judiciary/ble](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/ble).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 1, 2003**

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### Disciplinary Commission Executive Secretary Donald Lundberg Names to Two National Posts

Donald R. Lundberg, the executive secretary of the Indiana Disciplinary Commission, has been named to two national positions, Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mr. Lundberg, who has been executive secretary since 1991, was elected by his peers to a two-year term as a director-at-large of the National Organization of Bar Counsel. This group is the national organization for all agencies that focus on lawyer discipline.

In addition, Mr. Lundberg was recently elected as a member of the governing Council of the American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division.

"Here in Indiana we think a lot of Don Lundberg. I am glad to see his colleagues have seen the same fine leadership qualities in him as well," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The Disciplinary Commission is the agency of the Indiana Supreme Court charged with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting lawyer discipline proceedings. The executive secretary is chief prosecutor and administrator of the office.

Mr. Lundberg has been the executive secretary of the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission since December of 1991.

Previously, he was the Director of Litigation for the Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc., a public interest law firm providing legal representation in civil matters to low income clients in Indiana and now known as Indiana Legal Services, Inc.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 22, 2003**

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## Supreme Court Administrator and Law Clerk Named "Friends of the Court"

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Supreme Court Administrator Douglas E. Cressler and Jimmie L. McMillian, a law clerk to Associate Justice Frank Sullivan, Jr., were named "Friends of the Court" for their outstanding service to the Moot Court Society of the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The program unveiled a new recognition award recently called "Friend of the Court." It is designed to honor a member of the local legal community who has been particularly helpful to the moot court program. The honorees' names will be inscribed on a special new plaque that will be hung in the law school. Mr. Cressler and Mr. McMillian were the inaugural co-winners of the award.

The Moot Court Society organizes dozens of mock oral arguments between law students who argue before a panel of two to three judges. Many of the judges are drawn from the legal community of Indianapolis and include judges and practicing attorneys. Mr. McMillian, who graduated from the law school in 2002 was nominated because he frequently volunteered to serve as a "judge" on a moot court panel at the law school.

Mr. Cressler, who graduated from the law school in 1989, was honored because of extensive efforts at organizing volunteer judges from the appellate court law clerks in the State House that enabled many moot court practitioners to argue in the Supreme Court Chambers.

"Doug and Jimmie are great assets to the Court. It is not surprising to me that they both make additional contributions to the legal community and especially our law students. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating them and thanking them for representing the Court so well," said Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 29, 2003**

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## Supreme Court to Celebrate Law Day in Five Places Thursday

The five members of the Indiana Supreme Court will be celebrating national Law Day on Thursday, May 1, 2003 by traveling to five events across Indiana.

Law Day is the traditional day to mark the importance of the rule of law in today's society. Hundreds of events will take place in nearly every state Thursday. Indiana's justices felt it was important for them to take part in Law Day events.

"The members of the Court believe that on the one day a year that the law is highlighted and celebrated, we should be part of communities all around Indiana that are marking this wonderful day," said Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard.

Chief Justice Shepard will serve as a judge at a local high school mock trial contest in the Vanderburgh County Courthouse in his hometown of Evansville.

Associate Justice Brent Dickson will attend the Tippecanoe County Bar Association Law Day Dinner in his hometown of Lafayette.

Associate Justice Frank Sullivan Jr. will be the keynote speaker at the Elkhart City Bar Association in Elkhart.

Associate Justice Theodore "Ted" Boehm will make a presentation to students at Fulton Jr. High School, 7320 W. 10th Street, Indianapolis.

Associate Justice Robert D. Rucker will preside at the LaPorte County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon in LaPorte.

The American Bar Association plays a central role in each year's Law Day. This year's theme is: "Celebrate Your Freedom: Independent Courts Protect our Liberties."

According to a statement from ABA President, Alfred P. Carlton, Jr., "We need to strengthen the independence of our courts. We must preserve a system in which those who don the robes of justice everyday can – without fear and with full independence of thought, word, and deed – do what they have sworn to do and they do better than anyone else – deliver American justice.

For more information on Law Day, visit: [www.lawday.org](http://www.lawday.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 20, 2003**

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## State Senator and Judges Honored by Probation Officers Board



**Senator Meeks Receives His Plaque from Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard**

State Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks and the Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana have been honored by the Probation Officers Advisory Board, Marion County Supervising Probation Officer Fred Martin announced today.

Martin, chair of the Judicial Conference's Probation Officers Advisory Board, said the Board made the special presentations to Senator Meeks and the Probation Committee because of their contributions to the improvement of the probation profession in Indiana.

"These awards gave the Advisory Board the opportunity to recognize and thank Senator Meeks and the Probation Committee for their support of probation officers during the 2003 legislative session," Martin said.

Senator Meeks, who represents District 14 in northeast Indiana, is a former Allen County Sheriff and retired Executive Director of the National Sheriff's Association. He authored Senate Bill 506, which raised probation user's fees for the first time in 20 years. The bill will modernize collection of fees and help to fund probation departments.

The Probation Committee is charged with reviewing probation-related matters and making recommendations to the Judicial Conference of Indiana's Board of Directors. In the last several years, the Probation Committee has revised and strengthened the Probation Standards and reviewed the Conference's minimum salary standards, recommending a new salary schedule with longevity incentives. In addition, several members of the committee testified in front of legislative committees this year concerning probation matters. Judge John Surbeck of the Allen Superior Court chairs the Probation Committee, whose members include: Judge Douglas R. Bridges of Monroe Circuit Court, G. Thomas Gray of Morgan Superior Court #1, R. Joseph Howell of Martin Circuit Court, R. Jerome Kearns of Vigo Superior Court #4, Thomas C. Perrone of Cass Superior Court, Wayne E. Steele of Fulton Superior Court, Mark D. Stoner of Marion Superior Court Criminal Division #14, Judge Daniel J. Vanderpool of Wabash Circuit Court, and Jesse M. Villalpando of Lake Superior Court County Division.



**Judge Mark Stoner Receives His Plaque from Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard**

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard presented the awards in front of 900 probation officers at the opening session of the Annual Meeting of Indiana Probation Officers held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on May 8th.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 21, 2003**

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[02-18-03: Supreme Court Partners with Indiana University on Court Technology Projects](#)

## Indiana University Graduate Students Present Research Findings on Court Technology Projects

Students enrolled in the Capstone Course for the Indiana University (IU) Master of Information Systems successfully presented their findings on four key research projects central to court technology efforts in Indiana, Justice Frank Sullivan Jr. announced today.

This Capstone Course is the outcome of a partnership between the Indiana Supreme Court Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) and IU's Kelley School of Business, established earlier this year (See [Supreme Court Partners with Indiana University on Court Technology Projects](#), Feb. 18).

"The results of our partnership with IU have been outstanding," said Justice Sullivan, JTAC's chair, "and we hope to continue working with students at IU and other Indiana colleges and universities well into the future."

The students—led by Professors Iris Vessey, Ph.D., and Ramesh Venkataraman, Ph.D., and guided throughout the semester by appropriate liaisons from the justice community—presented their findings and recommendations regarding each subject to a group of stakeholders in the Supreme Courtroom on Friday, May 2. Those in attendance were able to participate in Q&A sessions during each of the four presentations. In addition, students made final written reports detailing their research available to the Supreme Court for continued review and reference. Those reports and videos of the presentations are available for online viewing at <http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac/cms.html>.

The four projects researched by these students include: (1) the investigation of development of computerized kiosks and automated voice response telephone systems as means of delivering case information to the public; (2) methods by which the use of handheld devices to deliver case information to judicial employees can improve their abilities to perform their job functions; (3) ways in which the CMS can improve upon current juvenile justice systems and how the CMS itself would need to be improved in order to meet the demands of this specialized facet of our court system; and (4) ways in which the CMS and JTAC can help counties establish new or improve existing jury management systems so they may comply with new jury pool selection rules.

To learn more about JTAC and the case management system, visit <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/jtac>. For more information about the IU Kelley School of Business, go to <http://www.kelley.iu.edu>.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Former Judge Barteau Receives Prestigious Russian Award

Former Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Betty Barteau who has labored in Russia for several years in an effort to improve that country's judicial system, has become the first American to be awarded the prestigious "Femida" award, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

In 1996, the Moscow Club of Lawyers established an award called Femdia, which stands for "lady justice." Considered to be the highest legal recognition awarded in Russia, it is presented annually to Russian and foreign lawyers and to state and public figures for their contribution to the development of the rule of law.

"Judge Barteau was a vital contributor to the Indiana and national judiciary when she was on the Court of Appeals. It is no surprise to me she has been recognized by a country she has grown to appreciate immensely," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The award ceremony is considered an important public event. The award consists of a bronze statute of lady justice created by the famous Russian sculptor, Mikhail Pereyaslavts, a diploma, a computer, and as always in Russia--a bouquet of flowers.

This year the Femida was awarded to eleven persons for their work in various areas of the law but Judge Barteau is the first American to receive such an award.

In making the award, the representative of the Moscow Lawyers Club stated:

"In the history of relations between American and Russia, we have had difficult times, but thanks to such people as Judge Barteau, we are building cooperation between our countries. Even without speaking our language, Judge Barteau has found a way to communicate and find a way out of difficult situations in order to build relationships. She received this award for her cooperation in the implementation of the ideas of judicial reform into practice. Her organization of seminars on international standards of morality and justice and on urgent themes on selection and discipline of judges have established a new page in the realization of openness in the judicial community. Judge Barteau and her staff for the first time in the history of Russia published the disciplinary decisions of the Supreme Qualifying Collegia and the Supreme Court of the Federation, an informational pamphlet for prospective jurors, and a bench book for the use of judges when conducting jury trials. She has had approximately 3000 Russian judges participate in her workshops and seminars since she began work here in 1998."

Other recipients were the Chief Justice of the Supreme Commercial Court and Sergei Stepashin, former Prime Minister of Russia.

Judge Barteau is a native of Boonville, Indiana, where she practiced law for 5 years prior to moving to Indianapolis. She was the first woman elected to the Marion Superior Court where she served for 16 years. Gov. Evan Bayh appointed to the Indiana Court of Appeals where

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she served for over seven years. She retired from that Court in 1998 to work in Moscow Russia as Director of the Russian American Judicial Partnership, a USAID funded organization dedicated to assisting in the development of the rule of law in Russia.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 10, 2003**

**Contact: Darla Little**

**317.232.5861 (voice)**

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## Annual Attorney Registration Fees Will Be Mailed Soon

Indiana's more than 15,000 active and inactive attorneys will soon receive their annual registration fee statements, the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court announced today. The bills will be mailed from Indianapolis on August 1, 2003, and attorneys should expect to receive their bills by August 15. The deadline for payment is October 1, 2003.

Active Indiana attorneys pay \$105.00 for their annual registration fee and inactive attorneys pay \$45.00. Substantial late fees apply to payments received after October 1, 2003. For active attorneys, a delinquent fee of \$50.00 is added for fees paid after October 1, 2003 and on or before October 15, 2003. For fees paid after October 15, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2003, a delinquent fee of \$100.00 is added. After December 31, 2003, a delinquent fee of \$250.00 is added. For inactive attorneys, a delinquent fee of \$50.00 is added after October 1, 2003, and a delinquent fee of \$100.00 is added after October 15, 2003.

Attorneys are requested to make personal checks and money orders payable to "Clerk of Courts – Annual Fees." The annual fee may be paid in cash at the Clerk's Office in the State House, Room 217. Credit cards cannot be accepted.

As in past years, the annual fee statement includes a section for attorneys to certify if they are participating in the Interest On Lawyer Trust Account (IOLTA) program. Annual fee payments support the work of the Commission for Continuing Legal Education, the Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, and the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program.

Attorneys are advised to take care to distinguish their annual fee statement from statements received for bar association dues. Payment of the annual registration fee is mandatory for all Indiana attorneys.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 17, 2003**

**Contact: Donald R. Lundberg**

**317.232.1807 (voice)**

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## New Member Appointed And New Officers Elected To Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission

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A new attorney member has been appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, which also elected a new set of officers, the Commission announced today.

The Indiana Supreme Court appointed North Vernon lawyer Corinne R. Finnerty to the Commission for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2003. Ms. Finnerty replaces a vacancy on the Commission caused by the death of Anderson attorney William F. Lawler.

Finnerty, a Jennings County native, is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington, where she received both her undergraduate and law degrees. She graduated from Indiana University School of Law in 1981 and was sworn in as a member of the Indiana bar on May 29, 1981. She is also a member of the bars of the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana. She is a partner in the North Vernon law firm of McConnell and Finnerty. Her professional memberships include the American Bar Association, the Indiana State Bar Association and the Jennings County Bar Association, of which she is a past president. She is a Master Fellow of the Indiana Bar Foundation.

On July 11, 2003, the Disciplinary Commission elected new officers. Janet Biddle, a citizen member from near Remington, was elected chairperson of the Commission. She was first appointed in 1996, at which time she was one of the two first non-lawyers to serve on the Disciplinary Commission. With her husband, William, Biddle is actively involved in family farming and related operations, including Biddle Farms, Biddle Seed, Inc. and Biddle Insurance Service, Inc.

Diane L. Bender of Evansville was elected vice-chairperson of the Commission. She was first appointed to the Commission in 1999. Bender is a sole practitioner in Evansville, concentrating her law practice in the areas of estate planning and probate administration. She is a 1980 graduate of the Notre Dame Law School and was admitted to the Indiana bar that same year.

Robert L. Lewis of Lake County was elected secretary of the Commission. He is in his first term on the Commission, having been appointed in 1999. Lewis is the principal in the Gary firm of Robert L. Lewis & Associates. He received his J.D. from Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington in 1973 and became a member of the Indiana bar that same year.

The Disciplinary Commission is the agency of the Indiana Supreme Court charged with responsibility for investigating and prosecuting claims of lawyer misconduct. The Commission is made up of nine members appointed by the Supreme Court, seven of whom are lawyers from throughout Indiana who actively practice law or serve in judicial office and two of whom are lay representatives.

In addition to its newly appointed member and newly elected officers, members who continue in their service to the Commission include: the Honorable Grant W. Hawkins, Judge of the Marion Superior Court, Criminal Division Room 5; J. Mark Robinson, managing attorney of the

New Albany office of Indiana Legal Services, Inc.; Sally Franklin Zweig, a partner in the Indianapolis law firm of Katz & Korin, P.C.; and Anthony M. Zappia, senior member of the South Bend firm of Zappia & Zappia.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 11, 2003**

**Contact: Meg W. Babcock**

**317.232.4706 (voice)**

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## Judicial Commission Admonishes Elwood Judge

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications today issued a Public Admonition of Judge Veronica M. Roby, Elwood City Court, for a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct, the rules of ethics for judges. Instead of proceeding to formal disciplinary charges, the Commission and the judge agreed the Commission's investigation of her conduct would be resolved with the Commission's Admonition.

The Commission concluded that the judge violated the rule which prohibits judges from using the power of the judicial office to advance their own interests or the interests of others. In early 2002, Judge Roby began dating a defendant who was facing criminal charges in her court. She states she asked a court employee to show in the court file that the judge removed herself from the man's case; however, that process was not accomplished. When the deputy prosecutor appeared in court for the man's hearing on the charges, Judge Roby talked to him about the case and, according to him, asked him to dismiss the charges against the man, which he did. The deputy prosecutor states the judge did not inform him of her relationship with the defendant. In any case, Judge Roby told the Commission she was acting in part on behalf of her boyfriend when she talked to the deputy prosecutor about dismissing the case. Therefore, the Commission concluded she abused the power of her judicial office to advance her own and the defendant's private interests.

The Commission also admonished Judge Roby because her brother was hired into the court's probation department in January 2002. Although, in some cases, judges may hire relatives or friends with prior Commission approval, the Commission concluded that Judge Roby again abused her judicial power to advance her own and her brother's interests and that she violated the rule requiring judges to avoid nepotism. The Commission's conclusion was based not only on the close degree of the relationship – brother and sister – but also because Judge Roby's brother resides with her. Therefore, his court salary benefited her financially, which the Commission determined was unethical.

A copy of the [Admonition](#)  may be obtained by contacting Meg Babcock, Counsel to the Commission, at (317) 232-4706.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 27, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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### Anne Davidson Elected Vice-President of National CLE Group



Anne Davidson, a 16-year employee of the Supreme Court's Continuing Legal Education Commission, was recently elected vice-president of the Organization of Regulatory Administrators for Continuing Legal Education (ORACLE), Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Ms. Davidson, who serves as the office manager and mediation services coordinator for the state's Continuing Legal Education Commission, will serve as vice-president until the end of 2004. She will then stand for election as president for calendar year 2005.

"This is a great accomplishment for Ms. Davidson and worthy recognition of her contributions here in Indiana and elsewhere. My colleagues and I offer our congratulations," said Chief Justice Shepard.

ORACLE is the national organization representing the 40 mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions. Regulatory duties in most states include program accreditation and attorney record keeping duties for CLE program attendance.

In Indiana, active attorneys are required to receive 36 hours of continuing legal education every three years.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 2, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Chief Justice Shepard in Line to Lead Chief Justices Group

Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard has been elected as the first vice-president of the Conference of Chief Justices at its annual meeting.

As part of the regular rotation of officers for the Conference, Chief Justice Shepard will assume the presidency of the Conference in the summer of 2005.

"I am flattered by this honor, which I think reflects the high regard that my fellow Chief Justices have for the Indiana judiciary," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The Conference was founded in 1949 and includes chief justices from 55 U.S. jurisdictions, including Washington D.C. and U.S. territories. The mission of the Conference of Chief Justices is to improve the administration of justice in the states, commonwealths and territories of the United States. It accomplishes this mission by effective mobilization of the collective resources of the highest judicial officers of the states, to:

- educate, train and develop leaders to become effective managers of state judicial systems;
- develop, exchange, and disseminate information and knowledge of value to state judicial systems educate, train and develop leaders to become effective managers of state judicial systems;
- develop and advance policies in support of common interests and shared values of state judicial systems; and
- support adequate funding and resources for the operations of the state courts.
- promote the vitality, independence and effectiveness of state judicial systems.

For further information, view this website: <http://ccj.ncsc.dni.us>.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 3, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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### Judson Appointed to Leadership Role in State Court Group



Lilly Judson, the executive director of State Court Administration for the Indiana Supreme Court, was elected by her national peers to a leadership position as member of the Board of Directors for the Conference of State Court Administrators, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mrs. Judson, who has served in her position in Indiana since 1998, will serve a three-year term that will continue until the summer of 2006. The Executive Director of State Court Administration is responsible for dozens of Supreme Court projects and programs and oversees payroll and benefits issues for the Indiana judiciary. The Conference of State Court Administrators includes individuals in similar positions in the United States and the U.S. Territories.

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Mrs. Judson was nominated for the Board of Directors by a selection committee and then was elected by her fellow state court administrators. She was also appointed as chair of the Education Committee and will be responsible for planning the education sessions for future meetings of the Conference of State Court Administrators.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Judson, who is the liaison of the Conference of State Court Administrators to the Council of State Governments, was also appointed by the president of the Council of State Governments as vice chair of the Council's Public Safety and Justice Task Force.

"Lilly is a tremendous asset to the Supreme Court and terrific public servant. I am not surprised at all that others have recognized her many valuable qualities and skills. My colleagues and I on the Court wish her our most sincere congratulations," said Chief Justice Shepard.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 4, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## New Family Court "Seed" Grants Available

Indiana counties wishing to expand current projects or join the growing "family court" movement are now eligible to seek grant funding, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

For the last four years, the movement known as the Family Court Initiative, has been successful in developing innovative programs to better serve children and families in the court system.

In 2003 the legislature appropriated \$500,000 for the next two years to the Indiana Supreme Court for the continuation and expansion on the Family Court Initiative. The new funding, known as Phase III of the Family Court Initiative, will provide seed grants to new counties, and transition funding to continue the successful work of the current nine family courts.

Applications are available at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/programs/familycourt.html](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/programs/familycourt.html). These family court grant applications are due October 10, 2003. Grant awards will be made by the Supreme Court in early 2004.

Phase I of the Family Court Initiative focused on the development of case coordination models for families with many legal matters. Phase II added in the concepts of multiple-county projects and affordable mediation. Phase III will continue these concepts, with an added focus on helping counties utilize new legislation for funding mediation programming for families of modest means.

Phase III will additionally seek to develop family court projects that "tie-in" to existing drug courts. Growing numbers of juvenile and family law cases involve substance abuse, and many of these families could benefit from the judicial strategies being developed in Indiana's drug courts. Family court projects now operate in Monroe, Porter, Putnam, Owen, Boone, Montgomery LaPorte and Marion counties.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 15, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Statement by the Court on the Passing of Governor O'Bannon

With profound sadness and anguish my colleagues on the Supreme Court and I offer our most sincere expressions of sorrow at the passing of our great friend, Governor Frank O'Bannon. Judy, the children, and all of the people touched by this wise and good man will be in our thoughts. We also would like to convey our sincere and heartfelt support to Governor Joe Kernan, Maggie, and his family as they move on to the challenges ahead of them.

Hon. Randall T. Shepard  
*Chief Justice of Indiana*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 24, 2003**

**Contact: Jenny Bauer**

**317.232.1313 (voice)**

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## Journalists and Judge Honored by Indiana Judges Association

A journalist, a newspaper and a trial judge were honored by the Indiana Judges Association today for their outstanding efforts to educate the public about the working of the state's judicial system, Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Nancy Vaidik announced.

Judge Vaidik, president of the Indiana Judges Association, said the association solicited nominations from the judiciary and the public for its Commendations for Excellence in Public Information and Education Awards.

"These awards give us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the very fine work that goes on everyday in city rooms, television production rooms and courtrooms across Indiana to help citizens gain a better understanding of the justice system," Judge Vaidik said.

Jim Barbieri of the News-Banner in Bluffton and the Evansville Courier and Press received the media awards. Judge David Hanselman of Wells Circuit Court nominated Mr. Barbieri for his accurate and responsible reporting on criminal and civil matters in Wells County for the past 50 years. Judge Wayne Trockman of Vanderburgh Superior Court nominated the Courier and Press for its professional and conscientious coverage of Vanderburgh County's new drug court.

Judge William J. Boklund of LaPorte Superior Court #4 received the judiciary award. The League of Women Voters of LaPorte County nominated Judge Boklund for his forums on the fate of civil liberties during times of national crisis, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The awards were given during the Indiana Judges Association luncheon in Indianapolis on September 11, 2003.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 25, 2003**

**Contact: Steve Lancaster**

**317.232.4197 (voice)**

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## Court of Appeals Chief Judge Sanford Brook To Resign

The Hon. Sanford M. Brook, Chief Judge of the Indiana Court of Appeals, announced today that he will step down from the bench to take on his newest professional challenge with a position for a prestigious private judging firm in Colorado.

His resignation will become effective around the beginning of February 2004.

Judge Brook, of South Bend, was appointed to the Court of Appeals in October of 1998 and was elected Chief Judge of the 15-member Court of Appeals in 2002.

Judge Brook will be working with The Judicial Arbiter Group (JAG) JAG is one of the oldest, most successful private judicial services in the country. JAG consists entirely of former State and Federal Court Trial and Appellate Judges.

Before he was appointed to the intermediate level Court of Appeals, Judge Brook was a judge of the St. Joseph Superior Court from 1987 to 1998 and served as Chief Judge of that Court from 1995 to 1997.

He received his bachelor's degree in 1971 and his law degree in 1974, both from Indiana University in Bloomington. He worked in private practice and was deputy city attorney of South Bend and a deputy prosecutor for the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's office. He has also served as Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School and as Adjunct Professor of Law at Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington. He is the former chair of the Indiana Supreme Court Ethics Committee and is a member of American, Indiana State, and St. Joseph County Bar Associations; the Indiana Judges Association, N.I.T.A. Advocates Association and the American Judicature Society.

For more information on JAG, visit their website at [www.jaGinc.com](http://www.jaGinc.com).

The Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission will solicit candidates from Indiana's Third District, which includes the northern third of Indiana. The Commission will then send the names of three candidates to Governor Joseph E. Kernan, who will make the final selection.

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**Contact: David J. Remondini**

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**September 26, 2003**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## High Court Reappoints Evansville Attorney Shiela Corcoran To State Board Of Law Examiners

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Evansville attorney Sheila M. Corcoran was reappointed to serve a five-year term on the Indiana Board of Law Examiners beginning December 1, 2003, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Ms. Corcoran's first term with the Board of Law Examiners began December 1, 1998. The Board of Law Examiners is comprised of ten members who are responsible for writing and grading the Indiana bar examination.

While serving on the Board, Ms. Corcoran has been a member of the Foreign License and Professional Corporation Committees and has also served as Secretary of the Board.

"Sheila Corcoran has always provided valuable insights and thoughtful consideration when making decisions. Her willingness to serve on committees and hearing panels has been valuable to the work of the Board," said Mary Place Godsey, Executive Director of the Board of Law Examiners.

Ms. Corcoran graduated Cum Laude from the University of Evansville in 1972 and received her Juris Doctorate with honors from Indiana University in 1979. Ms. Corcoran was honored with being the first woman to be made partner in an existing law firm in Evansville when she was named partner of Berger and Berger in 1983. She continues as a partner with this firm.

Ms. Corcoran is a deputy prosecutor in Vanderburgh County and a certified mediator in Family Law. She was honored with the Doran Perdue Service Award from the Evansville Bar Association where she was the second woman to serve as President. Ms. Corcoran serves on the Board of Governors for the Indiana State Bar Association and as Secretary of the Brooks Inns of Court.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Ms. Corcoran is an active civic leader in Evansville. She is a member of the Board of the Mental Health Foundation, the Legal Aid Society and the Vanderburgh County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Ms. Corcoran was born in Evansville where she and her husband, John H. Stevens, CPA, continue to reside.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 26, 2003**

**Contact: Anthony Zapata**

**317.234.18724 (voice)**

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## Indiana Supreme Court to Start Testing Court Interpreters

The Indiana Supreme Court's Court Interpreter Certification Program is now accepting registration forms for the 2003 program. This is a four-step program that will teach its participants essential court interpreting skills through Orientation and "Skills Building" courses.

This program will also test the proficiency of its participants' interpreting skills by means of a written and oral Spanish examination. Completion and passage of this program will entitle the participant to act as a Certified Court Interpreter of the Spanish language in the state of Indiana. The first certification process will be geared towards Spanish. This program includes the following stages:

- **Orientation and Program Overview:** A two-day orientation session will take place on October 15-16, 2003. This session will be held from 9am to 5pm in "Training Center 5" of the Indiana Government Center, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (across the street from the Statehouse). This first stage of the certification program will clarify the role of the interpreter as well as give an overview of court practices and procedures, interpreter ethics, and foreign language skill building.
- **Written Examination:** The written Spanish proficiency examination will be administered on November 10, 2003. This session will be held from 9 am to 1pm in "Conference Room B," also at the Indiana Government Center. Only those participants who pass the written exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be allowed to register for the skills-building session and the oral exam.
- **Court Interpreter "Skills Building" Course:** A two-day foreign language skills-building workshop will be held on December 1-2, 2003. This session will be held from 9am to 5pm in "Training Center 5" of the Indiana Government Center.
- **Oral Examination:** The oral foreign language proficiency examination will be administered the third and fourth weeks of January 2004. This phase will be held at the National City Center, 115 West Washington Street, Suite 1080, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Specific dates and times are to be announced. The oral exam will be approximately one-hour in length and will cover various interpreting scenarios. Those participants who pass the oral exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be "certified" by the Indiana Supreme Court as a qualified interpreter.

Participants will register for the first two parts by completing a registration form and paying a fee of \$75 for the orientation course and the written exam. Fees and applications for orientation and written exam must be received prior to Monday, October 13, 2003. The participants who pass the written exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be allowed to register for the third and fourth parts by completing another registration form and paying another \$75 for the skills-building course and the oral exam. Fees and applications for skills building course and oral exam must be received prior to November 28, 2003.

The Court will offer two more certification opportunities in 2004. The fees for the two-step certification process will remain \$150 for the 2004 sessions. Please note that due to budgetary issues, the fees for all certification opportunities starting in 2005 will likely double to approximately \$300. Indiana will accept foreign language certification from other states or

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from the Federal Interpreter Program for a minimal administrative fee. Other languages will be tested in Indiana in the future.

Individuals interested in becoming certified as a court interpreter for the State of Indiana in any language should contact Anthony Zapata, program manager, at 317-232-2542, [azapata@courts.state.in.us](mailto:azapata@courts.state.in.us), or Candice Graham, program assistant, at (317) 232-2542, [cgraham@courts.state.in.us](mailto:cgraham@courts.state.in.us), to express interest. Visit [www.in.gov/judiciary/intepreter](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/intepreter) to obtain a registration form for the four-session orientation program.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 26, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Judge Stephen R. Heimann Reappointed to Board of Law Examiners

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Bartholomew Circuit Judge Stephen R. Heimann was reappointed to serve a five-year term on the Indiana Board of Law Examiners beginning December 1, 2003, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Judge Heimann's first term with the State Board of Law Examiners began on December 1, 1998. The Board of Law Examiners is comprised of ten members who are responsible for writing and grading the bar examination for Indiana Applicants.

Since his appointment Judge Heimann has served on the Committee for Foreign License, and has served on various hearing panels. Currently, he serves as the Secretary of the Board.

"Judge Heimann's energy and tireless work as an officer and member of the Board greatly benefits bar admissions in Indiana," stated Mary Place Godsey, Executive Director of the Indiana Board of Law Examiners.

A 1977 graduate of Wabash College, Judge Heimann received his Juris Doctorate from Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis in 1980 and was admitted to the practice of law that same year. He was appointed to the Bartholomew Circuit Court October 1, 1991.

Judge Heimann serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, is a Director of the Indiana Judicial Conference where he also serves on the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee, and serves as a Director for the Bartholomew County Bar Association.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 26, 2003**

**Contact: Meg W. Babcock**

**312.233.5394 (voice)**

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## Judicial Commission Files Charges Against Judge Kouros

The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications filed today judicial disciplinary charges against Judge Joan Kouros of the Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division 3. The document includes 78 separate counts detailing cases in which Judge Kouros failed to process important paperwork, usually sentencing orders. Several cases referred to in the charges included delays of over a year between sentencing and the processing of the sentencing orders. The charges included reference to Vernon Dallas, who filed a lawsuit against the judge in 2001 because her delay prevented his transfer from the Lake County Jail to the Department of Corrections. The Commission's charges made reference to the impact on the Lake County Jail of having inmates stationed there who could have been transported to the DOC if their sentencing Orders had been processed, and cited several jail incidents involving inmates whose sentencing orders were delayed. The Commission alleged that Judge Kouros was cautioned by the Commission in early 1992 about delays, and that the problem continued despite the Commission's warning. As the Commission's charges stated, on January 17, 2003, the Indiana Supreme Court issued an Order requiring Judge Kouros to process cases under specific time schedules set out by the Court, which the Commission alleges Judge Kouros failed to heed in several instances. One charge of misconduct involved a criminal case in which Judge Kouros suspended the sentence of the defendant, but failed to issue an Order for his release. In that case, then Senior Judge Clarence Murray stepped in and released the man from jail. The Commission also alleged that, on March 4, 2003, Judge Kouros falsely certified to the Supreme Court that she was in compliance with each of its standards and that, in February, 2001, she advised the Supreme Court she had implemented a transcription system in her court to prevent future delays, but that, in fact, she did not do so until February, 2003.

Judge Kouros may file an Answer to the Charges within 20 days. Then, the Supreme Court will appoint a panel of three judges to preside over an evidentiary hearing and report their findings to the Supreme Court. Judge Kouros is represented by Kevin P. McGoff, (317) 848-2300, and by Stanley Jablonski, (219) 736-7101.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 30, 2003**

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**317.234.2604 (voice)**

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## Pilot Counties Selected for New Case Management System

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The Indiana Supreme Court has selected seven counties to play a leading role in the installation of its statewide computerized case management system, Associate Justice Frank Sullivan Jr. announced today.

"We are extremely pleased that Clay, Huntington, Marion, and Morgan Counties have enthusiastically accepted leadership roles in this important project to serve as test and pilot counties for the new case management system and that White, Johnson, and Knox Counties will be the first alternate test and pilot counties," said Justice Sullivan, chair of the Court's Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC).

The case management system project will create and supply all Indiana courts and court clerks with the most modern computer system possible to keep track of and help manage the almost 1.9 million cases filed in Indiana courts each year. The new system will allow courts to exchange information with each other and with state agencies like the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Other officials and agencies such as county prosecutors, police, and probation officers will also be able to use the system to manage cases.

"The statewide case management system project is the single largest project of any kind ever undertaken by the Indiana judiciary," Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard said. "We are convinced that it will greatly increase court efficiency and produce important public safety benefits. The commitment of these seven counties will go a long way toward a successful implementation of the new system."

Computer Associates International, Inc., an international computer software and services firm, will work with JTAC's staff and individual counties to create and install the new case management system.

When all of the programming for the new system is complete, it will first be tested in a county with a small caseload, probably late this year or early in 2004. After successful implementation in the test county, installation will begin in the three pilot counties. This will likely occur during the first or early in the second quarter of 2004.

Clay County was selected as the "test" county because of its commitment to the project, readiness for the new system and relatively small caseload (8,500 new cases filed in 2002). Clay Circuit Court Judge Ernest E. Yelton will lead the project in Clay County. White County was selected as the first alternate test county based on the same criteria. (There were 6,000 new cases filed in White County in 2002.) White Superior Court Judge Robert B. Mrzlack will lead the project in White County.

Huntington and Morgan Counties were selected as pilot counties because of their commitment to the project, readiness for the new system, and their medium-sized caseloads (15,200 and 16,700, respectively, new cases filed in 2002). Huntington Superior Court Judge Jeffrey R. Heffelfinger will lead the project in Huntington County and Morgan Superior Court Judge Christopher L. Burnham will lead the project in Morgan County. Knox and Johnson Counties

were selected as first alternate test counties based on the same criteria. (There were 14,400 and 27,800 new cases filed in Knox and Johnson Counties, respectively, in 2002.) Knox Circuit Court Judge Sherry Biddinger Gregg will lead the project in Knox County and Johnson's Circuit Court Judge Mark K. Loyd will lead the project in Johnson County.

From the outset of the project, the Supreme Court and Marion County agreed that Marion County would be one of the three pilot counties. Marion County contains the State's busiest judicial system with over 395,000 new cases filed in 2002, approximately 21 percent of the statewide total. The project is led in Marion County by Superior Court Presiding Judge Cale J. Bradford, County Clerk Doris Anne Sadler, and County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Many Marion County employees have been deeply involved in working on the new case management system for over one year, including employees of the Marion County Justice Agency headed by executive director Melinda Haag.

"Many judges, clerks, prosecutors, and others involved in the court and criminal justice system throughout the state are working hard to make the new statewide court case management system project a success. With their help, I am confident that we can realize the Supreme Court's vision of equipping every Indiana court with a 21st century case management system and connect those courts' case management systems with each other and with those who need and use court information," said Justice Sullivan.

For more information contact: Kurt Snyder, 317.234.2604 or visit the JTAC Website at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/jtac).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 1, 2003**

**Contact: Kelly Voorhies**

**317.233.3668 (voice)**

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## Purdue Senior Molly Swim Wins NAWJ Logo Contest

Molly K. Swim, a Purdue University Senior, is the winner of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) logo contest, Indiana Court of Appeals Judge Margret Robb announced today.

Ms. Swim's logo will be used on conference stationery and letterhead and other items to promote the NAWJ Conference in Indianapolis on Oct. 7-10, 2004.

Ms. Swim, of Foristell, Missouri, earned a \$500 scholarship for designing the winning digitally formatted logo. The contest was open to all Indiana students and was designed to connect the students of Indiana with the conference that will bring nearly 400 judges to Indiana in 2004.



[click to view larger version](#)

"This contest was a great way to allow Indiana's students to show off their expertise in designing high quality digital logos. The logo will be used on all of our material and will be widely distributed so the work of an Indiana student will soon travel all over the country," said Judge Robb, who is the chair of the conference.

Marion Superior Court Judge Barbara A. Collins organized the contest and was present when Ms. Swim received her award.



**Left to Right:** Judge Margret Robb, Indiana Court of Appeals; Molly Swim, NAWJ Logo Contest Winner; Judge Barbara Collins, Marion Superior Court.

"Picking the best logo from among the entries was tough because they were all excellent. But we felt Molly's best fit our theme, "At the Crossroads," Judge Collins said.

To view a webcast of the award ceremony, visit: [www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj/contest.html](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj/contest.html)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 3, 2003**

**Contact: Kelly Voorhies**

**317.233.3668 (voice)**

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## Women Judges Team Up With Local "Dress for Success" Group

Indiana organizers of the 2004 Indianapolis National Association of Women Judges conference are asking all attendees to donate a women's business suit or shoes that will help women of modest means make the transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency.

Several hundred members of the National Association of Women Judges will meet in Indianapolis Oct. 7-10, 2004 for their annual conference. Attendees will be asked to donate a contemporary business suit or a pair of shoes that are suitable for office wear.

The donations will be given to the Indianapolis branch of "Dress For Success." Founded in 1996, Dress For Success has operations in dozens of cities and four countries. It provides a personal shopper for each client who helps select the proper suit for the job interview.

Once the client is hired, she gets a second suit and the opportunity to join a local women's networking group that provides practical information on working women's issues.

"Our members know hard it is to get a start in a professional field. We thought that supporting an organization like Dress For Success, which provides a way for women to go confidently to job interviews wearing the proper attire, is a great way for the conference to directly benefit the community," said Marion Superior Court Judge Cynthia J. Ayers, who is chairing the donation effort on behalf of the conference.

For more information about "Dress For Success," visit [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org).

For more information about the National Association of Women Judges conference, visit: [www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/nawj).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 7, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Local Judges, Lawyers to "Star" in Milligan Production

Three judges and eleven Indianapolis lawyers are cast in a dramatic portrayal of the saga of the famous 1866 United States Supreme Court decision, *Ex parte Milligan*, at the United States Court House Centennial Celebration on Saturday, October 18. The play will be performed at 11:00 A.M. in the William E. Steckler Courtroom of the Court House (Room 202), 46 East Ohio Street, Indianapolis. The performance, lasting about one hour, is free and open to the public.

The play illustrates the story of a civilian in Indiana whose conviction for treason and death sentence imposed by a military tribunal was held by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional because military tribunals could not try civilians. The case has received renewed attention in legal circles with the possible increased use of military tribunals since 9-11.

United States District Judge Sarah Evans Barker plays Indianapolis federal Judge David McDonald and U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton plays United States Supreme Court Justice David Davis who wrote the Supreme Court's opinion in *Milligan*. Indiana Supreme Court Justice Frank Sullivan, Jr., plays Major General Alvin P. Hovey, the military commander of Indiana.

Lawyers in leading parts include Elizabeth G. Russell, the narrator; Hugh E. Reynolds, Jr., as *Milligan's* lawyer, Joseph E. McDonald; Marsha C. Massey, as the prosecutor before the military tribunal; and Thomas A. John, as *Milligan*.

Other Indianapolis lawyers in the cast include Jamie Geiger, Debbie Lynch, Karen Reisinger, Ricardo Rivera, Michael Rosiello, and Kevin Smith. The script was written by a committee of the cast chaired by Russell that included Geiger, Lynch, Massey, and Reisinger. Suzanne Buchko is directing the production.

The *Milligan* case originated in 1864 in what history calls the "Indianapolis Treason Trials." Lambdin P. *Milligan*, a Huntington lawyer, was convicted of treason against the Union and sentenced to death by a military tribunal. *Milligan* challenged the conviction and sentence in the federal court in Indianapolis, contending that a military court could not properly impose a sentence on him because he was a civilian and Indiana was not a theater of war.

In 1866, the Supreme Court held that the trials were unconstitutional. "The Constitution of the United States is a law for rulers and people, equally in war and in peace," the Supreme Court said, "and covers with the shield of its protection all classes of men, at all times, and under all circumstances."

For more information, contact Suzanne Buchko, (317) 229-3950.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 23, 2003**

**Contact: Meg Babcock**

**317.232.4706 (voice)**

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## Candidates Sought for Indiana Court of Appeals Opening

The Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission is now accepting applications for the upcoming vacancy on the Indiana Court of Appeals, the state's intermediate appellate court, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

"Being a member of Indiana's Court of Appeals is a great honor and a marvelous professional challenge. It offers an Indiana lawyer an opportunity to play a vital role in the development of the law in our state. I hope that our bar members consider this opportunity for themselves or urge others to apply," said Chief Justice Shepard, who chairs the seven-member Nominating Commission.

The opening is for the seat now held by Judge Sandy Brook, who has announced his resignation. An applicant must have been a member of the Indiana bar for at least ten years or have served as a judge for at least five years, and must be an Indiana resident of the Third District of the State. Pay and allowances for judges on the Court of Appeals is about \$113,000.

Applications may be requested by contacting Meg Babcock, Counsel to the Commission, at 115 W. Washington Street, Suite 1080, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3466, (317) 232-4706. Completed applications must be delivered to the Commission no later than the close of business on December 1, 2003. After receiving the applications, the Commission will invite a number of candidates for personal interviews beginning December 8, 2003.

"Whether Indiana's appellate courts are courts of distinction depends in large measure on the number and caliber of those who make themselves available. We hope that some of Indiana's best lawyers and judges will seek this appointment," said Chief Justice Shepard.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 3, 2003**

**Contact: Anthony Zapata**

**317.234.1872 (voice)**

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## Court Interpreters Begin Training

The first class of the Indiana Supreme Court's Court Interpreter Certification Program completed their two-day orientation session this month, Myra Selby, chair of the Court's Commission on Race and Gender fairness, said today.

"This is the first step in making our judicial system accessible to all residents despite language barriers," stated Selby. The Commission submitted a report to the Indiana Supreme Court in June of 2002 recommending that Indiana certify its court interpreters. The participants were instructed on judicial procedure, protocol and courtroom decorum, the roles of the interpreter, ethical issues, terminology, and the skills and modes of interpreting. They were also able to practice their consecutive, simultaneous, and sight interpreting skills and obtain feedback from the presenters. Most of the participants currently work within the judicial system.

The participants will be able to sit for the written Spanish proficiency examination that will be administered on November 10 and 14, 2003. Only those participants who pass the written exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be allowed to register for the skills-building session and the oral exam. The skills-building course is a two-day foreign language workshop. The oral foreign language proficiency examination will be administered the third and fourth weeks of January 2004. The oral exam will be approximately one-hour in length and will cover various interpreting scenarios. Those participants who pass the oral exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be "certified" by the Indiana Supreme Court as a qualified interpreter.

The Court will offer two more certification opportunities in 2004. Visit [www.in.gov/judiciary/intpreter](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/intpreter) to obtain more information.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 5, 2003**

**Contact: Douglas Cressler**

**317.232.2540 (voice)**

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## Court Staffer Earns Randall T. Shepard Pro Bono Award

The Indiana Pro Bono Commission selected David J. Remondini as the 2003 winner of the Randall T. Shepard Pro Bono Award.

Mr. Remondini, who serves as Counsel to Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, was given the award named for his employer in recognition of his years of work in developing Indiana's effort to encourage the state's lawyers to provide free legal work to needy clients.

The Randall T. Shepard Pro Bono Award is the top award given annually by the Indiana Pro Bono Commission. The statewide commission is appointed by the Supreme Court and the Indiana Bar Foundation and is charged with building the state's pro bono network.



**David J. Remondini**

J. Philip Burt, of Fort Wayne, chairs the Commission and presented the award to Mr. Remondini.

"David has been a vital part of this new structure. His common sense approach to critical problems that have been encountered and his leadership by example have been invaluable to all of us," said Mr. Burt.

A longtime Boston Bruins fan, Mr. Remondini, was also presented with a framed color photograph of opening night at the Fleet Center in Boston. Mr. Remondini was given the award and photo at the Commission's annual dinner in honor of Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, who has spearheaded Indiana's pro bono effort.

"The work Dave has done in support of pro bono is just one in a long list of things he does for the Court and the people of Indiana. I am proud that the Commission has recognized his contribution in the pro bono arena," said Chief Justice Shepard.

Mr. Remondini earned his law degree in 1997 from Indiana University. Prior to joining the staff of the Chief Justice, he was an investigative reporter for The Indianapolis Star.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 7, 2003**

**Contact: Meg Babcock**

**317.233.5394 (voice)**

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## Supreme Court Suspends Judge Spencer for Thirty Days

The Indiana Supreme Court ruled today that Judge Fredrick R. Spencer, Madison Circuit Court, committed judicial misconduct in his handling of a special prosecutor request in 2002, and ordered a 30-day suspension from office without pay.

The Madison County Prosecutor had filed a complaint with the Judicial Qualifications Commission after Judge Spencer appointed a special prosecutor in a group of juvenile cases without notifying the prosecutor or conducting a hearing on the special prosecutor request, and the Commission subsequently filed formal disciplinary charges. The Commission, by counsel, Meg Babcock, and Judge Spencer, represented by Indianapolis attorneys James Voyles and Dennis Zahn, presented their evidence to a panel of Masters in March, 2003; the Masters then reported to the Court that they found Judge Spencer had violated certain ethical rules, and recommended the Court suspend him for up to 30 days. The Commission argued for the full 30-day suspension.

The Court found the Commission proved that Judge Spencer violated several sections of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Specifically, the Court found he engaged in an improper ex parte proceeding when he issued the special prosecutor Order without notice to the prosecutor, that he failed to follow the special prosecutor law, that he allowed the public controversy surrounding these juvenile cases as well as his relationship with the prosecutor to affect his judicial conduct, that he failed to promote public confidence in the judiciary, and that he violated the ethics rules requiring him to dispose fairly of all judicial matters. Noting in its opinion that, in a brief filed with the Court after the hearing, Judge Spencer acknowledged his failure to follow the law, and apologized, the Supreme Court wrote, "If the conduct herein represented an isolated incident of judicial misconduct, we might be inclined toward leniency." However, the Court pointed out that it issued a Public Reprimand against Judge Spencer in 2001 relating to a campaign violation, that the Commission publicly admonished him in 1999 after he granted an ex parte change of custody, and that the Commission privately cautioned him in 1997.

The date of Judge Spencer's suspension is yet to be determined, but must begin within 30 days.

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Questions about this Press Release may be directed to Meg Babcock, Counsel to the Commission, at (317) 232-4706, and to Judge Spencer or his attorneys, James Voyles and Dennis Zahn at (317) 632-4463.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 10, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Supreme Court to Host Spirit and Place Play on Sojourner Truth's Trials in Indiana

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The Indiana Supreme Court is hosting a Spirit and Place event highlighting famed 19th century abolitionist Sojourner Truth. Despite a less than hospitable environment, Truth represented herself in two criminal trials in Indiana and won both.

The play, "Reconciling Truth, The Ordeal of Sojourner Truth in Indiana" features local Indianapolis actors and will be held in the Indiana Supreme Court Courtroom on the third floor of the Indiana State House at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2003. It is free and open to the public.

Sojourner Truth was a former slave who traveled the country in pre-Civil War America agitating increased rights for blacks and women. Ms. Truth's legal entanglements with the Indiana court system occurred in Angola in the northeastern corner of the state.

In 1861 she was accused of coming into Indiana in violation of the then in force Article 13 of the Indiana Constitution, which prevented blacks from entering the state. Her two trials involved issues of double jeopardy and freedom of speech.

Written by Indianapolis historian, Gwendolyn Crenshaw, the play is part of a larger project known as "Over the River of Freedom: The African-American Quest for Destiny." Through this performance individuals will learn the harrowing story of Truth's trials in Angola and how they affected both her life and her work for this cause.

The play demonstrates the ultimate resolution and reconciliation of a community, a community problem and its historical significance. It also offers the general public another opportunity to remember and reflect on the past and the human condition.

The event will be broadcast live on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/judiciary/education](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/education). It is part of the eighth annual "Sprit and Place" Festival. Spirit and Place is Central Indiana's annual civic festival of the arts, humanities, and religion. Produced by The Polis Center at IUPUI, the festival is a collaboration of dozens of partner organizations.

The 2003 festival takes place November 8 - 19, 2003 throughout Central Indiana. The theme is Remembering & Reconciling, with 100 events inspired by this fruitful idea. For more information, visit: [www.spiritandplace.org](http://www.spiritandplace.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 13, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Chief Justice Shepard to Join Rehnquist Panel in Virginia

Indiana Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard will join a prestigious panel of jurists and legal scholars to discuss the relationship between state and federal constitutions.

The event, titled "Dual Enforcement of Constitutional Norms" will be held November 14, 2003 at the William and Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Joining Chief Justice Shepard on the panel will be Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Hon. Roger Wollman of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Virginia Chief Justice Leroy Hassell Sr., retired Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Ellen Ash Peters and a distinguished group of legal academicians.

Chief Justice Shepard was asked to join the panel because of his own legal scholarship on state constitutions and his advocacy of using state constitutions as a source of new rights and protections for state's citizens, a theme he highlighted in his 1989 Indiana Law Review article, *Second Wind for the Indiana Bill of Rights*, and in subsequent articles and opinions.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 13, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Supreme Court Proposes New Access Rule for Court Records

A new Supreme Court rule on public access to court records is needed to respond to the growing use of electronic record keeping in the state's court system, Associate Justice Brent Dickson announced today.

Justice Dickson chaired a Task Force that included judges, news media members court clerks and representatives of various other interested organizations that focused the changing nature of the way information is stored in today's increasingly technological society.

"Our task force believes the proposed rule reflects the proper balance between the rights of privacy and the public's right, and ability, to access public court records. It is the result of a many hours of frank discussions and much hard work by our task force. I truly value their dedication," said Justice Dickson.

The proposed rule is a complete rewrite of current Indiana Supreme Court Administrative Rule 9. The goal of the task force was to comprehensively address the issues of public access and privacy in court records that are likely to be maintained and distributed in electronic formats.

The proposed rule is designed to be "user friendly" and is based in part on a national model adopted by the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

It operates on the principle that court records are public unless the information is expressly determined to be confidential. The proposed rule also encourages courts to adopt methods to enable the public to access the records from off-site and around the clock. It also specifies that certain identifying information, such as social security numbers, Personal Identification Numbers and birth dates as well as addresses and phone numbers of victims and witnesses be kept confidential.

Individuals will have until January 16, 2004 to comment on the rule. It will become final after the Supreme Court has reviewed any comments and made any necessary changes. Please direct any comments to Ron Miller via email at [rmiller@courts.state.in.us](mailto:rmiller@courts.state.in.us) or fax at 317.233.6586 or U.S. Mail at Ron Miller, Division of State Court Administration, 115 W. Washington Street, Suite 1080, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

To view the proposed rule and its commentary, please visit:  
<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/orders/rule-amendments/proposed.html>

The Indiana Supreme Court has the inherent authority to propose court rules that have the force of law. In addition, [Indiana Code § 5-14-3-4\(a\)](#) expressly authorizes the Supreme Court to designate which court records shall remain confidential.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 26, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Michael Tolbert of Merrillville and Joseph Yeager of Indianapolis to Join CLE Commission

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Merrillville attorney Michael E. Tolbert and Indianapolis attorney Joseph Yeager Jr. have been appointed to the Supreme Court's Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mr. Tolbert is a member of the firm of Hoepfner Wagner & Evans LLP. The firm has offices in Valparaiso and Merrillville. Mr. Tolbert works out of the Merrillville office. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University and Valparaiso University School of Law.

Mr. Yeager is a partner at Baker & Daniels. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Indiana University School of Law.

"The CLE Commission performs an important task for the lawyers of Indiana and its citizens. My colleagues on the Court and I are very pleased Mr. Tolbert and Mr. Yeager have agreed to join the Commission," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The Commission has 11 members. They receive no salary for their service and each serves a term of three years.

The Commission is primarily responsible for approval of the individual educational opportunities that Indiana's attorneys are required to receive and for approval of the sponsors who present the educational seminars. Additionally, the Commission sets standards for training courses for Indiana's registered mediators and regulates attorney specialization in the state.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 4, 2003**

**Contact: Meg Babcock**

**317.232.4706 (voice)**

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## 12 Candidates to be Interviewed for Court of Appeals Opening

The Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission will interview 12 candidates for the upcoming vacancy on the Indiana Court of Appeals, the state's intermediate appellate court, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The opening is for the seat now held by Judge Sandy Brook, who has announced his resignation. Public interviews will be held in the Supreme Court Conference Room on the third floor of the Indiana State House on Monday, December 8, 2003 from 9:15 a.m. until 3:55 p.m. Each interview will last 25 minutes.

An applicant must have been a member of the Indiana bar for at least ten years or have served as a judge for at least five years, and must be an Indiana resident of the Third District in the northern part of Indiana. Pay and allowances for judges on the Court of Appeals is about \$113,000. The times for the interviews are listed below:

9:15 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Hon. Terry A. Crone
9:40 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Hon. Jeffery J. Dywan
9:40 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	Magistrate Randy Coffey
10:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Hon. David P. Matsey
11:05 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Mr. Lyle R. Hardman
11:30 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Mr. John H. Hall
1:15 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Hon. William E. Davis
1:40 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Mr. David L. Abel, II
2:05 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Ms. Lisa M. Traylor-Wolff
2:40 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	Ms. Bessie M. Taylor
3:05 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Mr. Gary L. Calhoun
3:30 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.	Mr. Timothy E. Vojslavek

A number of the candidates will be called back for second interviews on Dec. 17. The Nominating Commission, which is chaired by Chief Justice Shepard, will then send three names to Gov. Joseph E. Kernan, who will make the final selection.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[dremondi@courts.state.in.us](mailto:dremondi@courts.state.in.us)

**December 4, 2003**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Gerald Bishop of Merrillville to Join CLE Commission

Merrillville attorney Gerald M Bishop has been appointed to the Supreme Court's Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Mr. Bishop, of the Law Offices of Greco Bishop Kuechenberg, is a graduate of Purdue University and Indiana University School of Law. His term begins Jan. 1, 2004

The Commission has 11 members. They receive no salary for their service and each serves a term of three years.

"I know Mr. Bishop from his service on the Lake County Judicial Nominating Commission so I am certain he will become a valuable part of the Commission on Continuing Legal Education," said Chief Justice Shepard.

The Commission is primarily responsible for approval of the individual educational opportunities that Indiana's attorneys are required to receive and for approval of the sponsors who present the educational seminars. Additionally, the Commission sets standards for training courses for Indiana's registered mediators and regulates attorney specialization in the state.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 8, 2003**

**Contact: Anthony Zapata**

**317.234.1872 (voice)**

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## Court Interpreter 2004 Certification Schedule

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The first class of the Indiana Supreme Court's Court Interpreter Certification Program will participate in a two-day Spanish interpreting skills-building course on January 15 and 16, 2004. The skills-building course is the third phase of the four-part certification process. This first group began its certification process in October 2003 with a two-day orientation session in which they were instructed on judicial procedure, protocol and courtroom decorum, the roles of the interpreter, ethical issues, terminology, and the skills and modes of interpreting. They were also able to practice their consecutive, simultaneous, and sight interpreting skills and obtain feedback from the presenters.

The first group sat for their written exam, the second phase of the certification process, in November 2003. The oral Spanish language court interpreting proficiency examination, the fourth and final phase, will be administered to this first group the weeks of March 15, 22 and 29, 2004, approximately eight weeks after the skills-building course was offered. The oral exam will be approximately one-hour in length and will cover various interpreting scenarios. Those participants who pass the oral exam with a score of at least 70 percent will be "certified" by the Indiana Supreme Court as a qualified interpreter.

The second certification group will begin their four-part certification process on May 6-7, 2004, with their two-day orientation session. This second class will sit for their written exam on Friday, June 11, 2004. This group will attend their two-day Spanish interpreting skills-building course on June 15 and 16, 2004. The oral Spanish language court interpreting proficiency examination for the second class will be administered the weeks of August 16, 23, and 30, 2004.

A third class is tentatively scheduled to begin in October. Visit [www.in.gov/judiciary/interpreter](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/interpreter) to obtain more information.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 8, 2003**

**Contact: Meg Babcock**

**317.232.4706 (voice)**

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## Six Candidates Remain for Indiana Court of Appeals Vacancy

The Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission has identified six candidates who will return for a second round of interview for the upcoming vacancy on the Indiana Court of Appeals, the state's intermediate appellate court, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The opening is for the seat now held by Judge Sandy Brook, who has announced his resignation. An applicant must have been a member of the Indiana bar for at least ten years or have served as a judge for at least five years, and must be an Indiana resident of the Third District in Northern Indiana. Pay and allowances for judges on the Court of Appeals is about \$113,000.

On Monday, the seven-member Judicial Nominating Commission conducted public interviews with 12 candidates. Six of the candidates were selected to return for another interview on December 17, 2003. Those who will return for second interviews are:

Hon. Terry A. Crone, St. Joseph Circuit Court  
Hon. Jeffery J. Dywan, Lake Superior Court  
Hon. David P. Matsey, Starke Circuit Court  
Hon. William E. Davis, Lake Superior Court  
David L. Abel, II, Merrillville  
Bessie M. Taylor, Gary

After the second round of interviews is complete, the Commission, which is chaired by Chief Justice Shepard, will send the names of three candidates to Governor Joseph E. Kernan. He will make the final selection.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 17, 2003**

**Contact: Meg Babcock**

**317.232.4706 (voice)**

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## Three Candidates Selected for Court of Appeals Opening

Three finalists have been selected for the upcoming Court of Appeals vacancy created by Judge Sanford Brook's resignation, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

Six candidates were interviewed in a public meeting of the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission held Wednesday and chaired by Chief Justice Shepard. The Commission then narrowed the field to three candidates. They are: Gary attorney Bessie Taylor, Judge Jeffrey Dywan of the Lake Superior Court and Judge Terry Crone of the St. Joseph Circuit Court.

The Commission will now send those three names to Gov. Joseph E. Kernan. He will have 60 days to make his selection.

A Court of Appeals candidate must have been an Indiana attorney for ten years or a trial judge for five years and must live in the Third Judicial District in the northern part of Indiana. Salary and allowances for a Court of Appeals judge is \$113,000 annually.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 29, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## New Officers Elected to the Supreme Court CLE Commission

Four officers have been elected to the Indiana Supreme Court's Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The new officers are: Robert J. Ewbank of Lawrenceburg, chair; Robert Houston III of Scottsburg, vice-chair; John L. Krauss of Indianapolis, treasurer; and Susan G. Gainey of Evansville, secretary. The term for these four attorneys is from January 1 to December 31, 2004.

The Commission has 11 members. They receive no salary for their service and each serves a term of three years.

The Commission is primarily responsible for approval of the individual educational opportunities that Indiana's attorneys are required to receive and for approval of the sponsors who present the educational seminars. Additionally, the Commission sets standards for training courses for Indiana's registered mediators and regulates attorney specialization in the state.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 30, 2003**

**Contact: David J. Remondini**

**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Business Counsel License for Attorneys Available January 1

Indiana residents who are admitted to the bars of other states and who do legal work for their companies will be able to apply for a new "Business Counsel License" beginning January 1, 2004, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

The Business Counsel License will cost \$800 and will be good for one year. It can be renewed for four years at the cost of \$50 per year. Attorneys with this license can only practice law for their business.

After five years, these lawyer can then apply for the existing out-of-state or "foreign license." To obtain a foreign license, lawyers must have been actively engaged in the practice of law for at least five or the seven years preceding the application and must fulfill all other requirements. Indiana joins 14 other states which have similar licenses.

Specific admission requirements for the Business Counsel License are set out in Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 6 and are available on the Board of Law Examiners web site, [www.IN.gov/judiciary/ble](http://www.IN.gov/judiciary/ble). After January 1 application forms will be available also from the Board of Law Examiners office. Call 317.232.2552 or email Becky Sutton at [bsutton@courts.state.in.us](mailto:bsutton@courts.state.in.us).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 30, 2003**

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**317.233.8684 (voice)**

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## Business Executive Fred Austerman Named to Court Commission

Richmond area business executive Fred Austerman has been named as the newest citizen member of the Disciplinary Commission of the Indiana Supreme Court, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

He will serve a term that begins immediately and ends June 30, 2008.

"The Court believes that Mr. Austerman's experience in the private sector will bring a unique and valuable perspective to the Commission. The Court appreciates his willingness to serve," said Chief Justice Shepard.

Mr. Austerman is the Director of Sanyo Laser Products, Inc., of Richmond, where he has worked since 1987. His current responsibilities include human resources, finance and purchasing. As part of his duties, he also has frequent contact with Sanyo's corporate attorneys.

The nine-member Disciplinary Commission investigates complaints against attorneys and prosecutes them when there is a reasonable belief an attorney has engaged in misconduct. The Court has the final say in attorney discipline matters. At least two of the nine members of the Commission must be non-lawyers. Members receive no salary for their service.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 30, 2003**

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## Family Court Project Expands Again, Eight New Counties Join

The Supreme Court selected eight more counties to participate in Indiana's growing Family Court Initiative beginning next January, Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard announced today.

"The family court project has helped many families faced with multiple legal challenges work their way through the legal system. It is very satisfying to see that the Indiana General Assembly has continued to support this important project with new funding for the next two years," Chief Justice Shepard said.

The new pilot counties represent a variety of county sizes and locations. Each of these counties submitted written applications last fall to serve as a pilot project to implement model family court programs and each has a unique way to serve children and families. All of the counties will utilize some form of case coordination to assist families who have more than one case in the court system or to ensure informed decision-making in non-adversarial dispute resolution.

Here is a breakdown of the new projects and funding amounts.

**Tippecanoe County:** Tippecanoe Superior Court Judge Loretta H. Rush will develop a "family focused" drug treatment court for juveniles and their family members. Tippecanoe Circuit Judge Donald Daniel will explore case coordination, mediation, and service referral programming for low-income or high-risk families in divorce cases. Total grant: \$45,000

**Lake County:** Lake Superior Court Judge James Danikolas and Lake Circuit Judge Lorenzo Arredondo will develop separate but coordinated projects to identify and share information on families who have cases in more than one courtroom, and further develop mediation programming and service referral for low-income families. Total grant: \$35,000

**Henry County:** Henry Superior Court Michael Peyton and Henry Circuit Judge Mary Willis will develop affordable, non-adversarial dispute resolution for low-income families, and pilot a one family-one judge program to coordinate intense services to high-risk families. Total grant: \$25,000

**Vigo County:** Court officials will work with the local Dispute Resolution Center to provide affordable mediation for low-income families without attorneys in contested custody and visitation matters. Total grant: \$40,000

**Brown, Bartholomew, Jackson and Lawrence Counties:** Judges in four southern Indiana counties have joined together to create a multiple-county family court project to provide affordable, non-adversarial dispute resolution and to develop means of identifying and coordinating multiple case families involved in this dispute resolution. Brown Circuit Judge Judith A. Stewart, Jackson Circuit Judge William Vance, Jackson County Referee Jeffrey Nierman, Lawrence Circuit Judge Pro Tem Andrea McCord, Lawrence Superior Court Judge Michael Robbins, and Bartholomew Circuit Judge Stephen Heimann and Referee Heather Mollo will work cooperatively to design this new regional approach to provide mediation services to low income or high-risk families. Total grant: \$56,000

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The new family court pilot counties will receive a total of \$201,000 for program development in 2004 and \$197,000 in 2005. This funding was augmented by a grant from the federal Court Improvement Program for family court projects that particularly serve abused and neglected children.

The nine counties that developed innovative programming in the first two phases of the Family Court Initiative from 2000 through 2003 will all continue their successful programming. Those are Boone, Johnson, LaPorte, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Porter, Putnam, and Owen Counties. Additionally, they will mentor the new counties by sharing forms and policies and procedures, and helping the new counties address challenges they experienced earlier. By the end of 2005, over \$1 million will have been distributed directly to the counties as part of the Family Court Initiative.