



# MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

## REFLECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 1

January through April 2011

### MACM 2011 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION DAY *by Wayne Minske, Washington County Assistant Court Administrator*

The MACM Legislative Committee sponsored a very successful “*Legislative Education Day*” on February 25, 2011 at the Minnesota Judicial Center. The program was designed to prepare people for the important responsibility of legislative outreach.

The program was highlighted by a panel presentation and discussion from Chief Justice Lorie Gildea, State Court Administrator Sue Dosal and Judge David Knutson. It was a sublime and candid discussion of the finer points of legislative outreach. If you weren’t able to attend the session, you should definitely view the recorded program which will be available soon on the MACM Legislative Committee web page.

Chief Justice Gildea talked about statewide legislative outreach initiatives. Sue Dosal discussed budget challenges and legislative

outreach. Judge Knutson, drawing on his prior experience as a state senator, talked about effective legislator meeting strategies and the purpose of the Legislative Advisory Workgroup which he chairs.

Janet Marshall gave a wonderful presentation on The Minnesota Legislative Process. This was a great review of what constitutes the Legislature and how a bill becomes law. The PowerPoint presentation can be found on the MACM Legislative webpage.

The program was closed out by



*Wayne Minske playing the role of Senator in “A Day at the Capitol”*

a funny yet informative skit by “Senator” Wayne Minske, Karen Messner, and Carol Renn about what not to say to a legislator and the proper way of meeting with a legislator.

The following event, sponsored by the Legislative Committee, was the “Day at the Capitol” on March 10, 2011. All members were encouraged to make appointments with their county’s legislators and meet with them on that day. If you were not able to schedule a meeting on March 10, pick another day that is good for you and meet with your legislators soon.

#### **Tips for Face-to-Face Meetings w/Your Legislator:**

***Don’t be nervous:*** The first time you meet your legislator face to face, you may be nervous. Keep in mind that legislators are almost always eager to win your support. They want to put their best foot forward with their constituents and are sincerely interested in getting their constituents’ views on legislation. Remember that you are the expert on the subject.

***Be prompt and be patient.*** It is not uncommon for a legislator to be late or to be interrupted during your visit. If interrupted be flexible. Offer to come back or to continue the meeting with staff.

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## MACM 2011 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION DAY

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### **Engage in Friendly Conversation:**

Talk to the legislative assistants and ask them questions. Tell them about your job and share that you deal with the same public that they do. They enjoy discussions and meeting constituents as well. If a good (or bad) impression is made, they will

are requesting or opposing and the interests of the member's constituency. Legislators welcome information and will particularly appreciate any anecdotes or illustrations that spell out what the impact will be on people in their legislative district.

**Try to create a connection.** The legislator is from your

**Be responsive.** Be prepared to answer questions or provide additional information.

**Ask questions.** Meetings should be seen as two-way streets with a two-way information flow. If possible, take the opportunity to find out where the legislator stands on our issues.

**Present your views with conviction but don't put any legislator on the defensive.** Remember, even if you disagree on a particular topic, you are working to build a long-term relationship with this legislator.

**Don't bluff.** If you don't have the answer to a legislator's question, say so. Tell the legislator you will provide the information, and then be certain that you do.

**Be prepared.** Have your facts lined up prior to the meeting. If discussing a specific bill, give responses to arguments that you know your opposition will raise, but don't degrade your opponents. They believe in their case as strongly as you believe in yours.

**Write a Thank You Card.** Follow up all meetings with a thank you letter that outlines the different points covered during the meeting, and send along any additional information and materials requested.



*“Senator” Wayne Minske meeting with his constituents Court Administrator Carol Renn and Court Administrator Karen Messner*

surely communicate this to their boss.

**Assume the legislator has no knowledge about the court system.** Legislators and staff usually know little or nothing about our issues. Be sure to explain all acronyms. Keep it concise – the more concise the communication, the more likely it is to receive attention.

**Keep it local.** Legislators want to represent the best interests of their district. Try to demonstrate the connection between what you

community. You should have mutual friends and relationships in your local community. The legislator may know someone who works in the courts, or a local attorney. Make the connection.

**Do your homework.** Be sure to look up the legislator before any visit.

**Be gracious.** Thank them for the tough and important job that they do. Tell them that you appreciate their role in government.

## MASTERFUL MENTORING

by Vicky Carlson, MACM Membership Services Chair



### The “Masterful Mentoring”

Program is back, and you now have the opportunity to register and participate in the MACM 2011-2012 reciprocal mentoring program.

Reciprocal mentoring involves exchanging mentor roles with one other person to explore a particular skill or subject. Both mentors have the responsibility of teaching each other about the organization, how to build relationships, navigate political dilemmas, and share insights based on leadership experiences.

Mentoring partnerships create the opportunity to be invested and interested in someone else's learning and growth, and in the same way, it allows for someone else's interest and investment in your learning and growth. The MACM Mentoring sub-committee tries to match you with someone who has strengths that you are looking to enhance and vice versa.

The mentoring partnerships will

meet at the conference, attend a mentoring session and then are expected to communicate with one another at least once per month throughout the year. To get things moving, the mentoring committee sends out periodic communications that help to generate conversations.

Consider what current mentors have to say:

- ◆ “We actually have so much to talk about that we don’t need the dialogue emails to help generate conversation.”
- ◆ “I like the structure of the program, feel like I’ve made a positive connection with my mentoring partner and am grateful for this opportunity.”



- ◆ “She has been so supportive when we talked and has given me great ideas; [A] very good partner.”
- ◆ “I enjoyed this experience, and I feel I have broadened my knowledge on a statewide perspective. I learned other aspects of office dynamics and

workflow that gave me insight into areas requiring change management within my office. It was great forming this new relationship.”

I encourage you to join and become one of the 2011-2012 reciprocal mentoring partnerships. The registration information has been sent out to all MACM members in a recent email.

If you have any questions prior to that, feel free to contact one of the members of the Mentoring subcommittee: Susan Love, Janice Cossette, Judy Peterson, Gwen Upton or Vicky Carlson



## Odyssey SessionWorks - Judge Edition

by Carol Remm, Dakota County Court Administrator

Dakota County will begin piloting an application called Odyssey SessionWorks for Judges in March 2011.

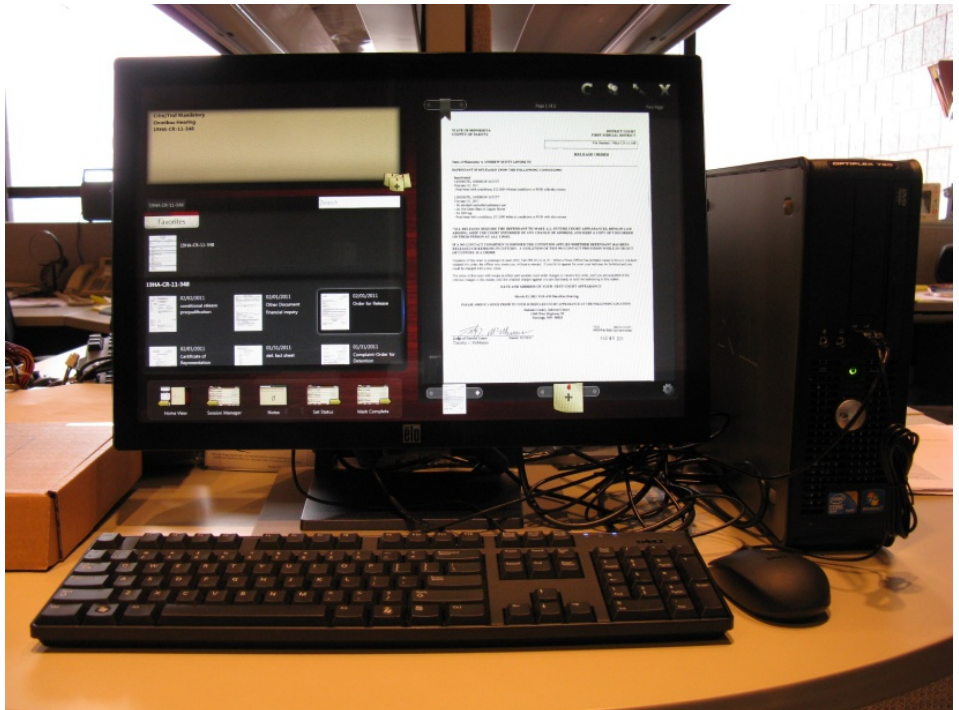
Tyler Technologies (vendor for MNCIS Odyssey) has developed software that allows a judicial officer to view an electronic case record (case and image information) right from the bench or within their chambers. Essential case information can be viewed, while eliminating papers and file folders.

This software also allows the judicial officer to bookmark important documents within the file, as well as attaching secure notes to any document in the file.

The software utilizes both touch-screen capabilities and the more traditional mouse and keyboard functions.

Judges Sutherland and Theisen will be testing the product and will provide feedback to Tyler Technologies on the functionality and ease of use of the software.

The technical components will also be evaluated by both Dakota County technical staff and St. Paul technical staff.



## NACM 2012 Mid-Year Conference - Minneapolis, MN

by Vicky Carlson,  
MACM Membership Services Chair

The National Association for Court Management will be hosting their mid-year conference in Minnesota February 5-7, 2012 at the Hilton Minneapolis.

Consider becoming a member of NACM. You can visit NACM at <http://www.nacmnet.org/index.html>. If you join now, your

membership will be good through the 2012 conference.

We will have a representative from NACM, Kevin Bowling, at our 2011 Summer conference June 8-10, so you will be able to see some of the opportunities

available through NACM.

When joining NACM, please consider using Vicky Carlson or Susan Love as your as your member referral as they both serve on the NACM Membership Services Committee.



**National Association for Court Management**

Established 1985

**MACM EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*by Peggy Gentles, MACM Education Committee Chair*



Peggy Gentles: Second Vice President, and Education Chair

Spring is here and that means we're getting closer to the 2011

MACM annual Summer Conference June 8 through 10 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

The Education Committee is in the process of finalizing the program which will include Chief Justice Lorie Gildea and Judge Kevin Burke from the Fourth District as well as representatives from the National Center for State Courts and National Association for Court Management.

Registration for the conference and the agenda will be sent out by early April and we hope that you will find the content and networking

opportunities worth your time and effort to attend.

Peggy Gentles  
Court Administrator  
Wright County District Court  
763-684-2355

**MACM MEMBERSHIP SERVICES UPDATE**

*by Vicky Carlson, Membership Services Chair*



Vicky Carlson: Membership Services Chair

The MACM Membership Services Committee has been working diligently over the last several months to update scholarship application procedures

and awards, provide website updates, and most importantly, get ready for the 2011 MACM annual Summer Conference.

In addition to the wonderful educational opportunities that the Education Committee is working on, we are looking forward to providing you with great networking events as well as a memorable vendor show.

New this year, but not new to MACM conferences, will be a request for a "networking event fee" to offset some of the entertainment costs. We want to be a responsible organization of public funds, but also want to provide you some

opportunities to network with your colleagues and have some fun.

Looking forward to seeing you at the conference!!!

## Minnesota State Court News From The Land of 10,000 Lakes

### First Judicial District - Updates From Across the First

#### Goodhue County has a New Judge!

*By Yvonne Black*

The First District welcomed Judge Lawrence F. Clark as he was sworn in on Monday, January 3, 2011.

Judge Clark has worked as an attorney for 30 years. He comes to the First District from the Dakota County Attorney's Office where he served as criminal prosecutor for the past



21 years.

Judge Clark and his wife, Colleen, have three daughters and one grandson and have called Red Wing home for the past 25 years.

#### Dakota County Imaged Documents Rollout

*by Heather Montpetit*

Dakota County has been imaging all court documents since 2009 through MNCIS document management.

In August 2010, ITD and Dakota County undertook the testing effort to make Dakota's public documents available electronically to two customer groups:

1. The Public; Public documents in Dakota public cases will be made accessible through MPA Courthouse to the walk-in public at the Dakota County Courthouse; and,
2. Justice Partners; Public documents in Dakota public cases will be made accessible through MNCIS Odyssey accounts to all government agencies that subscribe to MNCIS Odyssey assistant.

At this time this initiative does not include access to documents via MPA Remote. Testing is now complete and we anticipate that these two levels of document access will be available by mid-March, 2011.

#### Dakota County Conciliation Referee Program

*by Carol Renn*

The First Judicial District is in the process of developing a pro

bono attorney conciliation court referee program in Dakota County. The pilot will be housed at the Northern Service Center in West St. Paul.

Lindquist and Venum will be providing experienced litigators to serve as referees in the program.

We are currently scheduling training for the attorney volunteers and are hoping to get the program underway during the latter part of March 2011.

Once the pilot is complete in the West St. Paul office, we plan to expand the program to the Apple Valley and Hastings offices with the potential use of ITV. This program is similar to the pro bono program currently being operated in Olmstead and Winona Counties in the Third Judicial District.



## Second Judicial District - Traffic Violations Bureau Highlight by Linda White, 2nd District HR Specialist

The Traffic Violations Bureau (TVB) is located on the first floor of the Ramsey County Courthouse, Room 130. There are a total of 20 staff members located in the office including: Four hearing officers, one lead worker, 12 senior court clerks, a staff generalist, a TVB manager and a TVB supervisor.

Major functions of the TVB are processing parking, traffic, and criminal citations and ordinance violations; accepting fees and fine payments; responding to public contacts; clerking petty court, community court, mental health court, and administrative court hearings.

A function of the hearing officers is to provide first appearances for payable, contested citations with approximately 58,714 cases addressed.

Part of processing citations includes processing citations issued as a result of a snow emergency. Since November 2010 there have been *seven* snow emergencies declared in St. Paul. Each snow emergency could potentially result in an additional 2,500 to 5,000+ citations.

The first St. Paul snow emergency declared was on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>: There were 5,816 citations issued and 1,323 vehicles towed (as of 7:45

a.m. 11/15/10).

The second St. Paul snow emergency was declared Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: There were 2,825 citations issued and 896 vehicles towed (as of 5:00 p.m. 12/5/10).



The third St. Paul snow emergency declared was on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – all night plow routes and Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – all day plow routes. 37 citations were issued.

The fourth St. Paul snow emergency was declared on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – all night plow routes and Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – all day plow routes. This was the second snow emergency declared as a result of the week-end storm. 600 citations were issued.

The fifth St. Paul snow emergency was declared on Monday,

December 20<sup>th</sup> – all night plow routes and Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – all day plow routes. 3,227 citations were issued and 923 vehicles were towed (as of 8:00 a.m. 12/22/10).

The sixth St. Paul snow emergency was declared on Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – all night plow routes and Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – all day plow routes. 3,426 citations were issued and 1,119 vehicles were towed (as of 5:30 p.m. 12/26/10).

The seventh St. Paul snow emergency was declared on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – all night plow routes and Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – all day plow routes. 3,423 citations were issued and 1,098 vehicles were towed.

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**Second Judicial District** - *Continued from page 7*

Processing seven snow emergencies, in such a short period of time, has greatly impacted the staff by increasing their workload with the entry of citations, long lines at the front counter, payments made through the mail, phone calls, and defendants wanting to see a hearing officer. So far **\$471,159.68** has been collected in payments.

I asked the staff of the TVB what are some of the strangest excuses or complaints that they have heard regarding a snow emergency citation. Here is what I heard:

- ◆ One man complained because he had been given a ticket on his mother’s 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Others said:
- ◆ “It wasn’t on cable.”
- ◆ “I don’t watch tv.”
- ◆ “I don’t look out the window so I didn’t know it was snow-

ing.”

**Snow Emergency plowing:** Saint Paul declares Snow Emergencies after snowfalls of 3" or more OR an accumulation of 3" of snow over several days. All streets are either Night Plow Routes or Day Plow Routes. Night Plow Routes have red and white plowing signs. Day Plow Routes do not have plowing signs. Parking is banned until snow is plowed all the way to the curb on these routes.

**Avoid a Ticket and Tow!** The city now tickets and tows cars before the plows begin. The fine for a “snow tag” is now \$53. Towing can result in substantial towing and storage fees.

To find out if a Snow Emergency is in effect, listen to the radio, watch TV newscasts and read newspapers--or call **651-266-**

**PLOW (651-266-7569)** the 24 hour snowplowing information line. Snow plowing information is also located on the City’s web site at [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)



Covered in snow, “Oh no...not another snow emergency!”

*The Second Judicial District encompasses all of Ramsey County.*

**Third Judicial District**

*by Third District Administrative Team*

The most note-worthy MACM event happening in the Third Judicial District is the retirement of Robert Langer. He will be leaving the judicial branch on March 31, 2011.

Bob became the Court Administrator in Rice County on January 5, 1981. Over the course of Bob’s 30 year career in the Third District he has contributed sub



levels. Bob has always been willing to roll up his sleeves and dig in regardless of the issue, the policy/law change, the technology upgrade or the new initiative that has been thrown his way.

He’s consistently run a top-notch organization. Due to Bob’s leadership and management style, his

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## Third Judicial District

(Continued from page 8)

staff has time and time again addressed new technology, new procedures and new initiatives with the utmost proficiency. An amazing example is when his staff transitioned to MNCIS and was current with their workload within a matter of days.

Bob has maintained highly effective working relations with his bench as well. We in court management understand, as perhaps few others can, how important it is to have a truly well-oiled judicial unit/court administration team. Bob laid the foundation for a collaborative and trusting atmosphere that has served Rice County well for 30 years.

Bob's leadership, mentorship and management skills were vital when he became the Third Judicial District's first shared Court Administrator. He was appointed as the Rice/Steele County Court Administrator on March 31, 2008. Since becoming the Rice/Steele Court Administrator Bob has retained the high-functioning effectiveness in Rice County and has increased the proficiency and cohesiveness in Steele County.

Throughout his career Bob has played an active role at the state level. He's been a vocal member of various MACM committees, most recently the MACM Education and MACM Legislative

Committees. He's always voiced his opinions and represented the Third District to the best of his abilities.

Regardless of what issues or challenges he's faced, Bob has done so with solid judgment, effective communication skills, a strong knowledge of court administration principles and a wonderful sense of humor.

We will miss Bob greatly upon his retirement, but wish him and Nancy nothing but the best in the next phase of their journey!

*The Third Judicial District encompasses Dodge, Filmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Winona, Waseca, and Wabasha counties.*

## Fourth Judicial District - 2010 Criminal Calendaring Pilot

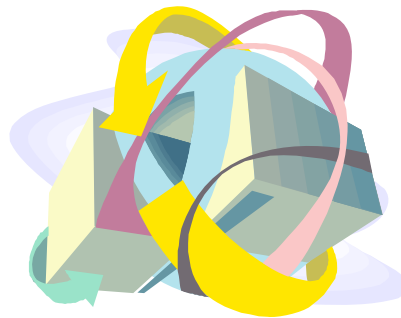
by Honorable Mark Wernick, Criminal

Presiding Judge and Kate Fogarty, Sr. Manager Criminal Division

The Fourth Judicial District Court fully implemented a Criminal calendaring pilot on September 13, 2010.

All Hennepin County criminal cases; misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and felonies, are blocked to a judge at either the first court appearance or the first pretrial conference. Each judge having a block of criminal cases serves on a 4 to 8 member team of judges hearing the same kinds of criminal cases.

Each team has adopted common practices and procedures and meets regularly with the lawyers and probation officers who appear before them. During the duration of the pilot, the master calendar system for managing criminal



cases has been eliminated.

In 2012, the Hennepin County bench will decide whether to make permanent all or part of this blocking and teaming pilot.

Before describing the 2010 calendaring pilot in more detail, it will be helpful to define various calendaring systems that Hennepin County has utilized over the years.

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## Fourth Judicial District - 2010 Criminal Calendaring Pilot *(Continued from page 9)*

**Master Calendar System:** In a master calendar system, judges are assigned to preside over a particular stage of a case instead of all stages of the same case. For example, one judge will be assigned to a misdemeanor arraignment calendar for a set period of time. Cases on that calendar which are not resolved will be put on a pretrial conference calendar, where a second judge will be assigned. Cases on the pretrial calendar which are not resolved will either get continued to another pretrial calendar, where yet another judge is assigned, or go to a master trial calendar, where a pool of judges will be waiting to be assigned a trial from that calendar.

The strength of a master calendar system lies in its ability to get trial ready cases to trial on a date certain. With a pool of judges available for trial each day, the master calendar system is designed to work much like an airline or post office service counter where one line of customers waits for one of several service counter workers to become available.

This system can be more efficient than a block system, where, to follow the analogy, cases must wait in separate lines, one line for each judge.

Another strength in the master calendar system lies in its flexibil-

ity. If a judge becomes unable to preside over a previously assigned calendar, a central administrator can go to the pool of trial ready judges to replace the unavailable judge. However, this flexibility can undermine the system's ability to offer trial date certainty if the pool of trial ready judges becomes too small to manage all the cases waiting in line on the master trial calendar.

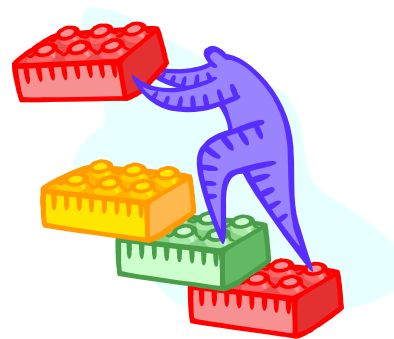
The weakness of the master calendar system is that a judge may feel little motivation to take an ownership interest in a case during its early stages. A judge's inability to resolve a case at a first appearance or pretrial conference does not result in that judge having to do more work on that case. The case will simply proceed to a later stage with a different judge.

Similarly, lawyers may not be motivated to settle a case during the early stages. In particular, defense lawyers may have an incentive to continue a case to a master trial calendar in hopes of obtaining a better disposition than what was made available by the judges who presided at the earlier stages.

As one court administrator said at a recent seminar, "The master calendar system will work well if the 'Santa Claus' judges are assigned to the early stages. If the 'Santa Claus' judges are in the

trial calendar pool, the system won't work."

**Blocking System:** In a blocking system, each case is assigned to an individual judge, who is then responsible for all subsequent stages of the case.



The strength of a blocking system is that each judge is motivated to manage the case at the early stages of the proceedings. To the extent a judge actively manages his or her cases during the early stages, cases that will not be tried should settle earlier and cases that go to trial should be tried by better prepared lawyers (and judges). Delays attributable to judge shopping are eliminated.

A blocking system has its weaknesses. Individual judges have varying case management abilities. This leads to differences among judges in case disposition times. With judges responsible for only their block of cases, there could be little motivation among judges to

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## Fourth Judicial District *(Continued from page 10)*

help each other with day to day calendar problems.

A blocking system can also create more scheduling problems for lawyers who have pretrial proceedings scheduled before different judges at the same time rather than being heard on one pretrial calendar.

Finally, compared to a master calendar system, blocking may require more work for each judge's staff because each judge's staff, rather than a central administrator, may be responsible for managing the judge's calendar.

**Team Calendar System:** A team calendaring system combines features of the master calendar and blocking systems. Judges are divided into teams, with each team hearing the same types of cases. A team may operate as a small master calendar system, with judges having the best settlement skills presiding over the early stages of the cases. A team may also operate as a blocking system, with each case blocked to a judge within the team, but with the understanding that team members will assist each other when a judge's calendar, including a trial calendar, is overscheduled.

A team calendar system allows for the accountability and sense of ownership of cases associated with a blocking system while maintaining at least some of the flexibility

of a master calendar system. The success of a team system will largely depend on the team members' efforts to work together to manage their calendars and to adopt and maintain common practices and procedures.

### **The 2010 Hennepin County Criminal Calendaring Pilot**

**Overview:** Under the pilot, 13 of the 21 civil block judges hear all suburban criminal cases, with a four-judge team assigned to each of the three suburban divisions, and one judge assigned as backup for all three divisions.

Cases are blocked to an individual judge at either the first appearance or the first pretrial conference. Each judge presides at suburban arraignment and pretrial conference calendars 13 weeks per year, leaving those judges with 39 weeks per year to try their civil block and suburban criminal cases.

The remaining 8 of the 21 civil block judges handle property/drug court cases. These cases are blocked to an individual judge at the first meaningful pretrial conference. Like the suburban teams, each judge in the property/drug court team presides over first appearance and pretrial conference calendars for 13 weeks per year, leaving those judges with 39 weeks per year to try their civil block and property/drug court cases.

Under the pilot, 18 of the 20 "criminal block" judges are divided into three teams of six judges each. Each of the 18 judges preside over serious felony first appearance calendars three weeks per year. The cases on those calendars are blocked to that judge at that time.

Each member of a criminal block team presides over Minneapolis misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor first appearance and pretrial conference calendars approximately 9 weeks per year. These cases are blocked to a judge at the first pretrial conference. The Minneapolis misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor assignment for one team of judges will be limited to domestic violence cases. The Minneapolis misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor assignment for the other two teams of judges will consist of community court and serious traffic cases.

With 12 weeks of mandatory calendars, the 18 criminal block judges will have approximately 40 weeks per year to try their serious felony and Minneapolis misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor cases. The two criminal block judges not assigned to a team are supposed to act as a backup for the other criminal block judges. Unfortunately, due to a large number of vacancies on the Hennepin County bench, we do not have these back up judges.

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**Fourth Judicial District - 2010 Criminal Calendaring Pilot** (Continued from page 11)

The rotations within each team of criminal block judges is varied to account for the inexperience of new judges. More experienced judges could do more than three felony first appearance calendars per year in exchange for a new judge doing more misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor calendars.

Judges within every team assist each other with their calendars as needed. All teams meet regularly with each other and with their justice partners to adopt and maintain policies and procedures within the team that will be as uniform as possible. At these meetings, the partners are encouraged to openly and honestly discuss problems of common concern. It is hoped that the court's justice partners will

divide their staffs into teams so that each justice partner team is assigned to only one criminal block team.

In mid 2012, the bench will decide whether to make some of or the entire pilot permanent. Performance measurements will guide the bench's decision.



During the past 25 years, the Hennepin County bench has moved an

increasing number of cases from a master calendar system to a blocking system. This movement began with civil cases and expanded to family, CHIPS and serious felony cases.

The change to blocking systems appears to many judges and lawyers to have improved the quality of justice in these cases. Whether blocking will improve the quality of justice in lower level felony and misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor cases remains to be seen. Certainly, victims, defendants, and communities affected by low level criminal cases deserve the highest quality of justice we can provide.

*The Fourth Judicial District encompasses all of Hennepin County.*

**MACM's MISSION:**

**MACM is an organization committed to the enrichment of its members through professional growth and development, opportunities, promoting advancements and innovations in court administration, and partnering with other professionals working to improve the justice system in Minnesota.**



## Sixth Judicial District

by Marieta Johnson, St. Louis County Court Administrator



St. Louis County Court Administrator, Marieta Johnson, St. Louis County Sheriff, Ross Litman and two security bailiffs.

**Minnesota State Patrol e-Citation Pilot Project:** The Sixth Judicial District has been working with the Minnesota State Patrol in their e-Citations pilot.

The Duluth District is Patrol's pilot site for their e-Citations project. They began with the citations in three squad cars writing tickets in the Duluth area and are hoping to expand it soon to more squad cars within the District.

The Duluth District covers southern St. Louis County, Lake, Cook, Carlton and Pine counties.

**St. Louis—Duluth Remodel Project: new Criminal/Traffic/Financial Office & New Arraignment Courtroom:** Security for arraignments increased in the St. Louis County-Duluth courthouse in December with the inauguration of a newly remodeled arraignment courtroom.

This courtroom is part of a remodel to the 100 year old courthouse that includes the addition of a sally port adjacent to the courthouse.

In addition to cells, the sally port includes conference space for public defenders to meet with their clients. The sally port also allows the transport of the defendants through a secure hallway

into a secured defendant box in the courtroom.

The courtroom area includes attorney/client conference rooms with one-way mirrors into the courtroom and on-demand audio of court proceedings. In addition to the courtroom area, a new office space was developed for the criminal, traffic, and financial court staff.

On December 21st a "walk through" event was held for court staff and our criminal justice partners. In the attached MACM newsletter photo are St. Louis County Court Administrator, Marieta Johnson, St. Louis County Sheriff, Ross Litman and two security bailiffs.

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### Sixth Judicial District

by Judy Isaacson, Carlton County Court Administrator

#### Outreach to Veterans by Carlton County Court System:

On Friday January 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>, the “court system” in Carlton did their annual volunteer work for the monthly VFW steak fry to raise money for veterans and the youth programs they also support; such as: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, and Youth Hockey.



Judge Dale Wolf & Kelly Anderson, Senior Court Clerk, practicing their customer service skills.



Judy Isaacson, Carlton County Court Administrator, serving coffee to hungry customers.

This is the tenth year the court staff has participated in this January task. They do the preparation work on Friday night, preparing the potatoes for baking, setting tables, etc. The actual steak fry feed begins on Saturday night, from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.

*The Sixth Judicial District encompasses Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties.*

### Tenth Judicial District

Justice Gildea was present at the grand opening of the new Washington County Courthouse. She gave the following remarks.

“I’m honored to be with you today in this magnificent new facility, a place where the citizens of Washington County can be part of this amazing phenomenon we call the American judicial sys-

tem, a system dedicated to fairness and to justice. On behalf of the Judicial Council and my colleagues on the Supreme Court I want to congratulate you on the fine accomplishment reflected in this facility.

I see this new courthouse as a demonstration of the American spirit. It will be a place people

will come to celebrate some of the high points in their lives. They may get a marriage license to begin a new life together, or record a deed for their first home. It will also be a place where people will come for resolution during some of the most difficult times in their lives, times when

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## Tenth Judicial District



Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea commemorates the grand opening of the new Washington County Courthouse on December 3, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

their property or even their liberty may be at stake. And through all the days that it stands, it will exemplify what it means to be an American, and what it means to be a Minnesotan.

I submit to you that Courthouses like this represent both a promise and a partnership. Let us talk about the promise first.

We all know that the United States Constitution begins with the words: *'We the People of the United States.'* One of the early justices on the United States Supreme Court wrote that with that phrase, the people spoke the United States into existence. So too, did our founders speak Minnesota into existence more than 150 years ago though our Constitution, which similarly begins *'We, the People of the State of Minnesota.'* It is most fitting today that we reflect for a few

minutes on our constitution, which really was itself a promise between we the people of Minnesota.

If you open up the Minnesota Constitution, you will see our Bill of Rights. The very first section is a recitation of the object of Minnesota government. It says that *'government is instituted for the security, benefit and protection of the people in whom all political power is inherent.'*

This wonderful facility you have built and the people who serve in it are living out the promise in our constitution—that the government will keep the people secure, will work for the people's benefit, and will work to protect them. We see that promise in action today and everyday at the Washington County Courthouse.

You may walk these halls as a member of a jury . . . as a judge or lawyer . . . as a plaintiff or a defendant . . . as a clerk or an administrator, as a law enforcement officer, as a mom or a dad, or simply as a person seeking relief from your government as promised in your constitution. However you come here, you can feel safe knowing that the people working in this courthouse will be working to keep the promise of our constitution.

When you walk into these buildings, remember that you are

walking into one of the special places on the earth, a structure dedicated to our highest aspirations and imbued with honor by our best wishes for our American experiment.

Law and liberty . . . personal freedom and personal responsibilities . . . may be symbolized by courthouse steps . . . by a long table in the jury room . . . by the witness stand . . . by the graceful lines of a Courthouse itself. But the law and liberty are not to be found in the solid physical elements that make up this building. Law and liberty will be found in the hearts and heads of the men and women who serve the law and seek true justice in this building.

Not everyone will agree with every decision made here. But it is my firmest hope that each of us who bring our work and our dreams to these buildings will do so with the firmest resolve to do what is right, as we are given to see what is right . . . to know the law, to apply the law without fear or favor to everyone the same, and to obey the law. In short, to keep the promise of Minnesota.

And so to that end, we dedicate this Courthouse to the continued service of the promise of Minnesota, and we seek blessings upon all those who come here seeking equal justice under the law.

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**Tenth Judicial District**

*Continued from page 15)*



Unveiling of the Plaque for the Washington County Court Addition. *From left to right:* Annette Fritz, Court Administrator; William Hutton, Sheriff; Dennis Hegberg, County Commissioner District 1; Gary Kriesel, County Commissioner District 3; Chief Justice Lori Gildea; Judge Richard Ilkka, Chair, Washington County Bench; Judge Bill Ekstrum; Judge Mary Hannon; Judge Susan Miles; and, Jim Schug, County Administrator

Courthouses like this also represent a partnership, in this case of state and local government working together to keep the promise of Minnesota. In recognition and honor of this partnership, it is my

privilege to present this plaque to the county board and to the people of Washington County on behalf of the Judicial Council, the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Tenth Judicial District.”

*The Tenth Judicial District encompasses Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright counties.*

**MACM *Reflections* Quarterly Newsletter Needs You**

*by Vicky Carlson*

Do you like reading the interesting articles about your peers published in this newsletter?

Would you like to see the MACM Membership Services Committee continue to publish this newsletter? If so, **WE NEED YOU.**

Please send your MACM articles and pictures to Vicky Carlson, Janice Cossette or Susan Love for inclusion in the next

edition of *Reflections*. You do not have to be a member of a MACM committee to send in an article about your court or your colleagues.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest Regards:

Vicky Carlson, Janice Cossette  
**Co-Editors**

Susan Love, **Publisher**

