

Juvenile Justice Center Newsletter

SPRING
2012
ISSUE

Our Jurists:

*Thomas F. O'Malley, Administrative Judge, Judge Patrick F. Corrigan,
Judge Joseph F. Russo, Judge Alison L. Floyd and Judge Kristin W. Sweeney*

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JUDGE PETER M. SIKORA SORELY MISSED

Our Court suffered a great loss on Wednesday, April 18th, 2012 with the passing of Judge Peter M. Sikora.

Judge Sikora had been the senior member of the Juvenile Court bench. His tenure began in February of 1989. He was also the Administrative Judge for the years of 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2001.

As the news of his passing circulated, memories and tears were shared. A groundswell grew to find ways to acknowledge Judge Sikora and his importance to us.

The Juvenile Justice Center flags were flown at half mast and photos of Judge Sikora were on display throughout the building.

On Friday, April 20th, at 2:10 p.m. (the time of his passing) the entire Juvenile Justice Center paused for a minute of reflection. The following Friday, April 27, 2012 was declared "Judge Peter M. Sikora Day!" and staff proudly wore blue in tribute to his memory and accomplishments.

The funeral was Monday, April 23rd at St. John Cathedral. Judge Sikora was laid to rest at Brooklyn Heights Cemetery.

LAW DAY AT THE CCJJC



Law Day was celebrated at the Juvenile Justice Center. Law Day is a national day to celebrate the rule of law and its contributions to the freedoms Americans enjoy. In April of 1961, Congress passed a Joint Resolution designating May 1, as Law Day, U.S.A.

The Great Hall was the site of the Law Day program. Judge Alison L. Floyd was the Mistress of Ceremonies and Law Day Chair. After the program, information sessions, tours and refreshments were offered.

Program participants were: Judges Thomas O'Malley, Patricia Ann Blackmon, Ronald Adrine, and Kristin Sweeney, as well as, those that were associated with The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy. Barbara Greenberg, Founder Attorney Rufus Sims and Academy graduate Gelise Littlejohn. Each shared information and delightful anecdotes.

A plaque was presented to The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy and

Certificates of Recognition were awarded to Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Norman S. Minor Bar Association, and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

They were each honored for their dedication to the role of law in the foundation of our community and for recognizing its importance to society through education which upholds and preserves the American legal system.

HR GETS A HELPING HAND

Human Resources recently finished all staff training on Customer Service and Workplace Harassment Prevention. The training gave employees an overview of the Court's policies and procedures on workplace harassment and the Court's vision of customer service.

Kudos to HR! They utilized video clips to show instances of good customer service and bad customer service as part of the training session. The following Court employees volunteered their acting skills. **Probation:** Jerry Billups, Eric Ball, Joan Tidd, Johnny Miller and Lisa Mattox. **Court Services:** Jessica Bess, Catherine Gura, Michelle Williams,

Michelle Baker and Jessica Nauth. **Detention:** Jason Pedro and the undisputed star was Probation's own Dan Hansen as "Handy the Helping Hand".

The humorous videos assisted in making the subject matter appealing as well as being educational.

Keep an eye out for "Handy the Helping Hand"! He might be lurking around to catch staff giving good customer service.

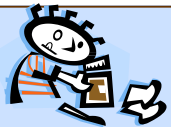


COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (CBT) HAPPENINGS

The CBT Program is fully up and running utilizing the *Thinking for a Change Curriculum*. This curriculum promotes alternate positive options for consideration when faced with reoffending to youth who display criminogenic thinking patterns. The youth are involved in this intensive program for 4 to 6 months. Some recent changes in the program have been the addition of "Friday Basketball games". Youth who have behaviorally met their week are eligible to play basketball at a local recreation center. Youth evaluate their time identifying skills they used while playing ball, such as, being a good sport, accepting criticism, avoiding trouble with others and many other skills.

We have also begun our gardening project for the third year. Youth are able to sharpen their gardening skills and for some address some of their community service hours. Last summer there was an abundance in the garden. After youth took vegetables home to their families, the surplus was donated to local hunger centers.

The program is in need of a pool table. The hope is for someone to donate a used one or minimally have it recovered. There is also a need for a game system for the Level three recreation room. This is the recreation room of the youth who have made it to Level three and or transitional stage. If you would like to help, please contact Vickie Smith, Program Manager at 443-3131.



Harvest for Hunger Peanut Butter Drive a Success!

The month long Harvest for Hunger Peanut Butter Drive was a smashing success due to your generous contributions.

There was a total of 223 jars of Peanut Butter collected varying in brand and size. The Food bank records the donation by weight. Our donation topped the scale at 340 pounds. This is an approximate \$1300 value. The peanut butter that was donated will go to needy families in our communities, as well as ease the shortage of peanut butter which is presently being experienced within our local food banks.

The peanut butter donation by department tally is as follows:

1. Detention 36
 2. Clerk of Court 32
 2. Court Administration 32
 3. Probation 31
 4. Court Services 30
 5. Public Works 17
- 42 jars were donated anonymously*

\$25 Cash winners:
Kathy Brazis,
Julie McCune,
Alysia Montanez and
Latoya Warren.

*We are all winners,
when we help each other!
Thank you!*

Bragging Rights

Kathy A. Leftridge, Court Services, graduated from CSU with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education. Lori Scott, Information Services, sang the National Anthem at the Judicial Conference of the Eighth Judicial District, where she brought down the house. Jacqueline Brackett, Volunteer Coordinator, daughter Jasmyn Shumate is the recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship. The good-through-graduation scholarship can be used at any college or university. It will cover all of her college costs not covered by other aid. The Department of Intake and Diversion awarded quarterly Achievement Awards to James Robertson, Garfield Hts. Office and Jennifer Mercer in the Parma Office. This award is in recognition of their outstanding job performance and service to others. Gina McIntyre, Activities Assistant, held an Art Sale whose proceeds were used towards a gaming system for House 1 in the Detention Center. The residents painted a number of pieces and worked with a local artist to prepare others. They raised \$186. Vivian Holly received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Sheriff's department for her endless hours of helping the department during their move to the CCJJC. P.O. Marty Hoover received a glowing letter of thanks from a parent of one of his probationers sharing Mr. Hoover is one person that makes being a parent of a troubled teen easier to deal with. He is firm, fair and kind. He has gone above and beyond!

Our Mission:

*To administer justice, rehabilitate juveniles,
support and strengthen families and
promote public safety.*