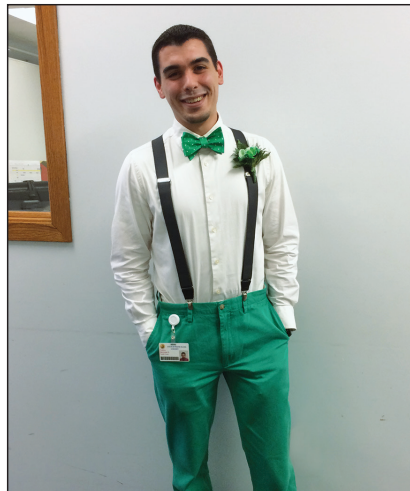




Maureen Aveno retired May 25 after 36 years of state service, the last 24 as an administrator and executive director at the Workers' Compensation Court.



Superior Court Associate Justice Stephen P. Nugent celebrated his birthday in January with staff at the Murray Judicial Complex. He is pictured enjoying his favorite birthday cake, "Death by Chocolate," with deputy sheriff Barry Sullivan.



Nicholas R. Tudino, of the Family Court reciprocal office at the Garrahy Judicial Complex, is all decked out for St. Patrick's Day on March 17. Now that's the spirit!



Chariho Middle School held its annual career day on May 20, inviting members of the Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs. Pictured above is deputy sheriff Joshua Tiskey speaking to a student about a career in law enforcement.



In January, Edward Morrone, second from left, clerk of Washington County Superior Court, celebrated his retirement at Spain Restaurant with staff and friends of the court. Pictured with Ed from left to right are Jane Anthony, clerk of Newport County Superior Court; Nancy Striuli, clerk of Kent County Superior Court; and Henry Kinch, clerk of Providence/Bristol County Superior Court.



Corey Blakely, son of Richard Blakely of Supreme Court's Facilities, Operations and Security, was inducted into the Rhode Island Aquatic Hall of Fame in May 2016. Corey is a champion swimmer from the East Bay having won many age group honors in Rhode Island and New England including Interscholastic Swimmer of the Year in 1997. After high school Corey attended and competed at Indian River Community College. Corey is pictured with his wife Erin and his children, right to left, Autumn, Corey Jr., and Kyle.



On May 21, Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Bryant University at the university's graduation ceremony on campus.



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FULL COURT PRESS

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Employees of the Year Awards for 2015

BY CRAIG BERKE

The Judiciary on April 26 held its annual Employee Recognition Day, honoring 106 longtime employees for their length of state service, 19 retirees, and Employees of the Year from the six courts.

The awards were for service milestones or retirements that occurred in 2015. The employees personally received certificates from Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, State Court Administrator J. Joseph Baxter Jr., and the chief judges and administrators from their respective courts. Employee Relations Director Marisa P. White added some humor, entertainment and raffle prizes to change the pace for the annual event this year.

Among those recognized at the ceremony were retired Family Court Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian, who stepped down at the end of 2015

EMPLOYEES CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, center, stands with the Judiciary's 2015 Employees of the Year. In front row, left, Genine Cook, Traffic Tribunal, and right, Joan Graf, Workers' Compensation Court. In rear, from left to right, Richard Scarpellino, Family Court; John Marouchoc, Family Court; Holly Hitchcock, Supreme Court; Candida Linares, District Court; and Paula Alexander, Superior Court.

Seven new judicial officers are sworn in

BY CRAIG BERKE

In May, Governor Raimondo nominated eight candidates to fill judicial vacancies, including two chief judge positions, and by the end of June all of those candidates had received Senate consent and six of them had been sworn in. In addition, Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell appointed a magistrate in the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal to fill a vacancy.

On June 21, Family Court Associate Justice Michael B. Forte, a 29-year veteran of the bench, was sworn in by the Governor on the State House steps as Chief Judge, succeeding Haiganush R. Bedrosian. Judge Forte, the court's senior associate justice, had been acting Chief Judge since Bedrosian's retirement at the end of 2015.

A day earlier, on June 20, Workers' Compensation Court Associate Judge Robert M. Ferrieri was sworn in as Chief Judge of that court, succeeding



Governor Raimondo swears in Michael B. Forte as Chief Judge of the Family Court on June 21 as the judge's wife, Rebecca, and his children look on.

NEW JUDICIAL OFFICERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Law library named for Weisberger
In a ceremony on June 2, the Supreme Court formally named the State Law Library in the Licht Judicial Complex in Providence the Joseph R. Weisberger Law Library after the late Supreme Court chief justice who died in 2012.

New Judicial Officers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Workers' Compensation Court Chief Judge Robert M. Ferrieri speaks at the State House after being sworn in on June 20.

George E. Healey Jr., who retired in July 2015. Chief Judge Ferrieri has been on the bench since 2008.

On June 28, Maureen B. Keough, deputy criminal chief in the Attorney General's office and a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg, was sworn in as an



KEOUGH

Associate Justice of the Superior Court, filling the seat of the retired Edward C. Clifton. Associate Justice Keough is the daughter of retired Superior Court Magistrate Joseph Keough. She donned her father's robe at her swearing-in ceremony.

On June 22, Family Court Magistrate Rossie Lee Harris Jr., was formally elevated to associate justice in that court, filling the seat of the retired Kathleen A. Voccola. He had been a magistrate since 2013, and prior to that was an attorney and guardian in the Family Court's Office of Court Appointed Special Advocate.



HARRIS

June 29 brought the administration of the oath of office to Lia N. Stuhlsatz as an Associate Justice of the Family Court, replacing the retired Francis J. Murray Jr. She comes to the bench from Rhode Island Legal Services, where she was a supervising attorney in the family preservation unit.



STUHLSATZ

On June 21, Michael J. Feeney was sworn in as an Associate Judge on the Workers' Compensation Court, replacing the retired Bruce Q. Morin. An attorney since 1988, he is a former assistant town solicitor in East Greenwich.



FEENEY

Chief Justice Suttell, who is the appointing authority for magistrates on the Traffic Tribunal, on June 16 swore in attorney Erika Kruse Weller as magistrate to replace R. David Cruise. She had served as Supreme Court General Counsel since 2003.



WELLER

Attorney James J. Caruolo was expected to be sworn in as a District Court Associate Judge on July 21 and attorney Brian A. Goldman was expected to be sworn in as a District Court associate judge on August 4. Vacancies remain in the Superior Court, Family Court and Workers' Compensation Court.

Employees of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

after 37 years of state service.

Active employees with the longest state service tenures of 35 years were Marcia Oakes of the Law Library staff, the Family Court's John J. Martino, and the Workers' Compensation Court's Paul M. Petit.

The Supreme Court Employee of the Year was Holly Hitchcock, then director of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education. The Superior Court Employee of the Year was Paula Alexander, courtroom clerk on the fines, costs and restitution calendar. Sharing the Family Court Employee of the Year were Richard Scarpellino and John Marouchoc, who have been the point persons for the computer system conversion in that court. The District Court Employee of the Year was Candida Linares, general operations assistant. The Workers' Compensation Court Employee of the Year was Joan Graf, Medical Advisory Board coordinator. The Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Employee of the Year was Genine Cook, deputy clerk.

Employee Spotlight: Rescuing the underdog

As July merges into August, we may be approaching the dog days of summer, but for one Supreme Court employee every day may be a dog day.

Carla Ciccone, director of purchasing in the Office of Finance and Budget, is the founder and director of the nonprofit Almost Home Rescue, which specializes in placing dogs from difficult breeds in volunteer foster homes until it can find permanent placement. She was featured in the April 2016 edition of Common Ground Rhode Island, a publication that covers the labor movement. Ciccone is the recording secretary of Local 808 of the Laborers' International Union of North America, as well as a field representative and steward.



Carla Ciccone with Teddy and Lola

As Ciccone told it to Common Ground, she grew up with Dobermans, German shepherds and Rottweilers, and at 18 started volunteering at animal control agencies and shelters. "To be honest, I wasn't happy with what I was witnessing as far as overall care of the animals and also seeing the various dogs being euthanized were mostly the maligned breeds: Rottweilers, German shepherds and what we now call pit bulls," she wrote.

She founded Almost Home Rescue in 2007 as a nonprofit. As of last April, it had helped 256 dogs with placements, helped with medical expenses, spaying, food and training classes, if needed. The organization's main challenge is finding homes for unwanted dogs.

"I've learned through the years that I cannot save everything but I sure do try to save dogs of adoptable behavior," Ciccone said. "It was inevitable that I would rescue the underdog."



Undercover judge

On February 15, a pipe burst on the seventh floor of the Licht Judicial Complex in Providence, and although the Facilities staff shut the water off quickly, streams made it several floors below, affecting the ceiling on the fifth floor and the fourth-floor courtroom of Superior Court Associate Justice Richard A. Licht, above.

COURT BRIEFS

JUSTICE SPEAKS AT UCONN

On April 27, 2106, Supreme Court Justice William P. Robinson III was the guest speaker at the Undergraduate Achievement Awards Ceremony of the Department of Literatures and Languages at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Justice Robinson is a graduate of and a former employee of the University. The subject of his talk was the enduring rewards of a liberal arts education over a person's entire life.

MAGISTRATE GAINS HONOR

Family Court Magistrate Charles Levesque was honored earlier this year as the quarterly – and a short time later, the annual – winner of the MST Services "Whatever It Takes" program champion award for his work on the truancy calendar. Based in South Carolina, MST – or Multisystemic Therapy – is an intensive family- and community-based treatment program that focuses on all factors that influence chronic and violent juvenile offenders. Magistrate Levesque was nominated by an MST clinician who witnessed how he handled a particularly difficult case.



LEVESQUE

LANGUAGE ACCESS UPDATE

There was good news and better news on the language access front for the Judiciary this spring. The courts received notice that a long-running complaint from the Department of Justice over the provision of language access and interpreter services had been closed. Not only were the improvements enough to end the complaint, but Rhode Island was recently ranked third in the country, tied with Massachusetts, by the Justice Index for best practices in language access for people with Limited English Proficiency. Only Hawaii and New Mexico scored higher. The Justice Index is a project of the National Center for Access to Justice in New York City. The scores were based on the use and training of certified interpreters, training for judges and staff, language enhancements on our website, availability of interpreters at our clerk counters, and availability of interpreters in our ancillary services for various types of court cases, including civil and domestic relations, not just criminal.

INTERPRETER WINS FELLOWSHIP

And speaking of court interpreters, the Supreme Court's own Sussy Santana in February was one of three winners of a Rhode Island Foundation Macoll Johnson Fellowship. The \$25,000 award will allow Santana, the first Latino recipient of the fellowship, to focus on two literary projects – a book of poetry and a work of fiction. Although her experience as an immigrant from the Dominican Republic influences her writing, Santana is also interested in writing about common life experiences and emotions that connect people regardless of race, gender or creed. For more on Santana's work, visit sussysantana.com.



SANTANA

CRIMINAL CASE CONVERSION PROGRESSES

Just a quick update on the ongoing conversion of the Judiciary's case management system and electronic filing. With civil cases, domestic relations, workers' compensation and traffic cases already up and running on the new Tyler systems, perhaps the heaviest lift yet – the conversion of criminal cases – is progressing. Supreme Court cases will also convert at the same time, as well as many of the Judiciary's financial operations.