

Fall 2010

Judge Martha Lynn Sherrod
Huntsville, Alabama
Editor

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

Since this is my first official letter to you since the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, I want to thank all of you who have placed your trust and confidence in me to chair this august body. As I told the audience when I took my oath on August 11, 2010 in New Orleans, my goal is to continue to uplift the mission of the National Bar Association Judicial Council as we remember our heritage and add to our legacy during our 40th Anniversary year. Given the struggles and successes of judges throughout the country in the last 40 years, it would appear that we have much to celebrate; however, there is still much work to be done. This year, the Judicial Council, while celebrating its anniversary, will concentrate on excellence in our profession, increasing and bonding with our membership and continuing the advocate for more minority judges throughout the country. Our 40th Anniversary is being planned by our Task Force of Past Chairs, with Judge Sylvia James acting as Chair of this celebration. We have some phenomenal past chairs so we know we will have a monumental tribute to our 40th Anniversary.

The first event of our bar year, our Mid-Winter Meeting, will take place January 26-30,

2011 in San Juan, Puerto at the San Juan Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. By now, you should have received your invitation from our Mid-Winter Committee to attend and have gotten information from the NBA website. It promises to be a stellar meeting. We are pleased that we will be offering continuing legal education in three areas: juror issues; managing cases with pro se litigants; and stress management, living a long and healthy life on and off the bench. Our Program Committee, chaired by Judge Randa Trapp, is doing a fantastic job of collecting experienced judges and lawyers from across the country. We are pleased that our panels will be representative of both the federal and state bench, and the bar. Of course, we could not go to San Juan without enjoying the culture and entertainment there. We are honored that the Chief Justice of San Juan, Federico Hernandez Denton, has agreed to host us at the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico for our Chair's Reception on Friday, January 28, 2011. The Supreme Court grounds are beautiful and they have just finished completing a new library. Tours of their very unique courtroom will also be given. In addition, our Youth

Outreach Committee has been hard at work and we will visit a school in San Juan to impart some of our experiences and wisdom and to help mentor Afro-Caribbean students on this island. Worship is always important to the Judicial Council and we will, of course, have our annual convocation, followed by a reception. As this newsletter goes to print, we are in contact with officials in San Juan for the use of the Governor's House for that reception. In sum, come prepared to be enlightened, educated, entertained, and invigorated. You will enjoy the wonderful facilities at the San Juan Marriott Resort, the beautiful beach and warm, blue water of the Caribbean Sea and, of course, the food and music. A good time will be had by all. There is still time for you to make air and hotel arrangements to join us in sunny San Juan.

After San Juan, we will travel to Oakland, California for the Mid-Year/Gertrude Rush Meeting. Our Program Committee is already at work planning at least one seminar for that event and social activities. As we move towards the end of our year, I will be pleased to welcome you to my home city, Baltimore, for the 86th Annual Meeting of the National Bar Association. Some plans have already been

finalized and we are working on many more wonderful surprises for you. This promises to be a fulfilling year, one in particular where we will rededicate ourselves at the Annual Meeting to the purposes, missions and goals of the Judicial Council and reflect upon the legacy left us by our trailblazers. It is the year that you should be a member of the National Bar Association Judicial Council. I invite all those who have not joined to do so and our current members to renew their dues. [You may find the application on the website or within this newsletter.]



Hon. Marcella Holland
Chair
Judicial Council
National Bar Association



The Sara J. Harper Children's Library

The Hon. Sara J. Harper served as the first female chair of the Judicial council 1975-1976



The Sara J. Harper's Children's Library is located at 2453 East 43rd Street in Cleveland, Ohio on the property of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Outhwaite Estates. The library is designed to bridge the cultural divide by providing access to computers, books and other publications that provide opportunities to learn; conduct research and participate in the African-American experience through learning materials. The collection and resources include everything from Biblical to historical documents, language arts and motor skill resources. Established in a one room apartment of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Outhwaite Estates, the library is now a unique collection of Afro-centric books, magazines, games and technology serving children age 0 to 12 years old. Founded in 1990 with a \$14,000.00 grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to facilitate the "Will You Read With Me?" education program the library operates with an all volunteer staff, and has initiated a three year national fund-raising campaign to establish a million dollar endowment fund.

"When you give a child the tools they need, they will succeed". - The Hon. Sara J. Harper

Judicial Council Mourns Board Member

The Honorable Beverly Hayes-Sipes, Judge of the 36th District Court, Detroit, Michigan, transitioned this life to her heavenly home November 5, 2010. Licensed in Michigan and Massachusetts, Judge Hayes-Sipes was elected to the 36th District Court Bench on November 5, 2002. During her judicial career she served as President of the Black Judges Association of Michigan (ABJM); American Judges Association (AJA) Board Member; American Bar Association Board of Trustees; Black Women's Lawyer Association; and served the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (NBA) as a member of the Board, Co-Chaired the 2006 Annual Meeting in Detroit and the 2010 Mid-Winter Meeting in Hawaii. Judge Hayes-Sipes was the 2010 Michigan Chronicle Women of Excellence Awardee, and is listed in Who's Who in Black Detroit.



"She was tall in stature, graceful, and had a big heart. She will be missed by all."

- Judge Marcella Holland
Chair of the Judicial Council

Philadelphia Judicial Council Installs Officers

by Hon. Lillian Harris Ransom

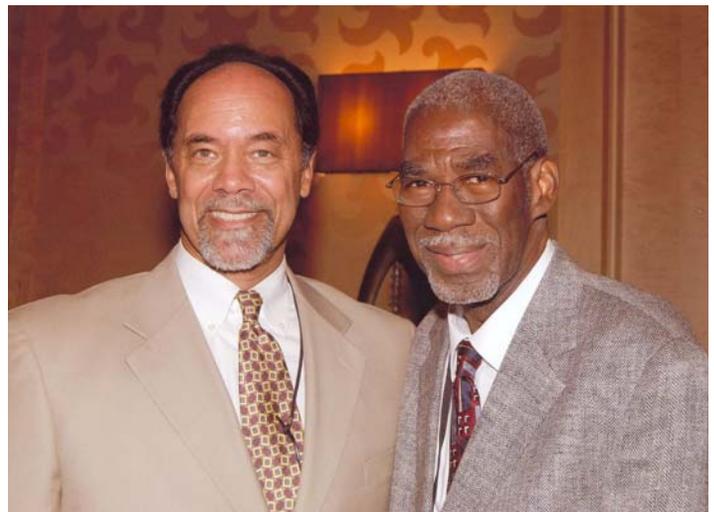
The Clifford Scott Green Chapter (CSG) of the National Bar Association Judicial Council held its 8th Officer Installation and Awards Ceremony in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 22, 2010. The Honorable Marcella A. Holland, chairman of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, delivered remarks and presented the Charge to the new officers prior to administering the oath of office.

The new officers of the CSG Council chapter are: Chair—Hon. Sheila Woods-Skipper; Chair-Elect—Hon Lydia Y. Kirkland; Secretary—Hon. Aida Louise Harris; Assistant Secretary—Hon. Angeles Roca; Treasurer—Hon. Lori Dumas-Brooks; Historian—

Hon. Lillian Harris Ransom. Officers of the CSG Council chapter serve two year terms of office.

During the program, Eagle Awards were given to the four members of our chapter who had retired since 2008. The award recipients were Hon. Doris Smith-Ribner, Hon. Brenda Frazier Clemons, Hon. Tama Myers Clark and Hon. Gwendolyn Conway.

Following the program, which was planned by Judge Ransom, the members present took a group photograph, then adjourned to the reception in the City Hall Law Library. Approximately 100 members of the bar, judges and family and friends attended the program.



William H. Hastie, Jr., Esq. (left) attended the annual Thurgood Marshall Luncheon of the Judicial Council August 2009 in San Diego. He is the son of the late William H. Hastie, former Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The Judicial Council's highest honor is named for Judge Hastie. The Honorable Ishmael A. Meyers (right), Senior Sitting Judge of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands of the united with Hastie, Jr., a fellow Virgin Islander. Hastie, Jr., was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands during his father's tenure as the first appointed black Governor of the Virgin Islands from 1946 to 1949. Judge Hastie was appointed by President Harry S. Truman.

Exciting Updates for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

For someone who does not enjoy air travel, I was ambivalent about the request that I received from Olympia Perkins, the Director of the Court Service Unit for the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, to attend the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Inter-Site Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 4-6, 2010. After putting aside thoughts about the anxiety and inconvenience typically experienced in air travel today, I responded that I was always interested in being educated. The JDAI conference was well worth the trip!

JDAI has been an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation since 1992. The core objectives of the initiative are to eliminate the inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention; to minimize re-arrest and failure to appear rates pending adjudication; to ensure appropriate conditions of confinement in secure facilities; to redirect public finances to sustain juvenile justice reforms; and to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. JDAI site participants include judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, elected officials, and community representatives. JDAI has grown from the 5 original sites in 1992 to approximately 120 sites from 25 states and the District of Columbia. Almost 600 people attended this year's conference (including our own Judges Jon Gray and Lynn Sherrod).

Statistics support the need for JDAI. Research has shown that juvenile detention has critical, long lasting consequences. Youth who are detained are more likely to be adjudicated delinquent and committed to an institution; will work fewer hours for less money for years to come; will more likely re-offend than youth who have never been detained; and will have disrupted educational and family connections. Of significance to Judicial Council members, detention disproportionately impacts minorities. Approximately two-thirds of those detained are minorities, and a significant amount of the increased

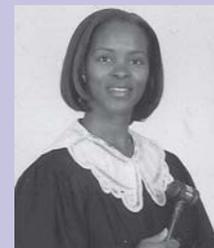


usage of detention in the past twenty years is due to greatly increased detention rates for African-American and Latino youth.

The JDAI has improved public safety in its model sites (a 47% average reduction in juvenile crime in four model sites); has resulted in a substantial reduction in detained youth (a 55% average reduction in four model sites); has saved tax dollars by the usage of alternative approaches to detention (\$17 million was redeployed over a ten-year period at one model site); and has reduced disproportionate minority confinement by the usage of objective screening instruments and establishing community-based programs (a 58% reduction over a ten-year period in one model site). In my jurisdiction, which became a JDAI site in 2009, our secure detention rate has significantly decreased (on 11/10/10, we had 39 youth detained in a facility with a 90-bed capacity). In addition, our disproportionate minority impact indicators improved in the areas of judge ordered pre-dispositional detention, misdemeanor diversions, and misdemeanor petitions filed.

There is still much work to be done. However, with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the United States is one step closer to a model juvenile justice system!

Sources: Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative-A Successful Approach to Comprehensive Reform* (2007); www.aecf.org



Judge Ramona D. Taylor

Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic
Relations District Court
November 15, 2010

Judicial Tidbits



Judge Nannette A. Baker of the Missouri Court of Appeals has been chosen to serve eight (8) years terms as Federal Magistrate Judge. She will serve mainly in St. Louis, with some duties at the courts in Hannibal and Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A onetime television reporter in St. Louis,

Judge Baker, was named to the appellate court's St. Louis-based Eastern District in 2004, and served from 1999 – 2004 as a St. Louis Circuit Judge.

Judge Vance W. Raye was named by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Presiding Justice of Sacramento's Third District Court of Appeals of California. Justice Raye, 64, served as legal affairs secretary for Gov. George Deukmejian before his appointment as a Sacramento County Superior Court Judge in 1989. He has served as an associate justice for the Third District Court of Appeal since 1991.



Judge William J. Murray was named associate justice for the Third District Court of Appeal by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Justice Murray, 53, has served as presiding judge for the San Joaquin County Superior Court since 2008. He

served as assistant presiding judge from 2006 to 2007 and a judge from 1995 to 2005.

Judge Annetta Verin former municipal judge in Jefferson County, Alabama joins her husband **Judge Eugene Verin** on the Circuit Court Bench, Jefferson County, Alabama Bessemer Division. Judges Verin is believed to be the first husband and wife circuit judges to serve the same court in Alabama. Judge Annetta Verin, a democrat, survived a partisan contested election to take Place 12 in the Bessemer Division.



Judge M. Lynn Sherrod (2nd, l) of Huntsville, Ala., was honored for her years of service as a member of the Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees by (l-r) Trustees Odysseus Lanier and Velma Tribue, along with AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.

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