

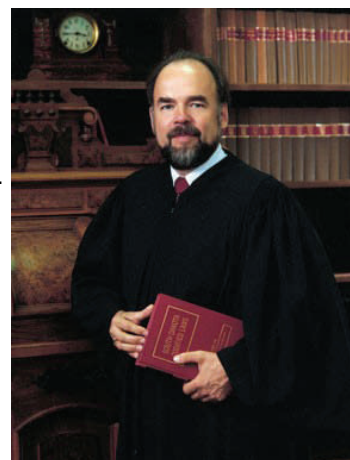


## Message from Chief Justice Gilbertson

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of our UJS newsletter, which will provide the circuits an opportunity to share their news with the other circuits. We are one large family and often times lose sight of this in our day-to-day activities.

This inaugural issue sees several major changes in the State Court Administrator's office, with the

retirement of D.J. Hanson and the promotion of Patricia Duggan to State Court Administrator. Overall, many changes which will affect the circuits and the SCAO are underway through our strategic long-range planning and with the recent decision made regarding the judicial computer programs. I am pleased with the posi-



tive direction we are taking in our planning for the UJS and I hope you share this optimism.

## New State Court Administrator



The Unified Judicial System welcomes Patricia Duggan as the new State Court Administrator.

Pat brings a wealth of experience from her previous work as a Circuit Administrator in the Third Judicial Circuit, and from past court experience in New Mexico and Minnesota.

Pat is enjoying the challenge of the new

job, relocating to a new town, house hunting, and commuting back to Brookings to assist her husband, Kevin, in packing up the family's recently sold home.

Reminder: This newsletter is not for general distribution. It is for UJS employees only.

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### Welcome to our inaugural issue of the UJS Newsletter!

Articles, information and feedback are welcome. Articles and information will be printed as space allows. Please email your information to Gloria Guericke.

## Retirement Reception for D.J. Hanson

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A retirement reception was held for State Court Administrator D.J. Hanson on Thursday, August 28, in the Capitol Rotunda.

D.J. assumed his South Dakota State Court Administrator duties in 2000. He was instrumental in projects such as the establishment of the first Drug Court in South Dakota, the Interface Television System, the creation of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Court Reporting, and from his vision in strategic planning.

Prior to moving to South Dakota, D.J. worked in the court systems in Minnesota as a Judi-

cial District Administrator in the Ninth Judicial District, and in the South Central Judicial District in North Dakota, and as an Administrative Assistant to the Clerk of District Court in Minnesota.

D.J. finished up several special projects before officially retiring on October 10, 2008.



*Chief Justice David Gilbertson, D.J. Hanson and his wife, Mary, and brother J.D.*



## Yankton Courthouse Dedication

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The new Yankton County Courthouse was dedicated on Saturday morning, August 23, 2008. The dedication included a "grand unveiling" of a new, state-of-the-art courtroom, which includes video technology so that witnesses and parties can appear at hearings held in Yankton without the time and expense of actually traveling there.

The new courthouse, located at 410 Walnut Street in Yankton, included a substantial addition as well as a complete remodeling of the old Safety Center which was located there.

An open house of the facilities was held before the dedication. Several hundred Yankton County residents took the oppor-



*Yankton County Courthouse.*

tunity to visit the new courtrooms, jury rooms, law library, judges chambers, administrative offices, clerk of courts offices and court services offices.

Speakers at the dedication included Chief Justice David Gilbertson, Circuit Judge Glen Eng, Circuit Administrator Kim Allison, Yankton County Sheriff

Dave Hunhoff, representatives of the Yankton County Commissioners, the City of Yankton, the architect, Architecture, Inc. of Sioux Falls, and the general contractor, Welfl Construction of Yankton.

It is anticipated that another dedication and open house will be held for the Safety Center portion of the building when the law enforcement offices and jail are completed. It is planned that they will be completed sometime in October 2008.



## First Drug Court Graduation

Northern Hills Drug Court personnel and friends gathered at the Meade County Courthouse on Friday, September 12, 2008, for the first Drug Court graduation.

The graduate discussed his 20-year addiction to methamphetamine and discussed how his health and relationships had suffered.

The graduate indicated that participating in the program was very rough at first, but became easier as he progressed through the program. The graduate thanked Judge Eckrich for giving him this chance and noted that he gave the Judge his word

*“Sometimes it’s as little as saying ‘good job,’”... “I’m constantly amazed at how much they want to please us as a team and as a court.”*

that he would not let him down. The graduate stated that this graduation day was very important to him.

When Drug Court Coordinator Michael Pisciotta was asked how the graduate had finished the program in 12-months, he explained that he did everything right and he went above and beyond what was expected.

The Fourth Judicial Circuit is the first in South Dakota to initiate this type of program. Mr. Pisciotta explained that the Drug Court program features four phases, with each being more intensive. Participants are held accountable for their actions and if a person relapses, they are immediately sanctioned. He added he is thrilled with how the program has gone in its first year.



*D.J. Hanson addresses the crowd at the first Drug Court graduation.*

Those associated with the program have seen positive changes in the clients who participate in drug court. Judge Percy, the Drug Court Judge, said she holds the participants accountable right away. It works, as does positive reinforcement. “Sometimes it’s as little as saying ‘good job,’” she said. “I’m constantly amazed at how much they want to please us as a team and as a court.”

## Newly Formed Court Improvement Program Committee

The newly formed Court Improvement Program (CIP) Committee will meet for the first time on October 22, 2008.

The committee, chaired by Judge Jeff Davis, will assess the system’s handling of child abuse and neglect cases and recommend improvements for achiev-

ing safety, permanency, and well-being in a timely manner.

For more information on this committee and other CIP activities, please visit the UJS website, and then click on the Public Information tab. The Court Improvement Program link is on the left side column.

### *THOUGHT FOR THE DAY*

*Enjoy the little things in life  
for one day you’ll look  
back and realize they were  
the big things.*

## “Welcome Aboard” to the Following New UJS Employees

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### 1st CIRCUIT:

- *Tonnis Venhuizen, Circuit Law Clerk*

### 2nd CIRCUIT

- *John Schlimgen, Magistrate Judge*
- *George Dickson, Bailiff*
- *David Jal, CSO*
- *Eric Denure, Circuit Law Clerk*
- *Elizabeth Kary, Circuit Law Clerk*

### 3rd CIRCUIT

- *Brian DeJong, JIPP Officer*
- *Sarah Kearin, Deputy Court Clerk Magistrate I*

### 4th CIRCUIT

- *Carol Latuseck, Court Clerk Magistrate II*
- *Kylie Dummett, Circuit Law Clerk*

### 5th CIRCUIT

- *Shelley Lovrien, Law Clerk*

### 6th CIRCUIT

- *Sara Epperson, Deputy*

### Court Clerk Magistrate I

- *Justin Bell, Circuit Law Clerk*
  - *Richard Anheluk, Court Reporter*
  - *Jill Bowers, Deputy Court Clerk Magistrate I*
- ### 7th CIRCUIT
- *Cynthia Weichmann, Court Reporter*
  - *Jessica Miller, CSO*
  - *Craig Poitra, CSO*



## UJS Long-Range Strategic Planning

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The UJS Planning and Advisory Council met on September 9, to continue working on a long-range strategic plan for the Unified Judicial System.

The group initially met in the spring during the Rural Courts Retreat to identify what they saw as major areas that needed addressed.

To gain additional input, UJS employees and State Bar members were surveyed as to what they saw as areas of concern. This information was reviewed at the September meeting and will be included in the upcoming Focus Groups when this information is reviewed to determine priority and direction.

***Thank you to everyone who participated in the UJS Employee Survey.***

## Korean Judges Visit Sioux Falls

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A delegation of 8 judges from Korea visited the 2nd Circuit on August 18 and 19. Their visit was co-hosted by members of the Iowa State Court Administrator’s office, and was coordinated through the National Center for State Courts.

The judges viewed a murder trial

and visited with the judge overseeing the trial. They also had a Q&A session with a judge and court reporter.

The judges enjoyed an evening cookout, and appreciated the Midwest scenery during their drive from South Dakota to Iowa.



*Karl Thoennes (left) and an Iowa judge (center) pose with the Korean judges during a tour of the Sioux Falls Courthouse.*

# Retirement Reception for Supreme Court Justice Richard W. Sabers

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A Retirement Reception will be held for Justice Sabers on November 21, 2008.

Justice Sabers was born in Salem on February 12, 1938. He received his B.A. degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1960 and, after graduation, served two years as a lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the United States and in Germany.

He attended the University of South Dakota School of Law, where he was associate editor of the Law Review. He received his law degree in 1966 and enjoyed an active career as a trial lawyer in Sioux Falls for almost twenty years.

He was a partner with the law firm of Moore, Rasmussen, Sabers and Kading at the time of his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1986. Justice Sabers has been retained by the voters three times, in the 1990, 1998 and 2006 general election.

Justice Sabers was a member of the South Dakota Trial Lawyers' Association, the American Bar Association, and was President of the Second Judicial Circuit Bar in 1982-83.

Justice Sabers lives in Sioux Falls. He and his late wife Colleen have three children, Steven, Susan and Michael. In June 2000 he married Ellie Schmitz, who has three children Jason, Joseph and Ann. Together they

have twelve grandchildren.

Justice Sabers has been the recipient of many awards in the last few years, including: The Fred J. Nichol award for outstanding S. D. Jurist in 2007 by the S.D. Trial Lawyers Association; an award from the University of South Dakota School of Law for 22 years of public service in 2008; the McKusick Award presented by the U.S.D. Law School and the State Bar of S.D. in 2008; and an award from the South Dakota Law Review for distinguished service in 2008.

*Retirement Reception for  
Richard W. Sabers*

*Friday, November 21, 2008*

*If you plan to attend and need a RSVP card, please call (605) 773-3474 before November 1.*

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## **EMPLOYEE UPDATES**

### ***Congratulations on the following promotions:***

- *Tony Benning to the Circuit Administrator position in the 3rd Circuit.*
- *Linda Klosterman to Court Clerk Magistrate I in the 3rd Circuit.*
- *Michael Pisciotta to Drug Court CSO/Coordinator in the 4th Circuit*
- *Carol Latuseck, Court Clerk Magistrate II, 4th Circuit*

### ***Best Wishes on Pending Retirement are Extended to the following:***

- *D.J. Hanson, State Court Administrator*
- *Wayne Grubbs, SCAO Information and Technology Office*
- *Carol Weber, Deputy Court Clerk 1, 3rd Circuit*
- *Alice Bruce, Clerk of Courts, 4th Circuit*
- *William Severns, Magistrate Judge, 7th Circuit*

### ***Transfers:***

- *Sandra Reichling, part-time Deputy Court Clerk Magistrate I in Clear Lake and Watertown*
- *Ann Durfee, CSO, transferred from Rapid City to the 4th Circuit*
- *Chris Pankratz, CSO, transferred from Rapid City to the 4th Circuit*

# Technology-PAAC Meeting Update

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A joint meeting of all three UJS policy councils (Presiding Judges, Planning & Advisory Council, and Technology) was held on September 8, 2008, at the downtown Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls. The meeting was called to assess the methodology used to upgrade the UJS Protection Order case management system (CMS) and to make a recommendation to the Supreme Court if we should continue with the same methodology as we upgrade the remainder of our CMS.

As background, the same three councils originally met in August 2007, to discuss how UJS should upgrade our CMS, which was listed as the highest I/T strategic priority in the UJS 2007 I/T Strategic

opment (IMD), which is a process where UJS defines our business processes and then contracts with a vendor to program our business requirements into a CMS application; and (2) Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS), which is a process where UJS purchases a pre-programmed CMS from a vendor and then works to accommodate our business practices to fit the product. The decision at the August 2007 meeting was to proceed with an IMD process to upgrade our Protection Order CMS as a "proof of concept." The councils agreed that a review should be done once the proof of concept project was completed to re-evaluate if we should continue with IMD or consider a COTS solution.

Information presented at the 2008 meeting included a demonstration of the new Protection Order system and an analysis of project Time/Cost Estimates vs. Time/Cost Actuals. Two COTS vendors, Sustain and New Dawn, were also invited to demonstrate their products. Using the information from the proof of concept report and from the COTS vendor presentations, extensive discussion was held regarding which process (IMD or COTS) is the best long-term strategy for UJS. The overriding issue was that IMD projects, while they better address unique business requirements of an agency, take much longer to

complete than a pre-programmed vendor solution (COTS).

The unanimous recommendation was made that UJS will proceed with a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an off-the-shelf (COTS) solution.

The RFP process will take approximately 7 months and UJS should have a COTS vendor selected by next spring.

Once a vendor is selected, the first phase will be to convert UJS Court Services functions and related data to the COTS application and to implement statewide.

## Awards

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Congratulations to Rod Simons, Court Services Officer in the 5th Circuit, who received the prestigious (highest honor) Satnan Canary Award from the SD Corrections Association at their annual September conference in Spearfish.

Gary Moen, 3rd Circuit CSO, received the Brookings Optimist Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

Jayna Fredrickson (JIPP CSO in Deadwood) was presented with a Youth Service Award by Behavior Management for her dedicated service and hard work. She was nominated by several youth whom she works with in the court system.

***The unanimous recommendation was made that UJS will proceed with a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an off-the-shelf (COTS) solution.***

Plan, which was created with the recommendations from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The two upgrade options discussed in 2007 were (1) Internally Managed Devel-