



# Rural Attorney Bill Receives Nationwide Attention



South Dakota is the first state in the nation to provide a program to attract attorneys to rural counties (with less than 10,000 people). The program and the movement that spawned it has already gained the attention of lawyers and law students in South Dakota and nationwide. [The American](#)

[Bar Association](#) has endorsed these efforts as a model for dealing with the problem of rural access to justice in many states. Also, the [New York Times](#) ran an article in April highlighting the program, the challenges it addresses, and the benefits that legal practice brings to our rural communities. (article continues on pg. 10)

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### Welcome to the nineteenth 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 Alison Goetz.**

## State Court Administrator's Message

The South Dakota Court System's budget is approximately 3 percent (2.8%) of the general fund budget, or put another way, 3 cents of each tax dollar that goes into the general fund is appropriated for the support of the judicial branch.

The benefit of having a good court system is evident to those involved in a court case, but what does the average taxpayer – the man or woman who may never actually have to use the court system – get for their 3 cents?

- **Protection of property rights** – because government entities, private individuals, and companies have to follow specific procedures to take your property
- **Protection from consumer fraud** – because businesses know they can be held liable for fraudulent or deceptive claims or for selling shoddy or harmful goods
- **Lower costs for goods and services** – because businesses are able to collect debts and enforce contracts so they aren't passing on bad debt costs to consumers
- **Fair settlement offers in lieu of litigation** – because lawyers know what courts have decided is fair in similar cases
- **Supervision of the legal profession** – through standards of conduct and statewide oversight by the Supreme Court
- **Public safety** – because we have an orderly means to take dangerous offenders off the streets
- **Protection of individual rights** – because anyone can go to court to enforce their rights
- **Protection from abuse of power** – because government can be challenged for misusing its authority

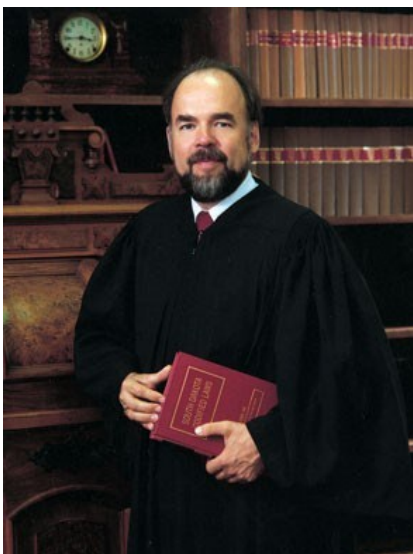


*Pat Duggan, State Court Administrator*

If you want my two (or three) cents worth, it is a small price we pay for the ability to live in an orderly society.



Article adapted from Sally Holewa, North Dakota State Court Administrator's article "Two Cents Worth," published in *The Docket*.



### Chief Justice David Gilbertson Re-Elected to Fourth Term

It was announced on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 that Chief Justice David Gilbertson was selected unanimously by the Supreme Court to serve a fourth term as Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court. This selection makes him the first Chief Justice selected to four terms in South Dakota history.

## Chief Justice Named Fred J. Nichol Outstanding Jurist



Chief Justice David Gilbertson receiving the Fred J. Nichol Award at the Trial Lawyers Luncheon

Congratulations to Chief Justice David Gilbertson, who received the 2013 Fred J. Nichol Award for Outstanding Jurist by the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association. The Chief Justice was presented with the award at the State Bar Convention on Thursday, June 20th.

## Sixth Circuit DUI Court Celebrates Graduation

On May 22, 2013, the Hon. John L. Brown helped nine Sixth Circuit DUI Court graduates celebrate their progression from the rigors of DUI Court into regular probation. The morning started off with a short welcoming speech by Judge Brown. His remarks offered the 91 people gathered at the Capitol Lake Visitor

Center a brief description of DUI Court and the long journey the nine graduates had made.

Judge Brown introduced the guest speaker, the Hon. Matt Michels, Lt. Gov. of South Dakota. Lt. Gov. Michels offered sincere praise and advice for the nine, noting his wish for all of us to live without regrets and to strive to accept ourselves. Next, the graduates each read the graduation request they had made to Judge Brown and the DUI Court team. The poignant letters



demonstrated that each graduate had gained personal insight into their addictions and prior actions. The deeply moving statements evoked emotional reactions in the crowd, which included Chief Justice Gilbertson and Justice Lori Wilbur (who was instrumental in getting the Sixth Circuit DUI Court started back in 2009), Executive Director of the State Bar Association Tom Barnett, Director of Highway Safety Lee Axdahl, law enforcement, county officials, local attorneys, court personnel, the DUI Court Team, past graduates, current

DUI court participants, and family members.

The nine graduates showed pride in their sobriety, thankfulness at having the opportunity to participate, and for the judge and the team who had helped them navigate the road to recovery. To quote a few of the letters read by the graduates:

“My life has been way better since I quit drinking, I do not want to go back to what it was before. I am thankful for being accepted into this program and had the opportunity to be taught how to be and stay sober. It has shown me a different way of life. It’s been a short time in the program but I feel I have the tools I need to continue to stay sober in the future.” - Kyle (*article continues on pg. 11*)

Article and photo submitted by Heather Covey, Circuit Administrator, 6th Circuit



# The New UJS.SD.GOV

The screenshot shows the homepage of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System (UJS) website. At the top, the title "SOUTH DAKOTA UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM" is displayed in large, white, serif font against a background image of a court building. Below the title are three navigation links: "Learn About the Courts", "Information for...", and "Odyssey Case Mgmt System". A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area features a central message: "HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE UJS ONLINE" followed by a paragraph explaining the portal's purpose. To the right, there are two columns of news and FAQs, with the top item being "Chief Justice Gilbertson to Deliver Keynote Address for Northern Hill Drug Court Graduation". Below the main text are six icons representing different services: Civil Money Judgment System, Court Records, Job Postings, Jury Duty, Links, and Supreme Court Opinions. The footer contains a navigation menu with links for Home, Forms, Calendar, News, Records, Opinions, and Contact Us, along with a copyright notice for 2012.

Screenshot of the new UJS Webpage: <http://uj.s.sd.gov/>

The UJS Division of Information and Technology is very pleased to announce the launch of the completely redesigned internet website. The site went live on Monday, June 17, 2013. The site not only has a new look and feel, but we have added new information resources and improved the navigation of the site. The new navigation will help users to find what they are look-

ing for directly from the home page. There is also a menu item dedicated to providing information link pages for specific groups of users to include employees and the public. We are looking forward to the continuous growth and improvement of the site and welcome suggestions on new information to post on it. We are currently working

on another new addition to the site in the form of a 'Legal Self-Help Center' to assist the public in their legal pursuits. The UJS is also expanding our web presence in social media. There will be a UJS Facebook page, a Google + page, a Twitter page, a LinkedIn page and a YouTube channel.



# The New SB70 Intranet Site

**Senate Bill 70**  
**South Dakota Public Safety Improvement Act**

General Bill Information   Meeting Minutes   Key Policy Areas

**Home**  
Welcome to the SB 70 UJS Intranet page.  
Check back frequently as additional items will be added as they become available.

**The signing of Senate Bill 70**

Intranet Home | Internet Home | SB70 Home

**General Bill Information**

- Read the bill
- SB70 Key Provisions Summary
- Crime Statutes Changes
- Criminal Justice Initiative Work Plan
- Impact Analysis
- Implementation Progress
- Judicial Conference Video, Part 1
- Judicial Conference Video, Part 2
- SB70 Press Releases
- SB70 Summary
- SB70 Timeline
- UJS Workgroups/Committees
- Workgroup Final

*Screenshot of the new SB70 UJS Intranet*

## ***UJS and Social Networking***

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaUnifiedJudicialSystem>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SDUJS>

Google +: <https://plus.google.com/u/0/100853600649120129520/posts>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDbWQUchY-Y2c-SRyCqsdRA>

LinkedIn: coming soon!

*IT articles and screenshots submitted by Brenda Anderson, UJS Senior Programmer/Analyst—Web Developer*

The UJS Division of Information and Technology is also pleased to announce the launch of the new SB70 Intranet informational site. This site is set to go live before July 1. It will be a source of information on the progress of Senate Bill 70 for UJS employees. This site will continuously be updated with new information. There are future plans to create a similar site on the intranet for the public to view applicable information on Senate Bill 70.



## Recent Retirements



*Magistrate Judge Lee Ann Pierce*

Hon. Lee Ann Pierce handed in her gavel on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> with a celebration held at the Brookings County Courthouse. Judge Jon Erickson presented her with a plaque from the UJS for her years of service.

She will be leaving a magistrate court bench that she has occupied for 22 years. She served as a Magistrate Judge in Brookings, Huron, Watertown, Madison, and Flandreau.

Magistrate Judge Patrick Kiner was honored at a retirement party on March 8, 2013. Judge Kiner has been with the UJS since February 7, 1986 when he was hired as a part-time law magistrate in the 4th Judicial Circuit in Mitchell. He stayed in this position with the transition to the 1st Circuit.



*Magistrate Judge Patrick Kiner*

Effective January 26, 2006, Kiner was appointed as a full-time Magistrate Judge in the 1st Circuit.



## 5th Circuit Retirement Celebrations



*Pictured (left to right) Judge Jack Von Wald, Richard Neal, Mike Brumbaugh, and Chief Justice David Gilbertson*

Mike Brumbaugh, Chief Court Services Officer, and Richard Neal, Court Reporter, were honored at a retirement reception on May 24th.

Each of these gentlemen has dedicated 35 years of service to the State of South Dakota in their respective positions.



## Years of Dedicated Service



*Tony Benning, 3rd Circuit Administrator*

Third Circuit Administrator Tony Benning retired after 38 years with the UJS. Tony

started his career with the court system as Clerk Magistrate in 1975.

Mary Kebach, Legal Secretary for the Supreme Court, retired after 33 years with the UJS. Mary was honored at a retirement reception on April 5th.

Best wishes to Tony and Mary in their retirements and a “thank you” for your dedication during your years with the UJS.



*Chief Justice David Gilbertson presenting a plaque to Mary Kebach, Legal Secretary*

## Executive Assistant Gloria Guericke Retires



*Chief Justice David Gilbertson presenting a certificate to Gloria Guericke, Executive Assistant*

Gloria Guericke rounded out her 30-year career in state government in the Judicial branch as the Executive Assistant in the State Court Administrator’s Office. She started work in the Executive branch with the office of Child Support in the Dept. of Social Services, moving to the Dept. of Education, then moving to the Legislative branch of government where she worked in the Legislative Research Council. While with the Bureau of Administration, Gloria was involved with three war memorial dedications and several Inaugurals, etc.

### SUCCESS

*“...no man is unsuccessful who has plenty to do. So long as one can honestly perform his fair share of the world’s work he enjoys the only success it is possible for anybody to achieve.”*

*- CHOATE, Joseph H., in Strong, Theron G., Joseph H. Choate, New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company, 1917, p. 132.*



## Judges Appointed in the 1st Circuit

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*Judge Patrick Smith*

Judge Patrick Smith was appointed as a Circuit Judge on November 9, 2012. Judge Smith is a graduate of Mitchell High School. He attended the University of South Dakota where he earned his bachelor's degree in business and graduated in 1989. Smith is a graduate of the USD School of Law,

where he was a member of the South Dakota Law Review.

Judge Smith fills the vacancy created earlier in 2012 by the retirement of Judge Sean O'Brien. His swearing in ceremony was held December 14th at the Davison County Courthouse. Judge Smith and his wife, Veronica, have 4 children: Shea, DJ, Emmy, and Andrew.

Judge Gordon Swanson was appointed as Magistrate Judge on December 26, 2012, effective March 11, 2013. Judge Swanson grew up on a farm near Dell Rapids, SD, went to school at Brandon Valley, and received his undergraduate degree from SDSU in Brookings. He served in the US Army



*Magistrate Judge Gordon Swanson*

for 3 years, then went to Law School at USD, graduating in 1992 with Sterling Honors.

Swanson and his wife, Lesli, have 3 college-aged children. Emily is in her second year of law school at USD. Jill is a junior at the Education School at USD and Derek is a freshman at the US Military Academy at West Point.

## New Clerk of Court in Douglas County

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*Clerk Denise Sparks*

Denise Sparks is the new clerk of Douglas County in Armour. She has been a deputy clerk in Charles Mix County for the last 11 years. She was born and raised in Armour, lived in Pierre for about six years, then moved back to Armour to raise her family. She and her husband Bruce have two boys: Ty who is 13, and Trey who is 9. Her hobbies are crocheting and knitting.

She is enjoying her transition to Armour, although she will really miss her co-workers and friends in Lake Andes. She will enjoy not paying her gas bill to travel back and forth, however, and is now able to ride bike or walk to work.





## Joel Torgrude Promoted to Circuit Court Administrator



*Joel Torgrude, New Circuit Administrator in the 3rd Circuit*

Joel Torgrude was appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court Administrator by Presiding Judge Tim D. Tucker on April 24, 2013, and officially began his duties on May 9, 2013. Previously, he had served as a Court Services Officer for 8 years. As a CSO, he was active on the Safety Team and LSI/MI training team. He has a Master's of Science in Management Degree from Colorado Technical University

and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from South Dakota State University. He resides in Brookings with his wife, Brienne, 4-year-old daughter, Logan, and 20-month-old son, Palmer.

In his free time Joel enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf and softball, hunting pheasants and being outdoors.

## Welcome New Supreme Court Staff



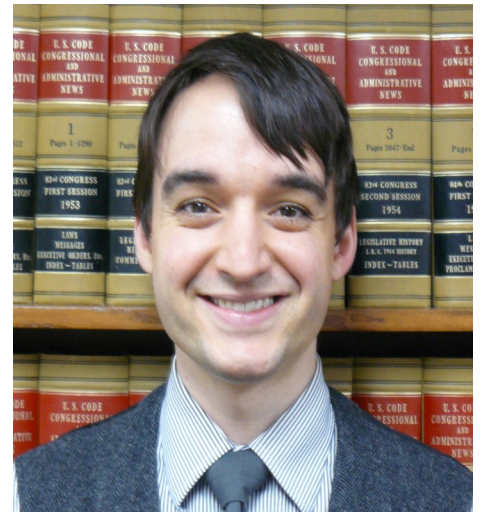
*Kristina Mechaley, Legal Secretary*

Kristina Mechaley is the new Legal Secretary for the Supreme Court. While running an in-home daycare, Kristina obtained a paralegal degree and finished with highest honors. She has lived in Pierre for almost 4 years with her family. Her husband is a sergeant with the South Dakota Highway

Patrol and they have 3 children, Emerson is 14, Patrick is 12 and Lizzie is 10. All of her children play hockey, which keeps them busy in the winter.

Kristina's hobbies include reading, crocheting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

Justin Goetz is the new staff attorney for the Supreme Court. An Aberdeen native, Justin is a graduate of SDSU's Honor College who majored in political science and history. After being named a Harry S. Truman Scholar, the nation's public service scholarship, Justin obtained a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development. Justin graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School where he was a staff member and editor of the Minnesota Law Review. He returned to South Dakota and clerked for the federal district court in Aberdeen.



*Justin Goetz, Staff Attorney*

Justin has been married to Alison for three years and they are expecting their first child in October. When he isn't thinking deep legal thoughts or preparing to be a father, Justin enjoys reading, playing the guitar, and hunting and fishing.



## The Gift of Life



Sue Hart and her husband Terry

Story and photo submitted by Sue Hart, Court Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Deadwood, SD

I guess I never really gave much thought to that phrase. Of course when Terry and I had our two children, Derek and Chelsie, they were definitely a gift of life from God.

Those of you that know us and our family understand the health issues and struggles that Terry has had for numerous years. For those of you that don't, let me give you a brief history. Terry started having more health issues

and after a multitude of doctor and specialist visits, many medications – both pharmaceutical and natural, and other options that were given to us, Terry's kidneys failed him and with death knocking on the door, he had no other choice but to go on dialysis at that time. It was four years April 28, 2013, that he was put on dialysis.

What a wake-up call that was for our whole family. Do not get me wrong, dialysis keeps a person alive, and it is a great medical breakthrough. But for those of us who have had a loved one go through this, you see the long-term health and mental side effects placed on that person, not to mention the strain on the family involved.

After facing several life threatening health issues during this last holiday season, the decision was made to see if Terry would qualify to be placed on the list for a kidney transplant. I started praying for a healing miracle and on March 1, 2013, we headed to

Rochester, Minnesota. What a place is all I can say. Anyway while there I mentioned to the doctors that if Terry did qualify, I would like to be tested. And I was off.....they did not hesitate but decided to run almost all tests needed while I was there. We would start at 7:00 a.m. and go until 5:00 p.m. most days only randomly meeting each other between appointments. A miracle started to evolve as I passed one test after another.

On April 17, 2013, the Transplant Team from the Mayo Clinic notified us that I was indeed a match for my husband. Talk about a roller coaster ride of emotions. But we put all that aside and the kidney transplant surgery was scheduled for April 30, 2013.

So here we are, surgeries over, which went very well, and I am back to work. I would like to mention that before surgery, Terry suffered from extreme (story continues on pg. 14).



## Rural Attorney, cont. from front page

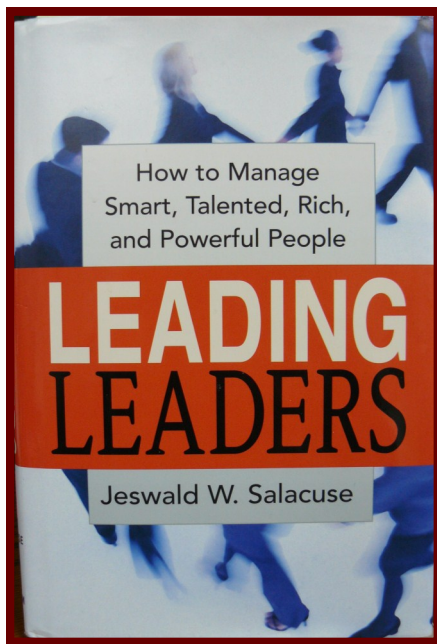
The concept, originating from Chief Justice Gilbertson's State of the Judiciary Address in 2011, has taken on a life of its own. The program now awaits its first 16 candidates to receive the incentive.

Program information is now available on the UJS Website.

**“A hospital will not last long with no doctors, and a courthouse and judicial system with no lawyers faces the same grim future.”** - Chief Justice David Gilbertson, featured quote in the *New York Times* article, “No Lawyer for Miles, So One Rural State Offers Pay,” printed April 9, 2013.



## Leading Leaders, a Book Review Snapshot



*Leading Leaders by Jeswald W. Salacuse*

Our models of leadership have fallen behind an increasingly fast-paced, complex world. So much of the literature and tools for refining leadership skills borrow from earlier eras, where concepts of military and large-scale business leadership predominated. While these concepts are important, they are not tailored to a modern institution such as the courts, filled with technical experts and professionals. Luckily, Jeswald W. Salacuse's 2006 book, Leading Leaders, How to Manage Smart, Talented, Rich, and Powerful People, fits that bill.

The author, a former dean of Southern Methodist University's law school, created this book for the purpose of assisting "leaders of leaders," which, he argues, is becoming *the* model of the modern workplace. This practical, hands-on book is replete with principles, examples, and tasks for an aspiring or veteran leader. The author delves into important concepts, such as what separates a manager, from an administrator, from a leader. He borrows liberally from historical figures--contrasting leadership styles and outcomes in similar historical situations. He also provides tips on how to get a group of great performers to coalesce into a great team. All-in-all, Leading Leaders is a great read for anyone who wants to lead others.

## Drug Court Graduation, cont. from page 3

"One of the pros is all the good people that are here to help us overcome our addictions. To be perfectly honest, this program has saved my life. I was on a mission to drink myself to death. This program has taught me to deal with my problems without the need for alcohol or drugs. I now know that I'm not alone. ... I want to thank you Judge Brown, the A & B Teams for being so supportive and being there for me. I couldn't have done it without you." - Herb

"I want to thank you for accepting me into this program, and giving me the support and structure I greatly needed. My life before this program, was lifeless and miserable. I felt so worthless and

alone. I drank to get away from those ugly feelings, but they were always there when I sobered up, along with the dreadful wondering of "did I do or say anything I'm gonna regret last night?" I am happy to wake up sober, free from those thoughts, and feelings. ... I didn't think I would get this chance to change my life and keep my family together, but I am so grateful that I did, and am very glad to be on the road to recovery." - Latisha

Lee Axdahl offered closing remarks, noting that the letters had said all that needed to be heard. He offered some sobering statistics on the toll alcohol-related driving has taken on the citizens of South Dakota. In comparing the attention that distracted driving gets in the

media to the attention that impaired driving gets in the media, Mr. Axdahl demonstrated with statistics that the need exists for programs like the Sixth Circuit DUI Court.

Judge Brown thanked everyone for attending and invited all to stay for refreshments.

Later that day, members of the team hosted a "meet & greet" for invited members of the community, including legislators, local law firms and attorneys, as well as employers who have employed participants of the DUI Court. Information about the requirements of the program and the philosophies behind it were discussed with several guests.

## National Court-to Court Videoconferencing Project Nominated

The Second Circuit's National Videoconferencing Project, profiled in the Spring edition of the UJS Newsletter, was nominated for the Justice Achievement Award offered by the National Association for Court Management.

The National Videoconference Project was bestowed this honor for its leadership role in creating a voluntary, international network of courthouses linked by videoconference technology.

A total of 16 nominations were received this year. The winner will receive the award at the NACM

Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX this summer.

The Justice Achievement Award was created to "publicly recognize courts and related organizations for meritorious projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the administration of justice."

Nominated programs will be profiled in NACM conference materials as well as in the conference issue of NACM's publication, *Court Manager*.

Congratulations to Karl Thoennes and his staff for obtaining



*Karl Thoennes, 2nd Circuit Administrator*

another well deserved recognition for this groundbreaking program.



## UJS Receives Public Sector Excellence Award

On April 8, 2013, Tyler Technologies, Inc., announced that it had awarded a Tyler Public Sector Excellence Award to the South Dakota Unified Judicial System for its work on the Odyssey court case management system. That award recognizes organizations that have "demonstrated excellence in deploying Odyssey solutions in novel and successful ways that extend best practices."

The award recognizes South Dakota's efficiency, productivity and responsiveness for its ability to integrate and share data between its old case management system and the new Odyssey system as the project to convert South Dakota to the Odyssey system rolled-out over multiple years.

The Public Sector Excellence Award was presented at a Tyler Technologies, Inc. national user's conference in Orlando, Florida.



*Bill Poppenga, UJS IT Project Manager, receiving the award from Bruce Graham, president of Tyler Technologies Court and Justice Division*



# Congratulations!

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Greg Sattizahn

Congratulations to Greg Sattizahn, Director of Policy and Legal Services, who completed the necessary coursework to become a Certified Court Manager!

## HR Corner

### Class and Compensation Study Update

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The Unified Judicial System Human Resource's office continues to progress on the system-wide classification and compensation study. Over 50% of the position descriptions have been updated and/or revised to accurately reflect position functions and responsibilities.

Workgroups are developing competency models describing successful behaviors of employees.

Work will continue on revising position descriptions, competencies, and compensation. At this time, we do not anticipate that the study will result in any reclassification or salary adjustments.

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### Need to Update your Address?

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*As a reminder, if you have a change of address, please update your address at the Employee Self Service website (<https://bfm.sd.gov/empselfservice/sea.asp>) or notify the Human Resource's office (605-773-4867).*

*In addition, please notify South Dakota Retirement System (605-773-3731 or 1-888-605-SDRS) of the change. Updating your address ensures proper delivery of time-sensitive information and documentation.*

# Christine's Column—Psychologists' secrets to productivity



*Christine Christopherson,  
Judicial Branch Educator*

"If you plan to do an unrealistic number of tasks, you'll end up dreading the day ahead," psychologist Alice Boyes writes. "Before I get out of bed, I mentally identify one important task that I will judge the day's success by. I prioritize this task and any small but critical time-sensitive tasks."

*Be realistic when thinking about what you can accomplish in the time you have available, psychologist Alice Boyes advises.*

Boyes reached out to her peers to get their best tips on how to beat procrastination and maximize productivity. Here's what they had to say:

- **Do what works for you.** There's an abundance of advice on how to be more productive, but you need to know yourself and pick what will work for you—even if it's contrary to conventional wisdom, Barbara Markway says.
- **Walk away from your desk.** Taking a five-minute break to get up from your desk and move around every hour or two can go a long way toward boosting your concentration, Susan Newman says.
- **Make time to exercise.** "Stress leads to binary (either/or) thinking, distractibility and procrastination," Craig Malkin says. "Taking time to reduce stress enhances productivity by keeping you sharp and boosting your capacity for creative problem-solving."
- **Work in chunks.** "I'm most productive if I think in terms of getting a task done as opposed to spending a set amount of time on it," Toni Bernhard says. "Most people allocate a certain amount of time to a task; I do the opposite. I break the task down

into doable chunks and then work until that chunk is done."

- **Take care of small tasks.** Little tasks left undone can nag at you for days, so just take care of them and free up your cognitive resources to handle more important things, Guy Winch says.
- **Write a first draft without worrying about quality.** If you're feeling paralyzed by writer's block, just get your thoughts down in a rough form. Then you can come back later and make them sound good, Meg Selig says.
- **Cut yourself off from the Internet.** "There's a fabulous Firefox plug-in called Freedom that prevents your computer from connecting to the Internet for a programmed period, thereby removing temptation and allowing you to focus," Beth Buelow says. "If completely going off the grid is too limiting (or too scary), LeechBlock is another handy tool that allows you to block specific sites at certain times."

— Adapted from "[15 Psychology Experts Share Their Best Productivity Tips](#)," Alice Boyes, *Psychology Today*.

**Online resource:** [Here are some more ways](#) to help boost your productivity.

## The Gift of Life, cont. from page 10

high blood pressure and was taking five medications plus being on the largest patch they make.

Needless to say after four weeks out from surgery, he was only taking one medication with high hopes of being taken off that also. He is on only two rejection medications. He is eating me out of house and home, his color has returned, and we are starting to get our LIFE back.

This has been an amazing and humbling experience for me. When I prayed for a "healing miracle" no way did I think that God would give me the opportunity to be that miracle – The Gift of Life.

I have an incredible family. I would like to thank everyone that put us in their prayers, on their prayer list at their churches, the support through words and

acts of encouragement, hugs, cards, and kind words we have received during this time and my remarkable co-workers. Also thank you to the Mayo Clinic and their staff.

Again the Gift of Life is a miraculous thing and God does work in strange ways.



## “All Rise.” Drug/DUI Court Update.



During the month of May, South Dakota Drug Courts joined with the National Association of Drug Courts to celebrate National Drug Court Month. During this time, the impact Drug and DUI Courts have on both individual participants and South Dakota’s communities as a whole was highlighted.

Drug Court programs are a proven method of combating addiction for individuals, reducing prison populations, re-integrating participants into the workforce and allowing those individuals to maintain family relationships. All of this is accomplished while reducing taxpayer costs otherwise spent on incarceration.

The following celebrations took place:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit (Yankton) Drug Court kicked off National Drug Court month by participating in a community wide cleanup. Drug Court Team

members worked along-side program participants and community members in a city-wide cleanup.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit (Sioux Falls) Drug Court held a celebration honoring the accomplishments of program graduates. During the event, community supporters of the Drug Court program, including landlords and employers, were highlighted.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit (Aberdeen) DUI Court held a training event for the local defense attorneys. The goal of the training was to provide information and education on the DUI Court and what the court means for the clients they serve. Justice Lori Wilbur and Defense Attorney Bruce Hubbard helped with hosting the event.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit (Pierre/Ft. Pierre) DUI Court held a graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, they recognized nine graduates. Guest speakers for the event were Lt. Governor Matt Michels and Highway Safety Administrator Lee Axdahl.

- 4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Circuit (Northern Hills Drug Court, Sturgis/Rapid City) Drug Court will round out the month of drug court celebration by hosting a graduation ceremo-



*Noreen Plumage, Drug/DUI Court Liaison*

ny in June. Chief Justice David Gilbertson will be the honored guest speaker.

The successful implementation of South Dakota’s Drug Court programs require the collaboration of judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment professionals, court service officers, and law enforcement officials working together to best determine how the leverage of the judicial process can be used most effectively to help addicted defendants stop using drugs, put their lives back together, and avoid coming back into the criminal justice system.

During the month of May, Drug Courts across the Nation paused to recognize the accomplishments of the Drug Courts and the individuals they serve. South Dakota Drug Courts also paused, to bring awareness to the accomplishments of South Dakota Drug/DUI Courts.

**May is National Drug Court Month**

