

# THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

## COURTS, COMMUNITY AND RULE OF LAW COMMITTEE

### 2022 ACTIVITY REPORT



August 15, 2023

**Third Judicial Circuit  
Courts, Community and Rule of Law Committee  
2022 Activity Report**

The governing body of the federal courts, the Judicial Conference of the United States, recently “affirmed that civics education is a core component of judicial service; endorsed regularly-held conferences to share and promote best practices of civics education; and encouraged circuits to coordinate and promote education programs.” The Courts, Community and Rule of Law Committee for the Third Judicial Circuit is proud to be part of the judiciary’s national initiative to present and promote civics education programs. The Third Circuit Committee had another busy year in 2022. This Activity Report highlights some of the initiatives that our judges and court staff participated in throughout the year as part of the Committee’s ongoing effort to connect our courts to communities throughout the Circuit and to improve understanding of the role of the judicial system in our democracy.

**ADULT CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Based on the success of the first virtual Adult Civics Education course at the Philadelphia Community College in 2021, we were urged by the college to repeat the course, virtually, and we did so during the spring semester of 2022. Our classes included:

- **January 31, 2022 – Introduction to Federal Courts – Separation of Powers, Judiciary Act, Rule of Law** (Judge Cynthia M. Rufe with Magistrate Judge Richard Lloret and Bankruptcy Judge Ashely Chan).
- **February 7, 2022 – Comparison of State and Federal Court Systems** (Judge Cheryl Ann Krause and Judge Susan Gantman)
- **February 14, 2022 – Labor, Employment and Discrimination Law** (Judge Gene Pratter)
- **February 21, 2022 – The Fourth Amendment, Search and Seizure, Criminal Law** (Judge Theodore McKee)
- **February 28, 2022 – Immigration Law** (Judge Phil Restrepo)
- **March 7, 2022 – Judicial Independence** (Judge Karen Marston)
- **March 14, 2022 – The First Amendment** (Retired Judge Larry Stengel)
- **March 21, 2022 – The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Due Process** (Judge Gerald McHugh)

- **March 28, 2022 – Conversation with Judge Marjorie O. Rendell and Judge Theodore McKee “How do Judges Make Decisions”**

The course again included required viewing of a videotape and reading materials prior to the classes to enable the interactive class discussion. And once again, attendance by Zoom was good and certificates of achievement were distributed to attendees by the community college.

Just as importantly, we began the process of integrating the three semesters’ curriculum, each centered on the judicial system and Bill of Rights, to “package” what is regarded as a successful civics education program and to offer its use to other adult oriented schools and colleges within the Circuit. Valuable assistance was provided by Third Circuit Librarian Melissa Bernstein and Michael Hayes, Circuit Manager of Research Services.

The package of materials includes past video and materials citations. Outreach to community colleges and local Bar Associations is underway along with plans to demonstrate the course to interested judges and groups.

Judges Rendell and Rufe are appreciative of the strong support and assistance given this novel program by Circuit Executive Margaret Wiegand and staff, Committee Chair Judge Brooks Smith and Chief Judge Michael Chagares.

## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER (NCC) PROGRAMS**

Volunteer judges from the Court of Appeals, and District, Magistrate and Bankruptcy Court Judges from Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey continue their strong participation in the NCC’s “*Constitutional Ambassador’s Program*.” That program offers regularly scheduled monthly events in which judges, in thirty-minute sessions, meet with a class of students, ranging from elementary through high school, for discussions on three separate topics: *Freedom of Speech*, *Principles of the American Revolution*, or *Separation of Powers*. An NCC educator acts as moderator and facilitates a discussion between the judge and the students surrounding Constitutional questions. In 2022, our judicial volunteers covered approximately 100 Constitutional Ambassador’s programs with students. Notably, those volunteers continue to participate in many programs hosted by the NCC in conjunction with Civic Holidays such as Law Day and Constitution Day. In addition, Circuit Judge Kent Jordan volunteered for a Saturday morning Scouts program hosted by the NCC and spoke with over 150 Scouts and District Judge E.K. Gene Pratter volunteered for the Girl Scouts program.

## ESSAY CONTEST

The *Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Third Circuit* hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Court of Appeals' Essay Contest in 2022 for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes in their Districts. This class essay project called upon participating classes to work together in writing a class essay which addressed the questions: "What Does the Rule of Law Mean to you and Our Country?" Essays were submitted before a March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Classes that submitted the best essays in each district (Delaware, New Jersey, EDPA, MDPa, WDPa, and the District of the Virgin Islands) of the Third Circuit were invited to one of the courthouses in the Third Circuit to present their essays during the first weeks in May, in celebration of Law Day. The essays and presentations were evaluated based on focus, content development, organization and style. The Committee plans to host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Essay Contest in 2023.

## REPORTS BY DISTRICT

### **Eastern District of Pennsylvania (EDPA)**

- The EDPA solicited and reviewed twenty-two class entries in the Court of Appeals' Law Day 2022 Essay Contest for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes in our District. They held an awards ceremony in the Ceremonial Courtroom during May's Law Week honoring the three winning essays and recognizing each of the participants. EDPA followed the awards ceremony with a luncheon for the stakeholders in their community outreach including the President Judges of each county, the Bar Associations' Presidents/Chancellor, Executive Directors, and Federal Practice Chairs, community college representatives, and members of the County Intermediate Units.
- Colleagues presented continuing legal education throughout the nine counties on a regular basis with considerable credit to each one for taking time out of their schedules to appear live and virtually across the District. The number of hours invested by the many volunteers is impossible to calculate, but the Bar estimates that over 180 teaching hours invested by members of the Court in 2022 Bar-sponsored CLE programs.
- The EDPA established three working groups during the May luncheon focusing on the primacy of law and judicial independence for: grade schools and secondary schools; college and adult programs; and, in conjunction with increasing jury awareness and participation. Those working groups met on four occasions after May of 2022, and held a dinner meeting on November 1, 2022. Representatives of the Court of Appeals, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, state courts in most of the nine counties, US Attorney's Office for the Eastern

District of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Pennsylvania Bar and local bar associations, community colleges, intermediate units, and affinity groups offered thoughtful suggestions during the dinner and continue to work through the three working groups in bi-monthly sessions.

- EDPA created and led a mock sentencing exercise for college students with hypothetical presentence reports in conjunction with Judge Restrepo, the probation office, the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defender's Office, and the Conference of Criminal Justice and Social Work College Professors. The Pennsylvania Bar marketed the exercise. Several professors across the Commonwealth used our YouTube video mock sentencing in their Fall classes. EDPA led the mock sentencing exercises in October with the considerable support of Judge Gallagher in Allentown and colleagues in Philadelphia.
- Several judges participated in virtual high school mock trials supplementing efforts across the Commonwealth and in mock appellate arguments in the law schools.
- EDPA met with the Directors of the Intermediate Units, as well as senior members of the Philadelphia School District, to establish pathways to bring more students into our Courthouses, consistent with Judge Rufe's longstanding initiatives and in conjunction with ongoing efforts of the Rendell Center.
- Following a motion approved by acclamation at the November 1 dinner, EDPA looked into - - and after working with the Administrative Office - - established a minimal social media presence on Twitter highlighting only our past community outreach efforts as a Court. Our protocols, having been approved by the Marshal and the AO, are now under continuing review.
- EDPA played a leading role, in working with the Pennsylvania Bar, to bring federal practice lessons through documentaries into the high school senior classes across the Commonwealth, including a documentary film *Youth v. Gov* presented by Teen Screen in conjunction with non-profit Film Pittsburgh.
- EDPA again welcomed Italian judges and lawyers to Philadelphia through Judges Padova and Rufe.
- The AO welcomed two representatives from our chambers to participate in monthly national conferences on outreach initiatives in all Districts.

### **Western District of Pennsylvania (WDPA)**

Post-pandemic, the Western District of Pennsylvania has resumed its community outreach activities in full force. While the WDPA continues to conduct programs with bar associations and legal groups throughout the District, its judges have generally limited the list below to outreach beyond the profession.

During 2022, in addition to participating in the Circuit-wide essay contest, hosting 13 naturalization programs, hosting its annual history programs and continuing its Court art exhibition program, WDPA welcomed and visited with groups of all ages to spread knowledge of the federal judiciary and the importance of the rule of law. Below is a brief review of some of our Court's activities:

- Hosted the Court's annual Open Doors Program, welcoming almost 250 high school students to a day focused on understanding careers within the District Court and Bankruptcy Court, understanding the Courts' purposes and functions. In demonstrating the work of judges, WDPA also conducted a mock trial.
- Hosted the Leadership Pittsburgh "Law and Justice Day" program, engaging 50 community leaders as they spent the day at both the District Court and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, including presentations and discussions with our judges which covered current challenges and issues in the justice system.
- Hosted a program in our Johnstown division for Penn State Altoona students, focusing on federal sentencing and the criminal justice system.
- Hosted the University of Pittsburgh's OSHER life-long learning program for a session with older learners on the federal courts during which a judge, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the US Attorney's Office and the US Probation Office discussed issues of jurisdiction, caseloads, the media and challenges facing our court system.
- WDPA judges hosted and visited (in person and virtually) numerous elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges and law schools throughout the year, both within the Commonwealth and nationally, to discuss issues of law and justice, careers and the federal court system.
- Filmed children's videos on the work of a judge for classroom use.



### **District of Delaware (D.Del.)**

- The Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Judicial Council of the Third Circuit hosted an essay contest for 5th and 6th grade classes focused on civics, citizenship, and the concept of the “Rule of Law.” The essay prompt was: “What does the Rule of Law mean to you and to our country?” The winning contest entries for the District of Delaware were selected by a Judges Committee including Magistrate Judges Sherry Fallon and Christopher Burke, and Bankruptcy Judge Kate Stickles. Programs were presented on May 2, 2022, in celebration of Law Day to congratulate the two winners in our District. One winning essay was submitted on behalf of a fifth-grade class at Cooke Elementary School and the other winning essay was submitted on behalf of an individual sixth grade student by her teacher at Caravel Academy. The programs were virtual and involved interactive participation with teachers, school administrators and students.
- Bill of Rights Day - United States Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Silverstein presided at the Naturalization ceremony held at the University of Delaware on December 1, 2022. The Naturalization Ceremony included an acknowledgement of Bill of Rights Day in which ten of the newly naturalized citizens each read one of the Amendments from the Bill of Rights as part of the proceedings. Judge Silverstein reported that it was a moving addition to the ceremony and will be repeated at future Naturalization ceremonies in the District. In addition, each of the Naturalized citizens received a pocket version of the Constitution.

### **District of the Virgin Islands (D.V.I.)**

The District Court of the Virgin Islands has a well-earned reputation of service to the people of the Virgin Islands. Listed below are the various community activities of the Court during calendar year 2022.

- Annual District Conference - In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and given the requisite government restrictions regarding in-person events, the District Court of the Virgin Islands’ Twelfth Annual District Conference was held virtually on January 18, 2022. This conference is the Territory’s single largest legal seminar. The event is hosted free of charge to registrants and provides Continuing Legal Education credits to members of the Bar. The keynote speaker for the Conference was Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Highlights of the program also included presentations from other well-respected members of the legal community to include noted Constitutional Scholar, Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the University of California, Berkeley Law; ethics expert, Professor Laurie L. Levenson, Loyola Law School,

Los Angeles; and leading criminal law and evidence scholar, Professor Cynthia Jones of American University Washington College of Law. Over 300 attendees participated virtually in the Conference. The Court awarded Continuing Legal Education credits to eligible participants – 4.5 hours of general and 1.5 hours of ethics credits.

- Brown Bag Lunches - The Court hosted three Brown Bag Luncheons in 2022. The Brown Bag Luncheons are informal opportunities for participating members of the District Court Bar to meet with judges and fellow attorneys regarding legal issues pertinent to the district. The one-hour meetings are facilitated by the Judges and the Clerk of Court and include presentations from local attorneys and the District and Magistrate Judges of the Court. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing protocols that were implemented by the Court, meetings were held virtually.
- The District Court of the Virgin Islands' Pro Bono to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 (POWER Act) Forum was held virtually on September 29, 2022. Members of the legal community and general public were invited to attend. Chief District Judge Robert A. Molloy delivered welcome remarks and provided a brief history of the POWER Act. Magistrate Judge Emile A. Henderson III introduced the panel members to the audience. Attorney Shelby King Gaddy, Executive Director of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands and Clema S. Lewis, Executive Director of the Women's Coalition of St. Croix served as panelists. Ms. Lewis provided insight on the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, a non-profit organization, and the services it provides to the local community. The Women's Coalition of St. Croix works with all crime victims (women, men, and children) the majority of whom are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Services provided by this organization are free and include food, clothing, shelter, counseling, parenting classes, and support groups. The Women's Coalition assists hundreds of victims each year and seeks the assistance of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands and the legal community. Survivors require assistance with divorce cases, custody cases, tenant and landlord cases, aiding minors with their emancipation petitions, family disputes over property, and elder abuse cases. Ms. Lewis urged the attorneys in attendance to consider offering pro bono services to the organization and reminded them that the Women's Coalition of St. Croix is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization wherein attorneys may receive a tax deduction for the value of the pro bono services they are willing to provide. Attorney Shelby King Gaddy discussed the purpose of Legal Services of the Virgin Islands. It is currently the Territory's only non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance in civil matters to disadvantaged members of the community, including survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Attorney King Gaddy explained the challenges, similar to those faced by the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, as a result of a high volume of clients and very limited resources. Despite the high volume of cases, Attorney King Gaddy



has only fifteen attorneys from the private bar who are willing to provide pro bono legal services to clients of the organization. Attorney King Gaddy encouraged other attorneys to give back to the local community and provide assistance to Legal Services of the Virgin Islands. During the open discussion, Judge Henderson offered his own experience of pro bono work and shared his rewarding experiences. He challenged the legal community to assist and provide their services, as it is a moral responsibility. In his closing remarks, Judge Molloy thanked the panelists and attendees for participating in the forum. Fifty-seven people attended the forum, thirty-five of whom were attorneys.

- Appellate Moot Court Competition - The 28th Annual Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the Virgin Islands Bar Association, was held virtually via the Virgin Islands Judiciary's live streaming platform from April 5, 2022 to April 7, 2022. Students from nine high schools, comprising a total of 17 teams, participated in the competition. The students were presented with an intriguing hypothetical fact pattern on a First Amendment free speech issue. District Judge Wilma A. Lewis provided encouraging welcome remarks to the students and attendees before the start of the Championship Round on April 7, 2022.
- 2022 Essay Contest - The Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals sponsored an essay contest for 5th and 6th grade students within the Third Circuit. The contest was spearheaded locally by the District Court of the Virgin Islands. Fifth and sixth grade classes were invited to submit an essay entitled, "What Does the Rule of Law Mean to You and to Our Country?" Five schools participated in the Virgin Islands: Antilles School on St. Thomas, and Alfredo Andrews Elementary School, Church of God Holiness Academy, Eulalie R. Rivera K-8 School, and the Good Hope Country Day School on St. Croix. The essays submitted were evaluated by the District and Magistrate Judges for focus, content development, organization, and style. On May 11, 2022, the District Court of the Virgin Islands held a virtual ceremony, led by District Judge Wilma A. Lewis, where students from each participating school presented their respective class essays. Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares of the Third Circuit brought greetings on behalf of the Circuit. District Court Chief Judge Robert A. Molloy announced the winners. The first-place winner was Ms. Jessica Clausen's 6th grade class at the Antilles School on St. Thomas; the second-place winner was Ms. Sandra Antoine's 5th grade class at the Eulalie R. Rivera K-8 School on St. Croix; and the third-place winner was Ms. Dahlia Knowles' Gifted and Talented 5th and 6th grade class at the Alfredo Andrews Elementary School. All essay submissions were outstanding and reflected the great amount of time, thought, and effort that students and teachers dedicated to this contest. Following the ceremony, Judge Lewis, Marilyn Arroyo, Chief Deputy Clerk, and Elizabeth Tobierre, Term Law Clerk for Judge Lewis, visited the four participating schools on St. Croix over the course of two days. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller, Glenda L.

Lake, Esquire, Clerk of Court, and Elsie-Mae Hodge King, Generalist Supervisor, visited the Antilles School on St. Thomas. At each school, Judges, staff, and students had robust conversations about the role of the court in upholding the rule of law. Judges and staff presented trophies to each of the prize-winning schools, gifts to all participating students, and certificates of appreciation and pins to each of the teachers and school leaders who assisted the students in their efforts.

- 2022 Career Exploration Camp - On July 22, 2022, District Judge Wilma A. Lewis and Magistrate Judge Emile A. Henderson III spoke with participants of the inaugural Career Exploration Camp at the Island Center for the Performing Arts on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The camp's focus was to introduce students to various careers and professional paths during a week-long program. Judge Lewis and Magistrate Judge Henderson spoke to students about their own educational and career paths and their work as federal judges. Students asked thoughtful and engaging questions about the role of a judge, what it is like to sit on the bench, and how they, too, can become judges.
- Law School Externship - Current Northwestern Pritzker School of Law student, Emma Collins, provided gratuitous services as an extern to Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller from May 31, 2022 to July 29, 2022. During her externship, Ms. Collins observed court proceedings, reviewed court documents filed through CM/ECF, conducted necessary research, and performed other duties typically assigned to law clerks. Ms. Collins enjoyed her experience under the leadership of Judge Ruth Miller and appreciated the knowledge and hands-on experience, which she believes will significantly assist her during future endeavors.
- Naturalization Ceremonies - A total of five hundred and eighty-three individuals became new citizens of the United States through naturalization ceremonies held at the District Court of the Virgin Islands during the year. The Division of St. Thomas and St. John held 9 ceremonies and administered 329 oaths, while the Division of St. Croix held 7 ceremonies and administered 254 oaths.
- Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Attorney Training Program - The Clerk's Office hosted a virtual training of the eVoucher system that provides payments for the CJA vouchers. The Financial Services Office used various scenarios to illustrate recurring issues that users experience while using the eVoucher system, and provided a review of the newly implemented CJA eVoucher Attorney User Manual Release 6.7. Attorneys received 1.5 technology hours of Continuing Legal Education credits for their attendance at the training session. Attorneys and their staffs were given the opportunity to address any issues or concerns during the question-and-answer segment of the training.

- Case Management/Electronic Case files System - The annual Case Management/Electronic Case Files system training was held virtually on August 5, 2022. The training was offered to attorneys and staff members to educate on the functionality of the judiciary-developed case management application that offers online access to official case records in the federal courts. Attorneys received 1.5 technology hours of Continuing Legal Education credits for their attendance at the training sessions.

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The District Court of the Virgin Islands continues to engage the community through various activities. The Court looks forward to continuing its community outreach activities in 2023.

### **Middle District of Pennsylvania (MDPA)**

- In 2022, the Middle District of Pennsylvania held multiple Naturalization Ceremonies in the William J. Nealon Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Scranton, as well as the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg. The Naturalization Ceremonies included community guests such as students from the University of Scranton, the Daughters of the American Revolution, For Our Future Pennsylvania, and members from the VFW, Post 6082, Peckville, also attended. The judges spoke with the new citizens and guests before and after each ceremony.
- In October 2002, Magistrate Judge Joseph F. Saporito, Jr. of the Middle District of Pennsylvania spoke with students at Penn State Wilkes-Barre on federal court. Judge Saporito also provided the students with a tour of the Max Rosenn United States Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre.
- In February 2022, Judge Malachy E. Mannion and Magistrate Judge Saporito held a ceremony for the students who participated in the Middle District of Pennsylvania Essay Contest. Fifth and Sixth grade students were asked to write an essay which focused on civics, citizenship, and the concept of the “Rule of Law.” The essay prompt was: “What does the Rule of Law mean to you and to our country?” Awards were given to first, second, and third place winners. In May 2022, Judge Jennifer P. Wilson held a similar ceremony for essay contest winners in the Harrisburg vicinage.
- In June 2022, the Middle District of Pennsylvania celebrated the naming of the new U.S. Courthouse for Judge Sylvia H. Rambo, who is one of the very few women in the country to have a federal courthouse named in her honor. And, in December 2022, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the new courthouse. It officially opened in April 2023. Judge Rambo was appointed to

the Middle District of Pennsylvania in 1979 as part of a historic class of women federal judges.

- In 2022, many Middle District judges participated in the new attorney Admission Ceremonies in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Williamsport, and Harrisburg.
- For several years, the Middle District of Pennsylvania has coordinated with Penn State Dickinson Law and Widener Law to provide academic year externships for second- and third-year law students. The students apply and interviews are conducted in the fall of their second year, and the selected students complete their externships in the spring of their second year or the fall of their third year.
- Several judges of the Middle District of Pennsylvania participated in Penn State Dickinson Law's "Meet the Judges" night, which is an opportunity for law students who are interested in judicial internships or clerkships to speak informally and socially with judges.
- The Middle District of Pennsylvania conducted a "Take Your Child to Work Day" in 2022 that was coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Defender's Office, and the Court. The children enjoyed presentations from the DEA, FBI, ATF, and U.S. Marshal's Service as well as a mock trial with Judge Jennifer P. Wilson presiding.
- In the Summer of 2022, the Middle District of Pennsylvania held a Summer Lunch and Learn Series for all summer interns in the district, including the court, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Defender's Office, Probation, and U.S. Marshal's Service. Chief Magistrate Judge Karoline Mehalchick coordinated the program, which enabled interns to learn about the work done by the Clerk of Court, the Magistrate Judges, the U.S. Attorneys, the Federal Defenders, and the U.S. Marshals.
- Judge Carlson, who is an adjunct professor of law, taught a Criminal Procedure course during the Spring 2023 semester at the Widener University Commonwealth Law School. Further, Judge Carlson continues to participate in a number of professional CLE and community outreach panels, including organizing a series of federal court virtual, online presentations for Widener Commonwealth University Law School students. Finally, over the past five years Judge Carlson has participated in an annual community outreach program, speaking with fifth grade students at the St. Patrick's Cathedral School. Most recently, the judge engaged in an hour-long question-and-answer presentation at the Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School on March 6, 2023.

**District of New Jersey (Camden, Newark and Trenton) (D.N.J.)**

- The District of New Jersey was very active in 2022 with law school outreach. In addition to its heavy involvement with our two New Jersey law schools (Rutgers and Seton Hall), members of the Court crossed the river to engage with students from Brooklyn Law School, Columbia Law School, Fordham Law School, and traveled even greater distances to Georgia Law School, Georgetown Law School, among others.
- Members of the Court continued to speak at events hosted by the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Bar, and affinity bar associations including the Hispanic Bar Association, Asian-Pacific American Lawyers Association, South Asian Bar Association, and the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association along with their student organizations at Rutgers and Seton Hall Law School. Members of the Court also engaged with national affinity bar associations involving travel to Washington, DC and Las Vegas, Nevada to reach a larger pool of lawyers and students. Additionally, the district hosted various CLE accredited programs for the benefit of the Bar. Topics that were addressed included- Hatch-Waxman Litigation in the District of New Jersey: A Primer for the Jurist and the Practitioner, Demystifying International and Interstate Discovery Settlement Conference Dos and Don'ts and Federal Subpoena Practice: Strategy, Substance and Procedure. All of these programs were conducted virtually via MS Teams or ZOOM.
- The Court expanded its outreach to the military in 2022 where members of the Court were involved in speaking engagements in Washington, DC and Fort Liberty, North Carolina to further engage with service members and the military community.
- The District of New Jersey virtually celebrated Black History Month District-Wide. Chief Judge Freda L. Wolfson began the ceremony by delivering the welcome address. Attendees included viewers from multiple agencies and members of the federal family, including outside guests, the 7th grade students at Hawthorne Avenue Elementary School. This year's Mistress of Ceremonies, Judge Susan D. Wigenton, chaired the whole program that focused on African American judges in the District of New Jersey and their historic achievements. The keynote speaker, Judge Julien X. Neals, developed the theme "We the People." Highlights of the speech included a discussion on the virtues of struggle, sacrifice, and service by African Americans as an inseparable part of the American story.

- The 2022 National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration was a momentous occasion filled with pride, recognition, and unity. The event began with opening remarks by Chief Judge Wolfson, who eloquently set the tone for the festivities, emphasizing the significance of celebrating Hispanic culture and its contributions to the nation. One of the highlights of the celebration was the active participation of several Hispanic judges, who took center stage to share their experiences. These judges, representing diverse backgrounds and legal expertise, demonstrated the immense talent and leadership within the Hispanic community. The most poignant moment of the event came when Judge Evelyn Padin delivered the keynote address on inclusivity for a stronger nation. Judge Padin's speech captivated the audience, highlighting the importance of embracing diversity and fostering inclusivity in our society. She eloquently articulated how a nation that celebrates and values the uniqueness of its people stands to become stronger and more united. Overall, the 2022 National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration was a resounding success, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Hispanic Americans and promoting inclusivity for a stronger nation. The event showcased the immense talent, resilience, and diversity within the Hispanic community, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.
- After two years and a worldwide pandemic, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey gathered for the first Naturalization Ceremony since 2020. The Honorable Freda L. Wolfson, Chief Judge, and the Honorable Douglas E. Arpert, U.S. Magistrate Judge, presided over the ceremony. Chief Judge Wolfson and Magistrate Judge Arpert took the bench and quickly began as 26 individuals from 17 different countries became United States Citizens.
- The New Jersey District Court hosted a number of student visitors from various schools, including two from the NJIT Forensics Department. Students had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into various aspects of the criminal justice system. The visits focused on the Probation Office, pretrial procedures, the U.S. Marshals, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the role of judges. Representatives from each office provided an overview of their various responsibilities in the court system. For example, because of the Probation office overview, students gained an understanding of how probation officers monitor and support individuals to prevent further criminal behavior and promote rehabilitation. The U.S. Marshals representative discussed the USMS' role in apprehending fugitives, providing courtroom security, and serving warrants and court orders. The students also had opportunities to observe various court proceedings and to talk to the judges. They learned about the responsibilities of judges in interpreting and applying the law, ensuring fairness during trials, and making impartial decisions. The visit provided an inside look into the judicial branch of the government and



emphasized the importance of an independent judiciary in upholding justice. The school visits provided students with the opportunity to learn about the various components of the criminal justice system. Student visitors left with a deeper appreciation for the legal system and how it impacts our society.

Submitted by:

Third Circuit Judicial Council Courts, Community and Rule of Law Committee

Judge D. Brooks Smith, Chair  
Judge Marjorie O. Rendell, Co-Chair  
Judge Cynthia M. Rufe, Co-Chair  
Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge Carlotta M. Bohm  
Judge Cathy Bissoon  
Judge Wilma A. Lewis  
Judge Mark A. Kearney  
Judge Zahid N. Quraishi  
Judge Karen M. Williams  
Magistrate Judge Sherry R. Fallon  
Judge Maryellen Noreika  
Judge Jennifer P. Wilson  
Judge Joseph E. Saporito, Jr.  
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