

## Is courthouse safety too much to ask?

by Marna Anderson

There are not many areas of agreement amongst advocates, judges, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and court personnel, so when all agree that courtroom security is a problem, those holding the purse strings should take note. Following the December courtroom shooting in Grand Marais, Judge Lloyd Zimmerman's refusal to continue hearing cases at Brookdale provided the opportunity to share with the public the ongoing safety concerns at Hennepin County's three suburban courthouses.

WATCH conducted a two-year study of Hennepin County's suburban courts and released the report, *Promoting Victim Safety and Offender Accountability: Improving the Response to Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases*, in April 2011. One recommendation was to install weapons screening, and since that time, we have made it one of our organization's primary goals to advocate for greater courtroom security. Unfortunately, our call for improvements has received little notice because, as we all know, security just isn't a big deal until tragedy strikes. Sadly, that's what it has taken once again for Hennepin County to take note.

As citizen courtroom monitors, WATCH volunteers provide a unique perspective on our courtrooms – they are often the only ones in the courtroom without an interest in a specific outcome. In part, they observe and document the courtroom environment, including the demeanor of courtroom personnel, defendants, and those present in the gallery, which routinely include victims,

family members, and children. The lack of weapons screening or other safety measures was a concern highlighted in monitoring forms throughout the course of the suburban courts study.

A few of our monitors' comments included:

*There should be a metal detector to screen everyone who enters the courtrooms. Some of the defendants were obviously angry and could pose a threat, despite the presence of deputies – that is, when the deputies were in the courtroom. In sum, security was lacking, except for in-custody cases.*

*A defendant approached the clerk and was quite insistent that she do something for him, which she refused to do. She told him his attorney would have to take care of it. He became very incensed, and she remained very assertive. I was concerned for her safety, and the deputy who had been sitting next to her was gone.*

In response to Judge Zimmerman's demand for increased security, Hennepin County court administration responded by indicating that each courtroom is staffed with armed deputies. However, WATCH monitors noted in our study that deputies were only in the courtrooms sporadically, and several minutes may go by without one present. Advocates have told WATCH that both they and prosecutors at times feel unsafe and that deputies "are never close enough to stop anything" from happening in the courtroom or waiting areas.

*Continued on page 7*

## What's new

### Staff changes

Kate Hovde, who joined WATCH in August 2009 to head up the 21-month Suburban Courts Project, has moved into the role of Court Monitoring Coordinator. In that role, she develops and implements special monitoring projects, supervises volunteer court monitors, compiles defendant chronologies, serves on court committees, and follows up with justice system members on issues related to WATCH's mission. Kate also provides technical assistance to court monitoring programs around the country via phone, email, webinars, and the *Court WATCH Connection* e-bulletin. As the description of her duties shows, Kate is a creative, multi-talented addition to the WATCH staff and we are thrilled she is in this new role.

WATCH welcomed its newest staff member, Mandy Iverson, last month. Mandy's first day on the job coincided with our annual gala, so she got a whirlwind introduction to everyone at once—staff, volunteers, board members, and many of our loyal supporters. For the past several weeks, Mandy has been

*Continued on page 7*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### 2 CASE SUMMARIES

### 3 VOLUNTEER NOTES

### 4 2011 SUPPORTERS

# Case summaries

*This column includes a sampling of the cases WATCH volunteers have monitored in recent months.*

## ERIC KEPRICE RICHARD

In the Autumn 2010 issue of this newsletter, WATCH published a chronology of the domestic violence committed by serial offender Eric Keprice Richard. The chronology concluded with Judge Richard Scherer ordering him to serve 210 days in the workhouse with credit for 39 days, a consequence of his third probation violation in 14 months. The underlying case—his twenty-fourth in the chronology—was an assault in which he punched the victim in the face when she tried to stop him from leaving with their five-year-old son.

In September 2011, Richard violated his probation for this case a fourth time, failing to maintain contact with his probation officer and providing a positive urinalysis. One month later, he admitted to violating his probation, and Judge Allen Oleisky executed his 21-month sentence with credit for 340 days served.

## CHAD ALLEN HENDRICKSON

Chad Allen Hendrickson, 21, was charged with felony domestic assault by strangulation and felony third degree assault for an assault on his ex-girlfriend. According to the criminal complaint, Hendrickson forced the victim to the ground and strangled her with both hands. When the victim freed herself, Hendrickson threw her into a wall, causing her head to hit a corner. Hendrickson's mother heard the assault, intervened, and drove the victim to the hospital. The victim suffered a severe laceration to her head that required ten staples. The defendant later admitted to police that he attempted to strangle the victim with the intention of restricting her breathing and that after throwing her into a wall, observed blood coming from the victim's forehead.

Prosecutor Joshua Larson dismissed the case before Judge Toddrick Barnette; the defense attorney was Jeanette Boerner.

## CHONG TEE XIONG

Chong Tee Xiong, 19, was charged with felony first degree criminal sexual conduct for sexually assaulting his eight-year-old stepsister. The victim's mother reported the incident, and the victim described what happened during a subsequent forensic interview. When Xiong was interviewed by police regarding the assault, he admitted touching the victim under her clothing.

Xiong pleaded guilty as charged, and Judge Robert Small sentenced him to 144 months in prison stayed for 10 years, a departure from the sentencing guidelines, stating that Xiong demonstrated remorse. His probation conditions include: serve 365 days in the workhouse with credit for 97 days and furloughs for sex offender treatment, complete sex offender treatment, supply DNA sample, no contact with the victim,

register as a predatory offender, no contact with minor females until approved by court, obtain GED, and maintain employment. Thad Tudor was the prosecutor, and Fue Thao was the defense attorney.

## JOHN HENRY EDMONDS, JR.

John Henry Edmonds, Jr., 29, was charged with felony first degree burglary and felony domestic assault for breaking into the home of the mother of his child (Case 1), repeatedly punching the victim in the face, pulling out a portion of her hair, and threatening to kill her if she called the police. He was arrested and jailed for that assault. Three months later, Edmonds was charged with 16 counts of felony violation of a domestic abuse no contact order for repeatedly calling the victim from jail (Case 2). According to the criminal complaint, he had made more than 225 calls to the victim against court orders. In several of the calls, Edmonds identifies himself, admits to the assault, and encourages her not to testify.

Edmonds pleaded guilty to felony first degree burglary in Case 1, and one count of felony violation of a domestic abuse no contact order in Case 2. The remaining charges were dismissed. Judge Peter Cahill sentenced him to 66 months with credit for 137 days in Case 1 and 30 months with credit for 133 days in Case 2. The sentences are to be served concurrently. Stuart Shapiro was the prosecutor, and Gay Glaze was the defense attorney.

## ARNOLD DARWIN WAUKAZO

Arnold Darwin Waukazo, 41, was charged with first degree premeditated murder for killing a transgendered woman he had been dating. According to Waukazo's statement to the police, he strangled the victim to unconsciousness and then stabbed her multiple times. An autopsy determined the cause of death to be complex homicidal violence.

Waukazo was found guilty of second degree murder at trial. Judge Oleisky sentenced him to 367 months in prison with credit for 343 days, denying his request for a lesser sentence with the observation that he had shown no remorse. Darren Borg was the prosecutor, and Julius Nolen was the defense attorney.

## MINNESOTA NEEDS IMPARTIAL COURTS

Join the Coalition for Impartial Justice at the state capitol to educate our legislators about the need for judicial reform. Help keep big money out of judicial elections in Minnesota.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
9 am to noon (followed by lunch)  
Room 500 North, State Office Building in St Paul

Coalition for Impartial Justice  
Empowering Voters. Restoring Accountability.  
[www.impartialcourts.org](http://www.impartialcourts.org)

## Volunteer notes

- ✓ I haven't heard many judges explain the firearm statute as it relates to orders for protection, but today's judge did a wonderful job. She explained to respondents that they cannot have firearms in their possession, that there are 'no hunting exceptions,' and that it is a 'blanket provision.'
- ✓ A deputy was not present in order for protection court for a couple of the cases. In one, an angry respondent showed up for court after the case had already been adjudicated and the petitioner was in the hall outside the courtroom waiting for her papers. The clerk and the judge followed the respondent out of the courtroom—perhaps to make sure there were no safety issues if the respondent saw the petitioner. A deputy showed up right after the incident.
- ✓ The judge stated at the beginning of court that he has a personal goal of being on time.
- ✓ While waiting for a hearing in a second degree criminal sexual conduct case to start, family members in the gallery noticed jurors for a different case being called in. When the family asked what was going on, the clerk said the hearing had been changed to a later date. This happened an hour after court was scheduled to start. One of the family members said, 'This is absolutely ridiculous,' as she got onto the elevator. Later that morning in a different courtroom, after an attorney asked if he needed anything, a man stated, 'I wish someone would tell me what's going on.'
- ✓ The day after the courtroom shooting in Grand Marais, the prosecutor and victim advocates in domestic violence court were discussing the lack of safety in the different court buildings over the years.
- ✓ In domestic violence court, the judge said to the two parties, 'This whole relationship is getting you into a lot of trouble. I think it's time to quit.'
- ✓ The judge in order for protection court explained that if he was on his computer, it was due to a new digital system the court is using, making it clear he didn't want to be perceived as rude. He took a break for a victim advocate to be contacted and then gave a very thorough explanation of how the court proceedings would unfold.
- ✓ At a sentencing for a case involving burglary in the first degree, violation of a no contact order, and domestic abuse by strangulation charges, I heard a prosecutor in the hallway explain that he was taking the original attorney's place and would accept the plea offered by the defense. When the prosecutor and defense attorney entered the courtroom, the prosecutor asked the defense if the case was going to take a lot of time. Pointing at the clock, the prosecutor said, 'I'll stay silent in there (I'm guessing in chambers), because I need to get out of here.'

## Thumbs up/thumbs down

👍 Thumbs up to anti-rape activists for decades of diligence in pressuring the FBI to revise its outdated definition of rape. Recently, prominent leaders of law enforcement agencies added their weight, as did Vice President Biden's office. The old definition, which had been kept on the books for 85 years despite evidence of its shortcomings, read "carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will." This narrow, outmoded description neither accounted for many victims, including anyone who was incapacitated, minors, or male victims, nor covered the myriad of rapes involving penetration by other means, such as with knives and other objects. The new federal definition, "The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim," should allow national rape statistics to more accurately reflect the actual number of reported rapes in the U.S.

👎 Thumbs down to using the term "sexual intercourse" when referring to the rape of a child. A WATCH monitor noted that a judge used this language during a criminal hearing for a case of second and third degree criminal sexual conduct involving a child victim.

👍 Thumbs up to the Minnesota Court of Appeals for upholding a 50-year restraining order issued in Washington County. The judge issued the unusual order barring James Allen Bergstrom from contacting his ex-wife and children after he repeatedly violated previous no contact orders. Typically, an order for protection is granted for a two-year period, but in some cases, it is a burden on domestic violence victims to have to repeatedly go to court to request extensions. We are heartened the appeals court recognized that some situations are so dangerous a comprehensive ban is warranted.

👎 Thumbs down to the Chancellor of the Bronxville Department of Education for allowing a Bronxville principal to keep his job even though he repeatedly harasses female staff by talking about his penis. The Chancellor defended his decision by saying the principal was "making inappropriate sexual comments," but the conduct wasn't "harassment." The last time we checked the EEOC definition, sexual harassment includes "unwelcome...verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature...when such conduct has the purpose or effect of...creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment." To avoid further offense, we won't print the details of the principal's comments to prove the point. We're just tired of officials who continue to excuse it.

# 2011 WATCH supporters

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported WATCH in 2011.

All the individuals listed below made gifts to WATCH last year, and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you, thank you, thank you. WATCH is extremely fortunate to have such loyal and generous donors as each of you, but the courts in Hennepin County are the real beneficiaries.

Through your support, WATCH conducted the first evaluation of how the suburban Hennepin County courts handle domestic violence cases. A key recommendation of the April report was improving security at the suburban courthouses, an issue that is gaining more momentum with a district court judge's recent refusal to hear cases in these courts due to safety concerns. Making these courts safer is one of our three goals for 2012, and your continued support will help make this recommendation a reality.

In the coming year, WATCH will continue to use the data we collect through court monitoring and research to push for important changes in the courts.

Again, thank you for your contributions, and I hope to see you at the next WATCH event. *Thompson Aderinkomi, Board Chair*

Anonymous  
Ellen Abbott and Jerry Krause  
Thompson and Hannah Aderinkomi  
Ginna and Allan Amis  
Susan Anacker and Jim Johnson  
Deena Anders  
David P. Anderson  
John and Barbara Anderson  
Marna Anderson and Jim Morgan  
Cathy Anson and Peter Vaughan  
Sally and Peter Anson  
Kristine Arneson  
Carolyn K. Arthur  
Gordon Asselstine in memory  
of Gary Joselyn  
Dave Astin and Sue Rodli Astin  
Sarah Kniskern Aughenbaugh  
Stephanie Marie Avalon  
Beverly Balos and Mary Louise Fellows  
Ben and Phyllis Baltes  
Barbara Barry  
Corrinne Bedecarré  
Ron Beining  
Sue Bennett  
Bev Benson  
Diane Berthel  
Alexis Bighley  
Janice Blackmon  
Patricia Bland  
Sally and Maurice Blanks  
Sarah Boespflug  
Shayla and Chad Boger  
Susan S. Boren  
John and Janice Borgen  
Gene Borgida  
Michael and Sally Bosanko  
Tony and Erica Bouza  
Margie and Will Bracken  
Aviva Breen  
Ellen and Jan Breyer  
Kyle Damon Brown  
Wendy and Nick Brown  
Hal and Dee Broxey  
Phillip and Carolyn Brunelle

Nick and Susan Burke  
Cynthia Callanan  
Bill and Connie Cameron  
Pamela Cariveau  
Lois E. Carlson and Janet Kroupa  
Joel Carlson  
Mary Lou Carpenter  
Shelley Carthen Watson  
Caitlyn Cheslock  
Rebekah Cheslock  
Rumna Chowdhury  
Deborah Christakos  
Whitney L. Clark  
Dr. Susan L. Clarke  
Wendy and David Coggins  
Janet Conn and Mike Debelak  
Diane A. Connor  
Peter and Carrie Connor  
Angela Conrath  
Cynthia Cook and Tammie Larsen  
in memory of Ellen Pence  
Dawn Dougherty Cornell  
and Jen Cornell  
Julie Corty Family Fund of  
The Minneapolis Foundation  
Larry and Cheryl Coulter  
Russell Cowles  
Sage and John Cowles  
Vicki and David Cox  
Ginny and Will Craig  
John and Laura Crosby  
Anne and Jason Cross  
Elizabeth Cutter  
Bunny D'Amico  
Jennifer David  
Judy Dayton  
Mae and Toby Dayton  
Mary Lee Dayton  
Rosario de la Torre  
Randy deBruyn and Sarah Dodge  
Kerry E. Dolan  
Toni Decker  
Lisa and Pat Denzer  
Debra DeRosa

Lea DeSouza  
Sharon Doherty  
Kerry Dolan  
Joe Dowling and Siobhan Cleary  
Nancy Dunlap  
Jeffrey L. Edleson and Sudha Shetty  
Molly Eichten and Dean Karau  
The Ekdahl Hutchinson Family Fund  
of Minnesota Community Foundation  
Julie Ellefson and Clifford Wardlaw  
Suzanne and Jim Elwell  
Denise Eng  
Louise Erdrich and Dan Emmel  
M. Liliana Espondaburu  
Marion Etzwiler  
Karen and Rick Evans  
Anne and Charlie Ferrell  
Carla Ferrucci  
Sue Fite  
Beverly Fitzgerald  
David and Mary Grace Flannery  
Barbara Forster and Larry Hendrickson  
Tom and Carol Fourré  
Ron Fraboni  
H. David Francis  
Richard S. Frase  
Arvonne and Don Fraser  
in honor of Susan Lenfestey  
Sally French  
David Gair  
Emmett A. Galloway  
Janet and John Gendler  
Mike Gephart  
Therese Gibbons and Ryan Peck  
Scotty and Peter Gillette  
Council Member Lisa Goodman  
Marilyn Gorlin\*  
Gail Goulett-Meyer and Neil Meyer  
Ellen Grace  
Susan Gray and Paul Waytz  
Bob and Sue Greenberg  
Larissa Griffin-Sponsler  
Gerald Halbach  
Jocelyn Hale and Glenn Miller



# Thank you to our 2011 supporters

Nor Hall and Roger Hale  
Nancy Halverson and Mike Norton  
Carolyn Ham  
Bryce and Donna Hamilton  
Cheryl Hauser  
Jacquelyn Hauser and Thomas Tinkham  
Blanche Hawkins  
Terri and John Hawthorne  
Judy Healey  
Jeff and Lucy Heegaard  
Joanne and David Heegaard  
William and Elizabeth Heegaard  
Carolyn Ham  
Blanche Hawkins  
Shannon and Steven Heim  
Linda Hendlin  
Nicholas Herschlip  
Jeffrey Hess  
Joan Higinbotham  
J. Ann Hill  
Linda Houden and Jerry VonAmerongen  
Anne Hovde  
Kate Hovde and Ben Sharp  
Penny Hunt  
Michelle Jacobson  
Julie and Thomas Johns  
David and Sharron Johnson  
Jennifer and Mark Johnson  
Lori and Nick Johnson  
Susan and Philip Jones in honor  
of Jennifer & Mark Johnson's  
40th wedding anniversary  
Geri and Burton Joseph  
Phyllis and Donald Kahn  
Shirley and Arnold Kaplan  
Miriam Karmel and William Price  
Sandy and Marion M. Keith  
Miriam and Erwin Kelen  
Holly J. Kellar  
Katharine L. Kelly  
Pat and Bill Kelly in honor of  
David and Peggy Lucas  
Amy and Mitch Kern  
Marcus Kessler  
Kay Kettwig  
Mary Louise Klas  
Suzanne Koeplinger  
Peter and Bonnie Kramer  
Suzanne Kramer  
Anna Krause-Crabb  
Rebecca and Vinnie Kutty  
Dea and Phil L'heureux  
Angela M. Lakedon  
Larry Lamb  
Karen Langsjoen  
Doris Lay in honor of Mary Lay Schuster  
Jeanette Leehr and Terry Carlson  
Joe and Leslie Leffel  
Lenfestey Family Foundation

Alissa Light and Christian Haberstroh  
Anna Light  
Kathleen and Steven Light  
Barb Lind  
Lew H. Linde  
Peggy and David Lucas  
Charlene Lucken  
Cathy Madison and Rick Dublin  
Sarah Martin  
Gerald and Jean Marie Martinson  
Rhonda Martinson  
Thor Martinson  
Martha and Stuart Mason  
Jeanne Massey  
Donette Mattson  
Jahmal Mattson and  
Jennifer Prax-Mattson  
William Mattson  
James McCarthy and Gloria Peterson  
Monica McClain  
Samuel and Patricia McCullough  
Andre McDaniel in memory of  
Curt and Una Anderson  
Joyce and Richard McFarland  
Kelly McGee and  
Suzanne Staudenmaier  
Carla McGrath and Cole Rogers  
Mary Ann McGuire  
Sue McLean  
Donna McNamara and Paul Monroe  
Paul and Corrine McNamara  
Donna McRoberts  
Linda Messenger and Robert Distad  
Alida and Bill Messinger  
Nathan Messmer  
Violet Meyer in memory of  
Catharine Meyer Bliss  
Laura and James Miles  
Mary Miller in honor of  
Jennifer Johnson  
Judith Mollerus  
Leni and David Moore, Jr.  
Sheila Morgan  
Kelly Morrison and John Willoughby  
Kathleen and David Mortenson  
David Moss  
Bernice Mushlitz  
Sara Mushlitz  
Meena Natarajan and  
Dipankar Mukherjee  
Patricia Nauman  
Choulette and Fernando Navarro  
Patricia and Craig Neal  
Maureen Kelly Neerland  
and Charles Neerland  
Claire Christopherson Nelson  
Tamra and George Nelson  
Sarah Nettleton  
Rev. Christie and Win Neuger

Dr. Jeffrey Nipper  
Louise and Jim Noethe  
Sally and Jim Novotny  
Greg Olson  
Jim and Sue Osborne  
Louise W. Otten  
Diane Page  
Becky Palmer  
Jackie Parsinen  
Suzanne and Dr. William Payne  
Jill Peacock  
Sarah and Thomas Perron  
Peter and Lorrie Pesheck  
Carol Peterson and Darren Acheson  
Joan C. Peterson and Paul Lussenhop  
Kendra Peterson in honor of  
Enoch Aderinkomi  
Patte Peterson in honor of Joan Peterson  
Paul and Kathi Peterson  
Robin Phillips  
Sally and George Pillsbury  
Mary and Doug Platt  
Peggy and Ed Pluimer  
Sally B. Polk  
Louise Pope  
Laurinda W. Porter  
Kay and Alan Prax  
Charlotte Quaintance  
Tom and Mary Racciatti  
Linda and John Rebane  
Sara Reed  
Jack and Ruth Rendler  
Erik and Brooke Reseland  
Melanie Richards  
Rebecca Rieck  
Susan Rivard  
Lucy Rogers and Larry Grant Fund  
of Headwaters Foundation for Justice  
Ron and Glenda Dewberry Rooney  
Tom and Gwynn Rosen  
Ken and Nina Rothchild  
Mayor R.T. Rybak and Megan O'Hara  
Ellen G. Sampson  
John Sandbo and Deborah Thomson  
Angelina Santiago  
Roberta Saunders  
Denise Scharlemann  
Romaine Scharlemann  
Irene Schires  
Ellen Schmidt  
Bill and Wendy Schoppert  
Deanne Schultz  
Eric and Mary Claire Schultz  
Mary and Slade Schuster  
Mary F. Schwebach  
Tom and Pat Scott  
Susan Segal and Myron Frans  
Irving and Janet Shapiro  
Janice and Dave Sharp

## 2011 supporters *Continued from page 5*

Ruth Shields  
Elizabeth Shippee  
Bruce Shnider and Pat Strandness  
Margaret and Davis Shryer  
Dawn Singh  
Lisa Skopek  
Marilyn and Wally Small  
Jeff and Denny Smith  
Ed and Val Spencer  
Pat Spratt in memory of Helen Angerer  
Sarah Stackley  
John and Lynn Staloch  
Wendy and Doug Steele  
Karen Sternal  
Alecia and Lee Stevens  
Sarah Stoesz  
Elizabeth Stofferahn  
Marcia and John Stout  
Cyndi Strand  
Amy and Frank Strezo  
Glenda Struthers  
Marguerite Sullivan and David Weiser  
Faith and Dan Sullivan  
John Sullivan  
Mia and Brian Sullivan  
Jon and Julene Ray Swenson  
in memory of Elleen Drew  
Kate Tabner and Michael Boardman  
Mary Tambornino  
Margaret Telfer and Ed McConaghay  
Lindsey Thomas and David Lauth  
Cheryl Thomas and Roger Heegaard  
Linda and AJ Michael Thompson  
Shaun Thompson  
Laura Tiffany and Ned Foster  
Jane Tilka  
Virginia Tisdale Miller  
Marcia Townley  
Emily Anne and Gedney Tuttle  
John and Nina Tuttle

Lolita Ulloa  
University of Minnesota Women  
in Leadership  
John and Mary Ursu  
Ruth Usem  
Eric Utne  
Penny Van Kampen and Scott Borene  
Mary Vaughan  
Jim Vollmer  
Joanne Von Blon  
Jason Waggoner  
Maxine Wallin  
Dominique Walsh and Edward Gimbel  
Nancy Register Wangen  
Nancy and David Warner  
Deborah Weldele and James Diracles  
Weiser Family Foundation on behalf  
of Irving and Marjorie Weiser  
Pat West  
Sally and Jon Westby  
Tim Whalen and Claire Canavan  
Mark Wheat and Maren Kloppman  
Kelly White and Phil Jones  
Brian Whitt  
Frank and Frances Wilkinson  
DePaul Willette  
Jodi Williams  
Mary and Jack Willis  
Penny Winton  
Rufus R. Winton  
Steve and Kathy Wishart  
WMN Foundation  
Brenda J. and Charles R. Wood  
Janet Woolman  
Sandy Worthing  
Aaron and Martha Wulff  
Margaret and Angus Wurtele  
Rebecca Zanger  
Julie and Charlie Zelle  
Gretchen Zettler

WATCH notes with sadness the death of Marilyn Gorlin in November.

## GET INVOLVED—VOLUNTEER!

If you want to learn more about the court system, are passionate about ending violence against women and children, or have simply decided that it's time to get more involved, consider becoming a WATCH volunteer. WATCH is a volunteer-based organization. Our court monitors provide a consistent public presence in Hennepin County courtrooms and monitor cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect. Monitors and WATCH staff help the criminal justice system by identifying flaws, recommending solutions, and advocating for change.

WATCH's next volunteer court monitor training is scheduled for **Saturday, February 4th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Qualifications include: a commitment of one, four-hour shift per month for one year; attendance at the volunteer training; and an interest in issues of violence, community activism, human rights, and the criminal and civil justice systems. To learn more or to apply, contact Mandy at 612-341-2747 x 6 or [miverson@watchmn.org](mailto:miverson@watchmn.org). Or, visit our website at [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org).

## 2011 GRANTS AWARDED

WATCH is grateful for receiving the following grants in support of our work.

Otto Bremer Foundation  
Charlson Foundation  
George Family Foundation  
Kopp Family Foundation  
Leonard, Street and Deinard Foundation  
The Lozier Foundation  
The Minneapolis Foundation  
MN Dept of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs  
Mortenson Family Foundation  
Nash Foundation  
Oak Grove Foundation  
Joseph H. and Florence A. Roblee Foundation  
Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation  
Woman's Club of Minneapolis

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you to the individuals and businesses who donated goods or services.

Bar Lurcat  
Ron Beining  
Bill Cameron  
Cornerstone Advocacy Services  
Mary Grace Flannery  
Brenda Langton  
Hennepin Lake Liquors  
Katharine Kelly  
PCCP – Northstar  
Steven Pittelkow  
Mary and Tom Raciatti  
Riverbrand Design  
Shapco printing  
Barb Simonson  
Laura Tiffany  
Tom Tinkham

## MATCHING GIFTS/ WORKPLACE GIVING

We are grateful for a matching gift from the Qwest Foundation; and for gifts made through workplace giving: CB Richard Ellis Inc. Foundation, United Way, Mile High United Way (Denver), Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign, and Community Shares of Minnesota.

## Is courthouse safety too much to ask?

*Continued from page 1*

Monitors also commented:

*The deputies popped their heads in and out of the courtroom and were not present when the judge was on the bench.*

*The clerk spent nearly 15 minutes looking for a deputy so she could call the in-custody cases.*

WATCH staff asked state court administration for the number of Minnesota courtrooms without weapons screening, but were told this information is not readily available. Courtroom security is a back burner issue until a fire is ignited, all too frequently because of the sort of violence that occurred in December in Grand Marais.

As District Court considers the short- and long-term security needs, another safety concern identified in our report should be addressed: the need for separate waiting areas for victims. With the large number of people in and out of the courtrooms, and deputies who are inconsistently present, little comfort is provided to victims who must wait in the same gallery as the defendant. Monitors documented victims and defendants seated together in the courtroom, leaving the courtroom together, and at times observed advocates taking victims into private offices to avoid defendants. These scenarios demonstrate violations of the victim's right to a separate waiting area or other safeguards.<sup>1</sup> As one volunteer noted, "[t]he process in general is insensitive for victims choosing to attend court. They should either have a specific waiting area for victims or schedule hearings at accurate times to decrease the time victims have to be exposed to defendants."

It should come as no surprise that violations of no contact orders are more likely to occur in situations where victims and defendants are waiting in the same area for long periods of time. When documenting violations, monitors commented that often the judge or an attorney acknowledged the violation and reminded the parties that an order was in place, but in only one instance did a monitor observe a defendant being arrested for the violation. Violations in the courtroom occur in the presence of deputies, attorneys, and judges, and should be treated the same as if they were occurring elsewhere – as a crime.

Now is the time for Hennepin County District Court to take action on security concerns in the suburban courthouses considering both the long-term and short-term needs. Ensuring that weapons are not carried into the courthouses is the minimum level of security that everyone deserves in the short-term, and equally important for the long-term is to guarantee that victims are free from threats, intimidation, and acts of violence. If these measures are something we can all agree on, then let's get them done.

<sup>1</sup> Minn. Stat. § 611A.034.

## What's New

*Continued from page 1*

immersing herself in her new role as Volunteer Coordinator, meeting current volunteers as they come in to do monitoring shifts at court, and interviewing new volunteers for the February training session. Mandy has previous experience with a sexual assault program in Spokane, Washington. It is exciting to have her new energy in the office.

### Board departures

Two board members are going off the board after each serving their full two terms. Ron Beining, a talented hands-on landscape designer by day, brought insight and energy to the board, coupled with deep compassion for others and an enormous generosity of spirit. The combination made him an invaluable board member.

Although he rarely referred to it, Ron had experienced sexual abuse as a child which played a part in developing his insight and deepening his compassion. Ron's perspective widened the lens through which we view the intersection of justice and abuse, and his observations fostered good discussions and ideas. His good spirits and wry humor often provided levity to the gritty nature of WATCH's work.

Ron served on the development committee, and not only reached out to his wide network of friends to help support WATCH, he hosted numerous gatherings at his spectacular home in Minneapolis, including the annual fall gala in 2006. We'll miss his presence, and are enormously grateful for his many contributions.

Joan Peterson served as a Public Defender, after which she worked as a prosecutor in the Minneapolis City Attorney's office. Her keen mind and passion for assuring that those who batter are held accountable earned her the respect of her peers and the 2002 Sheila Wellstone Gold WATCH award. She also served on the Minnesota Supreme Court's Gender Fairness Task Force and was a founding member of the Hennepin County Fatality Review Team. After taking a job in the private sector, Joan joined the board of WATCH, where her award-winning passion, energy and intellect were immediately put to good use.

Joan served on the Strategic Planning and Development committees, and also as secretary of the board. She participated in training sessions for volunteers and enthusiastically jumped in to help whenever needed, whether leading an ad hoc Communications committee or speaking to visiting graduate students from the Middle East about our justice system and its response to violent crimes against women.

Joan was an incredibly well-informed board member and an energetic and enthusiastic leader. Her departure leaves a real void, but her hard work on behalf of WATCH leaves a much stronger organization.

Many thanks to both Ron and Joan, and we hope to see you at WATCH events in the future.

## WATCH

E-mail: [watch@watchmn.org](mailto:watch@watchmn.org)

Web: [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org)

**Executive Director:** Marna Anderson

**Staff:**

Kate Hovde, Court Monitoring Coordinator  
Mandy Iverson, Volunteer Coordinator  
Donna McNamara, Development &  
Communications Director

**Founder:** Susan Lenfestey

**Board Chair:** Thompson Aderinkomi

**Board of Directors:**

Sara Kniskern Aughenbaugh,  
Beverly Balos, Mary Grace Flannery,  
Larissa Griffin-Sponsler, Jennifer Johnson,  
Kate Kelly, Amy Walsh Kern,  
Susan Lenfestey, Sara Mushlitz,  
Meena Natarajan

608 2nd Ave. S., # 465  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit  
US postage

PAID

Permit # 4920

Minneapolis, MN



## WATCH volunteers

We are grateful for the dedication, commitment, and energy provided by WATCH's volunteer court monitors. Last year, this amazing group of people contributed almost 4,000 hours monitoring more than 4,000 court hearings. Their observations form the foundation of our work to improve the court's response to violence against women and children, and we thank them all.

Marya Anderson  
Aleesa Arends  
Laurie Bakken  
Barbara Barry  
Mollie Beebe  
Sarah Boespflug  
Siah Borbor  
Janice Borgen  
Libby Bottem  
Chloe Briel  
Kyle Brown  
Wendy Brown  
Hal Broxey  
Dawn Bruggeman  
Calea Butz  
Celia Caffery  
Joan Campe  
Elizabeth Casey  
Martin Cech  
Caitlyn Cheslock  
Rebekah Cheslock  
Monica Chowdhury  
Isadora Collins  
Janet Conn  
Randy DeBruyn

Gelinda Dickerson  
Simone Dietzler  
Anna Donnelly  
Carly Dooley  
Basil El-Ghazzawy  
Sattam Elmoisheer  
Charles Emerick  
Kailey Everett  
Mary Grace Flannery  
Dave Gair  
Ann Goddard  
Lori Gray  
Daniel Habchi  
Elizabeth Hayes  
Claire Heitman  
Nick Herschlip  
Janel Houston  
Libby Humphreys  
Sara Ingvaldson  
Sarah Janes  
Bethany Johnson  
Jennifer Johnson  
Roxanne Johnson  
Katharine Kelly  
Nicolle Kitt

Alaina Klocke  
Kelsey Knish  
Terry Kramer  
Mary Lay Schuster  
Rachel Lehman  
Anna Light  
Lew Linde  
Erica Madore  
Jennell Manion  
Anna Mazig  
Barbara McDonald  
Vanessa Milbradt  
Mary Miller  
Gina Mount  
Owen Murphy  
Amanda Murr  
Claudia Nelimark  
Tara Nelson  
Agathe Panaretos  
Jill Parrott  
Jill Peacock  
Brittne Perfetti  
Rebecca Pinski  
Jessica Plotz  
Anna Pojman

Amanda Pulse  
Susan Rivard  
Michelle Riveros  
Denny Scharlemann  
Laura Sherar  
Lisa Skopek  
Kathy Smith  
Alexandra Snyder  
Sarah Stackley  
Maya Suresh  
Kyle Swatfager  
Michelle Thimios  
Thanh TranDuong  
Libby Tschida  
Becca Tumm  
Alison Tweddell  
Russ VanHeel  
Dominique Walsh  
Breana Welch  
Brian Whitt  
Ken Woodard  
Janet Woolman  
Chris Wysokinski  
Vicky Yu