

National Walk-in for Justice highlights need for citizen monitoring of the courts

On October 2, programs around the country gathered at their local courthouses in a *National Walk-in for Justice*, spearheaded by WATCH, to call attention to the need to improve the administration of justice for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect.

Locally, over 65 volunteers and supporters gathered at the WATCH office and picked up their red clipboards before walking through the skyway to the Hennepin County Government Center. The group, carrying clipboards, cinch bags, and a banner, gathered at the government center, where community leaders and WATCH executive director Marna Anderson addressed the crowd.

"We have come a long way in Hennepin County towards creating courts that help people solve their problems rather than process their cases," Anderson stated. "But a lot is at stake. The state budget crisis threatens to turn back time on the many improvements made in our criminal justice system."

Anderson lamented budget cuts that have reduced the number of sex crime investigators at the Minneapolis Police Department from 10 to four as well as staffing cuts at the Domestic Abuse Service Center that leave many

women without assistance when applying for an order for protection. Anderson highlighted how these budget cuts put families in crisis at even greater risk, "Parents facing the possibility of losing their children should have the representation of a public defender and children reporting abuse should feel confident that law enforcement, child protection, and the courts will find a way to make the abuse end and to ensure safe visitation with Mom and Dad when it is court ordered."

Following Anderson's remarks, Minneapolis City Council member Don Samuels spoke about the importance of WATCH's red clipboards in bringing violence against women and children out of the private sphere, "where we deal with it with a wink and a nod and a whisper" and into the public sphere, "where citizens watch what is going on, write down what is happening, and let the public see."

Finally, Congressman Keith Ellison, who stopped by on his way to Washington, DC, to work with his colleagues on responding to the national financial crisis, also spoke to the crowd, noting the importance of both due process for defendants and safety for victims. After the speeches, the public was invited back to a reception at the WATCH office. Local media outlets, including the *Star Tribune* and

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What's new

Board of directors

WATCH welcomes Khatra Ali and Kate Kelly, who joined the board of directors in September.

A native of Somalia, Khatra graduated with honors from Nairobi University, where she majored in English. In Nairobi, she held positions with the United Nations Office for Somalia and the Somali Human Rights Monitoring Committee, also editing two books on the independence movement in Somaliland. In the Twin Cities, Khatra has worked in various outreach and community building efforts for the Somali and other ethnic communities. She currently works as a legal assistant at Aronson & Associates, serving a broad and geographically diverse array of individual and corporate clients.

Katharine (Kate) Kelly was born and raised in Minneapolis, and graduated from Wellesley College, where many of her ideas about women's rights were shaped. For more than 20 years, Kate lived in Boston and New

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Monitoring child protection cases

By Marna Anderson

To memorialize Minnesota women, children, and their family and friends who have been murdered as a result of domestic violence, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women has worked with artists, advocates, and grieving family members over a period of 20 years to create the Minnesota Clothesline Project, a display of decorated t-shirts, one for each victim. To start off Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Clothesline Project was displayed on the front steps of the State Capitol on September 30. Over 630 shirts hung on the line, each one representing a life lost. Of those, over a quarter (176) were children's.

These small shirts hanging on the line, often with pictures of a young face smiling back, serve as a powerful reminder of a young life that was tragically cut short. Unfortunately, more children's shirts will be added to the line in 2008 — we know at least seven have been killed this year.

The statistics on child abuse in Minnesota are sobering. According to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, nearly 6,300 Minnesota children suffered child maltreatment and abuse last year. At least 16 of these children died from the abuse, and 46 others had critical or life-threatening injuries. Neglect was the most common form of child maltreatment (74 percent), followed by physical abuse (17 percent), and sexual abuse (16 percent). Sadly, some children suffered more than one form of abuse.

Investigations into child abuse often start with a phone call from a concerned teacher, neighbor, or family member to child protection after which the report is investigated to determine whether neglect or abuse has occurred. If a finding is made, the next step is to decide whether a child protection case will be opened. While many children are able to remain in their homes even after a case has been opened, some children are removed for safety reasons.

Historically, throughout the United States, hearings and court records of child protection cases have been closed to the public due to the belief that such "private" information in the hands of the public could work to the detriment of families and children.

This changed in Minnesota in January 1998, when the Minnesota Supreme Court initiated a three-year pilot project opening the courts to the public in 12 counties, including Hennepin.

WATCH had encouraged the legislature and court to open the hearings, knowing from our experience in adult court that public scrutiny of the justice system leads to greater accountability and responsibility. We began monitoring

child protection proceedings when courtroom doors for the pilot project officially opened and released a comprehensive report with our findings and recommendations in 2001 (available at www.watchmn.org).

Some of the recommendations were to reduce courtroom delays, improve communication between court personnel and families, meet state timelines for placing children in permanent homes, develop better responses to cases where domestic violence is occurring, and pay more attention to and address the physical, social, and emotional needs of the children during the court hearing.

After publication of the report, WATCH stopped monitoring child protection cases on a regular basis, but that is changing. Twelve volunteers have been trained to each monitor two hearings per month for a period of one year starting October 15. Our goals are to record the changes that have occurred since 2001, document whether our recommendations from that time have been implemented, and once again provide an outsider's perspective to members of the juvenile justice system. To enrich this project, we have partnered with University of Minnesota professor Mary Schuster to focus on the role of the guardian *ad litem*, the person appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of the child.

The overarching goal of this monitoring project is the same as for all of our monitoring projects: to help make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence against women and children.

We are initiating this project knowing that we share with members of the juvenile court and Hennepin County child protection the common goal that no more children's shirts will be added to the Clothesline Project.

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York, training and competing horses in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. She also volunteered with the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense Fund. Now retired, Kate moved back to Minneapolis and began volunteering with WATCH in 2007, spending many hours as a court monitor and assisting with reorganizing files and collecting criminal background information on defendants.

Staff

Congratulations to Anita Gopalaswamy, WATCH volunteer coordinator, on the birth of her son, Adi, on September 15. While Anita is on parental leave, her duties will be assumed by Anna Light, national outreach assistant, and intern Jonathan Williams.

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Minnesota Public Radio, covered the story.

In addition to sponsoring our local walk-in, WATCH assisted other groups to plan and carry out events, supplying them with tips and information in advance and clipboards, cinch bags and note pads for the day of their event. Ten other programs have held or are holding similar events in their own jurisdictions. The following are highlights of some of the events from around the country.



YWCA of St. Joseph County South Bend, Indiana

The YWCA of St. Joseph County in South Bend, Indiana, held a walk-in and press conference on the steps of the county courthouse. YWCA executive director Linda Baechle spoke along with Circuit Court Judge Michael Gotsch and Superior Court Judge David Chapleau. The three outlined the positive improvements in the handling of domestic violence cases over the years, particularly in getting guns out of the hands of batterers, and Gotsch reported on plans to use state money to implement an electronic protection order registry next year and add an additional magistrate to oversee domestic violence cases. The *South Bend Tribune* and three local television stations covered the event.

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center Hutchinson, Kansas

Twenty-three people participated in the Hutchinson, Kansas, walk-in for justice, held at the Reno County Courthouse. Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center executive director Candace Anderson Dixon spoke along with District Court Judge Joe McCarville and Hutchinson Police Department Lieutenant Paul Scofield. Also in attendance were State Representatives Jan Pauls and Mark Treaster as well as members of the Reno County Sheriff's Department. Speakers focused on the need for better

understanding of the protection order process and took questions from the audience following the presentation. The event was followed by lunch at a local church.



Breaking the Silence Kailua, Hawaii

Breaking the Silence held its walk-in on September 29th, the same day as a high-profile domestic homicide sentencing. Demonstrators gathered outside of the family courthouse in support of the family of Jenny Hartsock, who was stabbed to death by her husband on January 10, 2008. The goal of the walk-in was to support the family and draw attention to violence against women. Two newspapers and four television stations attended the event, including one reporter working on an investigative report on domestic violence in Hawaii.

Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council

St. Croix and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

The *Virgin Islands Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council* held two walk-ins, one on St. Croix and one on St. Thomas islands. Over 30 people gathered, along with local television, newspapers, and radio outlets, as local activists talked about the need to improve the system's response to violence against women and discussed how the struggling economy and incumbent loss of jobs as well as soaring utility bills are increasing the vulnerability of women and children.

WATCH was inspired by these and other walk-ins across the country and the stories that survivors and activists shared. We look forward to updates from other groups, such as those in Florida and New York, once their events are held later in the month and to many more walk-ins in the years to come.

Case Summaries

NATHAN PAUL ANTRIM

In December 2007, a Cooper High School police liaison officer was approached by a student's father, who was concerned about the behavior of his 16-year-old daughter's hockey coach, Nathan Antrim. The father told the officer his daughter had not been home the previous weekend and he suspected she had spent it with Antrim.

When questioned, the girl told the officer that Antrim often drove her home from practice and that she had spent the previous weekend at his home, where they "had sex." After admitting to police that he sent the girl sexually suggestive text messages and had sexual intercourse with her, Antrim was arrested and charged with third degree criminal sexual conduct.

Antrim initially pleaded not guilty to the charge and bailed out of jail, but later violated his conditional release by contacting the student three times. Judge Stephen Aldrich revoked his conditional release and Antrim pleaded guilty at the pre-trial hearing.

On July 2, Judge John Sommerville sentenced him to 365 days in the workhouse with credit for 53 days, and placed him on supervised probation for five years under the following conditions: pay restitution, complete sex offender treatment, register as a predatory sex offender, no contact with the victim or her family, no unsupervised contact with minors other than his own children, supply HIV test results to the victim and her family, obtain and maintain employment or enroll in an education program, no alcohol/controlled substance use, supply a DNA sample, submit to a polygraph examination, submit to phalometric testing or treatment, and no use of the internet without probation approval. The prosecutor was Amy Sweasy and the defense attorney was Steven Meshbesher.

KENNETH ATKINSON, JR.

On December 27, 2006, Champlin police were dispatched to St. John's Hospital regarding possible child sexual abuse of two sisters, four and six years old. Both girls complained of pain in their vaginal areas and reported sexual contact by Kenneth Atkinson, Jr., who had been dating their mother and living in their home since February 2005.

The following day, the girls were interviewed at CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse Evaluation and Training Center, where they reported Atkinson's ongoing sexual abuse, including penetration. The older girl also described Atkinson watching—and encouraging her to watch—a pornographic video, which officers later found at the victims' home after obtaining a search warrant.

Atkinson was charged with four counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct, two involving each child. On July 23, 2008, a jury found Atkinson guilty on all counts. Judge Lloyd Zimmerman sentenced him to two consecutive terms of 144 months in prison with credit for 374 days served. Conditions include: pay restitution, do not ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition, register as a predatory offender, and supply a DNA sample. The prosecutor was Therese Galatowitsch and the defense attorney was Shawn Betts.

JOANNE DELOACH

In August 2007, Bloomington police responded to a report of alcohol given to a minor. Upon arrival, they interviewed a nine-year-old girl who told police that her grandmother, Joanne DeLoach, had given her two glasses of gin. After drinking it, she vomited, fell, and cut her head. The girl's mother told police that DeLoach was caring for her daughter while she was at work, but when she arrived

home, she found her daughter injured and alone. A portable breath test was administered, and the girl's blood alcohol level was found to be .04. The child was taken to Hennepin County Medical Center for treatment, and DeLoach was subsequently arrested.

DeLoach was charged with endangerment of a child, a gross misdemeanor, and pleaded guilty. On June 5, 2008, Judge Stephen Pihlaja sentenced her to 365 days in the workhouse with 335 days stayed for two years, credit for six days served, and the remaining 30 days to be served on electronic home monitoring. Probation conditions include: follow all instructions of probation, pay restitution, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and random urinalysis. The prosecutor was Caroline Lennon, and the defense attorney was Mary Moriarty.

CHARLIE LEWIS

In October 2007, Minneapolis police were dispatched to Hennepin County Medical Center on a report of a sexual assault. According to the complaint, the victim met the defendant, Charlie Lewis, at a homeless shelter. Lewis offered to let her stay at his apartment and told her his girlfriend could help her find a job. When the two were alone at his apartment, he demanded sex, and when she refused, he punched her in the face repeatedly and raped her. When she screamed for help, he threatened to kill her. The victim later saw an acquaintance at a convenience store, who took her to the hospital for a sexual assault examination.

Because she was homeless and had no address or phone number, the sex crimes investigator was unable to locate her in the days following the rape to gather further evidence for prosecution. The victim had, however, obtained a restraining order against Lewis, and two months later she contacted police to report that he had vio-

lated the court order. At that time she was able to provide police with further information about the assault and to identify Lewis in a photographic lineup.

In January 2008, after waiving his right to an attorney, Lewis admitted to police that he met the woman at a homeless shelter. He said he lied about his girlfriend helping her find a job to get her to his apartment so he could have sex with her. He denied raping her and claimed he could pick up any woman who was homeless or a drug user and have sex with her for nothing. Lewis also admitted to seeing the woman at the Salvation Army after the incident and being asked by security to leave due to the restraining order against him.

Lewis appeared *pro se* for his jury trial and was convicted of first and third degree criminal sexual conduct. In August 2008, Judge Mary Steenson DuFresne sentenced him to 306 months in prison with credit for 256

days served under the following conditions: register as a predatory offender and provide a DNA sample. The prosecutor was Therese Galatowitsch.

REVELLE & RONELLE LOVING

In January 2007, Brooklyn Park police were dispatched to an apartment complex parking lot on a report of "shots fired." Upon arrival, officers found Moseetta Peters, 21, and Ja'Naurri Allen, 18, shot dead in their car. Police interviewed witnesses at the scene who saw a car pull into the parking lot, two men jump out and run toward the other car, fire into it, and flee the scene. Witnesses also described hearing multiple gunshots.

A grand jury indicted Revelle Loving, Peters's ex-boyfriend and father of her three-year old daughter, on three counts of first degree murder and his younger brother, Ronelle, on two counts of the same. Peters had con-

tacted police at least three times to report that Revelle was assaulting her and one of the cases was still pending when he murdered her.

Revelle had repeatedly threatened to kill Peters and Allen, who had fled her apartment to escape him and gone to a relative's apartment on the night they were killed. Following a trial that began in May 2008, a jury found Revelle guilty of all charges. In June, Judge Philip Bush sentenced Revelle to two concurrent terms of life in prison without parole.

Ronelle pleaded guilty to two counts of second degree murder and Judge Peter Cahill sentenced him to two concurrent terms of 240 months in prison with credit for 507 days served. Both men were also ordered to pay restitution and provide DNA samples. The prosecutor in both cases was Beverly Benson, and the defense attorney for Revelle was William Selman and for Ronelle was Michael Colich.

Thumbs up/thumbs down

👍 Thumbs up to Breaking Free for its dogged efforts to expose the brutality of sexual trafficking and prostituting of women. Breaking Free, which has served prostituted women since 1996, held a march on a stormy night in early October—its fifth annual event to remind the public of the violence and exploitation inherent in prostitution and to remember women who have lost their lives as a result of it. Over a hundred people marched down University Avenue before holding a vigil honoring women who have died. This fall they also presented a training session at Minnesota's Human Trafficking conference and launched their Anti-Human Trafficking Program, for which they recently received Department of Justice funding. We support their ongoing determination to ensure justice for women in a society

that condones the buying and selling of women for sex.

👎 Thumbs down to Judge Warren Sagstuen for his interpretation of Minnesota's criminal sexual conduct law in a recent case. The 33-year old defendant was charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct for sexual contact, including penetration, with his 15-year-old half-sister. The law prohibits anyone to have sexual contact with a person under 16 years of age with whom they have a "significant relationship," which the law defines as "persons who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption" (the list includes parents, sister, brother, stepbrother, stepsister, first cousin, aunt, uncle, grandparents, and others).

Despite this, the judge dismissed the charges, basing his ruling on the fact that the term "half-brother" is not included in the statute's list of "significant relationships." The prosecutor argued that "half-brother" is not listed as an example in the statute because it is included in the definition of "brother" in nearly all major dictionaries. The state is appealing the case, but that means a delay in resolving it, which prolongs the victim's ordeal and takes up valuable time of all parties. A more reasonable interpretation could have spared the victim further delays and saved valuable resources (\$3,000 for the prosecution alone) in a time of shrinking budgets.

City attorney responds to WATCH Post articles on gone on arrival cases

Our last newsletter included a detailed chronology of a domestic violence offender who eluded sanctions for his crimes by leaving the scene before police could question him. The executive director's column provided statistics on gone on arrival cases, and reminded everyone in the justice system of their role in holding offenders accountable. The following letter from the City Attorney's office outlines changes in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases where the suspect has fled the scene.

I am sure my reaction to the chronology of Shaun David Young's 17-year history of violence provided in the Summer 2008 issue of the WATCH Post was no different from that of any of your other readers. It provided a stark reminder of the need to do better. Despite the substantial progress made in the handling of domestic violence cases, there remains much work to do, particularly in making sure there is an effective response to Gone on Arrival ("GOA") cases.

Many of the GOA cases involving Mr. Young were from the early 1990's. At that time, we in the criminal justice system took a passive approach to GOA cases, waiting for victims to come forward and "press charges." Most victims never contacted us and the violence in these families often continued and escalated. Since then, we have become more proactive, with changes to state laws that provide enhanced criminal charges and sanctions, and an aggressive "evidence-based" prosecution strategy.

In the mid-90s, the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office organized a specialized team of attorneys devoted to domestic violence prosecutions. The team receives specialized training in the dynamics of domestic abuse and in prosecuting domestic violence cases. Since 2001, a member of the domestic team has been located in the Family Violence Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department. The lawyer provides advice to the investigators of that unit and increases collaboration between law enforcement, prosecution and our other partners. Our staff at the Family Violence Unit developed and maintains the Probable Cause Felony Enhancement List, to enable police officers to identify repeat, felony-level domestic violence offenders more quickly.

In coordination with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, our office provides a prosecutor at the Domestic Abuse Service Center (DASC). The prosecutors review GOA police reports to determine which cases can be charged and what additional investigation might be needed for a successful prosecution. DASC has investigator resources dedicated to these cases.

As noted in Marna Anderson's article in the same newsletter issue, our office developed, in coordination with the Minneapolis Police Department, a promising pilot project to improve the system's response to GOA cases. The pilot started this February in the 5th Precinct under the leadership of Inspector Kris Arneson. The pilot involves a 10-step protocol created by our office to improve the gathering of evidence on-the-scene by the police officers responding to a call. We are pleased to report that, while we are only about six months into the project, the initial results have shown a dramatic increase in both the collection of evidence and the conviction rate for those cases. The response of the police officers to this initiative has been very positive and the Police Department has expressed a commitment to expanding this pilot after the full results are reviewed.

Another significant step, which was taken by the Hennepin County District Court to improve accountability and appropriate judicial treatment of domestic violence matters, was the creation of the domestic violence specialty court for misdemeanor cases. The importance of having a dedicated specialty court, now over seven years old, with judges knowledgeable in this area cannot be overstated.

As I said earlier, there is still much to be done, but progress is steadily being made. I know that we will continually look for ways to improve our performance in addressing domestic violence and GOA cases, in particular. My thanks to WATCH for their work in reminding all of us in the criminal justice system about the importance of our role in keeping victims and their families safe and holding offenders accountable.

Susan Segal
Minneapolis City Attorney

Forum brings judicial issues to the public

On September 22, WATCH and the Hennepin County Bar Association, with support from the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis, Edina, and Wayzata-Plymouth, co-sponsored a judicial election debate with candidates for seats in Hennepin County (the Fourth Judicial District). Jane Ranum, assistant Hennepin County attorney and former state senator, and David Piper, Fourth Judicial District referee, are vying for the seat vacated by the retirement of Judge Thomas Wexler. Two incumbent judges also face challengers this year: attorney Eugene Link is challenging Judge Phillip Bush, and Referee Thomas Haeg is running against Judge James Swenson. All the candidates were invited to participate and were sent a list of questions in advance. Only Eugene Link did not respond to the invitation.

The debate was moderated by Judge Pamela Alexander, former Fourth Judicial District judge and currently president of the Council on Crime and Justice. Each candidate present was asked a series of questions on topics ranging from minorities' perceptions

of fairness in the justice system to the value of specialty courts to effective judicial evaluation techniques.

Every day, WATCH sees firsthand the effect judges have on peoples' lives. We know the importance of electing judges who will be fair, impartial, respectful, and who are conversant with and follow the law. We encourage our readers to become informed about the candidates' backgrounds and approaches to serving on the bench and to encourage your friends and family members to do the same. One place to start is by reading the candidates' websites or emailing them with questions. In addition, check out the Hennepin County Bar Association at www.hcba.org, or see how Minnesota Women Lawyers screens judicial candidates at www.mwlawyers.org.

When you go to the polls on November 4, don't skip over the judicial races because you don't feel informed enough to vote. Make your vote count by getting to know the candidates in advance.

Remembering Judge Stephen Pihlaja

Judge Stephen Pihlaja died unexpectedly on September 17 of a heart attack caused by complications from cancer treatment. While serving on the block of judges that hear felony cases, Judge Pihlaja went out of his way to make sure WATCH monitors had accurate information about cases they were observing. He regularly asked us for feedback and was genuinely interested in the public's experiences in his courtroom. He was always available to answer questions and thanked us for our involvement in trying to make the justice system more responsive to victims of violence. Monitors will miss his calm, respectful presence in court. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and colleagues on the bench.

Our Courts curriculum launched

Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is leading a collaborative effort to educate seventh to ninth grade students about the importance of an independent judiciary and encourage them to participate in preserving our country's constitutional democracy. *Our Courts* is part classroom curriculum, part 3-D virtual world in which students can participate in realistic simulations of government and engage in current social and political issues.

While the curriculum is designed to be used in classrooms, and includes activities and goals that exceed

standards for civic education, the computer-based learning can take place any time, anywhere. This is important, considering how many young people spend up to 40 hours each week using digital media on their own time.

Justice O'Connor is concerned about the growing attacks on the judiciary by interest groups and the lack of public knowledge of the government. Her concerns are borne out by the fact that only a little more than one-third of Americans can name the three branches of government. But her project aims to change that.

A joint effort of Arizona State University and the Georgetown University Law Center, the project involves experts in education, law, history, and technology, who have built a problem-oriented and discovery-based curriculum that addresses issues that impact kids' lives. *Our Courts* will be presented on a web-based platform that will provide immediate and engaging feedback, a personalized experience, and opportunities for social networking, free of charge to the user. More information can be found at www.ourcourts.org.

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Volunteer Notes

✓ The defendant's primary language in today's sentencing hearing was Spanish. As he handed a form to the defense attorney for the defendant to fill out, the judge remarked, "Here's a form for him to practice his English on."

✓ The deputy in felony arraignments today did a really thorough job of explaining the rules—no phone use, no communicating with any defendants in custody, and what to do if there is an emergency and someone needs help.

✓ Forty-five minutes after a jury trial was supposed to start today, the judge had not yet arrived. It has been a year since I last volunteered and I found myself thinking 'some things never change.'

✓ I felt like things were moving really quickly in felony arraignments today—maybe too quickly. The defen-

dants who were in custody often looked befuddled during and after their hearings. A couple of times, defendants attempted to ask the judge to clarify certain bail conditions, but he told them to 'keep quiet' because 'anything they said could be used against them.' The public defender, for his part, never once went over and talked to any of the defendants who had questions, even when he was assigned to their case.

✓ The clerk observed that in nearly every order for protection (OFP) case today, the respondent had not been served with the *ex parte* order and hearing notice. She wondered why, commented on it to the judge, and remarked that it was unusual.

✓ An OFP petition was dismissed today because of a miscommunication when the petitioner checked in downstairs. Once she realized it was

a mistake, the referee rescheduled the hearing, but the petitioner now has to wait two more weeks for the chance to get her OFP.

✓ The judge gave the defendant a more lenient sentence than state sentencing guidelines recommend, explaining very clearly the reasons for the departure. He maintained a stern manner, emphasized the seriousness of the offense, but also showed empathy in supporting the defendant's many efforts to change and be law abiding.

✓ The clerk for a felony block judge is always helpful to people waiting in the gallery, going out of her way to find out and report on the status of cases they are involved in or observing. Clerks like her really help me get the most out of my monitoring time by letting me know when I should sit and wait or come back in an hour.