

## **DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT-DISTRICT NINE (SEPTEMBER 2016)**

### **WOMEN JUDGES ON THE MOVE IN MISSOURI**

On June 10, 2016 Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Associate Circuit Judge Paula Perkins Bryant, of St. Louis, as Circuit Judge for the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit, which covers the City of St. Louis to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Margaret Neill. On August 8, 2016 Governor Nixon announced the appointment of Family Court Commissioner Margaret T. Donnelly as Circuit Judge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit, which covers St. Louis County.

Retired St. Louis County Circuit Judge Susan E. Block, now an attorney with Paule Camazine & Blumenthal, was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court Committee on racial and Ethnic Minority Fairness. Judge Block serves on the juvenile sub-committee which seeks to reduce minority disproportionate referral, intake and detention. She will be recognized by the St. Louis Magazine for Excellence in Community Service, served on the child-focused boards of caring for Kids and Homeworks!

### **MISSOURI BAR HONORS MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**

Missouri Supreme Court Justice Mary Rhodes Russell recently received the Theodore McMillian Judicial Excellence Award from the Missouri Bar. The Award recognizes jurists who, by virtue of their integrity, leadership and diligence in the pursuit of the efficient administration of justice, inspire other members of the judiciary to similar noble purpose.

St. Louis County Circuit Judge Barbara Wallace and Greene County Drug Court Commissioner each received the Chief Justice Award from Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Breckenridge in conjunction with the Annual Bar Meeting.

### **WISCONSIN HAPPENINGS**

The State Bar of Wisconsin honored retired Milwaukee County Circuit judge Mel Flanagan with its Lifetime Jurist Award. Judge Flanagan served 23 years on the bench and upon retirement traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to work with the national courts on policy and procedures relating to domestic, sexual and child abuse cases to develop procedures for handling child witnesses and victims.

District One Chief Judge Maxine White of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court recently visited the White House when her court was selected as one of 67 local governments nationwide to participate in President Obama's data Driven Justice Initiative, aimed at reducing incarceration by using data analysis to help reform the justice system.

### **IOWA'S GAVEL GAP**

The Des Moines Register recently published the findings of a report by the American Constitution Society claiming that Iowa has failed to elevate women and minority lawyers to the state court benches to accurately reflect the state's population. The seven-member Iowa Supreme Court is made up exclusively of white men. White men comprise 43% of Iowa's approximate 3.1 million residents, yet they hold 100% of the judiciary's highest positions. The nine-member Iowa Court of Appeals includes four female judges. The state's first African-American female judge, Romonda Belcher, was appointed in 2010 as a District Associate Judge in Polk County.