

## Mental Health Court Changes Lives

by Michael Sommermeyer, Court Information Officer

The group of graduates appeared hopeful and ready for new challenges. They were smiling, joking with the judge and teasing each other about all of the attention they were receiving. You could tell that a change had taken place.

One of these graduates, Jason Blackwood, had arrived confused, shaken and schizophrenic when he entered the Eighth Judicial District Court's Mental Health Court in 2005. His story is only one of the many examples of how this program has changed lives since it was created in

2003. Today, Blackwood appears calm and reflective. His mother says its a reversal from when he would lash out, hear voices and engage in petty theft to fund his illegal drug use.

The Mental Health Court focuses on diverting offenders with mental illness, who are charged with nonviolent offenses, into treatment programs. The goal is to reduce or eliminate offender recidivism by treating their mental illness.

A team of judges, counselors, attorneys and doctors work to evaluate participants and screen potential new consumers, as individuals adjudicated in the program are called.

"Before a person can be accepted into the program, they must be willing to participate in treatment and be ready to make a change," said Stacy DePriest, program coordinator. This always means giving up illegal drugs, which are used by a majority of the people accepted into the program.

Self-medication becomes a crutch as individuals attempt to maintain a grasp on their lives, even as they continue to struggle with a mental illness.

The Mental Health Court works to stabilize these individuals, place them on approved medications and remove them from a cycle of drug abuse, hospitalization, recidivism and jail time.

"We want to close the revolving door and give people hope," said Judge Jackie Glass, who serves as one of the Court's administrative judges. Senior Judge John McGroarty, who helped initiate the program, continues to preside over Mental Health Court sessions and met with this latest group of graduates.

The Mental Health Court is a community partnership and many groups have come forward to provide shelter, vocational training, and other services, such as the Salvation Army, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health, National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Mojave Mental Health, and the Human Resources Development Institute, among others.

"We couldn't do it without their help," said Senior Judge John McGroarty. "The Mental Health Court is based upon a therapeutic model of justice and a team-oriented approach to resolving

identified issues. It isolates problems and seeks solutions."

For Jason Blackwood, this approach has changed his life and the life of his mother. She told the *Las Vegas Sun* in January, "I'm one of the lucky moms."



Jason Blackwood shakes the hand of Senior Judge John McGroarty. Also pictured, Bobby Kountz, president of the Southern Nevada Chapter of NAMI.

**En Banc, Clark County Courts News, is an online newsletter created by the Court Information Office.**

**The newsletter can be found on the District Court and Las Vegas Justice Court Intranet sites: <http://www2.accessclarkcounty.com>.**

**If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: [input@clarkcountycourts.us](mailto:input@clarkcountycourts.us).**



In this Newsletter	
<b>Message from the Court Executive Officer .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bailiffs Become Marshals .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Endoscopy Clinic Cases Impact District Court .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Traffic Court Speeds to New Collections Record .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chief Judges Message .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>New Judges Bring Experience to Bench .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Supreme Court Honors Drug Court Pioneer .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Racing In For DUI Courts .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New Faces .....</b>	<b>8</b>



Charles J. Short, Court Executive Officer

## Message from the Court Executive Officer

Together we can accomplish many things

*Our judges and employees help make us a model court and demonstrate how complex problems can be solved through hard work, dedication and innovation.*

When we put our focus on something we rarely fail to achieve success. Everyone in our courts work hard, and when we put our minds into solving a problem, we have always come through with a solution that improves processes and furthers our service to the public. I have a couple of examples this month of recent successes achieved in the face of overwhelming odds.

At one time the Civil Division of the Las Vegas Justice Court was as much as six weeks or more behind in processing incoming documents. This delay put a tremendous pressure on our court and at one point we even had judges helping sort and file documents. Cases could not move forward without the appropriate files and, as a result, justice was delayed. Faced with this problem, the staff pulled together to find solutions and I'm proud to report that we are now current in the Civil Division. This success came about through reorganizing how we process the documents, with approximately 30 staff members working hard, combined with judicial leadership from our Las Vegas Justice Court judges, to find ways to address many of the document processing problems.

Employees became empowered to report their progress and more work was completed. We actually were able to dramatically reduce overtime and give our employees back free time. Staff started looking for new ways of processing the documents and more work was completed. By involving our employees in how we completed the work, we have worked together to accomplish more, while at the same time providing more timely access to justice.

The second example involves the hard-working employees of Finance and the District Court Clerk's Office who have literally pulled off a miracle in reconciling our Trust Account. This account had gone years without reconciling the deposits to the cash in the account. Employees went through the difficult task of identifying thousands of trust entries, some written on notecards and stuffed in boxes. All of these records have been entered into a database and I'm very proud to report that for the first

time the court can account for all known deposits and their relationship to the cash deposited in the account. This task has taken hours of overtime and concentrated effort to pull off. In the process, employees have found ways to return money to our customers and improve the process.

Our employees make up the lifeblood of this court and I am proud of everyone who helps us be a model for the nation. Your success is our success, and I'm proud of your efforts.

## Court Briefs - News from Around the Court

### Bailiffs Become Marshals

*Newest law enforcement unit in Clark County.*

More than 90 members of the new Marshal Division of the Clark County Courts took an oath of office to inaugurate Clark County's newest group of sworn law enforcement officers at the Sun Coast in January.



The Marshal Division is tasked with protecting the judicial process by ensuring the safety of individuals entering the Regional Justice Center and by protecting judges, jurors and other members of the judiciary.

Officers of the Marshals Division are now striving to become Category 1 police officers and a new academy will begin later this summer to enable officers to qualify for the new police classification.

With the support of the District Court and Justice Court Judges, officers worked to change state law to create the Marshal Division during the 2007 Legislative Session.

The new classification provides the court with the opportunity to attract quality officers and improve training.



Lt. George Glasper presents Chief Judge Doug Smith with the new Marshal shield.



Mary Ann Garst processes incoming Endoscopy-related cases

## Endoscopy Center Cases Impact on District Court

Thousands of plaintiffs potentially affected. Chief Judge Kathy Hardcastle issues administrative order in response to the rapid number of filings.

The first class action complaint against the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada was filed on February 28, and by March 19 more than 50 lawsuits had been filed alleging the defendants treated patients with dirty syringes that were previously exposed to unknown persons.

The lawsuits constitute the largest number of potential class actions filed in the District Court since the influx of Construction Defect and Medical Malpractice lawsuits between 2001 and 2003.

On the same day, March 19, the first wrongful-death lawsuit was filed alleging a local man died after receiving care at the Endoscopy Center on Shadow Lane. The rapid filing of lawsuits led District Court Chief Judge Kathy Hardcastle to issue her first

administrative order of 2008 assigning Judge Allan Earl to the task of coordinating the discovery and pretrial motion practice of the multiple case files.

More than 110 cases are now pending in the District Court. Nearly every civil judge in the district has been assigned one of the Endoscopy Center cases, with some judges assigned multiple cases.

The lawsuits constitute the largest number of potential class action lawsuits filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court since the influx of Construction Defect and Medical Malpractice lawsuits between 2001 and 2003.

## Light Of Hope

Ceremony ignites a spark to showcase the needs of foster children in Clark County.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Light of Hope Ceremony took place April 10 in the Family Court



Atrium to recognize National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. The event brought together Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers, judges and court employees to honor the children and individuals who benefit from the work of CASA and the Family Court.

The event is held each year to promote the efforts underway to stop child abuse, to recognize the critical need for more permanent, loving homes for child victims of abuse and neglect, as well as to hear inspirational messages from individuals who were once in the system.

During the ceremony, candles were lit by three young adults who have survived past abuse and neglect and who are now doing their part to help other foster youth know that they are not alone.

## Traffic Court Speeds to New Collections Record

Court collects more than \$1 million in traffic fines.

February flew by yet the short month didn't stop motorists from speeding to pay their traffic tickets. The Las Vegas Township Justice Court collected more than \$1 million in traffic fines in just 29 days with its online and phone payment system. This set a new record and demonstrates that more people would rather "Leave the Line" and pay tickets at their convenience rather than stand in a line at the Regional Justice Center.

The Justice Court collected \$1,001,346.71 in February as 5,958 customers skipped the line at the courthouse and paid their traffic tickets by phone or web. Since May 2006, the system has collected \$12,515,732 in traffic fines returning millions to Clark County general fund.

"The system continues to attract customers who want to honor their obligations without having to visit the traffic counters at the courthouse," said Chief Judge Doug E. Smith. "This virtual court model also has attracted the attention of courts nationwide and they are looking to us for advice in creating their own electronic payment systems."

A delegation from Collin County, Texas recently toured the Regional Justice Center to learn

more about the court's IVR and virtual court efforts. The Clark County Commission provided a \$250,000 investment in 2006 to purchase and install the system. The system returned that investment in the first five weeks of operation.

"This is a great example of how we can improve customer service and provide accountability to the taxpayers that funded the project," said Commissioner Rory Reid.

Roughly 220,000 traffic tickets are processed by the Las Vegas Justice Court each year. Customers can go to the front of the traffic ticket line by dialing (702) 671-3444 or by accessing the web payment system at <http://www.clarkcountycourts.us>.

# From the Chief Judges

## Increased caseloads may lead to suspension of civil filings

By Kathy A. Hardcastle, Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court

At the National Center for Metropolitan Courts (NCMC) Conference hosted in Las Vegas in February, a highly attended conference session centered on the upcoming budget crisis in state courts around the country. Some courts face budget deficits totaling more than 10 percent this year. Many courts are facing cutbacks in services and employee furloughs. The discussion focused on how to make due with less and find creative ways to provide access to justice.

In Clark County, the courts have been advised that county general fund revenues are not meeting projections in the current fiscal year and some belt tightening may be needed. However, our court has worked with limited judicial resources for some time. The courts have struggled to make due, through good times and bad, even as the community continues to grow and add more civil and criminal cases to the system.

Incidentally, while the courts have been successful in adding new

judges in the past two legislative sessions, requests for staffing to support those judges has not been added as readily by the executive branch.

It has been shown by the National Center for State Courts that for every policeman added to the streets, an additional employee must be added to support that officer's efforts. The justice system has not been able to keep up with the additional police officers and consequently cases are starting to take longer to process by the judiciary.

In the civil divisions, cases continue to come in as a result of community growth. A shortage of resources can be directly related to our inability to move cases to trial in a timely fashion.

As the court has looked at resource shortages and growing caseloads, we have had to discuss some rather unthinkable solutions. For instance, the courts may be forced to suspend

civil filings to address the backlog of civil cases and keep up with the growth in criminal filings. Prudently, the courts must focus on criminal cases to provide closure to victims and ensure defendants move through the system rather than wait in the jail.

However, focusing on criminal cases further erodes our ability to adjudicate civil matters. These delays impact individuals by extending the time it takes to reach a conclusion and ends up costing individuals and businesses more money as they wait for a trial.

Any decision to suspend civil filings would be as a last resort to allow the courts to direct resources to criminal cases and work on reducing the current backlog of civil cases. With limited resources, jurisdictions are learning that they can only handle so much work and must concentrate on providing quality justice rather than justice in quantity.

*"It is taking longer for the judiciary to adjudicate cases in the District Court."*

## Civil Division Brings Default Filings Current

By Douglas E. Smith, Chief Judge, Las Vegas Township Justice Court

At one time there was a three month backlog in the number of civil filings coming into the Justice Court's Civil Division.

The backlog made it difficult for the court to process defaults. I'm happy to report that through the hard work of everyone in the Civil Division that stack of backlog files has been reduced down to a very small pile. In fact, we are now current and within five days of processing defaults. I want to thank the 30 employees who worked very hard

*Civil default filings were backlogged by 3 months. Defaults are now current.*

to make this possible. A few things were done to reduce the backlog and aid in our success. Retraining on the use of CourtView was undertaken to give our employees a

better understanding of how to process the files and ensure they were completed correctly.

Employees developed new processes and implemented productivity reports to show how much they were accomplishing and how much work remained at the end of the day. In addition, six new employees were

added to the Civil Division to help in processing the incoming filings.

Improving our processes and reducing the backlog restores confidence in the court and allows us to show the local community that we are working harder to help individuals obtain access to justice.

I am proud of everyone in the Justice Court who go beyond the call of duty so often to help us process the tremendous caseload and provide exceptional customer service. You are what makes our court a model for the nation and I'm honored to work side-by-side with you to serve the community.

# New Judges Bring Experience to Bench in 2007

## Judges join court from many diverse backgrounds

Many new judges joined the bench in 2007 providing the Clark County Courts with a diverse set of skills and abilities.

### Michael Villani

Michael P. Villani is a 46-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1979 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. He received his Juris Doctorate in 1982 from California Western School of Law. While in law school he was a member of the Advocacy Honors Board.



Judge Villani is currently the District Court Judge for Department 17. Since taking the Bench in 2007, he has been appointed a member of the Indigent Defense Commission by Supreme Court Justice Michael Cherry.

Shortly after passing the Bar, Judge Villani was a Deputy District Attorney and after leaving the District Attorney's Office he was in private practice handling criminal defense, personal injury and insurance defense matters. As such, Judge Villani brings to the bench a wealth of knowledge in all areas of the law.

During the last 15 years, Judge Villani donated extensive time to the Bar and community. His prior judicial experience includes serving as an Alternate Municipal Court Judge, Justice of the Peace Pro Tem and Small Claims Court Judge. From 1993 through 2007, he was an Arbitrator handling in excess of 350 cases. In 1997 through the date of his appointment to the Bench, the State Bar of Nevada appointed him to the Fee Dispute Committee and for two years

he was a member of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board. Judge Villani is married to Cathy and is the father of six children.

### David Barker

David Barker serves in District Court Department 18. He moved to Las Vegas from California in 1984. He graduated from the University of California Irvine in 1981 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He earned his Juris Doctorate in 1984 from Pepperdine School of Law. While in law school he was a member of the Moot Court Honor Board and studied in London, England in 1982.

After passing the bar in 1984 Judge Barker was sworn in as a Clark County Deputy District Attorney under Robert Miller. In 1989 he was promoted to Chief Deputy District Attorney supervising the Major Fraud Division. In 1991-1992



he left the District Attorney's Office for private practice with the law firm of Bell and Davidson but returned to the District Attorney's Office in 1992.

During the last 15 years as a Chief Deputy District Attorney, Judge Barker worked in numerous divisions including, criminal track team chief, screening, and Grand Jury/Financial crimes.

Judge Barker has donated extensive time to the Nevada State Bar and Community as a member of the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board and as a coach with the High School Mock Trial program. Judge Barker has been married for 19 years to Stephanie and they have two children.

### Susan Johnson

Susan Johnson took the bench in Department 22 in January 2007 and primarily hears civil and construction defect matters.

Judge Johnson graduated from Ed. W. Clark High School in 1977, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas in 1982, and later graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1985. She has been a member of the Nevada and California State Bar Associations since 1985 and 1986, respectively.

Before assuming the bench, Judge Johnson was an A-V rated attorney who practiced civil litigation, personal injury, security and/or premises claims, domestic or family law, wills and simple estate planning. Her background also includes insurance and civil rights defense. She is an experienced arbitrator (arbitrating more than 600 matters), mediator, Settlement Judge for the Nevada Supreme Court, short-trial judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court, Judge Pro Tempore for Las Vegas Justice Court, as well as Hearing Master in child support cases.



She has taught several CLE courses during her career, including arbitration, personal injury and uninsured/underinsured motorist issues.

Judge Johnson also is actively involved in the community. She is the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Green Valley, and held memberships in various organizations before assuming the bench, such as the Junior League of Las Vegas, National Association of Women Business Owners, and Henderson Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

She has been married to Eric Johnson for over twenty-one years, and is very active in her two daughters' schools and other activities.

*continued on page 8*

# Supreme Court Honors Drug Court Pioneer

by Michael Sommermeyer, Court Information Officer

He sat there grinning. That wide, distinctive grin that his friends have come to know and the same grin that greeted thousands of drug court defendants who grew to understand it was a reward from a man who could be tough, but more often than not, was one of the few people who really cared.

And the proceedings were significant, as all seven Nevada Supreme Court Justices convened in a special session in an Eighth Judicial District Courtroom to honor a man who introduced to the state judiciary an entirely new way of adjudicating drug offenders.

Retired Judge Jack Lehman was honored by his peers and the Nevada Supreme Court at a special session of the court held February 4, 2008 at the Regional Justice Center. Lehman was joined by his son Steven and daughter Jessica, and their families, for the special honor. His smile grew larger as friends and colleagues spoke of his accomplishments and his stature among speciality court judges and administrators.

Washoe County Senior Judge Peter I. Breen summed it up best when he said, "Jack Lehman is a rock star. People line up to see him and talk to him about Drug Court."

Judge Lehman created the nation's fifth adult drug court in Las Vegas in 1992. Today, Clark County's Drug Courts are considered models for other courts across the nation. There are more than 1,200 Drug Courts in the United States, including the nation's first Prison Re-Entry Drug Court, operated by the Eighth Judicial District Court.

At the time, the idea of creating a therapeutic court was radical, especially in a state that preached law-and-order and whose judges placed a special emphasis on "doing time for the crime."

"If it wasn't for Jack's hard work and his salesmanship, I don't believe we would have had them in the north for years to come. One thing I can say about Washoe County, is it's a very

conservative area, and I know that I wouldn't have been elected to the next term to the judiciary running on the platform of being a therapeutic judge," said Judge Breen. "But I didn't have to because Jack marked the trail with a brilliant light and made it very easy" to create a drug court program in Reno.

Supreme Court Justice A. William Maupin called Lehman a mentor and a role model for his career.

"What you did when you were Commander Lee, when you were a lawyer representing injured people, people in need, and then as a judge, you were a teacher," said Justice Maupin. "You are all about people. You have taught the people in your courtroom the ability to take responsibility for their lives and then to create their own lives and that's good enough for me."

Chief Justice Mark Gibbons noted the drug court model has proved that specialty courts can help reduce the recidivism rate and reduce the costs of adjudicating individuals, likely saving Nevada taxpayers millions of dollars. The courts have successfully returned thousands of individuals back into the

community where they have become productive citizens and remain drug free. Drug Court Graduate Brian Johnson said that if it hadn't been for Judge Lehman he might never have recovered.

"You held me accountable for my actions," said Johnson. "You showed me what positive success felt like. Because of your involvement, I get to be a son to my mother, a brother to my sister and I get to be a father today."

During the proceedings, Judge Jackie Glass presented Judge Lehman with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition for his lifetime commitment to people and their recovery and for his pioneering work in the drug court movement.



*"You are all about people. You have taught the people in your courtroom the ability to take responsibility for their lives and then to create their own lives and that's good enough for me." - Supreme Court Justice A. William Maupin*

# Errata

Political season is in full swing and political signs are popping up all over town. On the drive into work, it's not uncommon to find an entire block of judicial candidates signs seeking support in the upcoming primary election.

Recently an employee asked the following question, "may judicial employees display campaign materials in their cars?" According to Jillian Prieto, staff attorney, the answer to this question is "yes" and can be further explored by reading Judicial Canon 6:

**CANON 6  
A JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE SHALL  
REFRAIN FROM INAPPROPRIATE  
POLITICAL ACTIVITY.**

Judicial employees may engage in political activity, if such activity does not tend to reflect adversely on the dignity or the impartiality of the court or office and does not interfere with the proper performance of official duties. A judicial employee may not engage in such activity while on duty or in the judicial employee's workplace and may not use any court or local government resources in connection with such activity.



Clark Avenue between Casino Center Avenue and Third Street is expected to remain closed to traffic through August as Real Property Management continues work on replacing water lines to the Regional Justice Center.



Amber Candelaria, director of the Clark County Family Law Self-Help Center, was recently selected to the Nevada State Bar's Nevada Executive Council. Family Court Judge William Potter also serves on the Executive Council and nominated Candelaria to the post.



More than 250 children participated in Bring Your Child to Work Day at the Regional Justice Center. Thank you to everyone who provided time and help to make this day so successful.



## Racing In For DUI Courts

by Michael Sommermeyer, Court Information Officer

Robby Gordon brought his NASCAR to the Regional Justice Center in February to support the National Center for DWI Courts, the Specialty Courts Programs of the Clark County Courts and Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Inc. in highlighting the importance of DUI Court Programs in Nevada.

Clark County started with one DUI Court ten years ago. Since then, nearly 400 offenders have successfully completed the program. Of those who successfully graduated, only 12 percent had a repeat drunk driving offense within three years of their graduation.

DUI Courts deal with hardcore and repeat drunk driving offenders by providing long-term, ongoing accountability and rehabilitation, in addition to conviction.

Before signing autographs and taking pictures, Gordon cautioned drinkers not to over indulge and admonished those fans under 21 not to drink at all. Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Gibbons told the crowd, "As a former District Court judge, I presided over several cases in this program and saw first hand the powerful impact these courts can have in saving lives."

"DUI Courts are saving lives," stated Chief Judge Kathy A. Hardcastle, Eighth Judicial District Court. "Nevada is a powerful example of how effective DUI Courts can be. On behalf of other DUI Court judges, we would like to thank Nevada legislators for supporting this program. We encourage other states to follow Nevada's lead in establishing more DUI Courts."

In 2007, the Nevada Legislature passed SB277 into law, allowing the creation of additional DUI Courts in the state. The Nevada DUI Court pilot program blends long-term treatment with the accountability, immediacy and certainty of court response to ensure it works more effectively than punishment alone. It has become a model court for other jurisdictions across the country.

# New Judges Bring Experience to Bench in 2007

continued from page 5

## William Potter

Judge William Potter is a Henderson native who graduated from basic High School in 1987. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and his Juris Doctorate from J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University.

Prior to taking the bench in 2007 in Department M, Judge Potter worked as an attorney for ten years, eight of those as a sole practitioner with an emphasis in family law matters. During this time he also served on the Executive Council of the State Bar of Nevada, Family Law Section as well as serving as a Pro-Tem Hearing Master for both child support and protective orders.

Judge Potter is married to Crista and has four children. He is active in his church and community.



## Elizabeth Halverson

Judge Elizabeth Halverson took the District Court Department 23 bench in 2007. She graduated from the University of California at Davis with a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science/public service in 1977. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California Law Center in 1980. Following her graduation Halverson was sworn in as an attorney in California and U.S. District Court. She went to work for the federal government following a year in private practice. In 1992 Halverson passed the Nevada bar exam. In 1995 she moved to Nevada to take a position as law clerk in the Eighth Judicial District Court. For the next nine years she worked with Eighth Judicial District Court judges on administering calen-

dars, writing legal opinion letters and Supreme Court petitions. She practiced civil and family law at her own firm from 2004 to 2007.

## James Bixler

Judge James Bixler transferred his bench from the Justice Court to the District Court in January 2007 after he was elected to Department 24. He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree and went on to Baylor School of Law where he graduated in the top ten percent of his class with a Juris Doctorate in November 1973.

Fresh out of law school Judge Bixler moved straight to Las Vegas where he went to work for the North Las Vegas City Attorney's Office as a law clerk and later as a Deputy City Attorney. He also served as the first North Las Vegas Municipal Court Administrator. He left the City Attorney's office and became a founding partner in the firm of Franklin, Bixler and Damus. During

the next six years Bixler was actively engaged in the private practice of law and became the father of his first daughter.

In 1980 Judge Bixler ran for and was elected to Las Vegas Justice Court, Department 4 and served in that position for twenty-six years before his election to the District Court in 2007.

## Abbi Silver

Judge Abbi Silver is a lifelong resident of southern Nevada. She grew up in Boulder City and graduated from Clark High School in Las Vegas. In 1986, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In 1989, Judge Silver earned her Juris

Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law.



From 1989 to 1990, Judge Silver passed the bar exams in both California and Nevada while working as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Earle White, Jr., Eighth Judicial District Court judge. In 1990, she joined the Clark County District Attorney's office where she served as the Chief Deputy of the Special Victim's Unit.

Judge Silver was elected to the Las Vegas Municipal Court in June of 2003 and the Las Vegas Township Justice Court in November 2006. In January 2009, Judge Silver will take District Court's Department 15 seat after the retirement of Judge Sally Loehrer. Judge Silver is very involved in various community groups on behalf of women and children in Las Vegas.

## New Faces

### District Court

Jon Carlston  
Phillip Hoffman  
Caryn Schiffman  
Cheryl Rae Carpenter  
Lara Corcoran  
Anita Bischof  
Jeffrey Hanks  
Ernest Moran  
Aileen Deleon  
William (Karl) Beavers

Brecklin Wilke  
Jacob Bodine  
Holly Carlisle  
Victoria Fischer  
Olivia Byrd  
Michael Gutierrez  
Gordon Nack  
Jill Jacoby  
Latasha Kelly

### Justice Court

Claudia Guardado  
Grissell Hernandez  
Deborah Boyer  
Jennifer Velazquez  
Stephanie Westbay  
Lia Winder  
Joshua McCray, Jr

Wayneisha Thomas  
Christopher Androl  
Dominique Stingley  
Norma Valenzuela  
Lauren Franks  
Gloria Lopez  
Johnny Hopfe  
Cesar Lozano

### Clerk of the Court

Aracely Cruz  
Scott Solomon  
Aisha Watson  
Cynthia Bush  
Aaronette Moore  
Toni Ayala  
Allison Behrhorst

Kelly Mann  
Dominique McElroy  
Erica Estes  
Jennifer Schmidt  
Kamela Flintroy  
Vandora Henry