

## ACCOLADES | Attorneys Honored for Service

BY JESSICA LAUREDAN

**F**our employees of the **Unified Court System** received Merit Performance Awards earlier this month at a May 3 Law Day celebration at the Court of Appeals in Albany.

**Sandy Petrella**, chief clerk of the Rochester City Court, and **Sheldon B. Charles**, a court officer in Kings County Supreme Court, were recognized in the Superior Work Performance category.

Ms. Petrella has been with Rochester City Court since 1969. She became deputy chief clerk in the mid-1990s, and was named chief clerk in 1998. She was cited for continuing to serve the court despite being diagnosed with cancer in 2005.

Mr. Charles has been a court officer since 2005. Cited for his "superb interpersonal skills," Mr. Charles conducts "Take Your Children to Work" tours at the court and participates in other outreach efforts.

**Monique J. Cruz**, a court officer in Washington County Combined Court, was recognized for Community Service and Humanitarian Pursuits. Ms. Cruz, who came to Washington County Court from Bronx Criminal Court in 2006, works with various local organizations to help those in need. She most recently organized a softball tournament to raise money for an inner-city Little League. While in the Bronx she participated in fund-raisers sponsored by community organizations to benefit at-risk youths.

**Donna J. Johnson**, a senior court clerk in Suffolk County Supreme Court, was honored for her heroism. Last year, she helped save the life of an attorney who went into cardiac arrest in court. Ms. Johnson, who is the first woman chief of the Riverhead Volunteer Ambulance Corps, used a defibrillator to stabilize the attorney until emergency workers arrived. She continues to volunteer with the ambulance corps.

**The New York State Bar Association** earlier this month pre-

sented its annual President's Pro Bono Service Awards at a Law Day luncheon at the State Bar Center in Albany.

Awards were presented to attorneys in each of New York's 13 judicial districts; a young lawyer practicing law for less than 10 years or under age 36; a large law firm; a small or mid-size firm; a law student; and a law school group.

The Judicial District honorees were: First, **Anne S. Raish** of **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison**, Manhattan; Second, **Christopher Rio** of the **Law Office of Frank J. Rio**, Brooklyn; Third, **Daniel J. Hurteau** of **Nixon Peabody**, Albany; Fourth, **Emily Muller** of Saratoga; Fifth, **David Hayes** of **Bond, Schoeneck & King**, Syracuse; Sixth, **Peter A. Orville** of the **Law Offices of Peter A. Orville**, Binghamton; Seventh, **David H. Tennant** of **Nixon Peabody**, Rochester; Eighth, **Catherine E. Nagel** of **Nuchereno & Nagel**, Buffalo; Ninth, **Guy Fairstein** of White Plains; Tenth, **Stuart Gelberg** of Garden City; Eleventh, **Hilary Gingold** of North Woodmere; Twelfth, **Michael S. Davi** of **Vinson & Elkins**, Manhattan; Thirteenth, **Serena M. Stonick** of **Lahr Dillon Manzulli Kelley & Penett**, Staten Island.

The other honorees were, Young Lawyer, **Hagit Elul**, **Hughes Hubbard & Reed**; Senior Lawyer, **Shirley Adelson Siegel**, New York; In-House Counsel, **Gary B. Cohen**, Xerox Corporation, Rochester; Law Student, **Ryan Shannon**, **University of Richmond School of Law**; Small and Mid-Sized Law Firm, **Levene Gouldin & Thompson**, Binghamton; Large Law Firm, **Hiscock & Barclay**, Syracuse; Law School Group: Suspension Representation Project, **New York University School of Law**.

**Marc Lieberstein**, an intellectual property partner at **Kilpatrick Stockton** and chair of the **Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law** Alumni Association, accepted the alumni group's Tiffany Star for Service during its annual executive committee dinner earlier this month.

Mr. Lieberstein, who was honored for his "remarkable dedication and inspired leadership," has been chair of the association for four years. He will resign from the post on June 1.

**The University at Buffalo Law School** Alumni Association last week presented five alumni and an Erie County Court judge its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards at a dinner at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

The alumni honorees were Justice **Erin M. Peradotto**, '84, of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department; **Roger J. Jones**, '84, a partner in the Chicago office of **Latham and Watkins**; Judge **E. Jeannette Ogden**, '83, Buffalo City Court and an acting Erie County Family Court judge; **Frank J. Clark**, '67, a retired Erie County prosecutor; and **Harvey L. Kaminski**, '77, president and CEO of Prestige Capital Corp.

Also, Erie County Court Judge **Thomas P. Franczyk** was recognized for "outstanding service to the university by a non-alumnus."

**Levy Ratner** and **Scott + Scott** accepted the Pro Bono Social Change Award from the **Center for Constitutional Rights** at the organization's President's Reception earlier this month at Manhattan Penthouse.

The law firms were honored for their work on behalf of the Vulcan Society in *United States of America and Vulcan Society Inc. v. City of New York* (490 F.2d 387), the federal class action law suit that claimed the New York City Fire Department discriminated in its hiring practices. On Jan. 13, a Southern District court granted summary judgment in the plaintiffs' favor in their claims against the city, but also ruled in favor of two defendants, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Fire Department Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, who has since stepped down.

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