

a newsletter of the

Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges'  
Commission

# P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

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## Awards Dinner Honors Outstanding People and Programs in Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice

**N**early 1,000 participants attended the 1999 Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers November 3-5. Governor Tom Ridge offered opening remarks to the attendees at the first session of the conference which began on Wednesday, November 3, 1999, with an important and historic discussion commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the first juvenile court in Cook County, Illinois.

Policymakers and practitioners from Pennsylvania and across the nation offered their insights on the development, history, impact, and future of the juvenile court in America. This part of the program was held in the Sunoco Theater at the brand new Whitaker Center for the Performing Arts, located next to the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

On Wednesday evening, the ballroom of the Hilton provided a backdrop in which to renew professional acquaintances, and enjoy the music of *Pentagon* at an informal reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

Shay Bilchik, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the United States Department of Justice, opened the General Session of the conference on Thursday morning. Attendees then convened into group caucuses with individual sessions for Juvenile Court Judges, Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, line probation officers, victim services providers, specialized probation officers, detention, and private and public-residential program providers. Led by a facilitator and a group recorder, the caucuses were highly interactive, encouraging participants to speak out on issues of concern.

Young people from within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system were then recognized for their individual achievements at the Youth Awards Program and Luncheon. This program underscores the importance and impact of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and the dedicated people working on behalf of thousands of young people. This year's speaker was David Pelzer, who was once a client of the system. A gifted author, speaker, and humorist, his unique accomplishments have

been recognized in this country and around the world. Pelzer was recognized by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of Ten Outstanding Young Americans in 1993 and a year later was *the only American* to receive the Outstanding Young Persons of the World award, given by the Junior Chamber International at the World Congress in Kobe, Japan. One of the nation's most effective and gifted communicators, his message touches the hearts of audiences everywhere. Pelzer is a former juvenile probation officer, detention center counselor, and Air Force veteran who served in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, and Just Cause. He has recently completed his second book, *The Lost Boy*. His first publication, *A Child Called 'It'*, was nominated for a Pulitzer.

At the conclusion of the Youth Awards program, The California-based *Raven Radio Theater of the Air* presented "To Be A Child's Friend", a specially written 'live' radio broadcast, circa 1935, telling the story of Jane Addams as she looks back on the creation of the nation's



**Earl W. Stoudt**  
*Lancaster County*  
 Chief Juvenile Probation Officer  
 of the Year



**Gerald L. Schrass**  
*Philadelphia County*  
 Juvenile Probation Supervisor  
 of the Year



**Manuel F. Gomez**  
*Lehigh County*  
 Juvenile Probation Officer  
 of the Year



**James Bracklin**  
*Westmoreland County*  
 Meritorious Service



**Kathleen M. Jones**  
*Warren County*  
 Juvenile Court Support Service



**Thomas P. Antolik**  
*Supervisor, Perseus House*  
 Erie County CICTP, Community-Based  
 Program of the Year

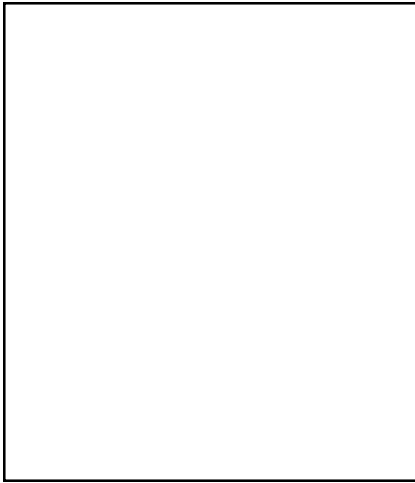
County, Illinois. Performed on a sound stage by conference volunteers with period microphones and a variety of imaginative sound effects, this truly unforgettable performance takes the audience back to a time in American history when many issues were as relevant as they are today.

The Annual Awards Dinner and Program, around which the conference is centered, took place

on Thursday evening.

Each year, the Juvenile Court Judges Commission, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, honors outstanding individuals and exemplary programs from across the Commonwealth who have improved the quality of life for youth and families who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The Annual Award's Program is

an opportunity to extend appreciation and pay tribute to the award recipients whose effort, dedication, and commitment to juvenile justice are worthy of special commendation. In each award category there are several nominees, all of whom are deserving of recognition. Award winners are selected by committee from the field of nominees as submitted by their peers. The decision on who is most worthy of recognition is always difficult.



**S. Drew Taylor**

Lehigh County SPORE Program  
Court-Operated Program of the Year



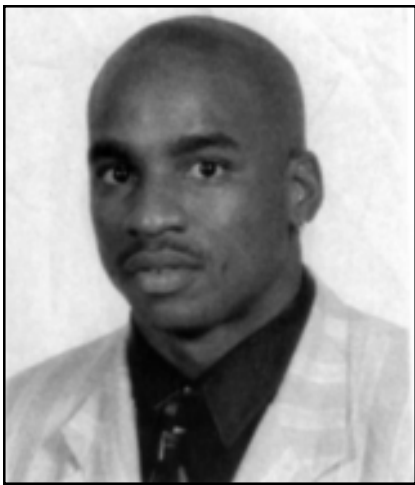
**Brother Robert Kinzer**

Director, Saint Gabriel's Hall  
Residential Program of the Year



**Robert L. Henderson**

Outstanding Scholarship  
in Juvenile Justice



**Jermaine D. Fox**

Undergraduate Scholarship

The conference ended on Friday morning with *Resource Day - 1999*, a yearly event offering participants an opportunity to meet with representatives from nearly 80 public and private residential service providers, informational services, and others whose products and services are available to improve juvenile justice in Pennsylvania.

## Lehigh County Puts It's Juvenile Probation Officers on Bicycles

**W**hen "Joshua" was placed on probation he expected to see his probation officer at school or in the Courthouse. He didn't expect to see him riding through his neighborhood and checking on his behavior there.

In May, 1998, the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department implemented a unique method of more actively and aggressively accomplishing the goals of the department mission statement pursuant to Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). That method was the implementation of a bicycle patrol and client contacts in the center-city Allentown catchment area.

Probation Officers Patrick Best and Joseph M. Reichard use bicycles which are decal'd with "Juvenile Probation" to make home visits, school visits, and for basic transportation to and from the Courthouse. The purpose is to enhance visibility within the

community and make the probation officer more approachable to community residents. This program has helped Probation Officer Best to increase his client and community- (field) based contacts by approximately 300 percent.

The bicycles used by Probation Officers Best and Reichard are basically offices on two wheels. The bicycles are equipped with saddle bags so the officers can keep case notes on clients, paperwork, and even maintain a field-based drug/alcohol testing lab, where drug and alcohol testing can be done in the field or in the client's home. Currently, a policy is under review which will use the bicycles in the evening hours, when Probation Officers Best and Reichard would patrol together. They would be more visible in the community at times when their client population would not expect them to be out. Their increased visibility would enhance even further the

## Marcella Szumanski Joins the PCCD

Marcella Szumanski has joined the staff at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as a Juvenile Court Consultant. She will be working on Balanced and Restorative Justice initiatives for PCCD, as well as continuing her work with several subcommittees of the Juvenile Advisory Committee. These subcommittees are the Mental Health subcommittee, the Detention Steering subcommittee, and CEMAC, which deals with compliance monitoring of federal mandates.

In 1978 Ms. Szumanski began her career in juvenile justice as a juvenile probation officer in Bucks County. She joined the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University in December of 1985. Szumanski was well known around the state. Among her duties at the Center, she was liaison with the Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania and was the person responsible for the auditing of the county juvenile detention centers. She also taught a 300-level course for the Criminal Justice Department at Shippensburg University.

Lehigh County Probation Officers Patrick Best and Joseph M. Reichard

department's dedication toward BARJ, as it will offer a greater measure of community safety and client accountability. These officers will be able to establish more accountability for juveniles who are on court-ordered house arrest by physically increasing the number of curfew checks in their homes. Their visibility within the community will make the neighborhood residents aware that certain individuals are on probation and they can then act as an extra set of eyes for the probation officers.

This program has proved to be an effective and unique method of responding to our client's needs and the needs of the community. It is a more cost-effective and efficient manner of seeing clients. It is easier and quicker getting around the city on a bicycle than in a vehicle, and parking is never a problem. The bicycle is used throughout the year, inclement weather included -- probation officers are equipped with rain and cold weather clothing, assuring the probation officers' ability to maintain accessibility within the community. It has been well received by the neighborhood residents who are

interested in seeing crime reduced and helping youth stay out of trouble. Approximately 100 youth are under the supervision of this program. Recently, the York County Juvenile Probation Department requested consultation with Lehigh County Juvenile Probation so they, too, can implement the use of bicycles in performing their duties.

PLAN TO ATTEND!

tampa, florida  
MARCH 19-22, 2000

27th National Conference on  
Juvenile Justice

*Juvenile Justice in 2000:  
Accentuate the Positive*

Sponsored by the NCJFCJ  
and the NDAA

telephone 703-549-9222  
fax 703-836-3195

## Lisa Freese Joins Commission Staff



**L**isa Freese accepted a position with the Juvenile Court Judges Commission to assist in directing the Center for Juvenile Justice Staff Development Program. The vacancy occurred as a result of Dr. John Lemmon assuming a faculty position in Shippensburg University's Criminal Justice Department and P.J. Verrecchia taking responsibility for directing the Commission-sponsored weekend Master's Degree program.

Many in the system already know Ms. Freese, as she most recently served as supervisor overseeing marketing and court services activities throughout Pennsylvania for Cornell Abraxas, Inc., based in Harrisburg. From 1988 through 1994 she served as a probation officer and assistant intake supervisor with the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department. She is a 1993 Master's Degree graduate of the Commission's program at Shippensburg University and holds a Bachelor's Degree, also in Administration of Justice, from Pennsylvania State University. Those who attend the Center-sponsored training workshops

regularly will get to know Freese well; her primary duties will be to share responsibility with John Herb for the ongoing series of training programs for juvenile justice personnel. She will be based at Shippensburg University and can be reached by calling 717-477-1411.

## Five Become New CTC Technical Assistants

**I**mmediately following this year's Communities That Care Conference, five individuals from Pennsylvania participated in a three day Process Facilitator Training (PFT), led by four trainers from Developmental Research Programs. These individuals, as well as those from several other states, Puerto Rico, and Australia, participated in the PFT training in order to learn methods of providing information and technical assistance to individuals and communities.

The new Pennsylvania Technical Assistants are: Imogene Montgomery from Clairton (Allegheny County); Doug Candelario from Tioga County; Don Waters from Chambersburg (Franklin County); Vladimir Beaufils from Harrisburg (Dauphin County); and Shelley Harris from Philadelphia. These individuals as well as previously trained Technical Assistants will be available to help new and established CTC communities through telephone consultation or on-site visits. Requests for technical assistance can be made by calling Mike Kovacevic, 717-477-1237, or Amy Zarefoss, 717-477-1149.

## Cornell Abraxas

### Positions Available Youth Workers, (f/t & p/t)

**Counselor**

**Night Supervisor**

**Trainer**

**Teacher Aide**

**Student Intern**

**Drivers**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Teachers/Geography and  
Language Arts**

All positions require at least 21 years of age and a high school diploma/GED. Additional education and experience is helpful. Some positions require a bachelors degree. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. Benefits for full-time employees include medical, dental, vacation days, sick days, holidays, 401(K), tuition reimbursement, free meals and more.....

**Please forward resume or call  
for more information:**

Susan Barber,

Human Resources Specialist  
Cornell Abraxas, P.O. Box 334,

South Mountain, PA 17261

phone: 800-560-7731

fax: 717-749-3229