

## Justice Holland Receives Prestigious Award

The American Judicature Society congratulates Justice Randy Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court on receiving the First State Distinguished Service Award. Justice Holland, an AJS Board member, is being recognized for his judicial career dedicated to improving the administration of justice locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. On June 6 the Delaware State Bar Association hosted the 2012 Bench and Bar Conference in Wilmington, Delaware. The American Judicature Society is proud that one of our very own is being recognized for his commitment to improving and protecting the integrity of the American justice system.

—GABRIELL BUTLER

## New Report evaluates re-arrest rates of offenders in mental health courts

Offenders in New York City who participated in mental health courts were significantly less likely to offend than those who are processed through traditional criminal courts, according to a recent report.

The Urban Institute found that participants in the Brooklyn Mental Health Court and the Bronx Mental Health Court had much lower re-arrest rates compared to two matched sets of offenders who were identified as having mental health disorders while held in custody in the city's main jail on Rikers Island.

The study also found that younger offenders had a higher rate of re-offending than older offenders, and that recidivism rates were not affected by the diagnoses of the offenders, findings consistent with those found in other research.

The Brooklyn Mental Health Court is a demonstration project of the Center for Court Innovation, which has extensive experience with mental health courts, including conducting research and evaluation and providing technical assistance to mental health courts across the United States.

The complete study is available at [http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/Criminal\\_Justice\\_Interventions.pdf](http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/Criminal_Justice_Interventions.pdf)

## Judges Trade Courtroom for Classroom as Duke's Masters of Law in Judicial Studies Welcomes Inaugural Class

For four weeks beginning May 20, Duke Law School's new Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Judicial Studies program welcomed its inaugural class – a select group of 18 sitting state, federal, and foreign judges (from Canada and Ghana), representing both trial and appellate benches. The innovative program is the brainchild of Duke Law Dean David F. Levi, former Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, who recognized the need for academic opportunities for judges and Duke's scholarly strength in the study of the judiciary.

John Rabiej, the Director of Duke Law's Center for Judicial Studies, describes the new LL.M. curriculum as the first graduate program for judges designed to take a scholarly and interdisciplinary view of the judiciary as an institution. According to Rabiej, the program is intended to "allow judges to develop the research and analytical skills necessary to study and compare domestic and international judicial institutions, to explore emerging legal issues and general judicial practices, and to examine ideas for judicial reform."

The Master of Laws in Judicial Studies program requires 22 course credits earned in-residence at Duke Law School over two successive summer terms, as well as the completion of a master's thesis based on original research. This summer, the 18 student judges took courses in subjects including Constitutional and Statutory Interpretation, Federalism, International Law in U.S. Courts, Judicial History, Analytical Methods, Forensic Finance, and the Study of the Judiciary, taught by members of the Duke Law faculty. In addition, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito taught a seminar entitled Constitutional Courts, and visiting scholars and jurists led a weekly Judges' Seminar.

One of the more memorable days – Friday, June 1 – began with a seminar on judicial biography with Linda Greenhouse, the Pulitzer Prize-winning former New York Times Supreme Court reporter, and John Jeffries, the former dean of the University of Virginia Law School. In the afternoon, the judges discussed a forthcoming book on judicial decision making, *The Behavior of Federal Judges*, by Judge Richard Posner, William Landes, and Lee Epstein. Judge

Posner appeared by video conference for the discussion. Later, Justice Alito gave his lectures on Constitutional interpretation.

“Every now and then we get the chance to do something in our jobs that is not only good for the institution but that we really care about on a personal level. As a former judge and now dean, bringing this program to life has been that for me,” says Dean Levi. “The day when these 18 judges hold Duke Law degrees in their hands will be a wonderful day for them, and for Duke Law School.”

The next LL.M. class will begin coursework in May 2014. Applications for the 2014-2015 class are now being accepted. Judges who are not able to clear four consecutive weeks on their calendars may earn a Certificate in Judicial Studies by attending a two-week session each summer.

Additional information on Duke Law School’s Center for Judicial Studies and the new LL.M. program is available at [http://law.duke.edu/judicial\\_studies/](http://law.duke.edu/judicial_studies/). ★

—MICHAEL REAM

## Inaugural Class: Duke Master of Law in Judicial Studies

**Hon. Dennis Adjei**

Justice of the Court of Appeal (Ghana)

**Hon. Robert E. Belanger**

Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

**Hon. Kevin A. Blazs**

Judge, 4th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

**Hon. Andre M. Davis**

Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

**Hon. Marsha Erb**

Justice, Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta (Canada)

**Hon. Jon Ferguson**

Judge, Superior Court of California  
San Bernadino County

**Hon. Kem Thompson Frost**

Justice, Court of Appeals for the 14th District of Texas

**Hon. Eva Guzman**

Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

**Hon. George C. Hanks, Jr.**

Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

**Hon. James E. Hardin, Jr.**

Judge, Superior Court for the 14th Judicial District of North Carolina

**Hon. Robert Hunter**

Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals

**Hon. Barbara Jackson**

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina

**Hon. Renee Cohn Jubelirer**

Judge, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

**Hon. Simone Marsteller**

Judge, Florida First District Court of Appeal

**Hon. Philip Pro**

Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

**Hon. Delissa A. Ridgway**

Judge, U.S. Court of International Trade

**Hon. Donna Stroud**

Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals

**Hon. Patricia Timmons-Goodson**

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina

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Plan,” this system of judicial selection keeps money and politics out of our courts and is a model for the nation. The Non-Partisan Court Plan has produced a steady stream of competent judges in Missouri for the past 70 years.

Citizens and lawyers, along with a judge, work as a balanced team on judicial nominating commissions, where they select the top three candidates for the governor to choose to fill an open judgeship. The commissioners review the candidates’ character and community experience they bring to the bench, evaluating their professional strengths and legal analysis skills.

In recent years, however, the Non-Partisan Court Plan has come under attack. This May, the Missouri Legislature approved Senate Joint Resolution 51, a proposed Constitutional Amendment that, if approved by a vote of the people, would have the effect of eliminating Missouri’s merit-based judicial selection process.

The resolution would hand future governors ultimate control over the majority of commissioners who select candidates: it would give future governors, just two years into a single term, unchecked power through control of a voting bloc of four of the seven commissioners.

The amendment would also remove a Missouri Supreme Court Judge from serving and voting on the appellate judicial commission, dilute the quality of the selection process by increasing the number of applicants nominated by the panel, and repeal the requirement that future governors appoint non-lawyers to the commission, thus allowing the commission to be entirely comprised of lawyers.

On November 6, 2012, the people of Missouri will have the opportunity to defend justice for all by rejecting Missouri lawmakers’ efforts to amend our state Constitution to produce appellate judges that are beholden to politicians rather than ruling impartially on the law. ★

—LYNN WHALEY VOGEL, PRESIDENT, MISSOURI BAR