

Model Family Courts Cut Foster Care Stays

APPROXIMATELY HALFA MILLION CHILDREN are in foster care in the United States, with a host of social problems at the heart of these cases. New York State is home to about ten percent of the nation's foster children, the majority of whom live in New York City.

Many of these children come from poverty-stricken homes with parents or caretakers who suffer from mental illness, have an addiction to drugs or alcohol or are victims of an abusive spouse or partner. Adding to the difficulty, the Family Court, responsible for securing safe, stable and permanent homes for these youngsters, must rely on the various government and private entities that comprise our complicated foster care system for critical information about the child and the child's family.

At Manhattan Family Court in downtown New York City, Judge Sara Schechter has the detailed information she needs to keep cases moving along, the result of enhanced cooperation among all the parties, a sophisticated tracking system and the court's hands-on approach. There's even a troubleshooter from the Administration for Children's Services

(ACS)—New York City's child protective agency—working full-time at the court to pinpoint any problems in services to these children and their families that may be slowing cases down.

The Manhattan court is one of two pilot sites in the State and 22 national family court models designated to expedite the processing of foster care cases. By investing additional time at the beginning of a case and getting all the parties communicating from the onset, Schechter and her team have been able to bring these cases to resolution more quickly, in turn reducing the amount of time children must spend in foster care.

Increased Cooperation Means Faster Resolution

Before Schechter hears a case, her court attorney and a social worker from the court meet with all the parties to discuss the child's and family's needs, in order to put essential services in place as quickly as possible. The parties reconvene with the court attorney about a month later to try to reach a settlement in lieu of litigation. Every effort is made to safely reunify the family.

Tanya*, a soft-spoken woman in her twenties, and her lawyer have opted to settle her case. On a particularly hectic day at the court they're scheduled to meet with Tamara Schwartz, one of the court's conferencing attorneys, and full-time court social worker Karen Wells, who links the court's clients to needed services, to review Tanya's progress and that of her five-year-old, Beverly*, now in foster care. The four are joined by a court-appointed lawyer for Beverly, an ACS attorney and representatives from several child welfare and social service agencies.

Tanya, who has admitted to neglecting Beverly, listens attentively as Schwartz and Wells pose questions about the weekly visits between mother and daughter. Everyone agrees Tanya's visits with Beverly, who's very eager to be reunited with her mom, are going well. It's decided, with the consent of each party, that the visitation schedule will stay the same and that mom must continue with her psychological counseling, complete the parenting skills course she's begun and attend an anger management workshop. Beverly also will

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Manhattan Family Court social worker Karen Wells (seated at back of table) and court attorney Tamara Schwartz (to Wells' left) conduct a case conference.

* name changed to protect privacy

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remain in therapy and must stay in foster care for up to a year. Schwartz then sets a date for their next meeting.

There are strict timelines in place for each conference and every appearance before the judge, with tight controls on adjournments. "By getting the parties to sit down and determine what has to happen to make sure the child is safe instead of litigating and contesting these issues to the nth degree, we can decide upon the best permanency plan sooner rather than later," comments New York City Family Court Administrative Judge Joseph Lauria. "Not only does that translate into shorter foster care stays for these youngsters, it also means less shuttling from one foster home to another." Lauria adds that there are already plans to replicate special courtrooms like Schechter's in the City's other boroughs.

Upstate Pilot Kicks Off with Adoption Initiative

Nearly 400 miles north of Manhattan, at New York's other pilot site, Erie County Family Court Judge Sharon Townsend and her dedicated staff have been working hard to speed up adoptions for foster children who've no chance of being reunited with their own families. Like the Manhattan model, Townsend's court, located in Buffalo, uses state-of-the-art computer technology to track cases and court attorneys to take some of the load off the judge.

Since beginning work on its special adoption initiative in July 1998, the court has reduced the time between the filing and finalization of an adoption by 45 days, increasing the

number of adoptions and cutting the length of foster care stays. "There were a lot of cases where children already had been freed for adoption but still were in foster care. We had to work very closely with our local child protective agency, the Erie County Department of Social Services (DSS), in getting the information we needed to move these cases forward," says Townsend.

The court even teamed up with DSS to arrange special Mother's Day and Father's Day adoption ceremonies last year and also has been collaborating with the agency to improve the processing of custody requests from relatives. "Our relationship with DSS is unique, and key to our success," comments Townsend, who was honored last April by CASA—a nationally recognized organization that aids abused and neglected children—for her work with DSS to expedite adoptions.

Moving next year to a bigger, brand-new facility, Townsend's court recently became part of a National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges project, with DSS, to improve the handling of foster care cases. Additionally, the judge and her staff, with funding and assistance from Catholic Charities and the technical expertise of the University of Buffalo, are exploring the use of family mediation to keep foster care cases out of court.

Erie County Family Court Project Director Karen Carroll observes that pilots like the Buffalo and Manhattan Family Court models, by measuring time from the child's perspec-

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TAMARA KERSH: Spreading A Little Sunshine in Manhattan Family Court

It's 9:20 on a bright, sunny morning in downtown New York City and already Manhattan's Family Court is bustling. To a newcomer, the scores of people filing through the court's lobby and into its jam-packed elevators and overflowing waiting areas can be startling. But for court clerk Tamara Kersh, it's just part of the routine.



Court clerk Tamara Kersh

Kersh likes to take an early start, settle in and assess what kind of day it's going to be. Through the years, she's witnessed the growing caseload at Manhattan Family Court, the result of legislative reforms over the last two decades that have upped the number of issues, hearings and parties before the court. She also notes that more neglect and abuse cases are being reported due to enhanced public awareness.

"Most of the people who wind up in family court are not happy to be here. A lot of them come in frightened, angry or confused," comments Kersh, who nine years ago started out as a court assistant on child support and paternity matters and was promoted to court clerk in 1996. As court clerk, Kersh's daily responsibilities include keeping case files in order, preparing calendars for all the parties and orders for the judge, and walking clients through the court's procedures.

Kersh, who's just about as organized as Felix Unger and a natural when it comes to calming people down and defusing tense situations, says some of the cases can really get to you. "In fact, there were times I had to leave the courtroom to take a deep breath and compose myself," she admits.

Awestruck the first time she entered a courtroom, after accepting her first position with Manhattan Family Court, Kersh says her job is a very special one. "Being a clerk at Family Court is not about pushing files. You're dealing with people's lives here. Each file represents several lives, so you do whatever you can," asserts this devoted public servant, the recipient last year of a special merit award for exemplary service. "I take what I do seriously and just hope that I can help some people along the way." ♦

They're Clean, Sober and Making a Difference

IT WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO when the members of The Clean Slate—an alumni group formed by the Rochester Drug Court in March 1997—lived each day on the edge, consumed entirely by the desire for that next fix. Today they're some of the most energetic, upbeat types one could ever hope to meet, strongly committed to helping others with substance abuse problems overcome their addictions and make a successful reentry into society.

The Rochester Drug Court, one of the oldest drug treatment courts in the country as well as New York's first, targets those charged with nonviolent offenses relating to a drug habit or alcohol addiction, reducing or dismissing their charges if they meet the court's graduation criteria: completing an intensive drug treatment program; remaining sober for a minimum of one year; and working and/or attending school full-time. Since the court opened in 1995, close to 400 people have satisfied these requirements, receiving their certificates of graduation and making a fresh start.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Artis Simpson, one of the court's graduates and a Clean Slate member, has been drug-free for over four years. These days, this worldly Vietnam veteran is a full-time student at the State University of New York at Brockport, majoring in social work. Describing some of the people with whom he works as a peer counselor for The Clean Slate, Simpson says, "It's not enough just to talk to these folks. You have to show them by action."

Simpson sits on the alumni group's monthly relapse panel—a brainchild of The Clean Slate—which lends support to offenders who've recently relapsed. Joseph Valentino, the court's presiding judge, requires relapsing defendants to meet with the panel or face jail. "Those who are angry about having to participate on the panel do a complete turnaround, then come and tell me what a great experience it was," he says. "All our panelists have at least three years of recovery behind them and a lot of wisdom to share," adds the court's special project coordinator, Sherry Lintz, who helped the alumni group get off the ground and works closely with its members on the group's many projects.

When the idea for the alumni group first came up, Lintz was thinking in terms of a social support group, but Clean Slate members were more interested in providing important services to the court's clientele and the community as a whole. For example, the group runs educational workshops



Several Clean Slate members get together. Standing: Elizabeth Coombs, Bobby Bell, Jose Miranda, Charles Penna. Seated: Artis Simpson, Tanya Green, William Scobell and the court's special project coordinator, Sherry Lintz.

for both drug court alumni and later-phase defendants. Clean Slate members also speak at schools, professional associations and community organizations as well as on radio and TV about how they overcame their substance abuse, develop "how-to" literature for new drug court participants, and act as hosts and ushers at the court's graduations. In addition, the group has been a great source of feedback for the judge and others who work at the court. Along with suggesting the relapse panel, it was the alumni group's idea to conduct urine testing more randomly so court clients wouldn't be able to anticipate when they'd be tested. The Clean Slate also recommended making individual peer counseling available to defendants upon the judge's request, and volunteered to speak at graduation ceremonies and share their own post-graduation experiences with the new graduates.

Future Steps

So what's the group cooking up for the future? Two of their latest ambitions are to serve up food at a local soup kitchen and develop their own Web site, under the direction of "Web master" Elizabeth Coombs, a graduate of the court who's now enrolled full-time at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she maintains a 4.0 grade point average.

Along with Simpson and Coombs, the group's members include a day-care provider who's studying to become a registered nurse, a schoolteacher, a chef, an auto mechanic, an employee at a residence for the mentally disabled who's working towards his degree in substance-abuse counseling, a secretary and several full-time collegians. All say that being both a resource and role model for others has added new spark to their lives, plus the networking is great. William Scobell, the chef in the group, puts it this way: "The Clean Slate makes it real for me. And we have our share of laughs. But most of all, now I've got people putting their trust in me." ♦

Number of Jurors with Disabilities on the Rise

IN THE SUMMER OF 1999, first-time juror Juan Guzman listened intently as testimony was presented in the civil case on which he sat. While the other jurors kept their eyes fixed on the faces of those on the witness stand, Guzman, who's hearing impaired, focused on the hand movements and facial expressions of Debbie Ciraolo, a sign-language interpreter positioned at the front of the jury box. Guzman says Ciraolo, on hand during the jury selection process and throughout the trial, made sure he didn't miss a beat, sometimes asking the lawyers to slow down their speech and repeat themselves for Guzman's benefit.

Raising Awareness Is Key

In the past year, Ciraolo has assisted on about 20 jury selections and trials in New York City and Westchester, at times teaming up with one of the court system's other sign interpreters, as the work demands intense mental concentration and a lot of physical stamina. A pioneer in the field, Ciraolo began her sign-interpreting career more than a decade before the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, legislation calling for improved access to programs and services for those with hearing and other types of impairments.

Through her sign-interpreting work with the Manhattan district attorney's office, she landed her first jury assignment in 1996. And although the hearing impaired have been serving on juries since the 1980s, Ciraolo says her juror clientele has been growing from year to year. Due in part to recent jury reforms that have led to a more diverse jury pool, this increase in the number of disabled individuals serving on juries lately also can be attributed to the combined efforts of the New York courts' special ADA coordinator and its Committee for Access to the Courts for People with Disabilities. The committee, formed several years ago to enhance services for disabled court users, is especially committed to improving conditions for disabled jurors. Its members include court officials and ADA experts and activists from around the state. "Our purpose is to keep accommodation and other ADA issues on everyone's agenda," explains Acting Supreme Court Justice Rosalyn Richter, one of the committee's co-chairs.

Richter and her co-chair, Manhattan Chief Clerk of Jurors Vincent Homenick, along with the committee's other members, have been working with judges, jury commissioners, chief clerks and other court employees to raise



Sign-language interpreter Debbie Ciraolo communicates with hearing-impaired juror Juan Guzman.

awareness about the needs of court users with disabilities. About two years ago, the committee helped launch a pilot program in Manhattan to encourage the participation of disabled jurors in the county. To accomplish this, a notation was printed on each jury summons that went out, inviting those with disabilities to call a special number at the court if they required any special assistance in order to perform their jury service. Today, every jury summons in the state includes a local number disabled jurors can contact if they need any special equipment or services.

"We try to accommodate everyone," says Homenick. That includes providing jury manuals on audiotape for the visually impaired and a closed-captioned juror orientation film, listening aids and real-time transcription—allowing copies of testimony to be printed on the spot—for those with hearing problems, as well as making the courts easier to navigate for individuals who rely on seeing-eye or other types of service dogs.

Looking Forward to Ongoing Progress

Juror Luis Santiago, who has multiple sclerosis, and Jasmine, a specially trained canine who aids him with his balance, spent about two weeks last spring in Judge Marcy Kahn's courtroom, sitting on a trial at Manhattan Supreme Court. Jasmine was at Santiago's side the whole time. Santiago says he enjoyed the experience, and that he and Jasmine were treated very well by Kahn and her staff. There were some glitches, though. Santiago, who often has problems getting into places with Jasmine because people mistake this spaniel who doesn't don a harness for a "regular" dog, initially had trouble entering the courthouse with the canine. The problem was quickly addressed and it was smooth sailing after that, except that Santiago and Jasmine couldn't enjoy their lunch breaks at any of the area's

Free Prostate Screening Available to Nassau Jurors

Free screening exams for prostate cancer are now available to men serving on jury duty in Long Island's Nassau County, and the jurors don't even have to leave the county's Supreme Court building to undergo the exam.

An unused nurses' station on the second floor of the courthouse was converted into a fully operational examination room, thanks to the combined efforts of the county's courts and the Nassau County Medical Center, which funds the program. The medical center supplies the court's on-site examination staff as well as all the necessary medical equipment.

An offshoot of the county's successful mammography mobile for female jurors—a mobile unit stationed outside the Mineola courthouse twice monthly that has screened more than 1,000 women for breast cancer at no cost to the juror since its introduction in October 1997—the prostate cancer screening program was launched in August 1999.

The test is given every Monday, and each week at least 25 men opt for the potentially lifesaving exam. Nassau County Commissioner of Jurors Thomas DeVivo, the first to participate in the screening program, says the procedure, which includes a blood test that checks for a marker of the disease, lasts only a few minutes. Jurors are notified of their results by mail or telephone within 10 days.

The screening programs for both breast and prostate cancer are announced during juror orientation. Nassau County Supreme Court Judge John DiNoto and DeVivo explain the prostate screening procedure, pointing out the importance of early detection of this disease, which is the most frequently diagnosed form of cancer in American men and shows no symptoms during its earliest stages.

So who should be tested? Nassau County Medical Center physician Jacob Sokel, who proposed the idea for the Mineola court's on-site screening program, recommends yearly screenings starting at age 40 for African-American men (who are at greater risk for prostate cancer than males in other racial groups) as well as for any man with a family history of the disease. Sokel says men who don't fall into either category should be tested annually for prostate cancer once they reach 50.



Nassau County Commissioner of Jurors Thomas DeVivo

eateries because the city's health code doesn't permit anyone with a canine—unless it's a seeing-eye dog—to enter an establishment where food is served. The City Council is now considering legislation to amend the code to allow all service dogs access to New York City restaurants.

Thankfully, Jasmine had a much better time of it back at the courthouse, where Senior Court Clerk Rudy Conquet treated her to dog biscuits. According to Kahn, Santiago's pooch definitely earned these goodies, sitting quietly at her owner's side all through the trial. "Even though, at times, she did seem to express her approval or disapproval of certain of the witnesses," laughs Kahn, adding that the canine's presence proved no trouble at all to the court, allowing Santiago, like every other qualified citizen, the right to perform his civic duty.

Homenick, who with his staff was behind the scenes making Santiago's and Jasmine's two-week stay at the courthouse as comfortable as possible, tells us that besides the new jury summons, there are a number of other ADA-related developments to report. Recently, the court system

appointed 58 ADA liaisons to assist in coordinating requests for special equipment and services from court users with disabilities. A training program for the new liaisons, who represent every court district in the state, was developed by the office of the courts' ADA coordinator in conjunction with the ADA committee and experts from Cornell University. In addition, an online chat room, where ADA liaisons and other court employees can exchange information about ADA-related issues, is currently in the works. Also, some 20 additional assisted listening devices—portable units with headsets and amplifiers—were recently purchased, making them available to court users in each of the state's 62 counties.

At this point, 90 percent of the state's courthouses have at least one wheelchair-accessible jury box. And with ongoing upgrades to existing court facilities to make them fully ADA-compliant—including the installation of ramps, railings, wheelchair lifts, visual fire alarms and listening aids—and these features being built into courthouses constructed since the ADA's passage, Richter says to look out for even greater changes in the coming years. ♦

"WE'RE HERE TO HELP people help themselves," says Gloria Smyth-Godinger, describing the operation of Manhattan Supreme Court's Office for the Self-Represented. The office assists individuals with civil matters who'd like their day in court but can't afford or choose not to be represented by a lawyer. "We're an informational resource for these litigants. We can't advocate for those without attorneys, but we can and do help them navigate the judicial process," adds Smyth-Godinger, the clerk-in-charge of this hectic office, which assists some 1,400 walk-in visitors and handles thousands of phone and mail inquiries every month. Located in the landmark 60 Centre Street courthouse in lower Manhattan, the office—presently the only such one statewide in a trial court of higher jurisdiction—is open Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pointing People in the Right Direction

So, let's say you don't have a lawyer but need to make a claim or defend yourself in court. Smyth-Godinger or one of her staff members—three seasoned clerks, a full-time attorney and two part-time lawyers—would explain what steps you'd have to take to get the process rolling. That includes providing the form or forms required by the court, complete with instructions on how and when to submit the paperwork.

At the Office for the Self-Represented, one can find directions on how to start a civil action, serve papers or make a motion (i.e., a special request asking the court to take some action during a pending lawsuit). In addition, the office has applications and written

Special Office Helps Public Navigate Courts



Gloria Smyth-Godinger (center), clerk-in-charge of the Office of the Self-Represented, flanked by her staff.

instructions for litigants who, due to their financial status, seek to have their court fees waived. It also stocks sample forms for all general court procedures, referring clients to a nearby public access library if a case requires something more specialized.

"Before the Office for the Self-Represented existed, people without attorneys had no central place to go for help, so they would wander the halls of the courthouse looking for assistance. The various clerks' offices throughout the building wound up spending a considerable amount of time with these individuals, getting backlogged as a result," says Frank Byrne, the court's first deputy chief clerk.

Helping Folks from All Walks of Life

John Borek, a managing attorney at a Wall Street firm who volunteers at the Office for the Self-Represented, agrees that having a particular place for people to come to if they need assistance not only makes the process less confusing for the public but also enhances the efficiency of the court system. Adds Borek, "On a personal level, it's very

gratifying because I'm helping individuals I wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to assist, plus there's a lot of variety here, both in terms of the types of people who come to this office and the issues they bring with them."

Indeed, people come from all walks of life and all over the state. "It really runs the gamut here, from family and estate law cases to questions on how to file an appeal or process a name change," says Smyth-Godinger.

Providing An Invaluable Service

Gloria and her staff make a point of telling each client that the office maintains a strictly

neutral stance and can only dispense information, not legal advice. They encourage those who can afford it to at least consult with a lawyer, putting many in touch with local bar associations' lawyer referral services.

Individuals in need of assistance—and that sometimes includes attorneys who are new to the court—move in and out of the office at a steady pace. Some days, over 100 people walk in, and it's considered a slow day if fewer than 50 people show up. Every client gets personalized attention, even though the staff can only spend a few minutes on each case because of the high volume.

Although Smyth-Godinger and her colleagues don't hear back from most of the people they help, some clients will phone in or write to thank the staff, like the elderly woman living on a retirement pension who was on the verge of being evicted from her apartment. Aided by the office, she got her case before a judge, who ruled in her favor.

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Juanita Bing

Newton, whose office was recently created to improve access to justice for all New Yorkers, says the Office for the Self-Represented provides an invaluable service to the public, serving as a model to be replicated throughout the state. "It's a place where the public can get answers to questions and begin to have their legal needs met," asserts the judge, adding that she's looking into the possibility of creating, in collaboration with the bar, a cyberspace equivalent of Smyth-Godinger's group.

In the meantime, anyone, lawyers and litigants alike, with questions about the courts or legal procedure should be aware that the dedicated staff at the 60 Centre Street Office for the Self-Represented is there to respond. ♦

Questions, comments or
suggestions about the
jury system?

Call

1-800-NY-JUROR,

e-mail us at

NYJUROR@courts.state.ny.us

or write to

Chief Judge Judith Kaye,

Continuing Jury Reform,

25 Beaver Street,

New York, NY 10004.

Portrait of the Artist As Juror

SERVING ON A JURY may not have given landscapist Adriano Manocchia much inspiration for his next painting, but it certainly convinced him that the concept of being tried by a jury of one's peers, when put into practice, really does work.

Manocchia, a resident of Westchester County and a painter of river scenes who works in oils, was not at all happy the day he was called for jury duty. "I went into it with a lot of anxiety, annoyed about having my schedule disrupted," says the artist.

Being a juror on a three-day civil trial completely changed Manocchia's perception about the jury system. "Initially, I was skeptical about the process, but then I saw for myself that it works just the way it's supposed to. By the time it was over, my attitude took a 180-degree," he says. Manocchia also was surprised by how accommodating the judge and all the court personnel were. "It actually turned out to be pleasant and very interesting," he adds.

And that's a pretty powerful statement coming from a man who's had his share of adventure. Manocchia, a photo-journalist who traveled about 100,000 miles a year before becoming a landscape artist, has worked with star athletes, politicians, even a few Nobel Prize winners. Trained as a journalist, he learned photography on his own, then started a film and photo agency, covering news events. The work took him to boxer Muhammed Ali's training camp, Jimmy Carter's New York-New Jersey presidential campaign trail and other exciting assignments, including several days on an aircraft carrier, an experi-



*Artist and recent Westchester County juror
Adriano Manocchia*

ence he describes as a phenomenal, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

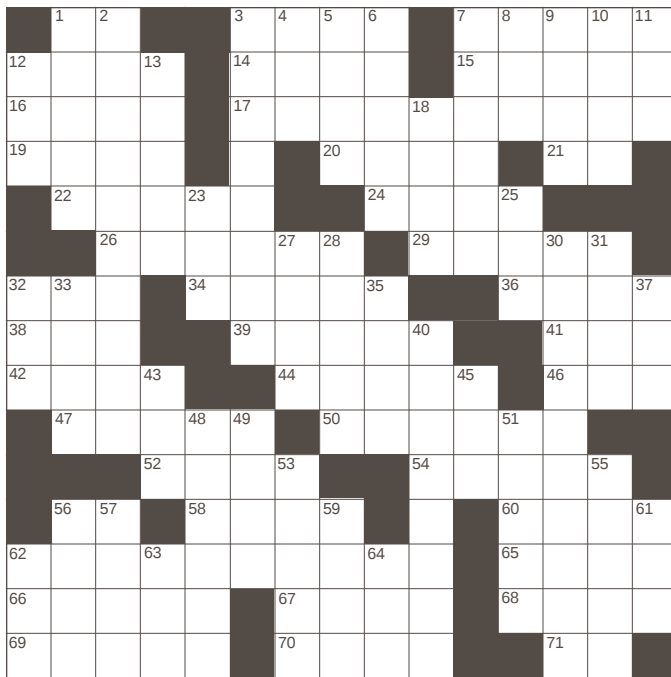
Despite all the thrills, after 12 years in the business, Manocchia decided the traveling was taking too much of a toll on him and his family. Interested in making the transition from photography into painting, he spent the next year at the library, studying the artistry and techniques of the old masters. Little by little, he figured out what to do, helped by his knowledge of light, composition and color from all those years as a photographer.

Some fifteen years later, Manocchia, an accomplished artist, is represented by several galleries in the United States, including one in New York City. Several of his paintings were featured in a recently published anthology of classic short stories about fishing, and he's working on three new publications: a coffee-table book of his "riverscapes"; a collection of photographs of the four seasons of Yellowstone—a love-at-first-sight passion of his; and a book of his black-and-white photos.

Ironically, Manocchia still does a considerable amount of traveling. "It's a

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COURTSIDE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. April or August: abbr.
3. Aid and ___
7. Booster for the defense
12. Remedy
14. Lake in northern Italy
15. Addition to a lease
16. This government arm regulates food safety: abbr.
17. Person in charge of administrative aspects of a trial: 2 words

19. Prepare for bathing-suit season
20. Porch in ancient Greece
21. Title for an army officer: abbr.
22. Got weepy
24. Root beer or cola
26. Begin a new paragraph
29. Narrates
32. Vase
34. Winter storms
36. Fixes, as bail

38. Kitchen item
39. Courtroom happening
41. Zilch
42. Trendy part of Manhattan or London
44. Up and about
46. Like Letterman's wit
47. Makes like kitty
50. Tents
52. Linden and Holbrook
54. ___ ease, uncomfortable: 2 words
56. Ma's partner
58. Moranis or Springfield
60. Yoko and those who share her family name
62. In civil cases, they're the ones being sued
65. Summit
66. Rub out
67. Plumbing problem
68. Like taking candy from a baby
69. Tempted
70. Actress Moore
71. Highway: abbr.

DOWN

1. It "has charms to sooth the savage breast"
2. ___ court, judge's warning: 3 words
3. Mishap
4. Ghostly greeting
5. Cousins to the ostrich
6. Personal injury suits, for example

7. Amusement center
8. Ms. Tomlin, for short
9. Roman date
10. Ice mass
11. Annoy
12. Something for a sheep to chew over
13. Have dinner at home: 2 words
18. Sound a horn
23. Late TV host Sullivan and namesakes
25. Pacino et al.
27. Writer-director Ephron
28. Unexpected turn
30. Listens: 3 words
31. Mix
32. ___ and downs
33. Space
35. Glut
37. Stallone, to friends
40. Ice skating's Tara
43. Expression of delight
45. Family member, for short
48. Alerted
49. Moved, as on ice
51. Run away to wed
53. Scorch
55. Part of a breakfast order, perhaps
56. Lima's country
57. At a great distance
59. Word with "cap" or "sock"
61. Heaven
62. Dover's state: abbr.
63. Suffix with "legal"
64. Scottish cap

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tive, are putting the focus back where it should be, on permanence. Carroll, an experienced family law attorney who joined the Buffalo court over two years ago and was instrumental in bringing its database up to speed, says that all too often youngsters who languish in foster care start engaging in self-destructive behavior, with those who become too difficult to handle getting bounced from foster home to foster home. Adds Carroll, "They're frustrated because they know they're in a temporary situation. Children really need that sense of belonging that comes with being part of a stable family. A few months or years may not seem that long to an adult, but for a child it's an eternity." ♦

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST continued from page 7

lot different now, though, much more relaxed than it used to be," he comments. In addition to regular visits to New England, Manocchia spends a month in Yellowstone every year. He likes to work outdoors in the mild weather, holing up in his studio in New Rochelle, New York, during winter.

Always in search of new rivers and landscapes to paint, he says some of his greatest inspiration comes from the Rockies and Tetons. "There's nothing quite as spiritual as standing below the Tetons and watching the sun come up. It's incredible, just overwhelming," he adds.

Well, maybe jury duty didn't make quite such an impression on this nature-loving artist, but it clearly had a very positive impact. Says Manocchia, "The time actually passed quickly, with the selection process going smoothly. For those who aren't looking forward to jury duty, I say, go in with an open mind." Chances are, they might be as pleasantly surprised as Manocchia was. In fact, he says he'd be more than willing to do it again. ♦