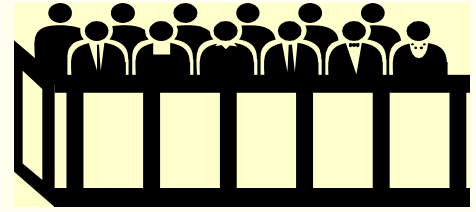


Legally Speaking

Juror Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 2

www.nccourts.org

Spring 2008

Juror Education Project Commences

As reported in the winter edition of Legally Speaking, Mecklenburg County was recently selected to take part in the nationwide Juror Education Project. In keeping with our mission to educate the citizens of Mecklenburg County about the value and importance of jury service, this project enables the Trial Court Administrator's Office to provide a unique opportunity to offer educational resources that can help the citizens of Mecklenburg County better understand the jury system, and the importance of their participation in it, as well as resources on the United States Constitution, and the public policy debates that capture our nation's attention. The simple goal of this project is to provide unique, high quality materials about the Constitution, news and public affairs with the hope that jurors will use their waiting time to become more informed and actively engaged citizens. We are the first courthouse in the nation to receive the equipment and launch the project, which was installed on April 25, so we are particularly excited and proud to be selected as a site for this project.

The Juror Education Project, created by the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnyslands in partnership with the New York Times, the American Bar Association and Apple Computer, Inc., capitalizes on this captive audience. We have gone to great lengths to ensure our jurors' waiting time is productive and entertaining. This project enables us to further enhance the amenities we offer and make the experience more enjoyable as well as educational.

Video materials will be available on 15 handheld Apple iPods which can be loaned to waiting jurors. (A driver's license will be required as a security deposit.) The iPods will be stored each night in mobile Apple iPod learning labs, a secure cart specifically designed to program and store up to 40 iPods simul-

taneously. New materials can be automatically downloaded when the devices are in storage. Disposable foam ear listening devices will be provided for individual users.

The Jury Coordinators will be responsible only for housing the equipment, recharging the equipment each night in the special cart and monitoring the distribution system. Apple Computer will handle installation of the computers, download new content and provide technical support. No technological expertise is required from us. The project is free and, in return, they ask only for regular feedback so they can improve and enhance the program on an ongoing basis.

The majority of the content on the iPods will consist of award-winning videos from the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnyslands' Constitution Project. These include conversations with Supreme Court Justices and short documentaries on the history of the Constitution and the importance of judicial independence.

In addition, content provided by the New York Times on issues relating to the Constitution and civic education will be available.

The Apple cart charges the iPods and downloads updates

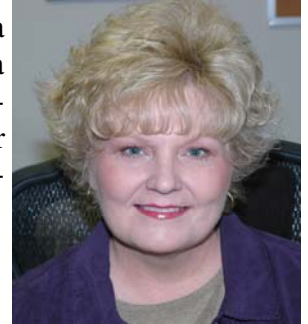


JURY COORDINATORS



Mary Poston
Vanessa Glass-Harris

Mary Poston is the lead Jury Coordinator for the 26th Judicial District. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of UNCC with a BA in Sociology, and she also holds a post-baccalaureate diploma in Paralegal Technology from CPCC. She is a North Carolina State Bar Certified Paralegal. She was employed as a manager at Pillowtex for over twenty-five years, until the company closed in July 2003. Mary has been the Jury Coordinator since January, 2005.



Mary F. Poston



**Vanessa
Glass-Harris**

Vanessa Glass-Harris is a part-time Jury Coordinator for the 26th Judicial District. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Ball State University and a diploma in Paralegal Technology from Queens University. Vanessa performed jury service in 2007 and enjoyed her experience so much, she wanted to volunteer at the courthouse. After volunteering at the Information Desk on Level 2 for several months, Vanessa applied for and was chosen for the new part-time Jury Coordinator position. Vanessa worked for the California Department of Corrections (DOC), New York City DOC and taught at CPCC and CMS for a total of 18 years. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Time Out Youth.

Juror Education Project (continued from front page)

The American Bar Association is also providing a newsletter including information relating to jury service. This information includes:

- History of the jury system
- An overview of how the jury system works
- Chart of juror service facts
- Question/Answers on the courts and jury service

We are excited by this project and anticipate much success and interest from our jurors. This is just another example of our ongoing efforts to entertain and educate jurors and establish ourselves at the forefront of innovations in jury service not only in North Carolina, but across the nation.

Want to Check Out an iPod?

- ♦ iPods are available between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:15 PM and 2:00 PM –4:30 PM
- ♦ See the Jury Coordinators
- ♦ Complete the form
- ♦ Submit your driver's license for collateral
- ♦ iPods must be returned to the Jury Coordinators before going into a courtroom or to lunch

What is an iPod?

iPod is a brand of portable media players designed and marketed by Apple Inc. and launched on October 23, 2001. As of 2008, the current product line-up includes the hard drive-based iPod classic, the touchscreen iPod touch, the video-capable iPod nano and the screenless iPod shuffle. iPod classic models store media on an internal hard drive, while all other models use flash memory to enable their smaller size. As with many other digital music players, iPods, excluding the iPod touch, can also serve as external data storage devices. Storage capacity varies by model.





Free parking for jurors is available at the 4th Street Parking Deck, which is located at the intersection of 4th and McDowell Streets. The public entrance to the parking deck is on 4th Street, directly across from the 3rd and 4th Street/I-277/John Belk Freeway exit ramp. As you enter the deck, punch for a ticket and park on Level 4. *Accessible parking for persons with disabilities is available on Level 2.* You will validate your ticket in the Jury Assembly Room. You must give the validated ticket to the attendant as you exit the parking deck. If you have an oversized vehicle (up to 9 feet in height) you must park on the 2nd Level. Please see the attendant for motorcycle parking instructions. Never park on the street. You will not have time to feed the meter throughout the day. If you choose to park at any location other than the 4th Street Parking Deck, including the Government Center parking deck, or if your vehicle is ticketed and/or towed, you will be directly responsible for the cost.

ONCE YOU HAVE PARKED: Using the crosswalk, cross McDowell Street. Enter the Mecklenburg County Courthouse through the entrance on McDowell Street. All visitors must go through a security checkpoint. You must remove all metals from your person, including belts, keys, cell phones, change, etc. You may be asked to remove your shoes.

LEAVING THE DECK: Please exit in the lane marked JURORS, which is the lane closest to the booth. You will need to give your validated ticket to the attendant at the booth. The far right lane is for monthly parkers only. Jurors are unable to exit using the far right lane.



ADA REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATION

If you are hearing impaired and wish to request an auxiliary aid or service (i.e. assistive listening equipment, sign language interpreter, or captioning) for communication access, or if you are in need of any other type of accommodation, please contact the **ADA Coordinator at 704-686-0268 (Relay North Carolina 7-1-1)** prior to your date of service.



CIVICS Program

Interested in volunteering with the court system? Our CIVICS Program (Citizens Involved in Volunteering In the Court System) has been created to allow anyone with a desire to help their community in a unique way the opportunity to volunteer. The hours are flexible within the Monday through Friday, 8-5 timeframe. There are no educational requirements; however, basic office skills and the ability to speak Spanish are a plus. You must be at least 18 years of age, have a clean criminal history, and have no cases pending before the court.

Speak Now!

Need a speaker for your civic, church, school, or neighborhood organization? Speak Now!, the 26th Judicial District Speaker's Bureau, can provide you with a court official to speak on a wide range of legal topics at no cost. A tour of the courthouse and/or jail can also be arranged.

For more information on either of these programs, please contact: Charles Keller, Community Access and Outreach Administrator at 704-686-0269, or email: charles.w.keller@nccourts.org.

You can also visit our website at www.nccourts.org to download brochures, catalogs, and forms regarding these programs.



Things You Should Know!

Reporting

Please report to the Jury Assembly Room at 8:00 AM. Please be on time. Court operates on a tight schedule and your promptness affects this schedule. Allow extra drive time, time to park, as well as for the 10-minute walk to the courthouse from the 4th Street Parking Deck. If you have never driven downtown before, you may find it beneficial to make a dry run on a weekend to see where you will be parking and reporting. There are also several CATS routes that pick up and unload near the courthouse.

Security

Every effort is made to ensure the courthouse is a safe environment. The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office is in charge of courthouse security. It may take you some time to get into the building through security. All visitors to the courthouse must walk through a metal detector. Removing all metal objects from your person, including belts and steel-toed shoes, will speed up this process. You must place all items you are carrying in a basket to be scanned. The metal detectors will not pose a health risk to you; this includes pregnant or nursing mothers. If you have a special need or disability, please inform the deputies. Laptop computers are allowed in the courthouse. You will be asked to turn these on for the deputies before being allowed to enter the building. Knives, scissors, knitting needles, or any other sharp objects are not allowed into the building. Cameras are not allowed into the building. Cell phones are allowed.

Arriving

You must check in with the Jury Coordinator at the desk in order to receive credit for your service. It is a common misconception that we have your social security number. **WE DO NOT HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.** The Federal government, however, does require this number in order for you to be paid for your service. You will be asked to write your social security number on the slip at the bottom of your summons, and place it in a secure box. If you do not have your summons, please see the Jury Coordinator, who will give you a social security slip to complete and place in the secure box.

Orientation

Once everyone has arrived, the Jury Coordinator will begin a live orientation, which will answer most, if not all, questions you may have. Please be patient and pay attention during this orientation. Cell phones, pagers, computers, and MP3 players, and any other electronic devices must be turned off during this orientation, or they will be confiscated.

Courthouse Etiquette

Please note that cellular phone use, cameras, and tape recorders are not permitted in the courtroom. All cell phones and beepers must be set in silent mode. Cellular phones may be used in the Jury Assembly Room in designated areas but must be turned off during juror orientation and/or when entering a courtroom.

Dress Code

Casual business attire is suggested. Shorts, tank tops, bare midriffs, shirts with controversial depictions or wording, or similar dress are not allowed in the courtrooms. The temperature in court can be unpredictable, so please dress accordingly. Shoes must be worn at all times; beach sandals or flip-flops are prohibited.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JURORS

When you receive your jury summons:

Tell your employer.

Dress respectfully when you go to the courthouse.

Be prepared to fill some down time. Bring something to read.

Answer all questions you are asked honestly and completely.

If there is something you do not understand, ask the judge or other court personnel.

When you sit on a trial:

Use only the evidence you are given.

Do not conduct your own research.

Write a note to the judge if you have a question about the trial.

Follow the judge's instructions. Do not interpret the judge's conduct as a cue about the case.

Respect each other and each other's opinions.

Source: American Bar Association



These restaurants are within a short walk of the courthouse. All accept debit cards. There is an ATM located on Level 2 next to the Clerk's Office. A free trolley service also operates within the downtown area, and can take you to other restaurants uptown.

The Courtside Café

<http://www.courtsidecafenc.com/>

Inside the Courthouse on Level 1

Serving breakfast and lunch daily.

Showmar's

Government Center

Serving lunch daily: soups, sandwiches, salads, daily lunch specials. *20% discount with juror badge or jury summons.*

Pappas Grill

Serving lunch daily: sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, baked potatoes.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel

Serving a daily lunch buffet. 15% discount for jurors

The Coffee Cup-Cameron Brown Building

Serving lunch daily: sandwiches, plate lunches.

Quizno's 4th Street Parking Deck

Serving lunch daily: sandwiches, salads, and soups.

KokoMo's Coffeeshop- 4th Street Parking Deck

May is National Drug Court Month

National Drug Court Month is celebrated in May each year. This year's theme is "Taking Drug Courts To Scale: Healthy Families Healing Communities." Faced with a growing population of drug-addicted offenders in the American justice system, Drug Courts must expand their efforts to bring treatment to a larger number of those in need. They must expand their efforts to heal families and to heal communities. Drug courts represent the combined efforts of justice and treatment professionals to actively intervene and break the cycle of substance abuse, addiction, crime, delinquency, and child maltreatment. These special dockets are given the responsibility to handle cases involving addicted citizens under the adult, juvenile, family, and tribal justice systems.

The Mecklenburg County Jury Commission

Each county in North Carolina has a Jury Commission comprised of three members. Each member must be a resident and registered voter in the county in which they serve. Their duties are to ensure that sources are utilized to develop a master jury list that is representative of the community at large, as well as to ensure that the way in which potential jurors are summoned is done in a fair and random manner.

Gail Logan Gibson, Sandra S. Rork and Carlos E. Sanchez were selected and appointed Jury Commissioners to serve the 2005-2007 term.

Gibson, a native of Shelby, NC, graduated from Appalachian State Teacher's College and obtained a business degree from Appalachian University in Boone, NC. From 1974-1988 she was employed with the North Carolina Court System as the only secretary to Mecklenburg County District Court Judges. In 1988 she became the Jury Supervisor for Mecklenburg County, where she remained until her retirement in 1993. Mrs. Gibson has served as a Jury Commissioner since 1995.

Rork, a Mecklenburg County Jury Commissioner since 1999, graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in nursing and Emory University where she obtained a master's degree in nursing. She has served as a nurse, counselor and Director of Special Services for Florence-Darlington Technical College, and owner of the Speakers Network, a company which established and managed a speakers bureau that provided professional and celebrity speakers for corporate and association meetings around the country.

Sanchez, the first Hispanic to be appointed to the Commission, is a native of Bogota, Colombia and has a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Political Science from Florida International University. Mr. Sanchez is employed as Director of External Affairs for South Carolina in the Mid-Market Division of AT&T Telecommunications. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Charlotte Latin American Chamber of Commerce and is active with the Leadership Team Board at Collinswood Bilingual Language Academy.



Gail Logan Gibson



Carlos Sanchez



Sandra S. Rork

Juror Appreciation Week— July 21-25, 2008

*Door Prizes * Movies * Food * Beverages * Guest Speakers * Music * Entertainment *

Sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Bar and Justice Initiatives, Inc.



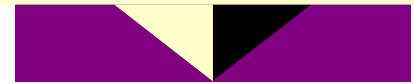
Steps in a Jury Trial

1. Jury Selection
2. Opening Statements (Both Sides)
3. Presentation of Evidence (Both Sides)
4. Jury Instructions from the Judge
5. Closing Arguments (Both Sides)
6. Jury Deliberation
7. Reading of the Verdict
8. Sentencing (in a criminal case)



We're on the Web!

www.nccourts.org



Look at our website
for jury information
and other educational
materials

My Jury Service Experience...

"It was very interesting and overall an enjoyable experience. It is nice that we, as the public, can take part in helping the judicial system."

"Thank you for making this a comfortable way to be a better citizen!"

"My experience exceeded my expectations. The staff was very friendly and the facility very nice. My experience was awesome!"

"I appreciate the consideration given to the potential jurors. The atmosphere was nice and the personnel very helpful. Although it takes time away from our normal routine, I truly felt like it was a service to my community rather than an obligation or a duty. Thank you!"

"Overall not as bad as I was expecting. Not bad at all! Looking forward to an even better experience in two years. Keep it up!"

Go Wireless!
Wireless Internet Access
is Available in the
Jury Assembly Room



We would like to hear from you! We welcome any comments about the newsletter, as well as story ideas for future issues. Please send your juror anecdotes, suggestions, and/or story ideas to:

Charles Keller
Community Access and Outreach Administrator
26th Judicial District of North Carolina
832 East Fourth Street
Suite 4420
Charlotte, NC 28202
Charles.W.Keller@nccourts.org

Across

1. Hound sound
5. Preferred course of action
10. Blue-green birdbath bit
14. Red Muppet
15. First name in game shows
16. Act like a bear
17. Snoopy caregivers?
19. Take the first ____
20. Geniality
21. Pizza topping
23. Pizza box?
24. Timid one
25. Native
28. Entrusts
31. Without letup
32. Hindu honcho
33. Objectivist Rand
34. Vital components
35. Nigeria's largest city
36. Key or cay
37. "Surfin' ____" (Beach Boys hit)
38. Goes into free fall
39. Ived alcove
40. Up-front fee
42. Recommended reply to a sentry
43. Watergate's Senator Sam
44. Scandal sheets
45. Martin of "Psycho"
47. It's on Tokyo Bay
51. In the flesh
52. First lady decides to raise a little canine?
54. Arabian Sea gulf
55. Gold Rush figure, for short
56. "Fatha" Hines
57. Mean and nasty
58. Toothsome
59. Blue chip, perhaps

Down

1. Friday on TV
2. Pat of fat
3. Mideast sultanate
4. Sounds at sea

April 27, 2000 - "Mixed Vegetables"

By Bob Klahn

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18						19			
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51					52	53							
54					55					56			
57					58					59			

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5. Doctor-to-be
6. "The Boys From Brazil" author Ira
7. "A Death in the Family" author James
8. Louse-to-be
9. Once
10. Franciscan order's birthplace
11. Nevada bumper sticker promoting the status quo?
12. High spirits
13. Hannibal's hurdles
18. Thought the world of
22. Elbow-bender
24. Voodoo amulets
25. Bring upon oneself
26. Necktie party choker
27. Sired Santa's subordinates?
28. Jazz player, for one
29. Silk substitute
30. McCarthy's trunkmate
32. Poe's black visitor
35. Aye, there's the rub!
36. It's at the north end of St. George's Channel
38. Female singer of note
39. Shoptalk
41. Leblanc's Lupin
42. Flimflam
44. You can take his word for it
45. Let the cat out of the bag
46. Ethiopian of opera
47. Deep desires
48. Pioneering D.J. Freed
49. Emporium
50. Up to speed
53. Through