

New Court Executive Officer Selected

by Michael Sommermeyer, Court Information Officer



Edward A. Friedland, Court Executive Officer

The judiciary of Clark County's Eighth Judicial District Court and the Las Vegas Township Justice Court selected Edward A. Friedland, Esq. to serve as the Court Executive Officer and Clerk of the Court of the Clark County Courts.

En Banc, Clark County Courts News, is an online newsletter created by the Court Information Office.

The newsletter can be found on the District Court and Las Vegas Justice Court Intranet sites: <http://www2.accessclarkcounty.com>.

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: input@clarkcountycourts.us.

Friedland replaces Charles J. Short who will retire from the position August 29 after 17 years of service. The judiciary selected Friedland following a national search.

Friedland is the first attorney to serve in the position. He takes over the responsibilities of leading an urban court consisting of 47 elected judges, 13 commissioners and hearing masters and approximately 800 employees.

Since June Friedland and Short have shared the duties of the CEO and Friedland began accepting more responsibilities in August.

Before his appointment as the CEO, Friedland served as an Assistant Court Administrator for the Clark County Courts where he was primarily responsible for court operations and court security.

Before joining the court system in 2007, Friedland was the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the New York State Division of Human Rights. He started his career in 1991 by starting a consulting firm that specialized in credit collections for retail and medical businesses.

"I am honored to be trusted with the responsibility of leading these courts," said Friedland. "Our courts face many challenges in our mission to provide access to justice for everyone. My goal is to empower our employees to meet those challenges and continue to assist the judiciary in providing excellent customer service to everyone in Clark County."

Friedland will be responsible for overseeing growth at the courthouse, for staffing needs, and for developing proposed legislation and administrative programs and procedures.

The County Commission ratified him to the position on August 5.

"Ed is bright, articulate, change oriented and team focused. Our court is fortunate someone so capable applied and successfully competed for the CEO," said Retiring CEO Charles J. Short.

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Court Employees Announce Retirement

A number of Clark County Courts employees have announced they will retire at the end of August.

Many of these employees have provided much support and expertise to the courts during their service.

The following individuals will retire effective Aug. 29:

- Thomas Biggar
- Joan Earl
- Bea Martinez
- Donna McGinnis
- Chuck Short
- Randy Tibbetts
- Barbara Zufelt





Charles J. Short, Court Executive Officer

Message from the Court Executive Officer

Through the years the employees allowed me to lead.

My leadership was supported by the hard work and dedication of many wonderful people who work for the Clark County Courts.

This is my last opportunity to speak to you as the Court Executive Officer. It is a bittersweet moment for me because I will miss your enthusiasm and willingness to find new ways of operating our court. Of course, I am looking forward to spending time with my family.

The job of Court Executive Officer requires the leader to wear many hats. You have made all of those hats very fashionable and I am proud of our many accomplishments. A leader is only as good as his followers and you deserve much credit for making me a better leader.

Some of the things I am most proud of span the accomplishments of the employees of both courts. I am proud of the efforts of our employees in the Las Vegas Justice Court's Traffic Division who pulled together to reengineer the processing of traffic tickets and found a way to reduce long wait times from four hours on average to less than 20 minutes. Other individuals and departments helped in this effort from Human Resources to the Business Office, and all of your efforts made our court a model for modernizing methods and processes.

I am proud of our work in other technological areas, from the rollout of Odyssey at the Family Court to the implementation of an Integrated Voice Response system in Jury Systems, which later led to other voice and web services throughout the court. Without the pioneering work of many dedicated individuals, these projects would not have been a success.

Our efforts to improve court services and processes have allowed the community better access to court services and programs.

The creation of the Clark County Family Self-Help Center has been a vast improvement and has allowed countless individuals to become better prepared for matters in the Family Division. In small measure, the services of this program have improved communication, increased knowledge of the court system and allowed many people to represent themselves effectively and efficiently when appearing before Family Judges. The model used in the Self-Help Center will allow the Civil Divisions

of both courts to create a resource center in coming years at the Regional Justice Center.

During my time with the court we have reached to the highest mountains; no problem has been too large for us to tackle. That is a testament to your hard work and willingness to accept the impossible tasks. Without you I would not have been an effective leader. I thank you for your service and wish you well. The court is in good hands.

Court Briefs - News from Around the Court

Service Project Sends Cards to Ill Boy



A ten-year-old diagnosed with Leukemia is getting a boost in his quest to become listed in the Guinness Book of Records, thanks to the efforts of employees of the Clark County Courts.

Brandon Rayner is collecting business cards and a collection box was recently located at the North Information booth to collect business cards. Cards are being collected and then sent to Rayner by members of the Marshals Division.

So far Rayner has collected thousands of business cards from across the country and the cards are helping him take his mind off his disease and focus on

something that cheers him up, according to his mother, Joe Rayner. So far since entering the hospital, Brandon has collected more than 15,000 business cards.

His goal is to collect more than 150,000 business cards to make the Guinness Book. He has sorted them into categories and continues to receive hundreds of cards everyday.

Straight Shot for CASA



Family Court Judge Cheryl Moss passes a basketball to a CASA client during a recent CASA Pajama Party. Family Court employees and Court Appointed Special Advocates hold the summer-end event every year prior to the start of school.

Court Says Goodbye To Many Good Friends This Month

By Kathy A. Hardcastle, Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court

This month the court bids farewell to a number of seasoned employees who have aided us as we strive to provide excellent service to the community.

For instance, our current Probate Commissioner Tom Biggar has chosen to retire at the end of the month. Tom has been an institution in the courts providing excellent service. From

Discovery Commissioner to Probate Commissioner, Tom has been one of those people who just gets the job done. He always has taken his responsibilities seriously and has in the process improved how the court functions. Another person from Probate retiring this month is Barbara Zufelt. Her assistance to the Probate Commissioners has been tireless and she deserves much credit for keeping the office ahead of the massive numbers of cases that have entered Probate through the years.

To everyone who has dedicated their careers to the courts, I wish to say thank you for your efforts. All of you have left your mark and you will be missed.

A person who certainly has left his mark on the courts is our retiring

"To everyone who has dedicated their careers to the courts, I wish to say thank you."

Court Executive Officer Chuck Short.

He first touched

our lives as a budget analyst assigned to the courts by County Finance. From there he became an assistant court administrator under the leadership of Anna Peterson. When a family tragedy took the attention of Anna, Chuck stepped in as our Acting Court Administrator and in 1993 was named as the District Court Administrator.

Immediately he sought to enhance the reputation and extend the services of the courts to everyone in Clark County. He was instrumental in furthering the expansion of the Drug Courts and supported every initiative

that brought more therapeutic courts to Clark County. He helped the courts create the Family Division and oversaw the creation and expansion of the Family Courts and Services Center on Pecos Avenue. He helped the courts embrace changes in technology and fostered support for a 21st Century Courthouse, which became the Regional Justice Center.

His accomplishments are too many for me to list here in this column for they are numerous and extensive. Clearly he has had an impact on taking our court from a small city trial court to a model urban court relied upon by many other courts for model practices and procedures.

Chuck will certainly be missed by everyone who came to recognize his gentle nature, quick wit and his ability to remain calm in times of crisis.

Certainly Chuck Short leaves big shoes to fill and Ed Friedland will have to start at a run. He is up to the job and I am confident he will be able to expand upon the standard of service that Chuck Short has instituted in the Clark County Courts.

My Mind Was Changed

By Douglas E. Smith, Chief Judge, Las Vegas Township Justice Court

In 2005 I was against a proposal to combine the administrations of the Justice Court with the administration of the District Court. At the time, I didn't believe that the move would protect the integrity of both courts and allow each to remain an independent entity. The leadership of one man helped me change my mind.

Without the leadership of Court Executive Officer Charles J. Short, the Justice Court would not have benefited from this arrangement. Today I am convinced the consolidation of the administrations of both courts improved service to the community and aided our court at

a time when we needed some assistance, stability and an opportunity to catch our breath. The Justice Court has benefited in many ways and I can see how it will reap rewards in years to come.

At the direction of the Justice Court Judges, Mr. Short immediately directed resources to areas in need of serious management. He aided the court in improving our counter service in the Traffic

Division, and instituted changes that resulted in improvements in the Criminal and Civil Divisions. His leadership allowed the court to present its case before the Board of

"The leadership of one man helped me change my mind."

County Commissioners and improvements have been made in our relationship with county government.

It takes many people to carry out the business of this court and one captain to maintain the course charted by the judges. Chuck Short has been a fine captain in the time he has been at our helm. I personally thank him for his service to the courts. He has been an asset to us and has selected people who can carry on his vision.

In that, I am confident in the abilities of Edward Friedland to further the work started by Mr. Short for many years to come.

Justice Court Adds Second DUI Court

A second DUI Court has been added in the Las Vegas Justice Court Township with funding from a grant provided by the State of Nevada's Office of Traffic Safety.

The court, presided over by Judge Nancy Oesterle, joins the other specialty court started in 2003 by Judge Tony Abbatangelo. The second court was necessary as more offenders have entered the program.

There are currently 180 individuals participating in both DUI Courts. Designed as a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program, the DUI Specialty Court is designed to help first and second DUI offenders obtain treatment for misdemeanor DUI offenses.

Across the state, driving impaired arrests have increased to 18,235, or one arrest for every 94 drivers, according to Chuck Abbott, Director of Nevada's Office of Traffic Safety.

"For some time, we have recognized that improving law enforcement is only the first step in reducing/eliminating the problem of impaired drivers on Nevada's roadways," said Abbott. "The fact is DUI courts have proven to be an extremely effective way of solving the cause of the problem."

The Las Vegas Township Justice Court plans to expand the DUI Courts to approximately 300 participants with the addition of the second court.

"The Justice Court DUI program provides intensive substance abuse treatment," said Program Coordinator, Ray Figueroa. "We use a therapeutic court model, which means we monitor participants through House Arrest, breath testing, drug testing, Breath Ignition Interlock Device, and compli-

ance rewards for meeting treatment goals in a timely fashion."



Judge Nancy Oesterle listens to proceedings in court. Oesterle joins Judge Tony Abbatangelo as a DUI Court Judge.

Judge Oesterle volunteered to preside over the DUI Specialty Court because the program has proven to be effective. "The Court serves an important purpose instead of merely warehousing the "hard-core" alcoholics in jail and then releasing them from custody to re-offend again, we are offering them the hope of a clean and sober lifestyle. The recidivism rate is very low," stated Oesterle.

The participants are required to pay for the expense of their own treatment plan, which is approximately \$4,500. The program is cost effective for the taxpayers who would otherwise be paying for the incarceration bill.

"I believe it is a win/win situation. The program represents a substantial commitment on behalf of everyone involved, including the Judge. However, we do it because we are committed to saving lives; those of the participants and innocent members of our community," said Oesterle.

Not everyone qualifies for the Court. A team of individuals screen offenders to determine if they meet the criteria to qualify for the program.

The DUI Court Judge, attorneys, treatment providers, representatives from Clark County's House Arrest unit, and representatives from Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM), along with the program coordinator, Ray Figueroa, meet prior to court to review each participant's progress before the court appearance.

The program's length is determined by the progress made by the individual participants but rarely exceeds one year. Once the requirements are met, individuals meet with the presiding judge to review their progress and schedule a graduation date. A formal graduation ceremony is held in open court to demonstrate to other participants that the program can result in success and to reward the individual for successfully completing the program.

"Graduation day is an inspiring day for the individual and to those around them that have worked just as hard to help them finish the program," said Figueroa.

New Faces

District Court

Jennifer Arias
Shannon Applegate
Lance Banks
Alex Brown
Arlene Casillas
Nadin Cutter
Sara Dayani
James Erickson

Michael Kelley
Matthew Lay
Jason Martin
Brendan McGraw
Nate Rulis
Tammy Slocum
Justin Stovall

Justice Court

Diana Avram
Gabriyella Gaines
Jonathan Roberts

Clerk of the Court

Yvette Clayton
Judy Kitsu
Blanca Madrigal
Barbara McMillan
Dameda Scott
Lucinda (Stickey) Tait