



## DID YOU KNOW...

...that of the 28,927 inmates held in the Spokane County Jail from Jan. 1, 2013 thru June 2, 2014, just 5,652 were held on only District Court charges. That represents 19.5% of the jail population

.....that District Court provided interpreter services for over 600 customers in 2013, covering 23 different languages?

.....that the District Court Clerk's office averaged a customer service ranking of 4.6 (with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent") in 2013?

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## Introduction

On behalf of our District Court Judges, Department Managers and Staff, we would like to share with you some of the notable events and projects we are working on for the balance of 2014. Your continued support of our Court on and off campus is critical as it enables us to provide the best service possible to our citizens. We sincerely thank you for your support!

## District Court Judges Honored

Two Spokane County District Court Judges were the recipients of prestigious honors recently.

**Judge Greg Tripp** (pictured top right) was named "Judge of the Year" by the Misdemeanor Corrections Association of Washington State. The association of District and Municipal Courts' probation officers and employees honored him for his support of multiple rehabilitation and restorative justice programs that enhance court services, promote access to justice and increase accountability. He received the award at the association's annual luncheon April 30, 2014 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA.



This is not the first such award for Judge Tripp, who also serves as Cheney Municipal Court's Presiding Judge. He was named Outstanding Judge by the Washington State Bar Association in 2007 for his work with Access to Justice.



On June 5, **Judge Richard Leland** (pictured bottom right) was honored by Lutheran Community Services as a "Partner in Justice" citing his "outstanding service to the community." The honor was in recognition of Judge Leland's work on the anti-harassment/domestic violence protection order docket. He received the award at the organization's annual "Partners in Justice" dinner held at the Barrister Winery.

## Projects/News/Updates

It is important to for us to continuously recognize the extremely talented men and women who keep District Court running. They consistently maintain a high standard of excellence and their dedication and hard work ensures the success of the Court. Below are a few examples of the programs staff are currently working on.

### New Accounting Department Location/Centralized Storage

For many years we have been trying to find a permanent location to centralize our inventory for better access to all court forms and court supplies. Unfortunately we have used hallways and cabinets in multiple locations for this purpose up until now. Last month our Bench authorized us to proceed with the construction of a new work area for our accounting clerks to centralize their activities. This will allow us to access their former work area, which will be converted into a large store room. This room is strategically located to enhance productivity and reduce the time needed to locate and distribute this product. The two moves should be completed by the first part of August 2014. These changes will ensure a better level of communication for a very valuable department, utilize space that was not previously used on a consistent basis, and help us better control cost and productivity.

### Online Public Access to Court Cases

District Court and the Spokane County ISD are working on a project to enable our customers online access to their case and court date information. Phase one involves creating the ability to look up case history and future court dates via the District Court website. The program will accommodate searches by specific case number and by name. Estimated completion date of phase one is Fall 2014. Phase two will involve the ability to view scanned documents from the case file with a completion date to be determined following the finalization of phase one. This will be very valuable to our customers and have the propensity to alleviate our citizens from making a trip to District Court when they can access this information from any location.

### Alive at 25

The Spokane County District Court Probation Department has been very successful in the last 3 ½ years in offering a defensive driving course sponsored by the National Safety Council. The Alive at 25 program informs young adults 15-24 years of age on the consequences of distracted driving. This 4 1/2 hour in-class instruction is offered every Friday, however, due to the increased level of interest, most weeks it's offered twice and each class is completely full with County participants. One of the program benefits, with the support of the Spokane County prosecutor's office, is that the participants receive a dismissal of their infraction for completing the class successfully. As of May 30, 2014, 403 young adults have completed our program.

The mission of Spokane County District Court is to serve our citizens through the prompt, courteous, and fair dispensation of justice by adjudicating cases in a timely manner using effective and efficient case management techniques, adhering to the highest standards, monitoring enforcement of judgments, and being responsible stewards of public funds.



## Projects/News/Updates (continued)

### Mental Health Therapeutic Court

Our Mental Health Court Manager, **Barbie Folden**, was invited to present at the Misdemeanor Corrections Associations training on June 24, 2014 in Cheney. This is training for all Probation Officers in Eastern Washington. Barbie was also invited to Yakima as well as Franklin County this past month to discuss and view start-up Mental Health Courts in these areas.

Year to date our Mental Health Court has 94 referrals, with a total number of participants at 231.

### Customer Service Signage

District Court has been working with ISD on the possibility of electronic signage for our second floor public hallway. We currently have notices posted on bulletin boards with various court information, but these offer little direction. Our goal is to reduce paper postings and eliminate signage that is worn and outdated. Court-room indicators will also be part of this change as we are researching ways to help customers readily recognize the Judge's name, specific docket, and time of day. Our focus is to streamline our process and enhance customer service.

### We welcome the new hires to our team:

Nick Fell, OA3 - 1/16/14  
James Stewart, OA3 - 5/6/14

### And congratulate our promoted staff:

Karly Carroll- promoted to District Court Clerk- 6/16/14  
Holly Schmehl- promoted to OA4 - 2/1/14  
Ashlee Barlow-promoted to AT3 - 1/16/14  
Lindsay Jelke- promoted to District Court Clerk- 3/17/14

### And a welcome to our temporary staff:

Michelle Alleman, Mental Health Secretary 2 - 4/28/14  
Tristen Canfield, Probation OA4 - 4/14/14

The Spokane District Court Bench recently finalized a handbook designed to inform our citizens about the role of District Court, as well as past and future projects to enhance and further the success of our Court. Our new handbook can be obtained by visiting our reception area on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. It will also be available on our website by mid-July.