

## **New Year, New Opportunities**

With the coming of the New Year, we all look forward to new opportunities which are presented to us. This is not only true in our personal lives, but also in our professional lives. The Juvenile Dependency Court is no different as we start off the New Year with two new Dependency Hearing Masters; namely, H.M. Margaret Pickard and H.M. Adriana White. H.M. Pickard will be presiding over Central site cases in Courtroom #14 and H.M. White will be hearing North site cases in Courtroom #20. Our new Hearing Masters will be highlighted in future articles so I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of OUR children and families, to thank Judge Gibson and H.M. Norheim for their extraordinary efforts in achieving safe, loving, nurturing and permanent homes for all of OUR children!

Judge Gibson has been appointed as the District Court Judge for Department "L" to replace Judge Elliott who retired in 2018. Judge Gibson will be presiding over Domestic cases, but I envision him returning to the Juvenile Dependency Bench in the not too distant future. The Domestic Bench has been undeniably improved by the addition of Judge Gibson! As to H.M. Norheim, he will be presiding over Temporary Protective Orders (TPO's) as the Court goes "live" with issuing TPO's in real time. H.M. Norheim was previously assigned to the TPO Court wherein he proved to be an exceptional judicial officer. His addition to the TPO Court will only enhance keeping our community members safe from domestic violence!

Please join me in thanking Judge Gibson and Hearing Master Norheim for their commitments to improving the lives of OUR children in the Child Welfare System. While their leaving will be a loss to the Juvenile Dependency Court, it will be at the gain of the Domestic Bench and TPO Court. We all wish both of you only the very best in your new endeavors!