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THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER  
Milwaukee County Courthouse  
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## What's New, Winter 2013

By: Ayame D.C. Metzger

A lot has been happening at the Milwaukee Justice Center this year. Our expanded walk-in hours started in February 2012, and it's been exciting to see all of our volunteers take on the challenge of serving more clients. And there's been plenty more to serve.

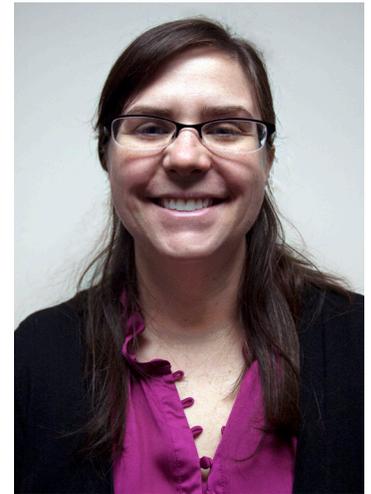
In addition to expanding hours, the MJC is one step closer to being in our new expanded space! With the change in space, then why not a new look to go along with it? Have you noticed

the new logo? If not take a moment to check it out!

The logo is inspired by the partnerships and team work that goes into making the Milwaukee Justice Center. Everyone here at the MJC thinks the logo is neat, and sends out a thank you to Justin A. Metzger who created it.

Here's to a happy and prosperous new year for everyone.

Cheers! ●



Atty. Ayame D.C. Metzger  
MJC Legal Director

## New MJC Clinic Space on Track for Late 2013

By: Justin A. Metzger

The Milwaukee Justice Center is now on target to be in its new, larger, permanent home in the latter part of calendar 2013.

In November, the Milwaukee County Board approved a capital improvement budget allocating \$423,000 for a newly-constructed space, combining the Milwaukee Justice Center and the Legal Resource Center (law library).

The Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation is committed to raising up to a \$375,000 matching grant for the MJC portion of the project. The expansion will give the MJC a permanent, and consolidated home for all of its projects, including the Family Law Clinic

and Brief Legal Advice and Referral Clinic. The expansion will also allow the MJC to serve its quickly-growing client base.

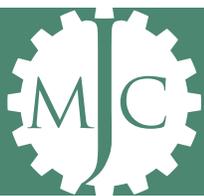
"It is remarkable to be on the cusp of this expansion," MJC Executive Director Atty. Dawn Caldart says. "The additional space will transform the way we deliver services."

Milwaukee Bar Association President Atty. Charles H. Barr says the MJC, and its current service model, allows more clients to gain access to justice who are otherwise too financially secure to qualify for traditional pro bono services, but still unable to afford the professional services of a hired attorney.

"That chasm has a teeming and steadily

increasing population," Barr explained. "It is an unavoidable reality that, for the foreseeable future, legions of needy persons without legal training will have to represent themselves in the courts. This is not just a Milwaukee County reality; it is a national reality."

Now, with the new, expanded, and permanent space, the Milwaukee Justice Center will be able to serve even more clients. Caldart also hopes that, with the space and expansion of resources, that the MJC mission can expand to serve even more clients across a greater array of issues. ●



Courtesy: Tom Caldart

## Second Running of MJC5K Successful

### MJC5K at a Glance...

Temp:	96°
Runners:	128
Miles Ran:	317
Miles	
Walked:	25
Sponsors:	9
<b>\$ Raised:</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>

**MJC 5K**  
**RUN**  
**FOR**  
**JUSTICE**



Despite temperatures approaching one hundred degrees, the 2nd Annual Milwaukee Justice Center 5K Run for Justice got off to a solid start, and finished strong. The event raised \$4,600 dollars for the non-profit Milwaukee Justice Center through a combination of sponsorships, donations, and registrant fees.

The Riverwest Aces band rocked Veteran's Park as participants ran the five kilometer (3.1 mile) course, and others walked a shorter, one-mile course. The event attracted 155 registrants, of which 128 participated in spite of the heat.

The runners were set loose from the starting line by retired Chief Judge Michael Skwierawski. Runner Kadie Jelenchick repeated as MJC 5K Run for Justice Female Champion with a completion time of 22 minutes, 28 seconds. Race committee members Laura Now (O'Neil Cannon

By: Justin A. Metzger  
 Hollman Dejong & Laing), Elizabeth Haas (Foley & Lardner), Dayna Frenkel (Michael Best & Friedrich), Gregg Herman (Loeb & Herman), and Megan Zabkowicz (Marquette University School of Law) helped put together the final details of the event. Additional support was provided by the Big Bay Brewing Company.

The event was also a big success by the efforts of sponsors O'Neil Cannon Hollman Dejong & Laing; Foley & Lardner; Quarles & Brady (Gold); Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren; LexisNexis; Drinker Biddle & Reath (Silver); Quantum LS; Hinshaw & Culbertson; and Weiss Berzowski Brady (Bronze).

Additional support was provided by the Milwaukee Bar Association, Milwaukee County Parks, SP Video, and INSTEP. ●



Courtesy: Tom Caldart



Courtesy: Tom Caldart



Courtesy: Tom Caldart

More photos available at  
[facebook.com/MilwaukeeJusticeCenter](https://facebook.com/MilwaukeeJusticeCenter)

## Volunteer Spotlight: Danielle Assa

By: Walter Wenzel  
**D**anielle Assa earned her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. When Danielle is not at the Milwaukee Justice Center she is busy taking on public defender cases. She also has her own LLC where she does small claims and property management cases, which has been a big learning experience for her. Danielle is an avid runner and recently got a new puppy – a Dachshund-Pointer mix.



Atty. Danielle Assa, Milwaukee Justice Center Volunteer

“ Pro bono work fills the need in our community that many have – the need for a lawyer but with a lack of means to afford a lawyer.  
 - Atty. Danielle Assa ”

In what capacity do you volunteer at the MJC?

I was working as a public defender and was interested in family law. I was referred to someone in family law who referred me to Dawn [Caldart], and I started volunteering at the self-help desk in November of last year.

What compels you to volunteer?

I wanted to get involved with family law and get familiar with the forms that go along with it in a hands-on way. I also wanted to help people. The MJC has

been the perfect place to do both.

How has volunteering at the MJC been a rewarding experience for you?

The most rewarding experience as a volunteer at the self-help desk is when someone comes in and is very confused and leaves with a plan and is relatively comfortable with what they need to do going forward.

You can understand that some come in after a long bus ride and really want to see their kids or really want to ensure their kids’ safety; they are really stressed out and concerned. It’s a fantastic feeling to be able to help them through all that.

Why do you feel pro bono work is important?

Pro bono work fills the need in our community that many have – the need for a lawyer but with a lack of means to afford a lawyer. ●

## MJC to Break Client Service Record

By: Justin A. Metzger

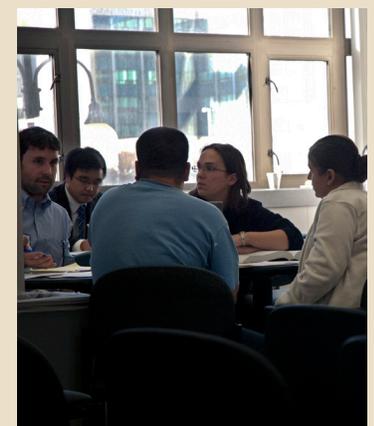
**T**he Milwaukee Justice Center, a cooperative project between Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Bar Association, and the Marquette University School of Law, realized its current form in 2009.

Between 2009 and the end of 2011, the Milwaukee Justice Center has helped more than 15,500 clients between its Family Law Clinic and Legal Advice and Referral Clinic. Already, though, the MJC is on track to see 75 percent of that number in just this past year, 2012.

“The increase in clients served is largely attributed to the Center’s expanded hours,” Milwaukee Justice Center Executive Director Atty. Dawn Caldart says. “The Center is now staffed by volunteer attorneys, law students, and interns from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.”

Previously, the MJC would see walk-in Family Law clients for twelve hours per week, and Small Claims and Foreclosure walk-in clients for an hour and a half.

At the beginning of 2012, Family Law services were expanded to 26.5 hours per week, while all other services were consolidated into the Legal Advice and Referral Clinic for the same four hours per week it had in previous years. ●



Clients, attorneys work in Legal Advice Clinic

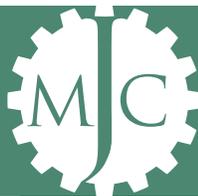
### Q4 2012 a Glance...

Clients Seen

Q4 2012:	2,548
vs. 2011:	+33%

YTD: +32%

#1 Issue	Post-Judgment Family
Seen:	



## Welcoming Our New Public Ally: Alyse Pfeil

By: Walter Wenzel

This past fall we welcomed our newest addition to the staff – Public Ally Alyse Pfeil. Alyse has accepted a ten month appointment as our Public Ally at the MJC, and will assist both Legal Director Ayame Metzger and Executive Director Dawn Caldart in a variety of capacities.

You will find her helping clients at the Family Law Self-Help Desk in G-9, or finding ways to improve MJC services and volunteer training.

Alyse grew up in Oconomowoc and is an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin – Madison where she received a bachelor's degree in Sociology. She said she is interested in, and focused on, social justice, and is driven by her belief in the mission of the MJC to serve unrepresented litigants.

"I was interested in the community building that was involved with being an Ally," Alyse said.

Alyse said that she has

enjoyed working with litigants and hopes that she can continue bringing her own personal experience to the MJC.

Currently, serving as the MJC's Special Projects Manager, Alyse is working on ways to improve the intake process at the Family Law Clinic, including a new intake process for the expanded clinic when it opens.

Alyse is also excited about the new space and the improved services that it will provide for Milwaukee's unrepresented litigants.

We welcome Alyse to the Milwaukee Justice Center and hope that she becomes a part of our family of volunteers. We all look forward to working with Alyse. ●



### Family Law Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday  
8:30am - 12:00pm  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday  
8:30am - 12:00pm

### Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Thursday - Friday  
2:00pm - 4:00pm

To Make an Appointment:  
(414) 278-2912  
ctimail@wicourts.gov

### MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

### MJC Legal Director:

Ayame D.C. Metzger, J.D.

### Special Projects Mgr.:

Alyse Pfeil

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Thank you to all of our  
volunteers and supporters!