

Special thanks go to:

**Charlie Moore and Sonja Harriday**, staff of Mixed Blood Theatre, who made certain all of our needs were met and made us feel very welcome in the theater.

**Starla Krause**, our caterer, who prepared some very tasty items and donated her services.

**Leslie Ball**, a board member and *grande dame* of Balls, who worked through all the little technical details like lighting and queuing and all the things the rest of us knew nothing about.

**Phil Colich**, owner of Hennepin Lake Liquors, who donated all of the wine for the event despite the fact that his brother is prominent criminal defense lawyer Michael Colich.

And last but not least, **Sara Mushlitz, Peggy Pluimer and Sally Westby**, all board members, who not only planned the event but hauled food, toted beverages, set up tables, poured drinks, and cleaned up afterward!

## Court Update

by *Cindy Kraemer*

### Trials

*Lloyd Deshawn Watkins* was charged with 2nd degree murder. The complaint asserts he murdered a seven month old baby. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries to the abdominal area and the head. Watkins admitted shaking the baby because she would not stop crying. When taken to the hospital she had adult-sized bite marks on her stomach and the middle of her back, a cut, and a bruise in the area of her left eye. This trial is currently in jury selection before Judge Leung. Mark Cosimini is defending Watkins and Katherine Quaintance is prosecuting the case.

*Maime Hernandez-Mills* was charged with one count of murder in the 1st degree (causing the death of another with premeditation, penalty Life in prison) and one count of murder in the 1st degree (causing the death of another while committing domestic abuse, penalty Life in prison). The complaint indicates she shot her husband to death with his gun as he slept. The case was prosecuted by Gail Baez and Hernandez-Mills was represented by Claudia Engelund and Michael Colich. The trial took place before Judge Justman. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and Hernandez-Mills was sentenced to life in prison.

*Lee Charles Draughn* was charged with count one, first degree murder (causing the death of another with premeditation) and count 2, first degree murder (causing the death of another while committing domestic abuse with a past pattern of domestic abuse, penalty - life in prison). According to the complaint Draughn shot his live-in girlfriend in the head. Katherine Quaintance prosecuted the case and Draughn was defended by Richard Trachy. Judge Greenberg presided over the trial. At the close of the State's case Judge Greenberg dismissed the murder in the first degree-domestic abuse homicide count of the indictment.

He found that there was insufficient evidence to support the element requiring the State to prove that the homicide was committed during the course of a domestic assault. The state maintained there was a clear history of domestic assault between the defendant and the victim and there were no eye witnesses to the murder. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of 2nd degree murder and Draughn will be sentenced on May 3rd in front of Judge Greenberg.

## Domestic Abuse Chronology

*Sheliah Morton* is currently in custody on an attempted murder charge with a bond of \$375,000. She has a history of domestic assaults and was on parole for a 2nd degree assault conviction when she committed the most recent assault.

#1 October 1993 Felony

Ct. 1 - 1st degree assault

Ct. 2 - 2nd degree assault

David Reyes prosecuted the case and Morton was defended by Craig Boone. The complaint asserts Morton struck her estranged husband's girlfriend in the head with a baseball bat. Morton waited for the victim/survivor to arrive home from work and assaulted her in the garage outside of her home. Her injuries included a ruptured left eyeball that had to be removed. Morton pled guilty to count 2, and count 1 was dismissed. Judge Levy sentenced her to 30 months at Shakopee.

#2 February 1996 Felony

Ct. 1 - Attempted 1st degree murder

Ct. 2 - Attempted 2nd degree murder

The complaint alleges Morton approached her estranged husband in the parking lot of his work and then followed him into his place of employment arguing as they went in. During the scuffle that followed Morton pulled a gun from her pocket and shot him in the thigh. He managed to get the gun from her and she ran out of the building. Her estranged husband indicates she had been stalking him prior to this assault.

## Felony Cases Charges in Hennepin County

In March of this year there were 16 CSC cases charged and 41 domestic violence cases charged.