

District Attorney to speak at AU's Constitution Day observance

9/16/05

Allegany County District Attorney Terrence Parker will be the guest speaker at Alfred University's Constitution Day celebration planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, in Room 302 in the Olin building. Parker's topic will be "The Constitution in the Era of Homeland Security." As a special attraction, a drawing will be held at the end of the evening to award a framed note, signed by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Roger B. Taney (1777 -1864) and dated 1858. Parker has served as Allegany County district attorney since July 1997 and is responsible for the prosecution of all levels of criminal offenses committed within the county, as well as extradition of fugitives and defense of convictions that are appealed to higher courts. As district attorney, Parker implemented felony and misdemeanor drug courts to handle drug and alcohol-addicted defendants; implemented the first coordinated domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution protocols county-wide; created the first in-house investigator's position for the DA's office to improve police-prosecutor communication and evidentiary follow-up; instituted an in-house victims' services program through the New York State Crime Victims' Board' and implemented a systematic training program for all assistant prosecutors. Prior to becoming the full-time district attorney for Allegany County, Parker was an assistant DA for 13 years, first as a part-time prosecutor for Driving While Intoxicated cases, and then for 10 years at the first assistant DA. He also maintained a private law practice for 15 years, during which time he was a special prosecutor assigned to cases in Wyoming and Steuben counties in cases where the county DA's office had a conflict of interest. He was also an arbitrator for the 7th Judicial District Arbitration Program for civil matters; served as an appointed hearing officer on foreclosure and civil law cases; and was a member of the Allegany County Law Guardian panel. Parker also has 15 years' experience as a counsel to various towns and municipal boards. He is admitted to the bar in New York State and for the United States Supreme Court, the US District Court and the US Bankruptcy Court. A member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the bar associations in Allegany and Cattaraugus counties, Parker is also a member of the New York State District Attorney's Association and AGLOW, a regional association of DAs from Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties. He received his B.A. degree in 1978 from St. Bernadine of Siena College in Loudonville, NY, and his Juris Doctor degree in 1981 from Pace University School of Law in White Plains, NY. Parker has taken additional training from the New York Prosecutors Training Institute; taught courses for the New York State Prosecutors' School and the New York State Welfare Fraud Investigators Association; served as the New York State delegate to the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement; and was selected to lecture on the American legal system at the Sodrushestvo Center in Ryazan, Russia. He and his wife, the former Laurie Ann Swales, make their home in Belfast with their four children.