



JOIN US IN PARADISE FOR THE 2005 NCACC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE !

By Tom Hall (FL)

President Diana Pratt-Wyatt has issued the call to attend the 2005 National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks' annual education conference, which is being held in Key West, Florida. Shed those dress clothes, pack up your best tropical attire, sun tan lotion, golf clubs, tennis racquet, and swim suit and join us at the historic Casa Marina Hotel right on the beach in Key West. This promises to be a great conference. The Education Committee has put together a great educational program which we know everyone will enjoy.

SOME CHANGES THIS YEAR

You can register for the conference and the hotel electronically through the web site at <http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org/>. Please do so. It greatly assists us. After you submit your registration electronically, you will automatically be sent an "invoice" via e-mail. Again, please take advantage of this new technology.

Although the Conference officially starts on Sunday, we strongly urge you to arrive early on Saturday this year. NCACC is also hosting the Conference of Appellate Technology Officers (CATO) for its educational conference. CATO will be meeting Saturday through Monday. Thus, our conferences will overlap on Sunday and Monday

*The
Educational
Program is
detailed on
page 6*

But the real reason to arrive Saturday, or earlier, is we have made arrangements for a special tour of Key West on the world famous Conch Train. (It's not really a train.) This event is being conducted exclusively for NCACC and CATO. We are getting a special rate that is lower than the normal group rate. The tour will leave right from the hotel and return to the hotel. Although this is optional, meaning you have to pay for it yourself, we think you will really enjoy it. This tour will show you where the main attractions are, familiarize you with Key West and provide you with some great historical information as well. You can sign up directly on the registration form and pay the cost of the tour along with the other fees you submit.

The group rate of \$134 per night we have for the hotel applies three days prior to the conference and three days after. Any additional nights you stay under that arrangement count against our guaranteed room block. So arrive early and stay late.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

As noted, we will be hosting CATO for their second complete conference. Part of their Conference will overlap with ours. As you will see from the program, there will also be joint sessions focusing on issues of interest to both the technology officers and the clerks. Because there will be events on Saturday, this year the hospitality suite will open on Saturday night and then be open every night through Thursday. So if you arrive on Saturday, we urge you to participate in the Conch Train Tour and stop by the hospitality suite to greet old friends and make some new ones.

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WE'RE ONLINE WITH A NEW WEB SITE:

<http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org/>



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NEW ADDRESS: To Remit NCACC Membership Dues:
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 Williamsburg, VA 23185

THE DOCKET
News of the
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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!





THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Diana Pratt-Wyatt (LA)

This edition of The Docket is exploding with excitement as we prepare for our 2005 Educational Conference in Key West. Be ready to ditch the office clothes, ties, hose and heels and pull out the flip-flops and loose fitting clothes (you know those wild shirts and shorts that our California constituents wear) and head to the Keys. Tom Hall (FL) and Vicki Van Lith (FL) have provided you with all the information regarding travel to the Keys, and Chris Crow and the Program Committee have provided you with an excellent Educational Conference Agenda. The Conference of Appellate Technology Officials (CATO) will partner with us for the educational sessions on Sunday. We modified our schedule to accommodate this joint effort and welcome their participation and look forward to meeting and greeting CATO members during Sunday night's reception. NCACC also has several new members who will be attending our conference

for the very first time and what an opportunity for us to welcome them to our organization as well. Our NCACC family is growing.

Be sure to see in this issue that NCACC, through the efforts of the Website Committee, has launched it's new web page at www.appellatecourtclerks.org/. Rory Perry (WV), Chair, has worked hard to make this happen, and he and Tom Hall (FL) have worked together to provide on-line registration for the conference. I encourage you to use our web page often and to register on-line. This is only the beginning and NCACC is already looking at ways to improve our ability to reach our members and provide continuing educational opportunities. Please join me in congratulating the Website Committee for their innovation, design, and just plain old fashion hard work in getting the web page up and running. The members of that committee are: Rory Perry (WV), Chair; Michael Catalano (TN); John Doerner (CO); Thomas Hall (FL); Penny Miller (ND); James Pelzer (NY) and Michael Yerly (CA). I also want to thank Ed Smith (MT), Past-President, who appointed this special committee during his tenure. A job well done. Thank you all.

Since the last issue of The Docket, I have been privileged to represent NCACC at the Conference of Chief Justices in New York and to attend the National Summit on the Future of Self-Represented Litigation in Chicago sponsored by the NCSC and SJI. I was pleased to learn that our conference and that of the Chief Justices have identified many common issues impacting our courts and each organization is addressing these issues through committee work and education. In Chicago, I heard once more that pro se litigation is a growing concern and impacts all courts. I hope to be able to provide a copy of the final report of the summit in Key West. Thank you for this opportunity.

I have just returned from the Executive Committee meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. We met an additional day to participate in a workshop geared toward effective fund management and development. We are excited about the possibilities and will have a full report in the June issue, so stay tuned. The Executive Committee also had an opportunity to tour the Renaissance Worthington Hotel and the facility and location have all the necessary ingredients to insure an outstanding conference deep in the heart of Texas in 2006. Stephanie Lavake (TX) will have more to share in Key West.

NEW NCACC WEB SITE

Website Committee, Chaired by Rory Perry (WV)

The new NCACC web site is now available at <http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org/>

The new site is maintained by the Web Site Committee, rather than the National Center for State Courts. The Web Site Committee developed the new design with input and approval of the Executive Committee. The site now includes a private members-only area containing the full membership directory and a page where members can share information. The members-only area is accessible with a username and password that will be posted to the listserv shortly after this issue of The Docket is complete. A link to on-line registration for the conference in Key West is available, so please register for the 2005 Educational Conference on-line.

GREAT EVENTS

The receptions and parties sponsored by our friends at BNA, Thompson/West and Lexis/Nexis really look exciting this year. On Sunday night BNA is sponsoring a reception on the lawn of the hotel, right next to the beach. There will be plenty of hors'doeuvres with a focus on items native to Key West, such as shrimp and scallops. There will also be a steel drummer to provide entertainment.

On Monday night, Lexis/Nexis will be hosting a party at the Ocean Key House. Lexis/Nexis has secured the Ocean Key House "Sunset Pier" which will be reserved exclusively for our group. We have a great band, The Landsharks, which used to be the house band at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville in Orlando. They are a fun group and will provide wonderful entertainment for all ages. As always, there will be a big spread of food and plenty to drink.

On Wednesday night, Thompson/West is sponsoring an "All American Lawn Party" at the historic Little Whitehouse in Key West. For those who don't know, the Little Whitehouse was first used by President Harry Truman as a retreat to get away from the stress of the nation's capitol. It has been used on occasion by virtually every President since. Just last January it was visited by former President Bill Clinton and his wife Senator Hillary Clinton for a weekend get away. There will be a DJ and dance floor, a special entertainment area for kids and the event includes a tour of the house itself. Again there will be no shortage of food and drink.

THE REGULAR EVENTS

All the regular events will be back. We are going to have our Fun Run/Walk, but it will be special this year because you will be able to walk from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean (don't worry it is only about a mile and a half.) There is a special t-shirt this year. We also have kid sizes for the first time. We also have the golf tournament planned for Tuesday afternoon and this year the tennis tournament is back. So if you are interested in the fun run/walk or playing golf or tennis, please fill out the forms and let us know. The banquet this year will be held in the old historic ballroom in the Casa Marina. However, we are not going to have suits and ties and fancy dresses this year but rather everyone is encouraged to wear their best dress tropical attire and get in the spirit of Key West. If you don't have any, there are plenty of shops in Key West where you can get fully decked out.

As the county's promotional video says, "The Florida Keys are like nowhere else on earth." The Keys are actually a series of small coral islands that stretch 130 miles out into the ocean from the mainland. An amazing engineering feat (for its time) is the overseas highway which runs from the mainland just south of Miami all the way to Key West allowing you to drive 130 miles out to sea. Where else can you do that!

The Keys have everything. Great shopping, food, drink, entertainment, sports, world class fishing (both deep sea and "back country") and diving and snorkeling second to none. If you can't find something you like to do in the Keys, you aren't trying.

If you want to find out about the Keys and Key West, I recommend four sources. The Monroe County Tourism Bureau maintains an excellent site: www.fla-keys.com. In addition, there are two guide books I think are excellent. They are:

- 1) Key West & The Florida Keys, Palm Island Press, Third Edition.
- 2.) Florida Keys and Key West, The Globe Pequot Press, Eighth Edition.

Finally, go to NCACC's web site:

www.appellatecourtclerks.org/

The Key West Conference page has links to virtually everything you need to know. However, I thought I would address the two most common questions I have been getting.

1. Do you need a car? No – unless you want to explore outside of Key West. Key West itself is small, only 2 miles wide and 4 miles long and most everything is concentrated in a small area within a mile and a half of our hotel. Every registered member will get a 5 day pass to use the Bone Island Shuttle (only the actual registered member can use this free ticket - no sharing. You can buy additional, greatly discounted, tickets for your family directly from us). The Shuttle circulates around the island constantly all day up to around 10:00 at night. Taxis are plentiful and cheap. You can also rent scooters (not cheap) and bicycles (cheap) right at the hotel and because the island is small, they are viable forms of transportation.

The Bone Island shuttle ticket that comes with the passport is only good for one day. A five day pass is available at a reduced rate. If you buy a Passport and the five day pass, you could use the shuttle for six

(Conference continued on page 6)

NCACC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Looking Forward to a Key West Sunset Celebration!

By Chris Crow (LA)

Key West, the Wyndham Casa Marina, sand, surf, sunsets, and cruises! What a great site for a Conference and an opportunity for camaraderie with our colleagues and friends. The Program Committee hopes that we have put together a great line up of speakers and topics to pique your interests and provide you with useful information and tools to take back home.

Many thanks to the Committee members, Andy Weber, Kristen Brown, Christie Cameron, Ed Hosken, Joe Lane, Danielle Schott, and Jon Wheeler whose great ideas and efforts will surely be appreciated by all.

One of our challenges this year was to coordinate plans with newly-formed CATO (Conference of Appellate Technology Officials). CATO is holding its first annual conference and NCACC agreed to help with CATO organizational efforts and participate in some joint sessions. Thanks to Christie Cameron, Joe Lane, Kristen Brown, and Tom Hall who served with me on the liaison committee with CATO representatives Bob Northrup and Jerry Matthews. Christie did a great job of focusing our NCACC contingent to propose a plan that has been accepted by both the NCACC and CATO Executive Committees.

An outline of the NCACC Education Program follows this article. You will see that we begin the NCACC education program on Sunday afternoon this year, immediately following the Roll Call of the States, Welcome of New Members, and Part I of the Business Meeting. This first educational session will be held jointly with CATO. Host Tom Hall has arranged the Sunday evening social to include CATO and vendors participating in the Vendor Expo that will be held on Monday this year.

The Monday format was configured so an NCACC only plenary could be held in the morning. Then, CATO members will join us for the vendor introductions, lunch, and afternoon break-out sessions. We were cognizant that we needed subjects that would be of interest to both NCACC and CATO members for the joint sessions and thought topics such as *"E-responsiveness"*, *"Transitioning to Case Management/ Electronic Case Files: Managing the People Side of Change"*, and *"Designing Web Pages on a Budget"* fit the bill quite nicely. We also hope vendors who showcase technological products will see the value in being able to make contact with both clerks and technology officials at our joint Vendor Expo.

We were extremely fortunate again in being able to tap the resources of the Federal Judiciary Center. Those of us who attended the program in Anchorage remember how much we enjoyed Judy Roberts and her presentations. Judy was a great help in ensuring her colleagues, Mr Bob Fagan and Mr. Michael Berney, would be able to join us in Key West (special kudos to Ed Hosken for the "hook-up" between NCACC and the FJC!).

When surveyed, many persons responded they would enjoy topics dealing with employee management. Jon Wheeler recently attended an all day session presented by attorney Mark Stephens from Fort Worth, Texas. Jon was extremely impressed with Mark's presentation, and through Jon's efforts, we have scheduled Mark for two sessions: *"Discipline: when to use it; how to write it out; Performance vs. Conduct Discipline; how to do it"* and *"Dealing with Challenging Employees at Work"*.

A panel of our members will participate in the now traditional *"Sharing Successes/What's Bugging You"* session. The primary focus this year will be a discussion of different appellate practice models. Jim Pelzer will spearhead the panel in addition to presenting his office's "active case management" approach to expedite the progress of cases in his court. During April, he will be contacting other NCACC members to ask them to participate on this panel.

This year's featured "Key West" theme session will be "COOP" – Continuity of Operations Plan" presented by William Lehman, Chief, Judiciary Emergency Preparedness Office, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and William McCool, District Court Clerk, Northern District of Florida. These gentlemen will share their experiences considering the impact of the events of "9-11" and the four hurricanes that hit Florida last year.

"How to Run Effective Meetings" will be a workshop session presented by Timm Fautsko from the National Center for State Courts. I was fortunate to attend his session at an annual conference last year and the tips and tools that we were given have been most useful. One of the problems we all face is trying to be helpful to our patron without giving legal advice. Bob Fagan, from the Federal Judiciary will help us answer the question: "Is it Legal Advice?" The ethics session will be presented by Brian F. Spector, a Miami attorney who is currently an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Miami School of

(Continued on page 6)

(Conference continued from page 4)

days. Remember that active members who register, get one free five day shuttle pass, but that pass cannot be shared.

2. How should I get there? You have three options; fly directly to Key West; fly to Miami and drive (about 145 miles from the Miami airport); or fly to Naples, Florida and take a high speed ferry to Key West. Each has pros and cons. There is more information about each on the web site.

FUND RAISER

We have a unique fund raiser this year. We have made arrangements with Historic Tours of America to be able to sell Key West "Passports." The Passports offer discounted admissions to most of Key West's attractions. They are offered at different levels. The best part is not only can you get discounted admission, NCACC is treated as a Passport vendor and gets to keep the "profits." The money will go to the education fund. Details are in the registration packet.

A BIG TURNOUT

How can you not come to Paradise? Join us in Key West. You will have a great time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either me (phone 850/ 488-0125 or hall@fcourts.org) or Vickie VanLith (phone 850/922-5215 or vanlithv@fcourts.org).

We look forward to seeing you there!



(Educational Program continued from page 5)

Law.

Finally, Joe Lane was successful in getting Moshe Rubenstein to join us again with his message: "*Leading to Inspire*". Many of you will recall that Moshe was an outstanding speaker for the 2001 meeting in Newport Beach, California and we are truly looking forward to his presentation that will conclude the educational program on Thursday.

In conclusion, I just want to add a note of sincere appreciation to Tom Hall and his assistant, Vickie Van Lith who have been wonderful in coordinating efforts with the NCACC program schedule and CATO. Diana Wyatt has been a truly great leader in keeping us all on track and her guidance and counseling have been invaluable. Steve Lancaster, the 2004 Program Chair, forwarded a well-organized packet for us to use this year and has been extremely accessible whenever we needed our immediate questions addressed. Lastly, thanks to all of you who have contributed your thoughts, ideas, preferences, and evaluations – the 2005 program could not have been completed without your input!

Congratulations

NCSC announces that Linda Caviness, former Executive Director of the Strategic Development effort and the first Executive Director of the International Program, has assumed the position of Executive Director of Association Services.



**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE DOCKET IS
JUNE 6, 2005**

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KEY WEST

By Cynthia Rapp (DC)

The deadline to apply for NCACC scholarships has been extended to June 1, 2005. If you are having trouble obtaining funding for the annual meeting in Key West, Florida, please take advantage of our scholarship program. Contact Cynthia Rapp at cjrapp@scus.gov.

The Scholarship Assistance Guidelines and the Selection Criteria are published in the 2004 NCACC Directory at pages 477-479, and an application is included in this newsletter as an insert.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APPELLATE COURT CLERKS

Conference Schedule

August 7-12, 2005

Wyndham Casa Marina, Key West, Florida

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

TIME

8:30 a.m. to Noon		Executive Committee Breakfast/Meeting <i>Officers and Executive Committee Members</i>
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	2 hrs	Registration <i>Convention Assistance Committee</i>
5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.		Optional Conch Train Tour

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	3 hrs	Registration <i>Convention Assistance Committee</i>
1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Keys Ballroom	1 hr and 45 min	Roll Call of the States, Welcome New Members Business Meeting (Part I) <i>Diana Pratt-Wyatt, President, NCACC</i> <i>Tom Hall, Host Clerk</i> <i>Christine Crow, Program Chair</i> <i>Andrew Weber, Program Vice-Chair</i>
3:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. Keys Ballroom		Address to Joint NCACC/CATO Session <i>Honorable Richard G. Payne, Chief Judge</i> <i>Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Key West, Florida</i>
3:40 p.m. - 5:40 p.m. Keys Ballroom	2 hrs	NCACC/CATO Joint Plenary Session: “E-Responsiveness: Ensuring Impactful Service to the Public” <i>Bob Fagan, Federal Judiciary Center</i>
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	1/2 hr	Guest Orientation
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom	2 hrs	Vendor Set-up
5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	45 min	Morgan Thomas Memorial Slide Show <i>Tom hall, Clerk, Supreme Court of Florida</i>
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	1 hr	Dinner Break
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	2 hrs	Reception Honoring NCACC New Members and First Time Attendees, and Recognizing CATO’s First Annual Meeting <i>Hosted by BNA, NCACC and CATO</i>
9:30 p.m.		Hospitality Suite Opens

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Keys Ballroom		Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Keys Ballroom	15 min	Announcements

MONDAY, AUGUST 8 (continued)	Time	
8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Keys Ballroom	15 min	Welcome to NCACC and Cato Honorable Barbara J. Pariente, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Florida
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Grand Ballroom	2 hrs	Vendor Set-up in Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Keys Ballroom	2 hrs	NCACC Plenary Session: “Dealing with Challenging Employees at Work” <i>Mark Stephens</i>
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Keys Ballroom	30 min	Vendor-Sponsor 5 min Presentations to NCACC and CATO <i>Andrew Weber, Program Vice-Chair</i>
11:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom	6 hrs	Vendor Expo for NCACC and CATO Andrew Weber, Program Vice-Chair
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Grand Ballroom	1 hr	Vendor Lunch
12:15 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.	1 hr and 25 min	BREAKOUT SESSIONS I. “Transitioning to Case Management/Electronic Case Files: Managing the People Side of Change” <i>Michael Berney, Federal Judiciary Center</i> III. “Designing Web Pages on a Budget” <i>Appellate Court Panel</i> IV. Vendor Expo
1:50 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	1 hr and 25 min	BREAKOUT SESSIONS I. “Transitioning to Case Management/Electronic Case Files: Managing the People Side of Change” <i>Michael Berney, Federal Judiciary Center</i> II. “Discipline: when to use it; how to write it out; Performance vs. Conduct Discipline; how to do it” <i>Mark Stephens</i> IV. Vendor Expo
3:25 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	1 hr and 25 min	BREAKOUT SESSIONS II. “Discipline: when to use it; how to write it out; Performance vs. Conduct Discipline; how to do it” <i>Mark Stephens</i> III. “Designing Web Pages on a Budget” <i>Appellate Court Panel</i> IV. Vendor Expo
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	1 hr	Vendor-Show Break-down
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.		Lexis/Nexis - Ocean Key House “Sunset Pier Celebration” Party

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 **Time**

7:00 a.m.		Past President’s Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.		Announcements
8:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	2 hrs	NCACC Plenary Session: Best Practices/What’s Bugging You <i>Jim Pelzer, Clerk, New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, Second Department, Moderator, NCACC Members</i>
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	15 min	Break
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	1 hr and 15 min	NCACC Plenary Session: “Is It Legal Advice?” <i>Bob Fagan, Federal Judiciary Center</i>
1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.		Annual Golf Tournament

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	15 min	Announcements
8:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	1 hr and 30 min	NCACC Plenary Session: “How to Run Effective Meetings” <i>Timm Fautsko, NCSC</i>
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	15 min	Break
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	1 hr and 30 min	NCACC Plenary Session: “COOP” - Continuity of Operations Plan <i>William Lehman, Chief, Judiciary Emergency Preparedness Office Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and William McCool, District Court Clerk, Northern District of Florida</i>
11:45 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.		Lunch
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	1 hr	NCACC Plenary Session: “Ethics” <i>Brian F. Spector</i>
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.		Thompson/West “All American Lawn Party” - Little Whitehouse

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

6:30 a.m.		Fun Run/Walk
8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	15 min	Announcements
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	3 hrs	NCACC Plenary Session: “Leading to Inspire” <i>Moshe Rubenstein</i>
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	15 min	Break
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	2 hrs	Annual Business Meeting, Part 2
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	4 hrs	Banquet Reception and Annual Banquet

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast and Critique Session
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Cruisin' Clerks and Ground Transportation To and From Key West

By Jon Wheeler (FL)

Ships Ahoy! I can hear the ship's horns blasting, announcing we are ready to pull away from Miami for fun filled three days of sun, friends, good food and beautiful turquoise water with extended white beaches. If your mind hasn't gone to summer vacation plans and the national conference in Key West, hopefully this article will motivate you to get it in gear! In order to insure that you get the cabin that you want on the cruise, you need to act very soon and get in touch with our own cruise director, Lenny Kopple. As a reminder, the cruise will depart on Friday afternoon, August 12th, from Miami for three days in the Bahamas and will return on Monday at 9:00 a.m. the 15th of August. People have already begun signing up. We have booked about 10 cabins with many other inquiries. The web site will be listing those who have signed up so you can check

for friends who have already made their reservations. This is an instance in which you don't want to be the last one to make a reservation; you want to be the first because accommodations are going quickly as the summer season approaches. Our cruise director has also agreed to be a conduit, including use of the web site. For those traveling solo and seeking to share a cabin with another member, give him a call. Additionally, it is necessary to book just as soon as you can so we can finish our planning. The final payments for the cruise are due May 20th but the reservations should be made well before that. Information about the cruise, cost, etc. is available by going to our own cruise web site which is www.funseas.com/ncacc. There is quite a bit of information there. Also, you can reach Lenny Kopple who is our cruise director at (800) 805-7245. He probably can help you with your other travel to this year's conference too. I think you will find him most accommodating. I am really excited about the prospects for this new addition to our national conference. I even had thoughts the other day that if this turns out to be the great fun that I am expecting, we may want to look at cruising the Mississippi on the weekend after the New Orleans conference in 2007.

I would like to make it clear that ground transportation will be available from Miami to Key West and return for those going on the cruise, as well as other attendees at the conference. As suggested in the last issue of The Docket,

and in Alaska, flight costs and the elimination of car rentals by flying into Miami and busing to Key West is an economical and fun way to get to the conference. The buses will be available to bring attendees from Miami's airport leaving at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th, and arriving about 3 to 3 ½ hours later at the hotel in Key West. That trip down to Key West should be beautiful as



Check the web site for a list of those who have already made their reservations.

we traverse the various Keys. The return on Friday morning will be by motorcoach leaving at 9:30 a.m. arriving at the cruise ships approximately 1:00 p.m., just in time to board and have opportunities to partake in the luncheon menu. Those not going on the cruise will continue on the buses to the Miami airport arriving at the airport at approximately 2:30 p.m. To be safe, I would make flight reservations for departures after 4:00 p.m. For those on the cruise, they will return to Miami at approximately 9:00 a.m. Monday,

August 15th and transportation is available to the Miami airport through the cruise lines for only \$12. The cost of "ground transportation," which is \$100 for members and \$25 for non-members up to three traveling with the member, covers the cost to and from Key West. One-way travel to or from Miami's airport to Key West on the same bus should be available for early bookers for \$75. Again I would encourage those not going on the cruise to take advantage of this convenient and beautiful way to see the southern most part of the United States at ground level, or maybe sea level is more appropriate. We are still in the planning stages but hope to have refreshments and fun on-board for the bus trip, too, to make it even more enjoyable.

I am in hopes that the NCACC web site, including the conference information and the cruise information and links to the cruise, will be available when you receive this issue of The Docket, or shortly thereafter. Book early and I hope to see you on the cruise! I am looking forward with great anticipation to this new event for those attending the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks' annual family get together. If I can be of further assistance, in addition to Lenny Kopple, you can call me at (850) 488-6151 extension 111.

Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

By Leslie Steen (AR)



Faithful readers will recall our columns about students' answers to test questions that provided some smiles not too long ago. Now, we have found the results of the annual "Dark and Stormy Night" competition with actual analogies and metaphors from high school essays. Read on and marvel.

- ◇ Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides compressed by a Thigh Master.
- ◇ His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
- ◇ She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like the sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
- ◇ Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
- ◇ He was as tall as a six-foot-three-inch tree.
- ◇ The little boat drifted across the pond just like a bowling ball wouldn't.
- ◇ They lived in a typical neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
- ◇ John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds that had also never met.
- ◇ He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.
- ◇ Shots rang out, as shots are wont to do.
- ◇ The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
- ◇ The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a long time.
- ◇ He was lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
- ◇ It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.
- ◇ He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.
- ◇ Her eyes were like limpid pools, only they had forgotten to put in pH cleanser.
- ◇ She walked into his office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
- ◇ It hurt the way your tongue hurts after you accidentally staple it to the wall.

There's a saying in show business, "How do you follow an act like that?"

Your Change Can Change Our Direction



Thank you to the following members who have filled their cans for the
Educational Fund:

Jim Pelzer (NY) Sherie Welch (GA) Diana Pratt-Wyatt (LA) Terence Lord (MO)

