



THE DOCKET

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

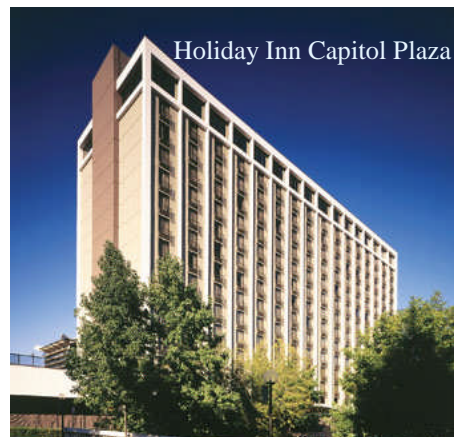
Gold Rush!! Sacramento 2009

By Deena Fawcett (CA)

In 1848 gold was found in Coloma on the American River near Sacramento, California and the discovery started one of the largest human migrations in our nation's history. The 36th Annual Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, to be held at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Sacramento, will cause court clerks and court personnel from around the nation to migrate to California and reap the treasures of the conference, the city, and the fellowship. Education is optional.

The Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza is located in the heart of historic downtown Sacramento. It is located 11 miles from the airport, 60 miles from Napa, 87 miles from San Francisco, and 2,903 miles from Ocean City, Maryland. The hotel is within steps of the state capitol building and is within easy walking distance of Old Sacramento, located on the Sacramento River, and its 125 shops, restaurants, and museums. Thomson Reuters will host an event at the California State Railroad Museum which is in the old town. There are also art galleries, museums, cruises, casinos, and trips to vineyards and wineries within easy travel distances. After the critique breakfast on Friday, the California hosts are planning a wine tour of El Dorado County - a fitting way to end what should be a very rewarding California experience.

More details of dinners, activities, fun walk, golf tournament, educational program, and other activities planned this year will be included in the next edition of *The Docket*.



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News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!



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300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Tom Hall (FL)

As I write this (at least as I start this) I am at the mid-year meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) in Scottsdale, Arizona. This is the 60th anniversary of the creation of CCJ. At one of the sessions a video, created by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), was played showing various chief justices and staff commenting on the 60 years of CCJ and the creation of the NCSC. I couldn't help but think how similar the comments by the chief justices were to the comments I hear about our conference all the time: "Everyone made me feel so welcome at the first meeting I attended" - "The education programs are superb" - "I learned as much from the informal discussions as I did from the formal programs" - "I have made lifelong friends at the conference" - "As a result of friendships made through the conference, I can pick up the phone and call someone who has previously dealt with a problem I'm facing."

It also made me think that our efforts to raise money for an education endowment are critical. Our conference plays an important role in our development as clerks. The need for funds was highlighted even more emphatically during another session at CCJ on how to deal with the budget crisis that almost every state is facing. There are no easy answers but it is apparent that courts simply no longer have the discretionary funds they once had to support our conference by paying for our attendance at the yearly education meeting and all the other work we do to make our conference successful.

In my last column I said that we want big ideas. As I approached my year as president, I had lots of ideas of things I wanted to try during my year and even more things that I wanted to suggest we study for possible future implementation. But as I know is often the case, circumstances dictate what actually happens. My year as president happened to coincide with the kick off of our campaign to raise money to fund the education endowment. I decided that I needed to concentrate on that and make it the number one priority. In that regard, things are progressing extremely well. With Colette Bruggman's leadership as chair of the campaign committee, we are well on our way. The first effort was seeking pledges from the campaign committee and the executive committee. I am happy to report that we had full participation among that group and approximately \$45,000 has been pledged by that group alone. We are now moving into the second phase and will be approaching various foundations for donations. By the next newsletter, we should have answers on some of the key requests we are making. I am very optimistic that this is going to be a very successful campaign.

But as I noted, with success, we need big ideas. I think there are any number of things that we could do as a conference to expand our educational opportunities.

- * Regional conferences – As it becomes more expensive to travel and as budgets shrink, we ought to explore smaller, shorter regional conferences mid-year. I was thinking regions based on the boundaries of the federal circuits. For example, the 11th Circuit, with Florida, Alabama and Georgia courts meeting in some central location.
- * Peer to peer consulting – I'm always interested in a better way to operate the office. While I can discuss what I'm doing with other clerks, I think it would be really helpful if another clerk or two could visit my office, review my operation, and offer ideas for improvement. I see no reason we could not develop such a program.
- * Development of best practice manuals for clerk's office – There currently is a national movement to develop performance measures for courts. When it comes to a clerk's office, who more than us knows how it ought to be done? A best practice manual would be a great resource for all of our courts.

"There is no reason these things and many others cannot happen."

(Continued on page 8)

INTERESTED IN HOSTING?

Please be advised the Site Selection Committee of NCACC is now accepting offers from any members interested in hosting the Conference for 2012. This invitation is open to ALL members of NCACC including previous hosts.

If you have been thinking about hosting, and I know you have, NOW is the time to take that plunge and make that commitment. We want to see your beautiful State.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions regarding submitting a proposal.

Bessie Decker, Chair
Site Selection Committee

Where We've Been

1973 Washington DC	1991 St. Louis, MO
1974 Louisville, KY	1992 Washington, DC
1975 Flagstaff, AZ	1993 Nashville, TN
1976 Tarrytown, NY	1994 San Diego, CA
1977 Coeru D'Alene, ID	1995 San Antonio, TX
1978 Mackinac Island, MI	1996 Des Moines, IA
1979 Monterey, CA	1997 Point Clear, AL
1980 Orlando, FL	1998 Columbia River Gorge
1981 Jackson Hole, WY	1999 Portsmouth, NH
1982 Boston, MA	2000 Savannah, GA
1983 New Orleans, LA	2001 Newport Beach, CA
1984 Seattle, WA	2002 St. Paul, MN
1985 Lexington, KY	2003 Asheville, NC
1986 Austin, TX	2004 Anchorage, AK
1987 Hartford, CT	2005 Key West, FL
1988 Helena, MT	2006 Ft. Worth, TX
1989 Charleston, SC	2007 New Orleans, LA
1990 Tucson, AZ	2008 Pittsburg, PA
	2009 Sacramento, CA

NCACC AWARDS COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR NOMINATIONS

The 2008-2009 Awards Committee wants your nominations for the J.O. Sentell Award and the Morgan Thomas Award. These awards will be presented at the 2009 NCACC Annual Conference to be held in Sacramento, California.

Past recipients of both awards were listed in the October 2008 issue of *The Docket*. A survey made in 1995 of the past recipients of the J. O. Sentell Award indicated that past members felt that some of their best qualities were expressed in these words: love your work, set and achieve goals, be diligent, be committed, demonstrate patience, use sound judgment, be sensitive to your fellow men and women, and give your best. I know that many of the NCACC members I have known since joining the conference demonstrate these qualities so please send your nomination for these two awards to the committee.

The J.O. Sentell Award is given to a member of the NCACC who has contributed substantially to the objectives of the conference, including improving skill and knowledge through conferences, seminars or other educational programs; promoting and improving the contribution of appellate court clerk offices within the area of effective court administration; and collecting and dissemination of information and ideas concerning the operation and improvement of the offices of appellate court clerks.

The Morgan Thomas Award is for recognition of an individual who is not a member of the NCACC and who has made distinguished contributions to enhancing professionalism and supporting the goals of the NCACC as a body and of its members individually.

The Awards Nomination Form should be sent by February 13, 2009 using email, fax or and mail to:

Holly Sparrow,
NCACC Awards Committee Chair
Georgia Court of Appeals
Suite 501
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

E-Mail ► sparrowh@gaappeals.us
Fax ► 404-651-6187

Awards Committee 2008-2009

Holly Sparrow, Chair GA)	Amy Reitz (OH)	Laura Roy (MO)
Kenneth DeBlanc (LA)	Rex Renk (MT)	Mike Yerly (CA)
Kelly McNeely (LA)	Keith Richardson (IA)	

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

By Jon Wheeler (FL)

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the nomination form for officers and Executive Committee members for 2009-2010.

As you all know, nominations are so important to our organization and I want to take this opportunity to ask you to take some time to think about the future of the organization and how your nominations of our members would benefit the leadership of our group for the future. Please also give consideration to your own willingness to serve by nominating yourself or asking someone to nominate you.

If you have any questions about what service as an officer or an executive committee member entails, feel free to contact me or one of the committee members listed below. You can also look back at the October edition of *The Docket* at the Nominating Committee's article on page 7 where each of the current executive committee members, whose term is expiring, answered questions about their service as an executive committee member.

I am looking forward to a strong participation by all of our members.

The members of the Nominating Committee are:

Jon Wheeler (FL), Chair
Amy Reitz (OH)
Mike Yearly (CA)

Tia Milton, GA
Les Steen (AR)
Trish Harrington (VA),
Executive Committee Liason

Welcome New Members!

Christie Cameron (NC)

The membership is happy to welcome the following three newest members of our Conference.

Christopher A. Prine is the new Clerk of Court for the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston, Texas. Chris's experience includes several years on two different Texas appellate courts as a briefing attorney and as a chambers attorney. He also practiced with a law firm in Houston for approximately 10 years focusing on litigation and appellate matters in the state and federal courts. He and his wife, Mary-Jo, have two children and one grandson.

Debra A. Saunders is the new Clerk of Court for the Rhode Island Supreme Court in Providence. Prior to becoming Clerk last June, she served in the Office of General Counsel at the Supreme Court, and she served in the Rhode Island Attorney General's office. Deb also spent time in private practice mainly handling DUI defense work. Most interestingly (at least to this reporter), Deb took a 5 year leave of absence between these legal jobs helping her husband start a homemade ice cream business called the "Daily Scoop" which now has two shops in Rhode Island. Deb notes that she has two adorable neices.

Melissa L. Roth is the new Chief Deputy Clerk at the Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield. She is married with three children and has been in the Clerk's office since September 2007.

2009 DIRECTORY

Included as an insert to this issue, is an information form for the directory. If you are a new member, please provide this information along with a 3X5 or 4X6 photo. Our directory will not be complete without you.

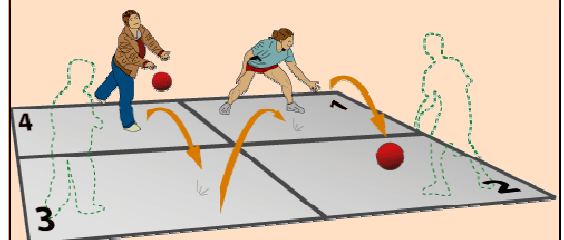
Current members may also use this form to update their information and submit an updated photo. Please look at the 2008 directory to make sure your information is correct and submit any changes that need to be made.

Please give special attention to email addresses, as this is often a preferred method of communication.



Four Square by the Pool!

Join us by the pool in Sacramento, California for fun and Four Square!





Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

Leslie Steen (AR)

As our economy collapses around us, it is difficult not to join in the bashing. Being as cynical and unsympathetic as we are, these new stock market terms seemed all too appropriate. For those of us who had nothing to lose, enjoy.

CEO - Chief Embezzlement Officer.

CFO - Corporate Fraud Officer.

Bull Market - A random market movement causing an investor to mistake himself as a financial genius.

Bear Market - A six to 18 month period when the kids get no allowance, the wife gets no jewelry, and the husband gets no sex.

Value Investing - The art of buying low and selling lower.

P/E Ratio - The percentage of investors wetting their pants as the markets keep crashing.

Broker - What my broker made me.

Standard and Poor - Your life in a nutshell.

Stock Analyst - Idiot who downgraded your stock.

Stock Split - When your ex-wife and her lawyer split your assets equally between themselves.

Financial Planner - A guy whose phone has been disconnected.

Market Correction - The day after you buy stocks.

Cash Flow - The movement your money makes as it disappears down the toilet.

Yahoo - What you yell after selling it to some poor sucker for \$240 a share.

Windows - What you jump out of when you're the sucker who bought Yahoo at \$240 a share.

Institutional Investor - Past year investor who's now locked up in the nuthouse.

Profit - An archaic word no longer in use.

A recent study found that the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that we drink an average of 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means on the average, Americans are averaging about 41 miles to the gallon. Don't jump!! Keep walking!!

Colette Bruggman, formerly the Chief Deputy Clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court, has accepted the position of Assistant Clerk/Administrator of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District in Sacramento. Colette will begin her new duties in February. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SACRAMENTO

By Sandra Skinner (MO)

If you have trouble obtaining funding for the annual meeting in Sacramento, California beginning August 2, 2009 - August 7, 2009, you may be eligible for a scholarship. **Please do not hesitate to apply.** Last year we had some money left over so it might as well be yours this year. The Scholarship Assistance Guidelines and the Selection Criteria are published in the NCACC Directory. If you plan to apply for a scholarship please read the Guidelines and the Selection Criteria and the following instructions:

DEADLINE: Mail or Fax the completed, signed application form by June 1, 2009 to:

Ms. Brenda Williams FAX: 757-259-1520
National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks
c/o National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185



If you are uncertain as to whether or not you will receive funding from your court you may still apply for a scholarship, just note this on your application and update the scholarship committee of changes to your funding status. If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail the Chair of the Committee, Sandra Skinner at sandra.skinner@courts.mo.gov.

This year's committee members are Sandra Skinner (MO), Lisa Matz (TX), David Schanker (WI) and Steven Lancaster (IN) is the Executive Committee liaison.

Keith Richardson, Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, retired January 23, 2009

By Joseph Lane (CA)



So what does that mean?

Retire: verb to leave a job or career voluntarily, at or near the usual age for doing so.

Give up work: At the Supreme Court surely, but Keith is not one to give up.

Stop working: Not Keith, he may slow down, go part time but not stop.

Call it a day: And look forward to another.

Leave: Gosh we hope not. We would miss him too much.

Withdraw: Not our Mr. Richardson, he is a giver.

Go away: For short periods is fine with us but may he always return.

Keith Richardson has retired. This is very difficult to write because we don't want it to be true. We are being very self-ish, which we should not be, considering who we are talking about. A less selfish individual we could not hope to know. He has been our treasurer, president and most gracious host, but even more, a friend.

Keith Richardson has retired. When we say these words, it sounds so somber. But we do not want them to. We want to celebrate for him; to acknowledge all that he has meant to the NCACC and to us; to sing his praises and send him on his way with our gratitude, (and expectation that he can tune up his golf game in time for this summer's conference and a better result in the golf tournament which shouldn't be too difficult. Tied for last?)

So dear (last place) Keith, we wish you well and want you to know how much we appreciate all that you have given to us and the NCACC and hope you will visit us from time to time. Our best to Vicki, may she not tire too quickly of you being underfoot, to David and Benjamin, may the fishing be fruitful, and to you, Keith, may you get in as many rounds of golf as your heart desires (and your back allows). If we had a cake, we'd give you a two iron to cut it with, insuring yourself a big slice. Hit 'em long and true.

(Continued from page 3)

- * “White Papers” on issues affecting the courts, particularly the appellate courts – At every CCJ meeting, they consider “White Papers” on any number of subjects involving the courts. Why shouldn’t we be proposing such papers for consideration by CCJ?
- * Participation with the Institute for Court Management (ICM) to develop relevant education for appellate court managers – I have already contacted John Meeks, Vice-President of the ICM, to work on developing an appellate component of the ICM offerings. He was very interested in this. If you would like to help work on this, please let me know.
- * Development of national standards on staffing for appellate courts – Recently in Florida we had to develop such standards but we had few, if any, resources to draw on. I see no reason why we could not develop national standards.
- * Continued work with NCSC on functional standards for appellate court case management systems – A group of us worked on this a few years ago, but the standards developed then are already outdated.
- * Creating formalized program for commenting on any “White Papers” developed by the COSCA or CCJ as they relate to the appellate courts – As noted, CCJ considers these every meeting. We need a program to obtain the





Awards Committee Suggestions Form

J. O. SENTELL AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and give your reasons. (If more space is needed, please attach additional page(s).)

I nominate: _____ No nomination

Reasons: _____

MORGAN THOMAS AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and give your reasons. (If more space is needed, please attach additional page(s).)

I nominate: _____ No nomination

Reasons: _____

Please return this form by February 13, 2009

by E-MAIL sparrowh@gaappeals.us

by FAX ► Holly Sparrow, Deputy Administrator
FAX: (404) 651-6187

by mail ▼

Holly Sparrow, Deputy Administrator
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Suite 501
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

2009 NCACC DIRECTORY
Member Information

Name: _____

Title: _____

Office Address: _____

Office Phone: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Home Telephone: _____

Home Address: _____

Biographical Information: (attach additional sheets, if necessary)

Submit before March 7, 2009 to:

Kelly McNeely
NCACC Pictorial Directory
P. O. Box 16577
Lake Charles, LA 70615

337-493-3012
kmcneely@la3circuit.org

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APPELLATE COURT CLERKS
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

Applicants must complete the entire application. Please print or type your answers.

FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD AUGUST 2-7, 2009
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

NAME: _____

Employing Court Name and Address:

Position Held: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Fax Number: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NCACC member in good standing? Yes _____ No _____

Number of other NCACC Members Employed by your Court? _____

Is your Court offering any funding for your attendance at the Annual Meeting? _____

If funds are available, what amount? _____

Are there any restrictions on the use of those funds? _____. If yes, please list the restrictions:

Will your Court have funded the Attendance of NCACC members from your office to other educational programs during the twelve months immediately preceding the 2009 annual meeting?

Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, how many programs did you attend? _____

If Yes, please identify the program(s) and the total amount expended:

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010

Deadline to submit form is February 25, 2008

Office of Vice-President: _____

Presently held by William A. DeCicco (DC)

Office of Treasurer: _____

Presently held by Marilyn May (AK)

Executive Committee Position 1: _____

Presently held by John Olivier (LA)

Executive Committee Position 2: _____

Presently held by Rory Perry (WV)

Executive Committee Position 3: _____

Presently held by Cynthia Rapp (DC)

Your participation in the nomination process is vital to the well-being and growth of NCACC. The Nominating Committee actively seeks nominations from all members and relies heavily on those nominations in determining the proposed slate of officers. Feel free to submit a list of partial nominations if you don't have suggestions for every position. Consider nominating yourself if you are willing to serve. Do what you can, but please do something!

Please mail nominations to: Jon S. Wheeler, Clerk
Florida First District Court of Appeal
301 S. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1850

or call: (850) 488-6151

or fax to: (850) 921-4023

or e-mail to: wheelerj@1dca.org