

"FRAN" (Continued from page 7)

and we receive invitations for dinner. In jest, I begin to understand the revolution mentality of the "haves" and "have nots". I have a momentary desire to "take over" a house nearby that has power. We go to dinner at our friends and have a wonderful time laughing and sharing stories.

Schools will be out for at least the rest of this week. Many neighborhood roads are still impassable. We are still without power six days out with poles and lines to untangle, but we are truly okay. I know many of our clerks live in areas where disasters have occurred. Earthquakes in California, floods in Iowa, hurricanes in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. We've had hurricanes, tornadoes and bad weather before, but I simply did not understand. I can be a little more empathetic now.

This is simply a week in my life, and with power, and with clean-up things will look quite different. I've got clean freezers, and I'll have new awnings. I can choose where I plant my roses now. Within days, my family will sit down in our house and have home-cooked meals. We are safe, unhurt and absolutely fine, but . . . what an experience!

What's New With You?
New address, new telephone or fax number, received an award, or just had a thought. Let us hear from you!!!!

FACTS, FICTION AND FOOLISHNESS

Over the years we have examined several grammatical faux pas appearing in documents, correspondence, and writings related to the legal profession. Rather than continue in this vein and give us all a complex, I have decided to explore other professions to illustrate that we (the legal profession) do not have a monopoly on the inane.

The following excerpts are interesting interpretations of nature from test papers and essays collected by science and health teachers from junior highs, high schools, and colleges around the world.

*When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire.

*H2O is hot water. CO2 is cold water.

*When you smell odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.

*Water is composed of two gins, oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is pure gin. Hydrogen is gin and water.

*Blood flows down one leg and up the other.

*The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader.

*Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow

instead of the bull.

*To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

*The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax, and the abomindable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abominable cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o, and u.

*Germinate. To become a naturalized German.

*For a head cold: Use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat.

*For a nosebleed: Put the nose much lower than the rest of the body until the heart stops.

*Vacuum: A large empty space where the Pope lives.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ASKED?

The Little Rock Lions placed eighth out of 42 teams that played in the National AAU Baseball Championship in Concord, North Carolina. They also won the Team Sportsmanship Award with a perfect score.

Leslie Steen (AK)



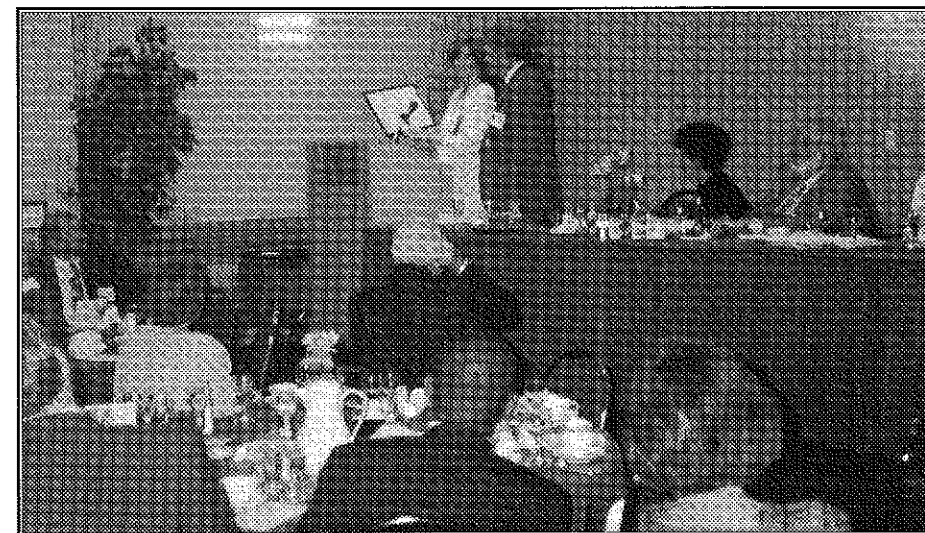
The Docket

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

Volume 25 Issue 1

October 1996

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APPELLATE COURT CLERKS INDUCT NEW OFFICERS



Outgoing President David Beach accepts recognition from Newly Elected President Marilyn Graves during Annual Conference Banquet, Des Moines, Iowa

NCACC members gathered in Des Moines, Iowa, for its 1996 Annual Conference and banquet August 8, 1996. Marilyn L. Graves, Clerk, Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, succeeded David Beach, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Virginia as President. Other newly installed officers include Joseph A. Lane, Clerk, Court of Appeal, Second District, California, Vice-President and Carol G. Green, Clerk, Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, Secretary. Lanet S. Asmussen, Clerk, Nebraska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals; Christie Speir Cameron, Clerk, North Carolina Supreme Court; and Jon S. Wheeler, Clerk, First District Court of Appeal, Florida, were elected as new members of the Executive Committee.

In addition to enjoying fellowship and good

food, NCACC members took the opportunity to honor one of its own members for outstanding service. Glen D. Clark, Clerk, Court of Appeals, Division One, Arizona, was bestowed with the J. O. Sentell Award in recognition of his contributions in promoting and improving the goals and objectives of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. Additionally, Lew Tippitt of Lexis-Nexis was honored by receipt of the Morgan Thomas Award in recognition of his contributions to enhancing professionalism and supporting the goals of the NCACC as a body and of its members individually.

The banquet held at the Embassy Suites on the river in Des Moines was enjoyed by all and concluded the NCACC's twenty-third annual educational conference.

Inside This Issue**ITEMS THAT NEED ACTION**1. NCACC Nomination Form Insert**PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

BY: MARILYN L. GRAVES



By the time you receive this issue of *The Docket*, it will already have been two months since we met in Des Moines. How time flies! I trust everyone returned energized and ready to try out our new ideas. Each conference provides such a wonderful resource for learning from one another. Again, we thank Keith Richardson and staff for hosting a superb conference, Bill Fulton and committee for a great educational program and everyone who contributed to making the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks such a success. A special thank you is extended to our now "Past President" David Beach, for his outstanding leadership.

It is indeed an honor to serve as your President. I am very moved by the support and encouragement everyone has shown to me and by the number of you who have volunteered to work on and chair committees. I promise your efforts will provide both personal and professional satisfaction. Together we will continue to strengthen our wonderful organization.

On the Wisconsin homefront, the Clerk's office move out of the State Capitol went smoothly! I think the six months of planning on every detail, the moments of panic and the sleepless nights paid off. We are actually now located across the street from the Capitol on the Seventh Floor of a building which houses quite a few of the other court administrative offices. I am very content with my office which has

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**The Docket
News of the
National Conference of
Appellate Court Clerks**

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Please submit items of professional or personal news to your regional reporter. Articles, letters and other submissions may be sent or faxed to the editorial office.

430 Fannin Street, Shreveport, LA 71101

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"FRAN" (Continued from page 5)

to sleep. At 11:40 a.m. the power went out. By 12:20, we began hearing thuds in the yard as trees began to fall. By 3:30, the wind was so strong, it made sounds that movies couldn't reproduce. Trees continued to fall. At 5:30, we turned on a battery powered radio and began to hear the first reports of what had happened. The eye of the hurricane had come over us at 4:30. We were advised to stay inside because of continued high wind, but when the sky lightened at 6:30, we had to go to the doors and look out. Our yard had been transformed. Trees locked the garage and cars. The backyard was a mesh of roots and limbs. We just stared. At 7:30, we ventured into our cul-de-sac and saw two of the five houses had large trees in them. We checked for their safety. Two streets over - every single house had a tree completely through it. The power lines looked like broken tinker toys. The feeling was surreal.

As the day wore on, and we checked on our friends (we did have telephone service), we found that the devastation went all around the area. An employee in Wendell (30 miles to the northeast) had a tree through her daughter's bedroom. A Deputy Clerk about 1/2 mile away had four trees on her house. The manager of my printing department who lived in Clayton (20 miles southeast) had six trees on her house. No one had power or access to their roads. The major shopping mall flooded and appeared to be encased in a large

lake. No grocery stores or gas stations were open. Suddenly, almost everyone was listening to the radio for information on where to get ice and water. We were like those people that the Red Cross helps. We WERE those people that the Red Cross helps.

By Saturday, neighbors with chain saws and axes had cut out paths to the main streets. The main streets had been alternately cleared by road crews. We began to look for ice. Unlike tornadoes where there are pockets of devastation, everywhere you went was a scene you felt you should photograph for effect. It was almost like you had to have proof of the unreality of the devastation. In some places, whole neighborhoods of \$300,000 plus homes were destroyed.

At home, the rain had stopped and the cleanup began in earnest. Chain saws were heard constantly. Streetsides began to rise with debris and houses became obstructed from curbside. Neighborhoods without power began cooking out together. Projects were undertaken as small communities. It was actually fun and nice.

Sunday, reality began setting in as full freezers were emptied and since few people you knew had power, what you could not cook on the grill was thrown away. Hot nights, little sleep, and stress began to show in tempers and on faces. Dallas and I had gone to Washington, N.C. about 100 miles away and on the Pamlico River - well east of the hurricane path but

tremendously affected by the tides - to check on his 33' sailboat. He'd had Bellatrix for 22 years, and it had weathered bad storms before. At the Washington Yacht and Country Club, most of the dock was gone and, in some places, boats were on top of boats. Bellatrix, our boat, was floating, but it was badly damaged. We taped tarps over her holes, called the insurance company, and came home.

Monday. No school anywhere in the area. The Governor requested state employees to stay home in the 34 counties across the state that had been declared disaster areas. He declared Fran to be the worst disaster to hit the state this century. The Supreme Court, however, had court on time and as usual. All court employees who could get out, got out and went to work. The separation of powers and the independence of the Judicial Branch truly came to light. The Chief Justice made the call, and the call was that, especially in the counties that had been struck, courts needed to be available and normalcy needed to try to return. At work, we all shared stories, cried a little for each other, and enjoyed the power and the cool air. By the end of the day, we begrudged going home. No one within the court had failed to suffer some damage.

Tuesday. Garbage is smelly and stacking up as high as the laundry. It's hot, humid, and there's little sleep. We dress at work. Many friends are beginning to get power,

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DES MOINES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: THE FINAL WORD

By: William S. Fulton, Jr.
U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals

Our Editor-in-Chief invited me to help "wrap up our annual meeting" by submitting an article on the Des Moines educational program for this issue of *The Docket*. Of course, having been the program chairman, I was the wrong person to ask. I am biased. I believe the educational program was outstanding! But, then, it's outstanding every year, isn't it?

Audrey Nelson-Schneider (gender communication, and dealing with difficult people), Ramon E. deArrigunaga (overview of futures planning), Professor Gregory Sisk (legal ethics), Larry Webster (court leaders and technology), Heidi Kolbe (managing people through change), and Judge Burke (total quality management) each made excellent, enlightening presentations of practical value.

However, the real strength of the annual education program is our own NCACC members. Several of those who gave of their time to prepare and present were not even members of the Program Committee, but they agreed to help anyway. I — and each of us who were there — owe a debt of gratitude to Frans Labranche (futures planning), Diana Pratt-Wyatt (Americans with Disabilities Act), and Scott Crampton (TQM), and twice thanks (for their repeated performances in breakout sessions) to Marty Brownstein, Emille Cox, and Jon Wheeler (assistance to pro se litigants); Christie Speir Cameron and Diana (again) (automated case management); and to Sandy Roos (our AJC Den Mother), Joe Lane, and Frankie Lewis (sharing our successes). Without them, there could not have been an educational program.

Yes, indeed, the strength of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks is its own members. Each one has something to contribute. My successor Ed Smith, who helped me immeasurably as the vice-chair, is beginning his planning for next year's program. I urge you to offer your suggestions and assistance in creating what will in its turn be "the best ever" educational program. Don't be shy!

My personal gratitude goes to our Host Clerk, Keith Richardson. The Host Clerk plays a key role in the educational program, such as making suitable space and audio-visual arrangements with the hotel staff, copying and assembling educational materials, and planning and carrying out an overall program that enhances the educational experience (including keeping the golfers happy). Keith did all the wonderful things you saw, and something you may not have seen: He gave up his bedroom when the hotel was unable to accommodate our speaker Heidi Kolbe and her husband because of overstaying guests.

And now, a final word: The town nearest the site of our 1997 annual meeting at Point Clear, Alabama, is appropriately named Fairhope. According to a guide we received, Fairhope was founded by "[a] tiny band of dissidents from Des Moines, Iowa, [who] supported economist Henry George's theory . . . that people would be encouraged to profit if they were taxed only for the land on which they lived [Accordingly,] [s]ome 25 adults and children moved [there] in 1894 to form a single-tax colony."

You, too, should make your way from Des Moines (or elsewhere) to Fairhope and Point Clear in August 1997.

President's Page (Continued from page 2)

one window overlooking the Capitol and two overlooking Lake Monona! I'm always open to change and a new challenge - - - so, in addition to our new telephone system, voice mail, FAX machine and location, within 7 days of our move, we also converted our computer system from OS-2 to Windows 95. Once everything settles down, we will be ever so efficient!!

Changes and challenges! You can expect to find both next August at our conference in Point Clear, Alabama. Louise Livingston is meticulously organizing every detail at "The Grand." That southern hospitality will be enjoyed and appreciated by all. And Program Chair Ed Smith is planning to try a new format - - you will hear more on that later. . . .

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, comments. Give me a call or communicate with someone on the Executive Committee. We want to be responsible and keep in touch with each of you. Let us know what you think. May this year bring you continued good health and happiness! Thank you.

FAX INQUIRY?

Do you require a fee for faxing copies of opinions, orders, etc., and if so, how much?

Please send responses to:

**Jean M. Kennett, Clerk
Supreme Judicial Court for the
Commonwealth
Room 1412, Courthouse
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

**Telephone: (617) 557-1020
Thank you!!!!**

NOTICE

All NCACC members who have not completed your biography and submitted your picture for the NCACC Membership Directory are urged to do so by sending your biography and recent photograph to our Pictorial Directory Chair:

**Kenneth J. deBlanc, Clerk
Court of Appeal, Third Circuit
Post Office Box 3000
Lake Charles, LA 70602**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR INPUT ON FUTURE OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

SUBMITTED BY: ELLA WILLIAMS, CHAIR

It is now time to begin thinking about officers for 1997-1998. We are seeking nominations for individuals to serve as vice-president, treasurer, and executive committee members. For the executive committee, we are looking for three individuals. All members of the board serve a two year term.

In the past we have received total participation from the membership to fill these important positions. Because we are fortunate to have a membership consisting of many talented individuals to serve the conference, we know there will be no problem in selecting qualified and willing members to serve. So please be a participant and forward your nominations to the committee at the address listed on the nomination form contained in this issue of *The Docket*.

Thank you for your participation!!

NCACC COMMITTEES - 1996-1997

Awards

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Gail Haney (NJ)
Bob Liston (CA)
Bill Suter (DC)
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Nominating

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Penny Miller (ND)
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All Past Presidents

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Program (Con't.)

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Jill Engel (SD)
Nancy Foley (MA)
Penny Miller (ND)
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Pete Fitzgerald (LA)
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George Fowler (KY)
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Cornelia Clark (WI)
Nancy Foley (MA)
Louise Livingston (AL)
Lou Ann Reichle (IL)

Scholarship

Leslie Gradet (MD), Chair
Emille Cox (NJ)

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NCACC Committees - 1996-97

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Scholarship (Con't.)

Beth McHaney (MO)

Site Selection

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Cathy Howard (DE)
Herb Schaefer (TX)
Dan Schuckers (PA)
Howard Zibel (NH)

"FRAN"

Submitted by: Christie Speir Cameron

I lost about 20 trees in my backyard, several awnings, screens, had two trees hit the house (no major damage), had a tree go through an elaborate tree house in the backyard, am still without power six days out and, therefore, have lost all \$700 worth of food delivered to my freezer two days before the storm, and when people ask how we "fared" during "FRAN" I find myself saying "Just fine." Compared to my neighbors, quite frankly, I am.

The boys, Dallas and I slept together in the den of our home the night before the storm. We had never prepared quite as seriously before, and being 90 miles inland, felt a little foolish. Nonetheless, in the spirit of adventure, we settled down on the floor, gathered our flashlights, filled the tubs, and went

(Continued on page 7)

24TH ANNUAL MEETING - SOUTHERN STYLE

BY: LOUISE B. LIVINGSTON

Need to escape your fast pace? Seeking peace of mind? fellowship? serenity? tranquility? educational opportunities w/cle credits? relaxation? elegant accommodations? great food? breathtaking sunsets? You are cordially invited to enjoy the 24th Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks — SOUTHERN STYLE.

The meeting will be at The Grand Hotel, August 3-8, 1997, at Point Clear, Alabama, just minutes from Mobile and Pensacola. The Grand Hotel (originally Point Clear Hotel) was built in 1847, and served as a hospital during the Civil War. Fire in 1869 destroyed the Point Clear Hotel, and The Grand Hotel was rebuilt in 1875, and again in 1941, but the heart-of-pine flooring in the original hotel was reused, and the ambiance is that of grand times of the past miraculously retained for the present. The Grand Hotel was acquired by the Marriott in 1981, and the resort offers no charge activities which include swimming (HUGE 750,000 GALLON POOL), Health Club, jogging trails, croquet (soooooo southern), volleyball, horseshoes, putting green; fishing (off pier); not to mention the most dazzling sunsets over Alabama's Mobile Bay (especially when viewed from

The Grand's Julep Point), the caress of gentle bay breezes, and aroma therapy provided compliments of an abundance of magnolia trees and oleander plants. Available at additional charges are: bicycle rentals, horseback riding, deep sea fishing, sailboat charters, Hobie Cats, tennis, and, of course, gold (TWO, 18 - WHOLE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES).

Once you experience the ambiance of The Grand Hotel (not to mention its food), you will be reluctant to leave the resort, but nearby Fairhope, Foley, and Gulf Shores, Alabama, will beckon you with easy access to really wonderful restaurants; boutiques, antiques, and mega outlet shopping; the gorgeous Gulf beaches, the Civil War Forts of Morgan and Gaines at the mouth of Mobile Bay linked by Ferry, just to name a few attractions. Although the hotel does have scheduled shuttle service into Fairhope, and a taxi! has recently been seen in the area trying to make a go of it, your Host recommends that you have your own or a rental car, or access to one, if you wish to fully explore and enjoy the area. After having explored the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, you may even want to venture out and explore the historic port city of Mobile and the Western Shore.

NUF SED FAR NOW,
MO LATER.
