

NCACC STARS FELL ON ALABAMA




"TASKMASTER EXTRAORDINAIRE"
AKA PRESIDENT, DAVID BEACH



"NCACC Stars" - AKA
Louise Livingston, Michael Yerly, Tom Granahan,
and Keith Richardson

By Louise Livingston

 It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it! NCACC Stars Fell on Alabama's The Grand Hotel at Point Clear for the fall 1995 Executive Committee Meeting, November 19. Pardon the pun, but your Executive Committee members are proud to report that the meeting was a **HUGE** success as each attendee grazed the eastern shore of Mobile Bay - not a Mint Julep, scallop, softshell crab or barbecued rib left in the area!

While attending to the business of an ambitious agenda, President David Beach, Taskmaster Extraordinaire, vetoed several attempts to adjourn the meeting for a stop-and-go tour of the area. Priorities respected, stop-and-go tour abandoned, business attended, and the Executive Committee reports that plans are proceeding nicely towards an exciting annual meeting in Des Moines next August. Host Keith Richardson's enthusiastic planning and attention to detail assures success in all directions.

Finally, although golfoholics, foodoholics, and shopoholics alike delayed departures (some even delayed prescheduled flight times) to "eek out" a few more precious hours at Point Clear and Fairhope, the inevitable occurred. Too soon it seemed - all waddled home eagerly awaiting the opportunity to return in 1997 for NCACC's 24th Annual Meeting. Some were heard vowing to arrange a return prior to 1997 - not surprising to Alabama residents, who have been heard to lament, "It's hard to get you folks down here, but it's twice as hard to get y'all to leave!"

For those of you who may want to hear more about the meeting and/or the site of our 1997 meeting, the attendees were David Beach, Kenneth deBlanc, Noel Dessaint, Nancy Foley, Bill Fulton, Tom Granahan, Marilyn Graves, Frans LaBranche, Louise Livingston, Keith Richardson, Sandy Roos, Danielle Schott, Ella Williams, and Michael Yerly; any of them will happily provide you with more details.

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MEMO FROM THE
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEENCACC SEEKS
NOMINATIONS

To: Members of the N.C.A.C.C.

FROM: Nominations Committee

RE: 1996 NOMINATIONS

Hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Inside this issue you will find a copy of this year's nomination form. As your first New Year's resolution, please take a few minutes and nominate a member you feel best qualified to lead our membership. The success of an organization depends on a strong leadership and the full participation of its members.

Your participation is greatly appreciated! See you in Des Moines!

The Docket
News of the
National Conference of
Appellate Court Clerks

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Elizabeth Saunders (TX)	(512) 463-1312
	TX, AR, ID, MT, WY, CO, NE, KS
Leslie W. Steen (AR)	Volunteer Columnist
Diana Pratt-Wyatt (LA)	Editor

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

Phone (318) 227-3702 FAX (318) 227-3735

HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!

FACTS, FICTION & FOOLISHNESS
(Con't. From Page 14)

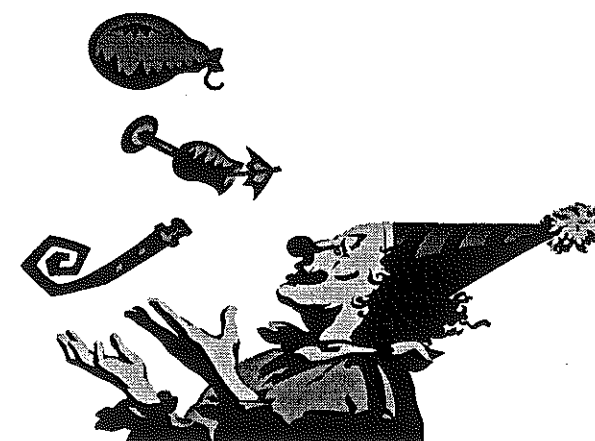
also passed, and sometime after dark he returned home in a severely exhausted state. In other words, he looked like he had been pulled through a knothole backwards. His wife was alarmed and said, "What has happened to you and where have you been?" He relied, "we were out playing golf and we were on the third tee when George had a heart attack and died. And from there to number 18, it was hit the ball and drag George, hit the ball and drag George."

Do you see what I mean? Considering the advanced ages and poor health of most of our members who play in the tournament, a similar tragedy could occur at any time; as a matter of fact, it is more likely to happen than not. We must also take into consideration the character of the scoundrels who play in this tournament. They would probably rob the corpse to cover any side bets, lash the victim's feet to one of their golf carts, and joyously drag them around the course for another two rounds. Can you imagine the damage this could do to our reputation, not to mention the remains of our dearly departed?

Here is another true story. A foursome was getting ready to tee off when a funeral procession passed. One of the members stepped off the tee box, took off his cap and bowed his head. After the procession passed, the man put on his hat and returned to the tee. One of the members of the foursome said, "I admire your reverence for the dead." The man replied, "It was the least I could do. After all, she was my wife for 35 years."

I would hate for a similar act to occur at one of our meetings because some of our membership would have to take care of the deceased while their spouse rollicked around a golf course. This act of charity by one of our members could cause them to miss an ethics session or worse. Therefore, I encourage your support for a boycott of the tournament next summer, again without too much disrespect for Lee. I will remind you there is a possibility I may be in North Carolina.

Can I be held in contempt for this by her Honor? Oh well, there's always the insanity defense.



By Leslie Steen (AR)

Settlement Conference Review (Con't. from Page 13)

considerations. The judges then do further screening and are scheduling conferences for about 55% of all civil cases. Of those, about 35% are settled. There has been no study to indicate the rate of settlement for similar cases not conferenced.

New Hampshire: Rules limit settlement conferences to Domestic cases, Workers Comp cases, Administrative agency decisions, and appeals from money judgments. Of 2300 filings in the last nine years, 200 were conferenced by retired judges and 66 settled at a cost of \$43,500. It is a voluntary program, with requests for conference submitted on a required docketing statement that includes issue identification. No outline of standard issues or case types has been developed. The most success has been with domestic cases. Results do not indicate that it expedites disposition of the appeals, but it disposes of some with reduced judicial effort. There is now a fast track program in place that is showing positive results and settlements are less frequently scheduled. Rex Craven supervises both programs and hopes to continue both.

Editor's Note:

Thanks to all who called, faxed, or otherwise responded to the first issue of *The Docket* with words of praise. A big thank you for those of you "who were so bold" to make suggestions for improvement!! I really appreciate the support.

Please continue to let me hear from you. I am excited about the continuing column on technology and would like to hear from the membership we serve if you have other items of interest you would like to see included. Receiving the articles on disk is really helpful. Thank you all!!

FACTS, FICTION & FOOLISHNESS

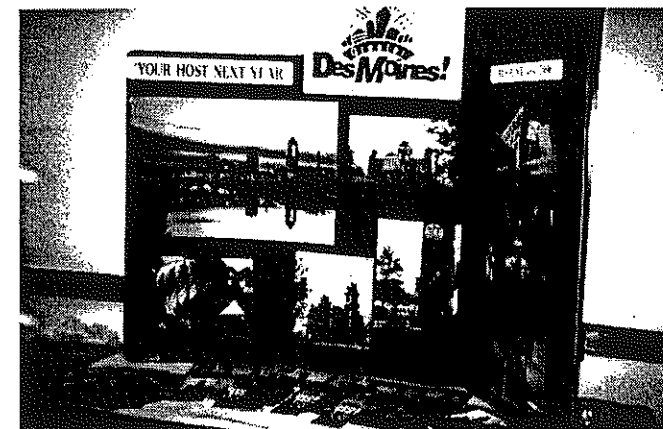
In the last edition of *The Docket* there was an article about one of our past presidents and one of our truly outstanding members, Peggy McGraw. The article suggested naming the annual golf tournament in honor of her husband and frequent traveling companion, Lee McGraw. Please note that I am opposed to the tournament because golf is a vile and corrupt game and we, as members of the NCACC, are charged by our code of professional conduct to avoid outside activities that may appear to be improper. If we support this tournament, I think it will be a serious violation of our code.

Please be assured this campaign is not an attack on Lee McGraw, because I think he is a gentleman and a very nice person, although there have been rumors recently that he has been "sleeping with a judge." But if the truth of the matter be known, I think he should be honored for putting up with Peggy all of these years rather than having his memory tainted by associating it with a golf tournament. Perhaps, the "Lee McGraw Perseverance Award" would be more tasteful and appropriate.

To support my argument, I want to relate two true stories I heard recently. I know the accounts are true because they were told inside the very walls of the Justice Building.

A man went out to play golf one day and he was supposed to be home around noon. Noon passed and he did not return. The afternoon

DES MOINES AUGUST 4-9, 1996



By Keith Richardson - Host Clerk

The Hawkeye State has put on its party clothes. December 28 marked the beginning of a year-long sesquicentennial celebration commemorating Iowa's first 150 years of statehood. And you, your families and friends are invited to discover the many special delights in the heart of the heartland. Communities around the State will be holding once-in-a-lifetime events. Here in Des Moines we will be celebrating throughout this entire year with many of the activities taking place right outside our hotel, the Embassy Suites during the week you are here.

We recently sampled the hospitality of Texas and California, and now it is the Midwest's turn. We will visit a 42-room 16th century Tudor castle with its treasure of art and furnishings from bygone eras. We will be able to sample the many bistros, comedy shops, art galleries, and I-Clubs baseball in the Court Avenue district only a short stroll from our hotel. We'll wander back in time when we visit the 100 year old covered bridges of Madison County and relive the romance at Francesca's house. You will even be able to sip champagne from

the bathtub where Francesca and Kincaid fell into a lifetime of love. We will experience the sights, sounds and sweet aromas of the extravaganza called the Iowa State Fair. But more about these and other activities in another issue.

I do need your help!! I would like to send a personal invitation to our many special friends and retired members whom we haven't seen at our last few conferences. I would appreciate your assistance identifying those guests who would enjoy getting together in Des Moines to visit with old friends and comrades. Please call or write to me here in Des Moines if you have any suggestions.

Send Information to:

Keith Richardson
Clerk, Iowa Supreme Court
Statehouse
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Tel: (515) 281-5911

News Item Just In !!

The Honorable
Frans J. Labranche, Jr.
Clerk, Louisiana Supreme Court
has announced his retirement
effective February 15, 1996

Frans reports that he and Del plan to attend the conference in Des Moines and to stay active with our organization. He is going to "perfect his golf game" and he issued this warning: "Watch out to all of you who have queried - 'Why don't you come and visit?' - They will soon be - FREE TO TRAVEL. Best wishes to Frans and Del !

DES MOINES EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Bill Fulton

NCACC's 1996 annual meeting educational program is beginning to take shape. In part, the program is expected to focus on communicating. Keeping in mind the gender makeup of most clerk's offices, negotiations are underway for a well-known facilitator on the subject of how the sexes communicate. The same facilitator conducts a program on dealing with difficult people.

Speaking of sometimes difficult people, a program addressing the providing of information to pro se litigants is being planned. Other plenary sessions will include part 2 of our long-range planning program, which, like part 1, will certainly have us communicating with each other, as well as an updated and more extensive look at the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act than was possible at the San Antonio meeting.

Electives under consideration include media relations, automated court management systems, court security, and technology topics. If your court has an automated docketing/case management system, is undergoing or has installed enhanced security, has an ongoing media relations program, or has developed materials for use by pro se litigants, now is the time to volunteer to assist the program committee as a panelist. To offer your help or to make a suggestion about any facet of the program please call:

BILL FULTON
703-681-6888 (Office) or
703-323-0564 (Evenings)



ARE YOU "SURFING"?

By Christie Spier-Cameron

In the next issue of *The Docket*, we hope to begin a continual update of where our courts are in the computer age. A few courts are either on or about to be on the Internet with a home page. Other courts have or are beginning Bulletin Boards. Some courts are improving their internal computer networks with improved docketing systems.

Beginning with the next issue, **Bob Northrup, Director of the Information Systems for the Appellate Courts of North Carolina**, will begin sharing information he gains from you and from the National Center for State Courts on technological advances in the Courts. Please share information with Bob by writing to him at:

Bob Northrup
Supreme Court of North Carolina
Post Office Box 2170
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Telephone: 919-733-3723
Fax: 919-733-0105

Bob's Internet address is:
bobn%ncacisd@aoc.state.nc.us

Settlement Conference Review (Con't. from Page 12)

those where the plaintiff has won a money judgment and others where there is some indication of a willingness to settle. Pro Se cases are not normally scheduled for conference. Of 1409 reports filed in 1993-94, 568 were scheduled for a conference and about 25% of those were settled. (About 9% of the total filings.) A smaller number agreed to limit the issues on appeal. Conferences are generally in person with a sitting appellate judge. Retired judges are not normally used. The conference judge has authority to extend the briefing time while settlement is being considered. The conference judge is recused from hearing the case on the merits. Maryland appellate judges conferenced about 40 cases each last year while also writing about 110 opinions per judge.

Massachusetts: The trial court "entry statement" is reviewed by one of two staff attorneys who send out a "Conference Project" form after excluding Pro Se cases, adoptions, custody cases and others experience has shown do not settle. Nancy Foley estimates that 35% of the total filings are eligible for the program under its guidelines. A maximum of 300 cases are actually scheduled. Retired judges and "Deans of the bar" preside. Conferences are in person with the clients present and sanctions are ordered for counsel that do not appear. The normal time to settlement or return of the case to the regular track is four weeks. They settle about 23% of the 300 cases conferenced. No controlled study has been done to determine if the selected cases would settle without intervention. The program has survived the expiration of the original funding grants. Contact Susan Noonan at (617) 725-8100 for further information.

Missouri: Deidre reports that her Eastern District has been settling about 100 cases per year using one sitting settlement judge who also has a half share of the other judges normal load (90 to 100 opinions per year). Pro Se cases, zoning problems, municipal ordinance cases and known hostile attorneys are excluded from the program. Additional screening is done by the settlement judge from a "supplementary statement" required within seven

days of the notice of appeal. The one page statement must list all issues to be raised on appeal. Respondents are not asked if they object. Conferences are in person, and the client is not normally present, but attorneys are encouraged to have clients available by phone. The settlement judge has no authority to limit the issues, but counsel frequently do so voluntarily after the conferences. The judge may do telephone follow-up after the conference for some cases. The court "freezes the case" by suspending the time for transcript and briefs until the case is removed from the settlement docket. 30% to 50% of the cases conferenced have been settled with the variation due primarily to the relative effectiveness of the screening. Cases which do not settle are generally off the settlement docket within two months. Because of the recent surge in filings, they are now using retired trial judges rather than their own sitting judges but have not had enough experience to know if the program will remain as effective as in the past. A recent questionnaire mailed to the bar indicates that the bar approves of the program and wishes it to be continued.

Connecticut: A pre-argument conference form is required of all appellants which identifies issues to be raised on appeal. Juvenile, pro se, and Habeas cases are screened out along with those of known hostile attorneys. All others are scheduled for in-person conferences with retired appellate judges. The judges are paid a per diem. Attorneys must report with settlement authority and are encouraged to bring clients along. A dozen judges are available and are coordinated by Justice Angelo Santaniello (203) 442-7190. Frank Drum reports a 45% success rate of 500 cases referred last year. Total civil filings are about 700 cases. The court's staff is not used except to grant 30 day brief extensions administratively after the conference is scheduled. No specific types of cases have been noted as most likely to settle.

Supreme Courts

New Jersey: Emille Cox reports their program has been running about 15 years. A staff person forwards "case information sheets" to retired appellate judges for most civil cases excluding Pro Se cases, environmental cases and a few others. The assignments are made based upon geographic

Scholarship Assistance Guidelines (Con't. from Page 11)

preference over those who have.)

4. The number of employees in the applicant's office who will attend the NCACC's annual meeting with court funding. (Applicants whose office receives no funding will have a preference over those who have one or more fellow workers attending the NCACC meeting at their court's expense.)

5. The nature of the applicant's position. (To the extent practicable, scholarships shall be awarded to a mix of clerks, deputy clerks, and other eligible members of the NCACC.)

6. The location of the applicant's court. (To the extent possible, scholarships shall be awarded to individuals in a manner that reflects the geographical diversity of the organization.)

7. Whether the applicant has previously received a scholarship award. (Applicants who have never received assistance shall have a preference over those who have.)

8. Whether an employee of the applicant's court has previously received a scholarship award. (Applicants from courts who have never received a scholarship shall have a preference over those who have.)

NEWS ITEM JUST IN!

Ken deBlanc called to report that Louise Livingston is doing well after undergoing surgery. Keep getting better Louise!!!

Settlement Conference Review - Continued from the October 1995 Issue of *THE DOCKET*

BY: Hank Henson (MI)

An idea who's time has come around again, and works for some.

The eight states that have settlement conference programs that use sitting and/or retired judges to conduct the conference are outlined below. Five of the eight have been in place for over ten years. Comments about programs conducted exclusively by staff attorneys will be reported in March.

While the basic outline of the programs are similar, those which use retired judges and thus avoid the need to recuse sitting judges from handling the cases if settlement fails, seem to express the most satisfaction. Retired judges are often in a position to advise the conferees as to the merits of the issues and have their comments respected even when the program is otherwise designed for mediation of nonlegal issues. The advisability of having clients present at mediation appears to be an open question, but is reported most beneficial for domestic relations appeals.

Intermediate Appellate Courts

California: Kevin Swanson reports they had tried a mandatory program years ago, and found it unproductive. They restarted the program about four years ago if all parties request a conference. They do not schedule a conference if one of the parties is a "civic entity". They use active judges who have authority to suspend the briefing schedule. Roughly one third of the cases scheduled are settled. They have not measured their success against a control group. They are not running a fast track program involving civil cases. Bob Liston is also running an active program in Sacramento.

Maryland: Leslie Gadet reports that a "prehearing information report" is required within ten days of the notice of appeal for all civil cases except civil confinements or juvenile cases. They are screened by the clerk looking for domestic cases,

IN RECOGNITION OF ONE OF OUR VERY OWN: "HOMETOWN HERO"

The Hometown Hero featured in this issue of *Class Action* is the Clerk of the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, Mr. Kenneth J. deBlanc. Mr. deBlanc was born in New Iberia, Louisiana, on September 5, 1934. After graduation from high school, St. Peter's College in New Iberia, in 1953, he went on to earn a B.S. in Commerce from LSU and an L.L.B. from LSU Law School.

Upon moving to Lake Charles in 1960 to assume the position of Deputy Clerk, Court of Appeal, Third Circuit, and serving in that capacity for over five years, Mr. deBlanc was appointed Clerk on January 1, 1966, after Mr. Charles M. Bass resigned to become then Representative Edwin Edwards' legislative assistant in Washington, D.C. At the time of his arrival in 1960, the Court had five judges and the Clerk's office consisted of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, one secretary and a full-time bailiff. Today the Clerk supervises a staff of 14 and serves 12 judges. The Third Circuit is geographically the largest of the five circuits, covering 21 parishes.

The biggest change at the Clerk's office during Mr. deBlanc's tenure has been the number of civil writs filed and the conferring of criminal jurisdiction. In his earlier years with the court, civil writs filed numbered in the 40 to 50 range, of which about 5 or 6 were granted. Today, civil writs number nearly 300. The receipt of criminal jurisdiction in 1982 brought about the most dramatic change, resulting in three new judgeships and a criminal central staff of ten.

In November of 1991, the Third Circuit Court of Appeal moved to its present location at the old Chennault Air Force Base. In addition to supervising the construction of the new courthouse building, a project that lasted over two years, Mr. deBlanc also designed the general layout of the building, decorated and landscaped it himself, and the occupancy has been very rewarding. Although the Court is no longer located uptown, the advantages of

space and adequate parking for staff and guests far outweigh the inconvenience to the local staff and attorneys, and it is actually more convenient for the out-of-town judges and attorneys, who are the majority.

Our Third Circuit Clerk is the only (*intermediate*) appellate clerk in the state who is also an attorney. He is also unique in that he is the only clerk who is also the Director of the Civil Central Staff. Moreover, as an active member of the National Clerks of Court Association — (he is presently serving as membership chairman) — Mr. deBlanc knows of no other appellate clerk in the United States who holds such dual positions. As Director of Civil Central Staff, Mr. deBlanc is responsible, along with the staff of four attorneys, for reviewing all civil writs and motions, and he also chooses the cases which go on the Summary Docket.

The progress which has been made during Mr. deBlanc's tenure is evidenced by the fact that the Third Circuit Court has consistently been either number one or two — (for the last two years it has been number one) — in the number of opinions rendered per judge. At present it takes about six months to process a case through the Third Circuit. In fact, some of the best cases on the May docket received notice of a hearing date before the appellee's brief was due. However, due to the number of writs filed and small staff — (Mr. deBlanc is scheduled to receive another staff attorney in July) — it is taking a month to a month and a half to turn out a review on a non-emergency writ. Although there has been some improvement, it has not yet reached the desired level of two to three weeks.

On a personal note, Mr. deBlanc is an avid gardener. He also has a very large and well-known collection of several hundred costumed teddy bears, which has been on display several times at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum.

Mr. deBlanc, in recognition of your many talents and in appreciation for your contribution to the legal profession, Lake Charles Legal Secretaries Association hereby confers upon you the title of ...

"Hometown Hero"

STATE COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

By: Danny Moody, Executive Director
North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society

When Chief Justice Roger B. Tawny delivered his opinion in *Dred Scott* there was unleashed a torrid of criticism that has rarely come to any court. How many people are aware that this case began as an assault case in Missouri, and the trial court ruled in Scott's favor?

The curators office of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Historical Society have done an excellent job of preserving the history of this case after it reached the high court because of its importance nationally. In 1988, Congress established a history program for the federal judiciary which is located in the Federal Judicial Center. This History Office concentrates on preserving the history of the federal circuit and district courts as well as the Supreme Court.

Is anything being done to preserve the history of the "courts of last resort" in the several states? The next question may very well be, should this history be preserved? The answer to both questions is: "Yes!" Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, Illinois and Massachusetts have formed societies dedicated to the preservation of the history of their state's highest court. In North Carolina, the efforts extend to the Court of Appeals and the entire legal history of the state. In addition to the supreme court societies, there are seven circuits and fourteen districts of the federal court system that have formed organizations to preserve their individual histories.

Even though a state supreme court is the head of an entire branch of government in many states, their history and the history of trial courts, for the most part, have been ignored. *The Green Bag*, "an entertaining magazine of the law" published from 1889 thru 1914, contains a history of almost all of the state supreme courts. Since that time, little has been done to collect and preserve the legal history of the several states.

A few writers and researchers have recently been guided and encouraged by organizations that are dedicated solely to the preservation of the history of state supreme courts and state legal history. These organizations are filling a historical void and are accomplishing things that even a state supreme court cannot do. For instance, while a sitting Justice would find it awkward to ask a law firm to sponsor a table at a celebration of some milestone in the courts history, members of a historical society would have no problem. In January of 1994, the North Carolina Supreme Court celebrated its 175th anniversary. The historical society aided the court in this celebration by acting as the organization that planned and hosted a series of events that lasted over a long weekend. Through the efforts of the society over \$40,000.00 was raised for the preservation of the legal history of North Carolina and for an educational movie about the court system in North Carolina. Additionally, the Louisiana society spearheaded an effort to restore the 1909 home of the state supreme court. This building which is located in the French Quarter was home to the court from 1909 until 1958, and the court hopes to move "back home" some time this year.

Scholarship Assistance Guidelines (Con't. from page 10)

Reimbursement for air or rail transportation shall be based on "coach" or reduced fares. Travel by automobile shall be reimbursed for the direct distance between the applicant's home and the meeting site (round trip) at the per mile rate set by the federal government for business and travel by government employees.

G. The Scholarship Committee shall review all applications in the light of the criteria set forth in these Guidelines. Supplemental information may be required from applicants should the Committee deem it appropriate. The Scholarship Committee shall report its conclusions and recommendations in respect of all applications to the Executive Committee through the President by May 1st. Recommendations that are not unanimous shall be identified as such.

The Executive Committee shall designate, in its discretion and consistent with these Guidelines, those who are to be offered scholarships and the amounts to be received, allocated by type of assistance. The Executive Committee shall not be required to expend all budgeted funds or to award the maximum number of scholarships.

H. The Secretary shall, within two weeks of the meeting of the Executive Committee, notify each applicant in writing in respect of the action taken by the Executive Committee. Copies of the correspondence shall be forwarded to the President and the Treasurer.

I. The Executive Committee may relax the deadlines for receiving and processing scholarship applications if, in its discretion, it determines that the scholarship program and the membership at large will benefit from such action.

J. Successful applicants shall be informed of the amount of their award and of the allocation of the funds by type. Further, the notice shall provide that the Treasurer will direct the applicant's reimbursement to the extent of the award after the conclusion of the annual meeting on receipt of satisfactory evidence of the payment of the covered expenses and the applicant's attendance at all sessions of the educational and business portions of the annual meeting. Any absences in attendance must be noted and satisfactorily explained.

K. No applicant shall receive more than two scholarships in any four-year period.

L. Members of the Executive Committee and the Scholarship Committee shall not be eligible for scholarship award.

Scholarship Assistance - Selection Criteria:

The actions of the Scholarship Committee and the Executive Committee in respect of scholarships, full or partial, shall be based on an evaluation of the following criteria:

1. Membership in the NCACC in good standing. (Failure to meet this requirement shall result in the automatic rejection of the application.)
2. The amount of court funding available for the applicant's attendance at the annual meeting. (Applicants who have no funding available shall have a preference over those who are eligible for partial or full funding.)
3. The amount of court funding expended on other educational programs for the applicant since the last annual meeting of the NCACC. (This includes programs such as ICM seminars and meetings of other professional organizations. Applicants who have had no opportunity to participate in educational programs at court expense shall have a

AWARDS COMMITTEE (CON'T. FROM PAGE 9)

Please provide your suggestions to us TODAY by completing the separate insert and mailing it to:

Noel K. Dessaint
Clerk of Court
Arizona Supreme Court
1501 W. Washington, Suite 402
Phoenix, AZ 85007

If you do not have time to do it today, please do it tomorrow — but at least by **VALENTINE'S DAY**, February 14, 1996.

Awards Committee

Noel K. Dessaint (AZ)
Ron Barrow (CA)
Ken deBlanc (LA)
Frank Habershaw (FL)
Beth McHaney (MO)
Steve Thowsend (NJ)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE FOR FILING

Applications for NCACC Scholarships for the 1996 Conference must be postmarked no later than **April 1, 1996**. An application form and the scholarship guidelines are included in this issue of THE DOCKET.

Inquiries may be addressed to Janice Clinkenbeard (TN), Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee:

Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of TN
401 7th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
Tel. (516) 532-7952

Scholarship Assistance Guidelines

A. Pursuant to Article VII, Section 5, of the Bylaws, the Scholarship Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Executive Committee. In addition, the members shall serve for a term of one year. They may be reappointed. The President shall designate the Chairman.

B. Scholarships shall be awarded as a means of promoting attendance at annual meetings of the NCACC by members who would otherwise be unable to attend due to limitations in Court funding. The personal financial resources of an applicant shall not be considered in the awarding of a scholarship.

C. The Committee shall recommend to the Executive Committee the award up to \$3,750 in scholarships annually. No individual scholarship may exceed \$750. Of the total amount awarded to each recipient, no more than \$500 may be allocated to travel expenses and no more than \$375 may be allocated for hotel accommodations (a maximum of \$75/night for no more than five nights). Each award shall specify the amounts allocated by type.

D. Scholarship funds shall not be applied to defray the cost of membership in the NCACC.

E. The membership shall receive annual notice of the availability of scholarship funds. Interested members shall obtain application materials from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) as Secretariat of the NCACC. Applications shall be filed with the NCSC, no later than April 1 of each year. The NCSC shall forward copies of all applications to the Scholarship Committee for its consideration.

F. Applicants shall be responsible for presenting the Scholarship Committee with reasonable estimates of the cost of travel.

State Court Historical Societies (Con't. from Page 6)

Both the Missouri and North Carolina societies have active programs in place to complete the portrait collection of the former members of the court. The Louisiana society found over 200 portraits for former justices, judges and lawyers in the dark damp basement of the Judicial building. Due to the efforts of this society these portraits have been removed to the art museum and are now being restored and placed in the judicial building.

All of the state societies as well as the Federal Judicial Center have oral history programs. With the technology that is available today, almost anybody can film an interview with a retired justice, personnel of the court or a founding senior partner of a major law firm. Besides being fun to film, these tapes will prove to be invaluable in years to come by capturing stories and memories, that, but for the filming occasion, may well have been lost.

When the Missouri society was founded, the original handwritten trial records of the *Dred Scott* were found folded in an envelope slowly disintegrating. Through the efforts of the Missouri society, these documents were preserved, encapsulated and have been used in a display on the history of the *Scott* case. Similarly, the trial papers of the longest running suit involving probate in the history of the United States are preserved in the law library in Louisiana. Societies have also been instrumental in preserving the personal and chamber papers of justices of courts. In most instances, family members of deceased justices have no idea what to do with the papers and rarely realize the potential value of these papers to researchers.

Massachusetts, Florida, and Missouri have published excellent histories of their state supreme court. All of the societies have published various booklets, and other materials that relate the court history. Journals, which all the societies publish, contain scholarly articles about specific areas of law, judicial biographies, and programs of the society. An effort is now being made to collect this published information in one location for the benefit of those who might be interested in researching state legal history.

It is my contention that these societies are needed in every state in the union. Every state court system has had its own particular way of doing things, unusual cases, and own personalities.

Organizing a society in your state is not that difficult. First, form a committee to bring together others who may be interested in the legal history of your state. When this group meets, decide what the major objectives should be and put them in the form of a "statement of purpose." The next step is to write the bylaws and constitution of the proposed organization. After these documents are completed, obtain and file papers for incorporating a nonprofit organization from the appropriate office in your state. To make matters even more easy, all of the organized societies are more than happy to share intelligence and ideas with others who might want to form societies. A list of these societies is available from the **North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society, P. O. Box 26972, Raleigh, NC 27611.**

The challenge is for every state to preserve the history of the third, and some say the most important branch, of state government. How is your state handling this challenge?

NCACC AWARDS COMMITTEE
REQUESTS YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Now is the time for you to submit your suggestions to the Awards Committee for the person or persons you wish considered for the **J. O. Sentell Award** at the next annual conference in Des Moines. Although our guidelines do not require solicitation of suggestions for the Morgan Thomas Award, we are, nevertheless, asking for your ideas this year.

The **J. O. Sentell Award** is given to recognize distinguished service by a member of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks who has contributed substantially to the objectives of the conference. Our objectives according to Article II of our By-Laws include 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 collection and dissemination of information and ideas concerning the operation and improvement of the offices of appellate court clerks. According to Senator Heflin's tribute entered into the Congressional Record, James Oscar Sentell, Jr. was born in Alabama in 1909. He practiced law in Alabama. In 1967, he was appointed deputy clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court. A year later he became clerk of that court, serving until 1982. He was one of the founders and first president of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. According to Senator Heflin, Mr. Sentell made immeasurable contributions to Alabama's judicial system as clerk of the Supreme Court of Alabama. Senator Heflin further described J. O. Sentell as a great public servant possessing a keen and analytical mind with perceptive insight and integrity beyond reproach.

Past recipients of the J. O. Sentell Award, the year of the award and the place are as follows:

J. O. SENTELL AWARD RECIPIENTS			
RECIPIENT	COURT	CONFERENCE CITY	YEAR
J. O. Sentell	Alabama Supreme Court	Monterey, CA	1979
Ronald L. Dzierbicki	Michigan Court of Appeals	Orlando, FL	1980
Wilfried J. Kramer	California Court of Appeal 3rd Dist.	Jackson Hole, WY	1981
Morgan Thomas	Georgia Court of Appeals	Boston, MA	1982
Lewis Carter	Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	New Orleans, LA	1983
Mary Ann Hopkins-Young	Arizona Supreme Court	Seattle, WA	1984
Alexander L. Stevas	Supreme Court of the United States	Lexington, KY	1985
Luella Dunn	North Dakota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	Austin, TX	1986
Jean Kennett	Massachusetts Supreme Court	Hartford, CT	1987
John Scott	Kentucky Court of Appeals	Helena, MT	1988

AWARDS COMMITTEE
(CON'T. FROM PAGE 8)

J. O. Sentell Award Recipients (cont.)			
RECIPIENT	COURT	CONFERENCE CITY	YEAR
Joline Williams	Georgia Supreme Court	Charleston, SC	1989
Frans LaBranche	Louisiana Supreme Court	Tucson, AZ	1990
Jill Engle	South Dakota Supreme Court	St. Louis, MO	1991
Reba Mims	South Carolina Court of Appeals	Washington, D.C.	1992
Steve Townsend	New Jersey Supreme Court	Nashville, TN	1993
Peggy Stevens McGraw	Missouri Court of Appeals	San Diego, CA	1994
Kevin Swanson	California Court of Appeal Fifth District	San Antonio, TX	1995

MORGAN THOMAS AWARD RECIPIENTS

The **Morgan Thomas Award** is for recognition of an individual other than a regular member of the NCACC who has made distinguished contributions to enhancing professionalism and supporting the goals of the NCACC as a body and of its members individually. The award need not be given each year. Past recipients have been:

Morgan Thomas Award Recipients		
YEAR	RECIPIENT	ORGANIZATION
1990	Charles Nelson	West Publishing Company
1992	<u>Joint Award</u> Justice James Duke Cameron Justice Harry A. Spencer Justice William A. Grimes	AZ Retired NE Retired NH Retired
1995	Sandra M. Roos	American Bar Association