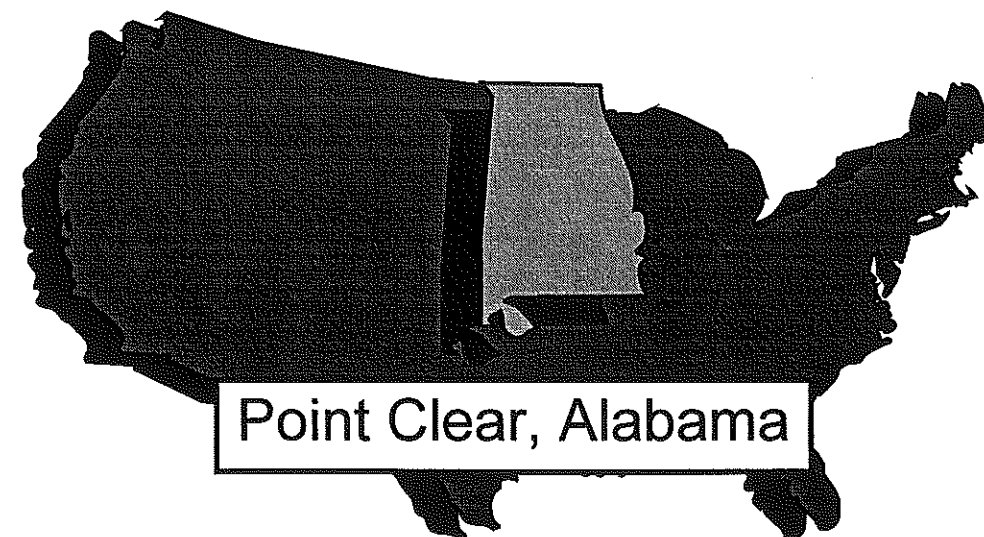

The Docket



News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

Volume 25 Issue 3

April 1997



Point Clear, Alabama

THEME OF 1997 NCACC EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE:
"THE RENAISSANCE CLERK"

By: Ed Smith, Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court

The 1997 Point Clear educational program is set and should provide our NCACC membership with a full agenda for the annual meeting. My sincere thanks to the Program Committee for their tireless efforts to provide an outstanding program.

Our theme for this year will be entitled The Renaissance Clerk. There will be four sessions to the program. Each session will have contributing segments, with speakers focusing on topics that reflect on the day's theme.

Monday, August 4, 1997

TECHNOLOGY BUILDING SESSION

Technology plays such a significant role in our work environments, we decided to dedicate a full session to this topic.

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this Issue

1997 NCACC Conference -Educational Program Page 1

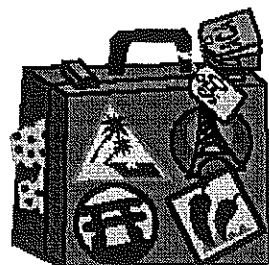
1997 NCACC Conference -Social Program 7

ctcfive Fifth National Court Technology Conference 8

New Members 9



Watch for the registration materials for the 24th National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks Conference. Our information is that you will be receiving your registration materials soon. This is an event I am sure you will not want to miss, so make your travel plans early. See you at The Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama.



The Docket News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

Table listing officers and regional reporters for the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, including names, titles, and contact information for various states.

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.

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!

(Continued from page 10)

- List of news items: *Enfields Couple Slain, Police Suspect Homicide, *Red Tape Holds up Bridge, *Deer Kill 17,000, *Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery, Hundreds Dead, *New Study on Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group, *Kids Make Nutritious Snacks, *Man Minus Ear Waives Hearing, *Air Head Fired, *Sex Education Delayed, Teachers Request Training

So you see, other professions can make as big of fools of themselves as we in the legal profession can. However, just to keep ourselves humble, I will return to the law in the next edition.

By Leslie Steen (AR)



THE CLERK'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, So far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, and haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. So far today, I haven't even barked at a lawyer, snarled at a judge, or hissed at a runner. And Lord, I am so thankful about all that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed. From then on, Dear God, I'm probably going to need a Lot more help. Thank you.

Law Day 1997 CELEBRATE YOUR FREEDOM Origins of Law Day: A Chronology *1957 - - American Bar Association (ABA) president Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisions a special day for celebrating our legal system. *1958 - - President Dwight D. Eisenhower establishes Law Day U.S.A. to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law. *1961 - - May 1 is designated by joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day U.S.A. May 1 remains the official date. May 1, 1997 Law Day celebrates its 40th birthday.

FACTS, FICTION AND FOOLISHNESS

In the past two editions of The Docket we have completed an extensive study of some rather bizarre answers from students to examination questions about health and science. This study was conducted to prove to our readership that writings destitute of reason are not limited to the profession of law. I also promised you in this edition we will turn our attention to the bastion of the writing language, the print media. I realize newspapers, editors, and newsmen are without fault; therefore, we can assume the printers are to blame.

Here are several actual newspaper headlines that were collected by actual journalists.

- *Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say
- *Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- *Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should be Belted
- *Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case
- *Farmer Bill Dies in House
- *Stud Tires Out

- *Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
- *Panda Mating Fails, Veterinarian Takes Over
- *Soviet Virgin Lands Short of Goal Again
- *British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands
- *Eye Drops Off Shelf
- *Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
- *Reagan Wins on Budget, But More Lies Ahead
- *Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
- *Shot Off Woman's Leg Helps Nicholas to 66
- *Enraged Cow Injures Farmer with Ax
- *Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
- *Miners Refuse to Work after Death
- *Juvenile Court to try Shooting Defendant
- *Stolen Painting Found by Tree
- *Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Year in Checkout Counter
- *Killer Sentenced to Die Second Time in 10 Years
- *War Dims Hope for Peace
- *If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It Could Last a While

(Continued on page 11)

FREE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

By: William S. Fulton, Jr. (VA)

"Justice at First Hand," the American Judicature Society's videotape portraying court employee ethical dilemmas, can be obtained free of charge from Bill Fulton. Bill has five copies available. Each tape includes an instructor's manual and a self-study guide.

In addition, Bill also has one copy of "Faces of Justice" to give away. The 30-minute tape is designed to explain the basics of the justice system to new court employees and new nonlawyer judges. It comes with a trainer's manual and two study guides, one for employees and one for nonlawyer judges.

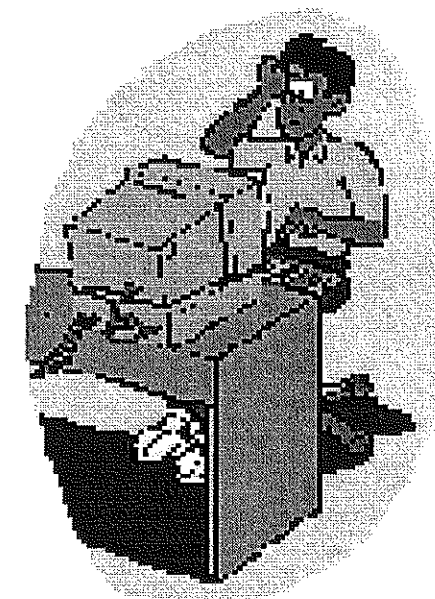
All you need to do to obtain these freebies is to call Bill Fulton at the Army Court of Criminal Appeals (Area Code 703, 681-5640) before April 30—the day he retires with almost 54 years of service to the Army. In the alternative, you can call him at home before or after April 30 (Area Code 703, 323-0564).

NOTICE!



The Executive Committee held its Spring meeting on Saturday, April 12, 1997 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Tampa, Florida. In our next issue, we will report on what took place at the meeting.

Oklahoma's Internet Site



By: James W. Patterson (OK)

With the interest in computerization shown by the Association members, I thought I would direct those with access to the Internet to the Oklahoma appellate home pages. The Supreme Court and Court of Civil Appeals information can be found at www.oscn.state.ok.us and that of the Court of Criminal Appeals at www.occa.state.ok.us. Any questions, comments, etc., should go to our computer wizards KKenndy@sct.state.ok.us for the Supreme Court and Court of Civil Appeals and webmaster@mail.occa.state.ok.us for the Court of Criminal Appeals. My trusty cyberspace address is james_patterson@sct.state.ok.us. Hope to hear from you and will see you in Point Clear.

*(Continued from page 1)***STATES SURVEY**

Penny Miller, Clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court and Nancy Foley, Clerk of the Appeals Court of Massachusetts, will review the 1997 NCACC Technology Survey. This will be significant information for members, because we will explore the kinds of technology used throughout appellate courts in the United States.

PLANNING PROCESS FOR TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

John Matthias, Court Management Consultant with the National Center for State Courts in Denver, will address the importance of long range planning when office information technologies are under going change.

VENDORS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The Conference will get a sampling of private and public efforts in the area of technology development.

Dennis Miller, President of Progressive Solutions Incorporated, Salt Lake City, will discuss and demonstrate the appellate court docketing system being designed for the Arizona Appellate Courts. My thanks to Joyce Goldsmith for directing me to Mr. Miller.

Gary Bockweg, Chief of the Applications Development Division, Office of Information Technology, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C., will review the federal electronic files project and related technologies, and demonstrate a prototype electronic filing system installed in the Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York. Bill Suter helped arrange this presentation.

TELEVISION MEDIA IN APPELLATE COURTS

Jeffrey Ballabon of Court Television Network, will speak on the role of television media in appellate courts. Elizabeth Saunders, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas has arranged for this highly informative presentation.

Tuesday, August 5, 1997**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION**

The focus for the session on Tuesday will be on professional development. Two dynamic speakers have been retained by the Conference to speak on two important topics.

*(Continued on page 5)***WELCOME**

We would like to say welcome to the following members who have joined since our last Conference:

*Ida Carson - Deputy Clerk
South Carolina Court of Appeal

*Theo A. Duroncelet - Deputy Clerk of Court
New Orleans, Louisiana

*Teresa M. Owens - Deputy Clerk
Iowa Supreme Court

*Deena C. Fawcett - Chief Deputy Clerk
Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District

*Stewart M. Cohen - Clerk
New York Court of Appeals

*Charlyn J. Bradley - Deputy Clerk
Second District Appellate Court

*Susan Mellen - First Assistant Clerk
Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth

*Eve Sproule - Court Administrator/Clerk
Fifth Appellate District

*Stephanie W. Vassar - Deputy Clerk/Administration
Court of Appeals of Virginia

*A. John Volino - Chief Deputy Clerk
Court of Appeals of Virginia

*Karma Alfredson - Assistant Clerk
Montana Supreme Court

*Joni Holliday - Assistant Clerk
Montana Supreme Court

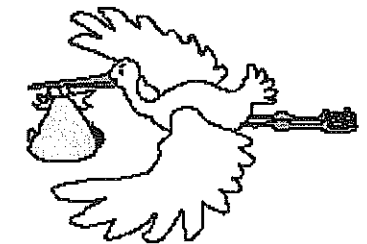
*Gela Herrin - Assistant Deputy Clerk
Mississippi Supreme Court & Court of Appeals

*David Caudrill, Jr. - Clerk of Courts
Clermont County (OH)

*Terri Harris - Business Manager
Louisiana Supreme Court

*Lisa Rombok - Clerk
Court of Appeals, Fifth District

*Debbie Ware - Deputy Clerk
Second Circuit Court of Appeal



Coleman Tyler Scott was born on January 17, 1997, 8:57 am (EST), to John C. (retired Clerk of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court) and Lisa Scott, weighing 8 lbs. 7 3/4 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long. Coleman and Lisa are doing fine, and we think Daddy John will make it.

Also, John has been appointed as Commissioner (1 of 9) to Kentucky's Legislature Ethic Commission by President of Kentucky Senate John "Eck" Rose. This is a four year term.

Congratulations John!

(Continued from page 7)

Southern Style," included with your invitation-to-attend packet. Your only frustration will be so much to do and so little time (in 95 degrees (heat index 195 degrees, ha!)).

NEWS RELEASE

ctcfive

National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
Contact: Dawn M. Spinozza, (757) 259-1877

Fifth National Court Technology Conference

The National Center for State Courts is pleased to announce its Fifth National Court Technology Conference (CTC5) to be held September 9-12, 1997, at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan.

The National Center for State Courts' technology conferences are the only conferences devoted exclusively to court technology. The last four conferences drew thousands of participants, including judges, court administrators, and technology specialists, from across the country and around the globe. CTC5 will consist of three complementary components. The educational program will be led by nationally recognized technology experts; the court technology exhibition will be the largest of its kind in the world, with more than 100 participating vendors; and an interactive, hands-on laboratory will give participants the opportunity to see and use available court applications.

To receive future conference materials, call the toll-free CTC5 Information Line at (888) 890-CTC5 or visit the CTC5 Homepage at <http://www.ncsc.dni.us/>.

The National Center for State Courts is a nonprofit organization that promotes justice through leadership and service to the state courts. Leadership activities include developing policies that improve state courts, securing sufficient resources for state courts, strengthening state court leadership, facilitating collaboration among state courts and with the federal government and other nations, and providing a model for organizational administration. Service activities include helping courts solve problems, educating judges, administrators, and other court personnel, and supporting court organizations.

(Continued from page 4)

ETHICS

Medical Ethics: Challenges before the Appellate Courts. Fr. John Paris, S. J., a Boston College Professor and nationally recognized ethicist, will present a thought provoking segment for the mandatory ethics program. My thanks to Nancy Foley for her efforts to obtain Fr. Paris.

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC WRITING

George Earl Smith, Reporter of Decisions for the Supreme Court of Alabama, will lecture on how to improve our writing skills. The Conference had a number of requests for a writing segment and Ashley Ahearn, Deputy Clerk of the Massachusetts Appeals Court arranged for this presentation. Mr. Smith has an extensive background in teaching writing seminars in law schools, to Alabama judges and the American Bar Association Appellate Judges Conference. He is a past member of NCACC.

Wednesday, August 6, 1997

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION SESSION

We will be focusing on ways to develop a better work environment during this session.

TEAM BUILDING/FACILITATOR TRAINING

Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivy, President of PRAXIS Consulting, Incorporated and Secretary for the Center for Public Policy Studies in Denver, will present Court Management Utilizing a Team-Based Approach. We will also explore the concept of facilitation in our work environment. Scott Crampton, Management Services Director for the Supreme Court of Oregon, secured Ms. Wagenknecht-Ivy whose professional credentials include organizational development and communications. She has worked as a consultant in both the public and private sectors, and has an extensive background with courts. This segment should be an excellent one.

Thursday, August 7, 1997

GENERAL SESSION

This session will be devoted to a variety of topics, which are very practical, but useful.

EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Jill Engel, Clerk of the South Dakota Supreme Court, will moderate a question and answer session. Questions from conferees with regard to rules, process, personnel and other topics will be discussed, with audience participation.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

APPELLATE COURT CLERKS OFFICE SECURITY UPDATE

Norman Hylton, Inspector for the Court Security Program, United States Marshal Service in Atlanta, will address specific approaches taken by federal authorities in providing security for federal appellate court clerks offices. Mr. Hylton will also review two arrangements for security in a large and small state, with suggestions for improvements. Jill Engel is coordinating this presentation.

COURT STATISTICS

Dr. Brian Ostrom, with the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, will review collection of statistical data from appellate courts, and what trends this data shows. Howard Zibel, Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire is the point man for this topic.

TRENDS AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

John Barry, Bar Discipline Counsel from Florida, will present this program on behalf of the American Bar Association's, Center for Professional Responsibility. Mr. Barry is well versed in the area of attorney discipline, and has made numerous presentations to other ABA groups. Penny Miller, is coordinating this segment.

BUSINESS MEETING

The second half of the business meeting will follow the closing of the educational program. This portion of the business meeting will include final committee reports and election of officers.

As a footnote, Theresa Owens, Deputy Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, will be working with Sandy Roos of the American Bar Association to revise the evaluation forms for the Conference. If you have any suggestions, please contact Theresa.

I hope all of you will be able to come to Point Clear, for this solid educational program. Louise Livingston, has done an outstanding job in coordinating this conference, and I know it will be top notch. I look forward to seeing you in Alabama!



“OH, I WISH I WERE IN THE LAND OF COTTON.”

By: Louise Livingston (AL)

Are you making plans to attend the 24th National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks at The Grand Hotel, Point Clear? If not, come August you'll surely be singing - "Oh, I wish I was in the land of cotton," and you will be missing the "Queen of Southern Resorts!" Check it out on the Internet!

Your introduction to old-fashioned Southern charm and hospitality at The Grand Hotel will be provided by BNA at its reception, Sunday, August 3, followed by the Morgan Thomas Slide Show. Frans LaBranche assures that he will make time for the annual photo trek down memory lane, although he says retirement is a full-time job.

Thanks to West, on Tuesday evening, August 5, you will be afforded an opportunity coveted by many but available to a relative few. You will kick back, relax, chow down on "Grand BBQ," and celebrate The Grand Hotel's sunset in West's style! Julep Point is located on The Grand Hotel property overlooking Mobile Bay and probably the most spectacular sunset watching spot in the world and, certainly, Baldwin County! This is the spot which has attracted generations of wealthy Southern families, even back to the mid-1800's when the only access to the area was by boat. Back in those pre-air conditioning days, the only respite from the heat was the shade of the moss-draped oaks. The oaks, some 300 years old, will charm you as you relax and enjoy West's hospitality in "Grand" style.

Bellingrath Gardens - Thanks to Lexis Nexis - we will do the whole thing on Wednesday afternoon/evening August 6! - the gardens tour, the home tour, the river cruise, and dinner (south of the Mason-Dixon a/k/a "supper") in the Magnolia Cafe. Located on Isle-Aux-Oies (Fowl) River, Bellingrath Gardens is the most charming spot in the deep South. The location, purchased in 1919 by Coca-Cola bottling pioneer Walter D. Bellingrath and wife Bessie, originally a fishing camp, has evolved to become world famous! The home itself has been featured on A & E's "America's Castles" series; the gardens, 65 tranquil acres, contain a spectacular array of plants and features an ecological bayou boardwalk for viewing countless varieties of birds as well as an occasional deer or alligator; on site is the world's largest publicly displayed collection of Boehm (pronounced Beam) china; and the Southern Belle River Cruiser provides a relaxing cruise on Fowl River. (Note: Most garden paths are handicap accessible, and wheel chairs are available for a very nominal fee, but you will have to provide your own pusher.)

You are encouraged not to miss the annual dinner Thursday evening, August 7, as dining at The Grand Hotel is always a special culinary event; ours will be no exception - special memories guaranteed.

The educational and social schedules have been arranged to maximize your "free" time. Plan ahead by studying the "Host's Guide to Heaven,

(Continued on page 8)