

The Docket



News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

Volume 26 Issue 4 (Supplement)

July 1998

NATIONAL CONFERENCE APPELLATE COURT CLERKS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE SKAMANIA LODGE, WASHINGTON

Program Committee Update:

SUBMITTED BY: JOSEPH LANE, CHAIR

Hidden amidst the waterfalls, peaks, forests and canyons of the Columbia river gorge lies a rustic mountain retreat called Skamania Lodge. ("Skamania" is the Chinook Indian word for "swift water.") The lodge is designed to provide a full service, self-contained meeting center with flexible facilities. The meeting space is connected to the guest room wing and thus provides easy and quick access (the farthest guest room is no more than 3-4 minutes away); and since we expect to be the only users of the meeting rooms, this year's program has been designed to be a little different. In addition to starting early and keeping most afternoons free, there will be a night session.

There have been a few changes (mainly in the names and not the content of the sessions) since the last report from the Program Committee and these are reflected below. My thanks to the members of the committee, Ashley Ahearn, Christie Speir Cameron, Stuart Cohen, Emille Cox, Leslie Gradet, Tom Granahan, Penny Miller, Theresa Owens, Dan Schuckers, Pat Sanford, Jon Wheeler and Howard Zibel, for all their work and for putting up with me.

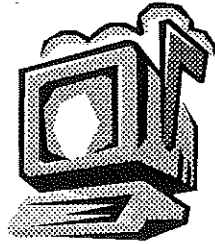
1998 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Registration begins on Saturday and continues on Sunday. The first part of the Business Meeting is Sunday afternoon followed by the BNA reception and the Morgan Thomas Slide Show.

Monday begins with BNA, Mead Data and West Group updating us on *Who's Who and What's New in Legal Publishing*. The National Center for State Courts will address *What the Future Holds for Courts* and how the NCSC will be assisting the courts. *Courts as Learning Organizations* with Patricia H. Murrell of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Memphis rounds out the morning. Lunch, for members only, is provided and features a guest speaker, and is followed with a special session on *Diversity Awareness - Ending Bias* with Joseph Quinones.

Tuesday is loaded with concurrent sessions, most of which run 50 minutes and will be repeated. Jim McMillan of the National Center for State Courts hosts a discussion on *Technology 101* (aka technology for dummies); Chief Judge Walter T. Cox, III of the United States Court of Appeal for the Armed Forces will

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Be sure to visit the new
NCACC Web Page

<http://www.ncsc.dni.us/ncacc/ncacc.htm>

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!

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speak on *Cyberspace: Legal and Privacy Issues for Court Managers*; Long Range Planning has separate workshops on *Technology, Increased Access to the Courts, Court Management and NCACC Membership*; Richard Hoffman of the Justice Management Institute is hosting a session on *Appellate Case Flow Management*. And as if that were not enough, computer labs sponsored by the West Group, SCT and the NCSC will be open all morning.

Wednesday is special to me since in addition to the traditional daytime sessions there will be a *Colloquium* that night featuring *Life after Retirement* with Nancy Foley and Ella Williams; *Intern Programs* with William Suter. Pat Sanford will be asking us about *Bench - Bar Programs*. We will be wrapping up the night with an open discussion lead by yours truly. But don't think that since the night holds so much that you can skip out during the day because you don't want to miss: *Just This for Justice - Mission, Service, and Stewardship in Our Courts for the Next Millennium* with Noreen Sharp, the Director of Access to Court Programs for the Arizona Superior Court, Maricopa County; *Interviewing to Hire and Retain the Best* with Jon (no h) Wheeler and Christie Speir Cameron; and concurrent sessions on *Appellate Mediation* with Ashley Ahearn, Scott Crampton, and Donna Gebhart, Appellate Court Mediator, Florida Court of Appeal, First District, and *Death Penalty Cases* with Christie Speir Cameron and William K. Suter.

Thursday starts with *Ethics* with Michael Howlett, Esq., followed by a *Confluence of the Long Range Planning Breakout Sessions*, and then the long awaited Part II of the Business Meeting.

Friday marks the end of our annual meeting but not before the *Critique Session*, possibly the most important session of the week. So, come early and stay late.

Special Announcement from the Program Chair

Joseph Quinones, our guest speaker for Monday's "Diversity Awareness-Ending Bias" program, has offered to conduct an empowering four-hour workshop on Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. entitled:

"Color of Fear"

This program is suitable for children and an invitation to attend this special presentation is extended to everyone - members, spouses, guests, family and friends.

Time permitting, more information will follow; however, you may direct any inquiries to:

Joseph Lane
213-897-2421

Letter from the Editor

DIANA PRATT-WYATT

This issue supplements the June 1998 issue mailed the last of June. The articles and reports contained in this supplement were inadvertently left out of the earlier publication.

My apologies to Christie Speir Cameron, Joseph Lane and Marty Brownstein.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

BY: CHRISTI SPEIR CAMERON (NC)

As the Appellate Court Clerks' Conference's representative to the Advisory Council of the National Center for State Courts' Court Services Division, I would like to share some of the information I have learned over the last year.

Some of you may consider yourselves "computer illiterate," I was pretty National Center for State Courts illiterate as I began my job as Clerk of Court several years ago. I have come to admire many of the programs they endeavor, and I have appreciated the opportunity to acquire a better understanding of the differing divisions. The purpose of this note to you is to share some of the current news which I have learned from the Advisory Council.

The National Center for State Courts comprises three divisions. The Research Division is based out of Williamsburg and is run by Gene Flango. His wife, Carol Flango, has spearheaded the recent update of *Basic Appellate Court Structures and Procedures*. The Institute for Court Management is the "teaching division" of the National Center for State Courts. Training classes ranging from security to case-flow management emanate from its offices in Williamsburg. The Court Services Division is the "hands-on" assistance portion of the National Center. They are stationed out of Denver. Were you to need a management audit or an outside consultant for a new computerization project, you may want to contact this division for assistance.

Each year the Court Services Division determines a project in which they will offer assistance "for the asking." This project is funded from the general contributions from individual states. This year's technical assistance project is "Public Access to the Courts". Specifically designed for the trial courts, the project will look at six major areas of public access. They are: 1. Location (structure itself and facilities and services), 2. Physical Structure (looking at issues from ADA to security), 3. Procedures (removing "mystique" to more readable forms), 4. Language (signage to court interpreters), 5. Customer Service, and 6. Electronic Public Access (kiosks to internet). The project is being administered by Paul C. Gomez, and his address at the National Center for State Courts is 1331 Seventeenth Street, Suite 402, Denver, Colorado 80202-1554. His telephone number is (303)293-3063. Although this project was designed with the trial courts in mind, the division is open to working with an appellate court which feels that they could use assistance within the guidelines.

Over the last several years the National Center for State Courts has undergone some serious reorganization and strategic planning. The new president, Roger Warren, has put the Board and staff through a major strategic planning process which was designed to look into five areas:

1. Leadership and advocacy
2. Marketing
3. Customer service
4. Technology

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5. Human resources

Through this process, the Center has been striving to reach out and within for an assessment of their effectiveness and their potential.

One of the areas of which the National Center is striving to be of more assistance is in the area of our Appellate Courts. In their words, "they have caught hell" for not doing more for the Appellate Courts, and they are willing and want to change. They need our input - individually and collectively. I ask your assistance in helping me "brain-storm" prior to our next Advisory Council meeting in October. Think about some of the projects which we as an organization, and which we as individual courts could use assistance. The desire to assist is there, it is up to us to help develop the parameters of our needs. Please share your thoughts with me.

Open letter from the Program Chair

I hope that you will note when you review the article on this year's Education Program that the final session that is listed is the **Critique Session**. And it is about this session that I want to talk about. I was very fortunate that Robert Wilson, retired Clerk of the California Court Appeal, Second Appellate District, was with me at my first NCACC annual meeting. He helped me get around and introduced me to people, but, most importantly, he impressed upon me the significance of the **Business Meeting** and the **Critique Session**. It was his feeling that these, above all others, were the most vital to our organization, and that the members owed it to the Association to attend and participate. I feel as Robert did, and if I can cause just one of you to see the need to attend and participate in these meetings, I will have made a dent in the

debt I owe Robert and the NCACC. I have enjoyed and learned much from the educational programs; however, it is from the membership that I have gained the most. The role of the **Business Meeting** and the **Critique Session** is to insure that we go forward and improve as an organization. In addition, Long Range Planning has identified some important fields for us to brainstorm this year and I hope that all of us in attendance this year will see the need to work hard to do our best so that the NCACC will continue and be there for the others who will follow us. We are losing many who have been vital to the NCACC and we need to pick up the slack and nurture others so that they will also be committed to our organization. Therefore, I hope that when you make your travel arrangements you will remember that though the Annual Meeting may end with the banquet Thursday night, our work for the next year begins at the **Critique Session** Friday morning.

Thank you.

Joseph Lane
Program Chair and President Elect, but soon to be ousted from the latter for sermonizing.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: MARTIN H. BROWNSTEIN, CHAIR

Copies of the bylaws and committee guidelines, as revised at the conference in August, 1997, were distributed to the members in September, 1997.

No requests have been made for further amendments.

Committee:

Colette Bruggman (ND)
Frank Drum (CT)
Victoria Hernandez (CA)
Jon Wheeler (FL)

