

Countdown to Cowtown!

By Stephanie Lavake (TX)



Soon everyone will be making their way to Fort Worth (a/k/a/ "Cowtown") for the 33rd Annual National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, and we're very excited! Registration packets were mailed in April, and lots of registration forms are coming in! Conference dates are July 30 - August 4, 2006. More information and registration materials may be found on the web at www.appellatecourtclerks.org. Click on 2006 Annual Conference. The conference will be held at the

Renaissance Worthington Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. Reservations can be made by calling 800-433-5677. Cut off date for the conference rate of \$135 is June 28. Please note that the registration deadline has been extended to July 17. After July 17, there is a \$20 late fee.

Andrew Weber and the Program Committee have put together an excellent educational program, and we are putting the finishing touches on the social events. This is going to be a fantastic conference!! Sunday's reception will be held on "The Bridge" of the hotel that overlooks downtown Fort Worth, Monday night's Thomson/West's reception will be held at the Fort Worth Stockyards, and Wednesday night's Lexis/Nexis' reception will be held at the Texas Motor Speedway. And to end the week with a special Texas flair, Sheriff J.B. Smith of Tyler, Texas will be our very special speaker for Thursday night's banquet.

This is also a reminder to show off your artistic side by donating an arts or crafts item for our silent/live auction to benefit the education fund. A committee of clerk/artisans will assess the creations you bring, and the pieces which generate the most interest will be auctioned live Sunday evening.



I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

President Terry Lord, through Secretary Bill DeCicco, and pursuant to the provisions of Article V, Section 5, of the Bylaws of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, hereby issues the call for the annual meeting of the Conference of Appellate Court Clerks to be held at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, beginning Sunday, July 30, 2006, and continuing through Friday, August 4, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill DeCicco
Secretary



THE DOCKET

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

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To Remit NCACC Membership Dues:
National Center of State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185

THE DOCKET

News of the
National Conference of
Appellate Court Clerks

President	Terence Lord (MO)
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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Terry Lord (MO)



Someone, probably an historian, once said: “To know where you’re going, you’ve got to know where you’ve been.” I want to use my last column to talk about where we are going with the Educational Fund, but before I do that, let’s examine where we’ve been.

Throughout much of the first 25 years of the NCACC, the American Bar Association provided annual grants of \$10,000 to help cover the cost of the education portion of our annual conferences. In 2000 a judge representing the Appellate Judges Conference, a subset of the ABA, was dispatched to our annual conference in Savannah, GA to inform us that the ABA was terminating the annual grants. In response, the leadership of the NCACC decided to set up a restricted fund, “the proceeds of which shall be used for educational purposes.” The membership amended the by-laws to provide for an educational fund committee. The operational guidelines for the committee stated that “[the] committee shall set policies for receiving charitable donations to the Educational Fund...” An educational fund board of advisors was formed.

So how do go about the task of “receiving charitable donations?” Stated more bluntly, how do we raise money? To get the ball rolling, Sherie Welch (GA) and Penny Miller (ND) put their heads together while sitting on a park bench in Easley, SC. (You’ll have to ask them why they were sitting on a park bench in Easley, SC.) They came up with the idea of doing some small fundraisers within the Conference to show potential donors that the membership was willing to support the Educational Fund. These fundraisers have become fixtures at NCACC conference (note: don’t forget the art auction in Fort Worth.) We have sold hats, shirts, pins, and have conducted silent and live auctions and raffles. We have also solicited (and received) many direct donations from members, both active and retired, as well as many friends of the conference.

As I’ve said more than once, it is vital that the membership is invested in the Educational Fund. But member donations alone will not build a corpus that can be used to fund our educational endeavors. Fortunately, we have had an

incredibly generous benefactor of our conference—Mr. Dwight Opperman. Last year the Opperman Foundation donated \$25,000 to the Educational Fund. This past April, the Opperman Foundation donated an additional \$25,000 to the fund. These gifts have given the corpus some bulk. However, up until last year we sort of danced around the question of how to go about conducting a major donor fundraising campaign—a campaign that will build an endowment, the income from which will support our educational endeavors.

Who is our target audience? How much is enough? What exactly are we trying to accomplish?

Last year we began the process of answering some of those questions. President Diana Pratt-Wyatt invited Mr. Michael Guillot of Virtual Development Group in New Orleans to conduct a fund-development workshop at the spring executive committee meeting in Fort Worth. In addition to the executive committee, several former officers were present. I think it is safe to say that the workshop was a real eye-opener. Michael led us to the realization that we would be seriously selling ourselves short if our goal was limited to replacing the \$10,000 ABA funding. Replacing the \$10,000 meant “survive;” Why not set our goals higher; why not “thrive?” As eloquently stated by educational fund chair Dan Schuckers (PA) in his report for the Key West conference, “increased funding would not only enrich the annual conference, but would also enhance educational possibilities by extending new opportunities to those who attend the annual conference, increasing the number of members who can attend, and allowing the NCACC to reach those members who are unable to attend the meetings. Furthermore, programs could be developed to extend to non-members by, for example, using technology to make educational sessions available to court staff. As the vision enlarges, so does the ability of the NCACC to attract donors who will want to fund its programs.” To develop that vision, we needed to develop a credible, realistic strategic plan for the conference.

The report concluded by asking the membership to commit to a significant growth in the Educational Fund by creating

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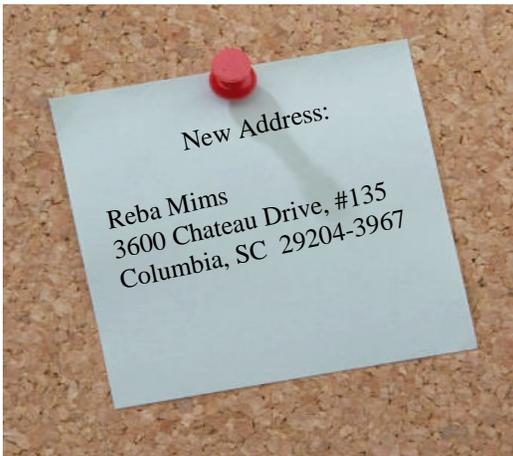
that strategic plan to attract new donors. The report noted this commitment may include entering into a contract with a professional development firm to help develop a strategic plan and implement a capital campaign. At the Thursday portion of the business meeting, the members adopted the report of the educational fund committee. The commitment was made.

My number one priority this year as president has been to insure that we develop "a credible, realistic strategic plan" for the Conference. I asked the newly-named strategic planning committee chaired by Sherie Welch to work in tandem with the educational fund committee to accomplish this task. I was privy to the numerous e-mails and blogs that were exchanged among committee members, so I know they took their task seriously. The result is a draft of a strategic plan that appears on page 6 in this issue. The draft was presented to the executive committee at our April 22 meeting in New Orleans. We endorsed it enthusiastically. The plan will be presented to the membership at the business meeting in Fort Worth for comment and approval.

Remember, however, that the strategic plan is only the first step. The other part of the commitment we made in Key West was to use our resources to develop a plan to implement a capital campaign. I asked Diana to get back in contact with Michael Guillot. Initially, Diana had a little bit of trouble making contact with him. Like so many other New Orleans-area residents, Michael was forced to

relocate because of Katrina. He and his business are now located in Raleigh, NC. Anyway, Michael prepared a proposal for "campaign assessment and planning services." The proposal provided for a three to four-month engagement to conduct a campaign assessment and planning study and deliver a report that will assist the NCACC in planning and conducting a successful campaign. The assessment would attempt to answer a number of questions, including: is the case for the campaign well-defined? Are the needs valid? Is the goal realistic? How many gifts will be required? Who will assume leadership positions in the campaign? What is the best time for the campaign? What measures of accountability will be in place? The fee for conducting the campaign assessment is \$16,800. The proposal was presented to the executive committee in New Orleans. After considerable, thoughtful discussion, the executive committee voted to approve the proposal. I expect to sign a contract with Michael during the month of June, and I hope that the campaign assessment will begin shortly thereafter. I expect that Michael will be contacting a number of NCACC members in the course of his work.

So here we are. As the end of my term rapidly approaches, I am incredibly optimistic about the future of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. I am convinced we are well on our way to being known as one of the truly premier professional court organizations in the country. This organization works because so many people are involved in making it work. I look forward to seeing everyone in Fort Worth!



The herd is headin' to Fort Worth - See you there !!

Congratulations, Ashley!

Ashley Ahern (MA) was honored as "Clerk of the Year" by the Frank J. Murray Inn of Court. Chief Justice Armstrong and six associate justices of the Appeals Court attended the dinner. The honor is awarded to a person who is well-respected and has provided exceptional service to litigants and the public.

The Frank J. Murray Inn of Court is an association of Massachusetts judges and attorneys who meet on a regular basis to promote collegiality between the bench and the bar, to discuss legal trends, and to participate in educational programs.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Recognizing the need to provide a forum to discuss how to improve the administration of justice in the appellate courts, several clerks and justices of a number of appellate courts met in 1973. As a result of this meeting, it was resolved to create a national organization dedicated to the interests of the appellate courts and the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks was created. The founders noted that appellate court clerks face similar issues and determined that through educational sessions and networking, great strides could be made toward resolving these problems to the benefit of each other and appellate court administration nationwide. Since then, representatives from nearly every state have convened annually to exchange ideas, to hear from experts and authorities about relevant topics of interest, and to inspire and invigorate each other. Today, both state and federal appellate court clerks are actively involved in addressing the needs of the courts and the public through the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. It is with this legacy in mind that we adopt this strategic plan for the future of our organization.

Mission: The mission of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks is to serve its members by improving professional competence, promoting the efficient administration of justice, and striving to insure full and fair access to the courts.

Goal I: Improve the skill and knowledge required of those performing the duties of an appellate court clerk.

Objectives:

1. Provide substantive and informative annual conferences;
2. Provide workshops and seminars to develop leaders with superior skills;
3. Support collaboration among members through technology;
4. Maintain forums for sharing experiences through the listserv, the NCACC website and other means;
5. Continue to publish *The Docket* newsletter quarterly and oversee the production of the NCACC Directory;
6. Solicit new members.

Goal II: Promote and improve the contributions of the offices of appellate court clerks within the area of effective court administration.

Objectives:

1. Enhance appellate processes by expanding relationships with trial court judges, attorneys, parties, and the public, promoting effective case management systems, and improving the role of the appellate court clerk in providing access to the courts and services to the public;
2. Develop best practices to assist appellate Court in developing effective court management techniques;
3. Increase appreciation for the appellate court clerk with appellate court justices and judges by keeping them informed of enhanced service through membership in the NCACC;
4. Distribute *The Docket* to other stakeholders in the judicial system to keep them informed of the activities of the NCACC;
5. Maintain active relationships within the judicial system through the National Center for State Courts and related groups such as CCJ (Conference of Chief Justices), CATO (Court Appellate Technology Officials), CITOC (Court Information Technology Officers Consortium), NACM (National Association of Court Managers) and COSCA (Conference of State Court Administrators);
6. Provide public education about appellate courts and promote the principles of equal access for all.

Goal III: Obtain the resources to improve professional competence, increase the services provided to members, and to promote efficient administration of justice through full and fair access to the courts.

Objectives:

1. Provide access to a wide range of competent and relevant speakers;
2. Increase attendance at the annual conference and provide scholarships for members otherwise unable to attend;
3. Advance the educational development of appellate court clerks and their staffs;
4. Increase access to educational sessions to those who are unable to attend the annual meeting and staff through live broadcasts, videotape, and other means;
5. Ensure access to justice through training and education of appellate court clerks' staffs;
6. Provide education to the public about access to justice and the role of the appellate court clerk.

Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

By Leslie Steen (AR)



This is the edition of *The Docket* where we have traditionally given our readers a travel advisory for the upcoming conference. We are particularly familiar with Texas having been their loving neighbor for almost 60 years. Texas is a big state and it is also a very big target for the type of column we write. This writer was recently criticized for the use of the “imperial we,” however, “we” do not want to take personal responsibility for what appears in this column and would like to share part of the blame with Diana. With that said, let us forge ahead.

For those of you who have never been in Texas, we would like to give you some examples of what to look for/look out for when you arrive in the Lone Star State. For instance, Martha Stewart just published a list of “Tips of Texans.” Here are a few of those tips. We do not know if these hints have been heeded or not.

Never take a beer to a job interview.

Always identify the people in your yard before you shoot at them.

It is considered tacky to take a cooler to church.

Even if you know you are included in a will, it is rude to drive a U-Haul to the funeral home.

A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.

Do not allow the dog to eat at the table regardless of how good his manners are.

Livestock is usually a poor choice for a wedding present.

At a four way stop, the truck with the biggest tires does not always have the right of way.

Do not lay rubber while traveling in a funeral procession.

You will also notice in Texas that you can only listen to country music on the radio. Some of the song titles you hear might include:

All the Guys Who Turn Me on Turn Me Down.

At the Gas Station of Love, I Got the Self Service Pump

Can't Get Over You So Why Don't You Get Under Me

Did I Shave My Legs for This?

Get Off the Table Mabel, the Two Dollars Is for the Beer

Going to Hell in Your Heavenly Arms

Her Teeth Are Stained but Her Heart Is Pure

How Can Whiskey That's Six Years Old Whup a Man Who Is 33?

I Changed Her Oil, She Changed My Life

I Gave Her a Ring, She Gave Me the Finger

I Fell for Her, She Fell for Him, He Fell for Me

I Sent Her Artificial Flowers for Her Artificial Love

I Would Have Wrote a Letter but I Can't Spell Yuck

I Wouldn't Take You to a Dog Fight Even If I Thought You Would Win

If the Phone Don't Ring, Baby, You Will Know It Is Me

If You Want to Keep Your Beer Real Cold, Put It Next to My Ex-wife's Heart

Redneck Martians Stole My Baby

She Got the Gold Mine and I Got the Shaft

When You Wrapped My Lunch in a Road Map, I Knew You Meant Good-bye

You're Ruining My Bad Reputation

I Went to Bed at 2 with a 10, And I Woke Up at 10 with a 2

We know these song titles will make you anxious to get to Fort Worth and turn your radio on. Our only words of advice while watching the cattle drive is attributed to the wise Will Rogers, “Don't step on nothin' warm, and always drink upstream from the herd.” Happy trails.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF APPELLATE COURT CLERKS THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

Key West, Florida
Sunday, August 7, 2005
To
Thursday, August 11, 2005

Call to Order:

President Diana Pratt-Wyatt (LA) called the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks to order at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2005. President Pratt-Wyatt welcomed everyone to Key West, and she introduced David Beach (VA), the parliamentarian. She stated that Chief Justice Barbara J. Pariente of the Florida Supreme Court and other judges and distinguished speakers would be addressing the members during the conference.

Roll Call of States:

Secretary Bill DeCicco (DC) called the roll of states, recognizing each person registered and present. David Beach acknowledged the presence of a quorum to President Pratt-Wyatt.

President Pratt-Wyatt introduced the officers and Executive Committee members.

Minutes:

President Pratt-Wyatt noted that the minutes of the Thirty-First Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, were published in the June 2005 issue of *The Docket*, and she called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Penny Miller (ND) moved that the reading of the minutes be waived. Ed Smith (MT) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried. President Pratt-Wyatt then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Christine Crow (LA) moved that the minutes be approved. Marilyn May (AK) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Awards Committee:

Joseph Lane (CA) stated that the committee's work went well and that it had received numerous nominations. The awards would be announced and given later in the week.

Bylaws Committee:

Norm Herring (DC) indicated that the committee was rec-

ommending a proposed change to the bylaws in Section VII regarding the Long Range Planning Committee. He noted that because this proposal was made after April 1, 2005, there was a requirement in the bylaws that 75 percent of the members present and entitled to vote consent to the proposal to suspend the provision in Article XI requiring that proposed bylaw changes be made before April 1. Therefore, he moved that the members consent to suspending the Article XI, Section 1 requirement that bylaw changes be made before April 1. Marilyn May (AK), Andrew Weber (TX), and Christie Cameron (NC) jointly seconded the motion. All present voted in favor (satisfying the 75 percent requirement); none opposed. Motion carried. President Pratt-Wyatt noted that voting on the amendment itself would take place later in the week.

Convention Assistance Committee:

Sondra Joyner (FL) thanked the members of the committee for their help in making this conference such a success.

Educational Fund Committee:

Dan Schuckers (PA) thanked the members of the committee and summarized the meeting in Fort Worth regarding the Educational Fund. He noted that a summary of this meeting had been published in the June 2005 issue of *The Docket*.

President Pratt-Wyatt asked for a motion to delay approval of the committee reports until Thursday. Jon Wheeler (FL) moved to so delay the approval of the committee reports. Steve Lancaster (IN) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Finance and Investment Committee:

Sherie Welch (GA) noted that the NCACC was in sound financial shape with a balance of \$174,854 in June and an additional \$37,000 in the Educational Fund. Included in her report was a summary of last year's conference income and expenses, with a loss of \$2,129.82. She thanked the members of the committee for their assistance during the year.

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President Pratt-Wyatt stated that Mr. Dwight Opperman had given a generous gift of \$25,000 to the NCACC Educational Fund. She encouraged the members to express their appreciation to him for his gift.

Long Range Planning Committee:

Steve Lancaster (IN) thanked the committee members for their assistance. The committee looked into changing the name of the committee to the Strategic Planning Committee, and decided to recommend this change. This will require a modification to the bylaws.

Membership Committee:

Bill Martin (GA) expressed his appreciation to the members of the committee and he noted there were numerous new members. Current membership stands at 244, with 205 active members. The NCACC has members from 47 states.

Nominating Committee:

Bessie Decker (MD) thanked the members of the committee for their work. She noted that the nominees were listed in *The Docket*. The nominees are:

Vice-President: Steve Lancaster (IN)
Treasurer: Marilyn May (AK)
Executive Committee: Irene Bizzoso (PA), Garland Pinkston (DC), and Patricia Harrington (VA)

Voting will take place on Thursday.

Past President's Committee:

Ed Smith (MT) said that Leslie Gradet (MD) had been archiving materials of the committee. He asked the new members to feel free to contact any of the past presidents if they had any questions.

Pictorial Committee:

Kelly McNeely (LA) thanked the members of the committee. He added that extra copies of the pictorial directory were available, and that changes can be made by e-mail and digital photographs could be submitted.

Public Relations Committee:

Susan Clary (KY) distributed the new NCACC brochure. There was a need for this to inform interested persons about the organization.

Publications Committee:

President Pratt-Wyatt expressed her appreciation to Brenda Stephens for her work on *The Docket* and Les Steen for his contributions. She also thanked the members of the committee for their help and the retired members for their work.

Resolutions and Memorials Committee:

This report was deferred until Thursday.

Scholarship Committee:

Cynthia Rapp (DC) reported that the committee began with \$6,797. One of the problems they faced was the application deadline of April 1. No applications had been received by the deadline, so the committee asked the Executive Committee to change the deadline. President Pratt-Wyatt indicated that the Executive Committee modified the Operational Guidelines to allow for scholarship applications until June 1. Cynthia said that two scholarships were awarded, but one person was not able to attend the conference. In the end, one scholarship in the amount of \$1,290.83 was awarded.

Site Selection Committee:

Marilyn May (AK) stated that two bids were received to host the 2008 annual conference, one from Pittsburgh, and the other from the District of Columbia. Pittsburgh was recommended and approved by the Executive Committee. Additionally, the committee made a suggestion for modifying the Operating Guidelines for former hosts to contribute to a Host Bid Handbook. She thanked the committee members.

Technology Committee:

Colette Bruggman (ND) thanked the members of the committee and reported that several members were working on functional standards for appellate courts and others on functional standards business models for all courts. There are 16 functional standards, and the committee has progressed through standard five. Work is continuing.

John Olivier (LA) informed the members that the Joint Technology Committee was working on submitting standards more in line with the appellate process.

President Pratt-Wyatt stated that the National Center for State Courts and COSCA asked the NCACC to appoint a representative to sit on the development team for a new Court Information Technology Officers Consortium.

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Christie Cameron (NC) agreed to do this, and she briefed the members on the work of the group and the upcoming meeting at CTC9 in Seattle in September. The group is made up of IT people, and not administrators.

Web Site Committee:

President Pratt-Wyatt provided the report for Rory Perry (WV), who set up a new NCACC web site and blog. Mike Catalano (TN) completed a digest of inquiries posted on the listserv. President Pratt-Wyatt thanked the members of the committee for their work over the year, and she indicated that we were no longer dependent on the National Center for their support. She also reminded the members to sign up for the listserv with Carol Green, who works on this through Washburn University.

President Pratt-Wyatt noted this was the first conference to partner with the Conference of Appellate Technology Officials, and she thanked all involved for their hard work in making this effort a success. She indicated that she was deferring her President's Report until Thursday.

At 3:15 p.m., President Pratt-Wyatt announced the adjournment of the meeting until Thursday, August 11, 2005.

The Thirty-Second Annual Business Meeting resumed at 11:40 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2005, with a call to order by President Pratt-Wyatt. David Beach, the Parliamentarian, noted the presence of a quorum.

President Pratt-Wyatt turned the meeting over to Stephanie Lavake (TX) for a presentation by the Texas members on next year's meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. The activities for the meeting were described and handouts were distributed. The dates for the meeting were announced as July 30 – August 4, 2006.

The 2007 annual meeting will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the 2008 meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Tom Hall (FL), the host clerk, introduced the staff at the hotel for recognition, and thanked them for all of their hard work.

Nominations:

President Pratt-Wyatt asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the office of Vice-President. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to close the nominations. John Olivier (LA) moved to close all nominations and that

the slate of officers and executive committee members, as recommended by the Nominating Committee be presented for a vote. The Nominating Committee's recommendations were as follows:

Vice-President: Steve Lancaster (IN)
Treasurer: Marilyn May (AK)
Executive Committee: Irene Bizzoso (PA), Garland Pinkston (DC), and Patricia Harrington (VA)

Christine Crow (LA) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Michael Richie (OK) moved that the persons recommended by the Nominating Committee be elected to the offices as described above by acclamation. Philip Urry (AZ) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried and those persons were elected.

Bylaws:

Norm Herring (DC) moved to amend the bylaws to change the name of the Long Range Planning Committee to the Strategic Planning Committee and to provide new duties for the committee. The amendment is as follows:

Amend Article VII, Section 3, Subsection (4) by deleting the existing subsection (4) and inserting the following: "(4) Strategic Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review and evaluate ideas and suggestions referred to it by the Executive Committee and, based upon its review and evaluation, recommend to the Executive Committee courses of action the Executive Committee should adopt."

Marilyn May (AK), Frankie Holt (TN) and Rex Renk (MT) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Resolutions and Memorials Committee:

Margie Thompson (TX) presented resolutions for adoption by the NCACC to the following for their valuable contributions to the success of the conference:

- ♦ Thomas D. Hall, Host Clerk, 32nd Annual Meeting
- ♦ Christine Crow, Chair of the Program Committee, and the committee members
- ♦ Sondra Joyner, Chair of the Convention Assistance Committee and the committee members
- ♦ Bart Hoffard, President, Key West Restaurant Association

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- ♦ Anthony Baker and Dotti Clifford, Sales Manager and Meeting and Conference Services Manager, Casa Marina Resort Hotel, Key West
- ♦ Dave George, Manager, Government Relations, Thomson-West
- ♦ Lexis-Nexis, represented by Nikki Daugherty, Director, Government Relations and Contracts and Tina Mezenzeff
- ♦ Tiffany Boeckman, Director of Catering and Group Sales, Ocean Key Resort
- ♦ Karyn S. Bowie, Manager, Judicial Opinions, Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
- ♦ Greg Ramsey, Information Systems Consultant, Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator
- ♦ Jason Sourbeer and Michal Ford, Systems Administrators, Supreme Court of Florida
- ♦ Barbara Hayo, Special Projects, Historic Tours of America, Inc.
- ♦ Cal Wagner, Director of Group Charters, Historic Tours of America, Inc.
- ♦ Bob Wolz, Manager, Harry S. Truman Little White House Museum
- ♦ Cristina Scaramuzzi, General Manager and Event Planner, Great Events Catering
- ♦ Susanne Tortu, Sales Manager, Monroe County Tourist Development Council
- ♦ Woody Douglas, Convention Coordinator, Workers Compensation Institute
- ♦ Homestead Imprinted Sportswear
- ♦ Myra Hernandez, Manager, Key West Department of Transportation
- ♦ The Florida Bar Association
- ♦ The Appellate Practice Section of the Florida Bar Association
- ♦ Dwight Opperman, Key Investment, Inc.
- ♦ JAVS Jefferson Audio Systems, represented by Frank Flint and Jeff Rouse
- ♦ Tyler, represented by Chris Pearson
- ♦ Security Advisors, represented by Darrin W. Maggy
- ♦ Harry Rundall, FLUKE Networks
- ♦ Norm Anderson, Tybera
- ♦ Ron Timm, Cisco Systems
- ♦ Antonio Luner, Patriot Technologies
- ♦ Manoj Jain, Court Technology

Joseph Lane (CA) moved to adopt the above resolutions. Steve Lancaster (IN) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of Committee Reports:

Penny Miller (ND) moved to adopt all of the committee reports. Frankie Holt (TN) seconded the motion. All present voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

President's Report:

President Pratt-Wyatt said this had been a very rewarding year. She thanked all of the members of all committees for their work. She summarized her activities as President during the year. This included attending the William H. Rehnquist dinner in Washington in November, where she met with various leaders of business and the bar. In January, she attended the Conference of Chief Justices in New York, and all of the committee meetings. Key issues included security, independence of the judiciary, and pro se litigation. In March, she attended the National Summit of the Future of Self-Represented Litigation, where there was discussion of the re-engineering of systems to ensure public access to the appellate courts. The status of appellate court clerks was enhanced at this conference by placement on a valued stakeholders list.

In May, Terry Lord (MO) and she attended the Assembly of Court Organizations in Arlington, Virginia, where she saw some parallel with all of the 36 organizations that were represented. Major national issues were discussed, including certified court interpreters.

Just before this year's annual meeting, Dan Shearouse (SC) attended the next Conference of Chief Justices in Charleston, South Carolina, and Terry Lord (MO) and Fritz Ohlrich (CA) attended the NACOM Conference in San Francisco. Terry Lord briefly commented on the conference, and highlighted the issue of core competencies for court administrators. NACOM is primarily oriented to trial courts.

Terry Lord asked Daniel Schuckers (PA) to provide a summary of the work of the Educational Fund Committee, the meeting of the Executive Committee in Fort Worth in April, and Mike Guilliot's presentation, as summarized in *The Docket*.

President Pratt-Wyatt closed by thanking all of the members for the opportunity to serve as President. She said it was especially rewarding to see all of the work done without a professional staff, and how the members take ownership of their areas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. on August 11, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill DeCicco
NCACC Secretary

Nominations

2006 - 2007

With great pleasure, the Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of Officers and Executive Committee Members:

THOMAS D. HALL (FL)
Vice-President

Tom has been Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida since 2000. He received a B.A. degree from the University of West Florida in 1976. In 1980 he received his J.D. degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

Immediately after graduation from law school, Tom clerked for Judge Daniel S. Pearson on the Third District Court of Appeal. He was then in private practice in Miami for eight years, litigating complex commercial cases at the trial and appellate levels. Tom served as Chief Staff Attorney at the First District Court of Appeal from 1990 - 2000.

Tom served on the NCACC Executive Committee from 2002 to 2004. He has presented at the annual education conference and currently opens each conference with the Morgan Thomas slide show. He hosted the 2005 conference in Key West, Florida.

BESSIE M. DECKER (MD)
Secretary

Bessie has served as Chief Deputy Clerk of the Court of Appeals of Maryland since 1999. She holds an AA degree in Paralegal Studies from Chesapeake College.

Bessie served as Deputy Clerk of the Court of Appeals from 1984 to 1999 and as administrative aide to the Rules Committee from 1983 to 1984. She worked in the medical field before coming to the court.

Bessie has served on the Convention Assistance, Membership, Pictorial Directory, and Resolutions and Memorials Committees. She was Chair of the Awards Committee in 2001-2002 and Chair of the Nominating Committee in 2004-2005. She currently serves on the Executive Committee.

CHRISTINE L. CROW (LA)
Executive Committee

Chris has served as Clerk of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit, in Baton Rouge since 1998. She holds a B.S. in International Trade and Finance, a Master's of Public Administration, and her J.D. from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

She has been a Westlaw representative, served as a budget analyst at the Division of Administration budget office, and was a senior attorney for the Louisiana Senate for Finance and Health & Welfare Committees before joining the court.

She has served on the Technology Committee and was the 2005 Program Chair in Key West at the 32nd Annual Meeting. She will be co-host of the annual meeting in New Orleans in 2007.

JAMES EDWARD PELZER (NY)
Executive Committee

Jim has been Clerk of the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, in Brooklyn since 1999. He holds a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

(Continued from page 11)

He has been employed by the Appellate Division, Second Department, since 1971 when he was admitted to practice in New York. He served as Court Attorney from 1971-1978, Principal Law Clerk to the late Associate Justice Vincent D. Damiani from 1978-1983, Editor in the Decision Department 1983-1985, and Supervisor of the Decision Department from 1985-1999.

He has attended NCACC conferences since Savannah in 2000 and currently serves on the Technology Committee.

COLETTE M. BRUGGMAN (ND)
Executive Committee

Colette has served as Chief Deputy Clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court since August 1992. She is a North Dakota native who received her Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of North Dakota in 1984 with a degree in accounting. She graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1987.

Prior to joining the Clerk's Office, Colette practiced law with the Vogel Law Firm in Mandan, North Dakota, and worked with Legal Assistance of North Dakota in Bismarck.

Colette has been a member of the NCACC since 1994, attending her first Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Collette has served on the Bylaws Committee, Program Committee, Convention Assistance Committee (Chair, 2002), and Technology Committee (Chair, 2003 and 2005).

Respectfully submitted,

Carol G. Green (KS), Chair
Bill DeCicco (DC)
Peter Fitzgerald (LA)
Joseph Lane (CA)
Penny Miller (ND)
Sherry Williamson (TX)
Mike Yerly (CA)



National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks
Conference Schedule
Renaissance Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas
July 30 - August 4, 2006

Saturday, July 29, 2006

8:00 a.m. - noon

Treaty Board Room

Executive Committee Breakfast/Meeting

Officers and Executive Committee Members

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Desk Convention Assistance Committee

Registration

Sunday, July 30, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Conference Registration Desk Convention Assistance Committee

Registration

Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Foyer outside Pecos I

Silent Art Auction to Benefit Education Fund

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pecos I

Roll Call of the States

Welcome New Members & First Time Attendees

Annual Business Meeting (Part 1)

Terry Lord, President, NCACC

Stephanie Lavake, Host Clerk

Andrew Weber, Program Chair

Others TBD

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Pecos I

Break (sponsored by the Appellate Practice

Section for the Houston Bar Association on

behalf of the Texas 1st and 14th Courts of Appeals)

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Pecos I

Ethics

By Chris Griesel

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Room ?

Spouse and Guest Orientation

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Bridge

Reception Honoring NCACC New Members and

First Time Attendees

Hosted by BNA and NCACC

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Pecos I

Morgan Thomas Memorial Slide Show

and close of silent auction. Live auction.

Monday, July 31, 2006

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

Rio Grande

Continental Breakfast

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rio Grande

Terry Lord, President, NCACC
Stephanie Lavake, Host Clerk
Andrew Weber, Program Chair and Others TBD

8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

Rio Grande

Blazing a New Trail: Lessons from Lewis and Clark and the Westward Immigration

By Bob Fagan and Judy Roberts, Federal Judicial Center

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Rio Grande

Individual Development Planning Program

by Angela Long, Federal Judicial Center

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

12:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rio Grande

COOPs/Disaster Planning

by Tom Hall and Chris Crow

3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Buses load and depart for Thomson/West event

4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thomson/West “Fort Worth Stockyards”

*Fort Worth’s Historic Stockyards District
Cattle Drive is at 4:00 p.m. sharp!*

Tuesday, August 1, 2006

7:00 a.m.

don’t know yet

Past Presidents’ Breakfast

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.

Rio Grande

Continental Breakfast

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Rio Grande

Announcements

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Rio Grande

Managing Across Generations

by Bob Fagan and Judy Roberts, Federal Judicial Center

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Rio Grande

Appellate Data Reporting

by Richard Schauffler, Shauna Strickland, and William (Bill) Raftery, NCSC

1:00 p.m.

Annual Golf Tournament

Texas Star Golf Course

afternoon

Vendors Set Up

Wednesday, August 2, 2006

7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

Rio Grande

Continental Breakfast

7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Rio Grande

Announcements

8:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	“What’s Bugging You” Panel <i>with Tom Hall and Andrew Weber</i>
9:25 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.	Break
9:35 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	Website Panel <i>with Rory Perry and Pamela Kopfer, TX Office of Court Administration</i>
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	Vendor/Exhibitor Introductions
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	Vendor Lunch Hosted by Vendors
12:15 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (3 rounds of breakouts): <i>Breakout 1 (Efilng) Bur Oak (with Tom Hall)</i> <i>Breakout 2 (COOP) West Fork I (with Chris Crow)</i> <i>Breakout 3 (what’s bugging you/other)</i> <i>West Fork II (Andrew, Rory, or Pam)</i> <i>Breakout 4 (vendor expo) Rio Grande</i>
1:20 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<i>Breakout 1 (Efilng) Bur Oak (with Tom Hall)</i> <i>Breakout 2 (COOP) West Fork I (with Chris Crow)</i> <i>Breakout 3 (what’s bugging you/other)</i> <i>West Fork II (Andrew, Rory, or Pam)</i> <i>Breakout 4 (vendor expo) Rio Grande</i>
2:25 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	<i>Breakout 1 (Efilng) West Fork I (with Tom Hall)</i> <i>Breakout 2 (COOP) West Fork II (w/ Chris Crow)</i> <i>Breakout 3 (vendor expo) Rio Grande</i>
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Load buses for Lexis event
5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Lexis/Nexis - Texas Motor Speedway
<u>Thursday, August 3, 2006</u>	
6:30 a.m. <i>Meet at front entrance of hotel</i>	Fun Run/Walk
7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	Announcements
9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. <i>Rio Grande</i>	“What Your IT Staff Should be Telling You” <i>Joint session with CATO via satellite feed by CISCO, piped in from CATO’s Dallas hotel</i>
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Rio Grande

Justice Paul W. Green of the Texas Supreme Court to address global tech challenges. This session piped from NCACC to CATO by CISCO.

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Break

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Rio Grande

Annual Business Meeting (Part 2)

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Don't know yet

Reception and Annual Banquet
Speaker: Sheriff J.B. Smith of Tyler, Texas

If needed

Kid's Night Out

Friday, August 4, 2006

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
West Fork I

Breakfast and Critique Session

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!