

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS 2007 NCACC ANNUAL MEETING NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

By Bill DeCicco (DC)

J. O. Sentell Award



In 1979, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks established an award in honor of one of its founding members and first President, J.O. Sentell of Alabama. This is the most prestigious award presented by the NCACC, and it is presented to recognize one member whose distinguished service contributed substantially to the objectives of the Conference. The J.O. Sentell Award for this year was appropriately given to Sherie M. Welch, the retired Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Sherie was appointed Acting Clerk of the Georgia Supreme Court on August 1, 1992. She was sworn in as Clerk on November 16, 1992, and reappointed in December, 1999. Prior to her appointment, she served at the court for 17 years as a law clerk for four justices, including two chief justices. She holds a B.A. from Newton College, a M.A.T. from Duke University, and J.D. from Emory Law School.

Sherie was a co-host for the 2000 conference in Savannah and served as the NCACC Treasurer. She retired from the court on July 31, 2006. The award recognized her significant contributions in managing the Conference's financial and investment affairs, her warm and gracious demeanor, and her willingness to assist members in any way.

Sherie is married to Bill Welch, and they have two children, Hallie and Will.

Morgan Thomas Award

The Morgan Thomas Award was established in 1989 to recognize an individual, other than a regular member of the NCACC, who has made distinguished contributions in enhancing professionalism and supporting the goals of the NCACC. It was named after the Clerk of the Georgia Court of Appeals and one of the members of the first executive committee of the NCACC. This year, the NCACC proudly presented the Morgan Thomas Award to Linda Watson of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit.

For over ten years, Linda has edited and updated the NCACC Directory. This publication is relied upon not only as a directory of the members of the Conference, but also as a source for the Conference's By-Laws, Code of Conduct, Operational Guidelines and many items of historical interest. Initially, she re-typed the entire 500-page Directory to a disk, which now can be used to make changes and enter updates on members and other important items. Her certificate expressed the Conference's profound appreciation and high regard for her contributions.



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THE DOCKET

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

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

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!



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



From The President

Steve Lancaster (IN)



As I sit here facing my blank lap top screen trying to think of something inspirational, motivational, or at least funny to say, I cannot keep from reflecting on what went through my mind as I made the committee assignments. As I worked on the committees I kept thinking about how lucky I am to be associated with such a talented and caring group of professionals and what an honor it is to be president of our conference. If the first seven weeks are any indication for the year, I will be in contact with many of you on almost a daily basis and will need your expertise, guidance, advice, and for sure your support. Thanks for your willingness to work for our conference and for giving me the opportunity to be your president.

Before I go on, a big thanks to Sandra Skinner for a job well done as president for 2006/2007. Sandra has left me a large pair of shoes to fill. Thankfully she has been extremely helpful in getting me off to a quick start.

All of you who had the opportunity to attend the 34th meeting in New Orleans know what a great job our hosts did in handling all the administrative tasks and insuring we enjoyed our stay in New Orleans. A big, big thanks for a job well done to Chris Crow, Pete Fitzgerald, Kelley McNeely, Diana Pratt-Wyatt, Danielle Schott, and John Olivier, our hosts. A special thanks to Tom Hall, the program chair, Rory Perry, the vice chair, and the program committee for putting together a top notch educational program. I would be remiss if I did not also thank the Louisiana Appellate Courts for funding the cost of the emergentics program.

It was decided, based on the executive committee meeting held in New Orleans and the membership discussion held during the business meeting on Thursday, that we would like to have additional proposals for conducting a fund raising campaign for our educational fund. We now have a draft RFP, prepared by Chris Crow, that the executive committee will discuss at its November meeting. I am hopeful that we can have the RFP on the street by December 1.

To demonstrate to potential donors to our education fund that we as an organization carefully manage our funds, Susan Clary, Tom Hall, Marilyn May, and I are scheduled to spend two days at the National Center of State Courts discussing our current financial status and working on creating an annual budget for the conference and a budget for the annual educational program. Before my year as president is complete I hope to have in hand working budgets that I can share with all of you.

Sandra Skinner appointed a special committee after the Dallas Fort-Worth educational program to work with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in developing an appellate case flow chart that would enable the NCSC to collect case statistics from all appellate courts that were meaningful and useful to all our courts. During the New Orleans meeting the special committee, Stuart Cohen, John Olivier, and Jim Pelzer, briefed their work product to the conference. The flow chart and accompanying definitions they developed will now be used by the NCSC to collect appellate court data. You will soon receive a letter from me about the NCSC project and the role you will be asked to play. Please take the time to be an active participant. This an excellent example of how the NCACC can impact national and state issues. Thanks to Stuart, John, and Jim for taking the time out of their busy schedules to make this happen. The special committee will stay in existence and begin to work on a similar flow chart for capital cases and original jurisdiction cases.

With all that I have said above in mind and with the opportunity to make a difference in the judicial community, lets get the year started!

TECHNOLOGY DISASTER

By Joe Aas

The following article is reprinted with permission from the author, Joe Aas who is a 1991 graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Law. Joe practiced at the Gunhus Law Firm in Moorhead, Minnesota until 1995 when he began employment with Software Solutions, Ltd. PC Parts and Supply of Fargo. With PC Parts, Joe is the technology consultant for small businesses including several law firms. PC Parts has twenty-five years of experience working with local law firms on all aspects of office technology including networking, computer hardware and Internet. Joe lives in Fargo, ND with his wife Nancy Morris, also an attorney, and their two daughters. Please feel free to contact Joe at joe@pcparts.net.

What if a technology disaster happened to you?

I've recently been involved first-hand in a couple different types of server crashes that significantly impacted the businesses involved. These events have me thinking that every business relying on computers (can you name one that doesn't?) needs to regularly take a few steps back and think about disaster preparedness. When I mention the term "disaster" I'm sure it conjures up thoughts of fires and floods destroying your office and thus your computer systems. These calamities definitely can happen, but a computer disaster can be much more subtle. Other things that can damage computer systems include power surges or drops or lightning strikes. Or hardware can simply go bad in your server with no advance warning.

The question I would encourage everyone to ask themselves is, "am I prepared in case I have major problems with my computer systems?" In order to answer this question I suggest that you seriously consider what would you do if you suddenly had no data on your office server or if your workstation or notebook computer stopped working. These things can and do happen all too often. Regardless of the size of your office, it is worthwhile to create a disaster plan and put it in writing. The plan should address situations such as a complete loss of data, a loss of Internet connectivity or a loss of your entire office. It is also necessary to actually test as much of the plan as you can to see if it works. One of my clients recently had a minor hardware problem in their server that became a major problem for the office. The hardware needed to be replaced to get the server working, and in the meantime they couldn't work on anything in their office and had no Internet connectivity. This office actually had a written disaster plan, so they began following it. They quickly discovered problems with their plan and it will need to be modified. At least some good came out of the situation in that they were able to learn firsthand about their disaster plan, and what types of improvements will need to be made to it.

Typically, the first line of defense to a disaster is regular backup. I can't emphasize enough the importance of having an outside person evaluate your backup procedures, and make a determination of whether they are sufficient.

Also, you can't have enough redundancy built into your system. Many server systems have multiple mirrored drives for storing data. This helps, but it should not be the only form of backup. I have witnessed on more than one occasion where both drives in a mirrored set go bad at the same time. It is important to have a regular backup routine with several redundant tapes or other backup devices and test them regularly to be sure they actually contain the data you need to safeguard. An outside person should check it over test file restoration to make sure everything works as it is meant to.

A good option in the high-speed Internet age in which we live is online backup. There are many services out there that will store your data in their secured server farms for a monthly fee. You simply sign up with a service, download their software and it will automatically synchronize your data to their storage server over the Internet during off-peak hours. The services will encrypt your data so only you can actually see what it is, therefore it is a very secure backup method. Monthly fees are based on the amount of data that needs stored, and generally begins around \$50 per month. I think that online backup should only be considered a secondary backup, however, because it does have some limitations. If you have a lot of data, and if a complete restore needed to be done from the online source, it could take several days for that data to get completely downloaded over the Internet even on the fastest Internet connection. With today's technology, everyone should consider utilizing online backup, but I do not recommend it as the only backup for critical business data.

My experiences in working with computers in businesses have taught me that problems can happen in an infinite number of ways; I see something new nearly every day. Some of these learning experiences are no fun when the problem causes a business to be down for several days and incur major expenses to get back up and running. Just like we advise our clients to think about estate planning and to prepare wills, I think it is equally important for everyone to think about disaster planning and to put together a workable plan to protect electronic data.

Meet
Keith Hottle



Keith is a native of San Antonio, Texas and was appointed as Clerk of Court for the Texas Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals May 1, 2006. He has 23+ years of combined management and administrative experience in county, state, and federal government, having served the State of Texas in a myriad of administrative and professional capacities: Hearing Officer, Board Analyst, Parole Officer, Director

of Administrative Hearings Section and then Board Administrator of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. Keith also served as Director of the Warrants Section for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

After serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army, Keith returned to college to complete his education.

Keith and his wife, Diana, have two children.

It's Always a Good Day To Help a Child !

By Susan Clary (KY)

Our recent trip to the Crescent City offered each of us a rare opportunity to enjoy the food, fun and ambiance of the French Quarter, along with an opportunity to view the devastation hurricanes Katrina and Rita wrecked upon New Orleans and other nearby communities. Great progress has been made; much is left to do.

While experts continue the debate regarding the best long term solutions for the city, its children grow toward maturity in a vastly different and changed world.

NCACC and CATO joined forces while in New Orleans to raise money for the Hines Charter School. Like many of the schools in New Orleans, Hines Charter has not reopened at its original location. The school has had to move twice since Katrina and during our conference was co-locating with the St. James Major School for the upcoming school year.

With your help, a \$650.00 Office Depot card was presented to Principal Veronica Temple for her students.

It's always a good day to help a child!

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Terry Lord (MO)

The positions for nomination at the 2008 Annual Conference are:

1. Vice-President, currently held by Susan Clary (KY)
2. Secretary, currently held by Bessie Decker (MD)
3. Three Executive Committee positions, currently held by Colette Bruggman (ND), Christine Crow (LA) and James Pelzer (NY)

Nomination forms will be included in the January 2008 edition of ***THE DOCKET***. However, now is the time to begin thinking about potential nominees, including the possibility of self-nomination. The Nominating Committee relies heavily on names suggested by NCACC members. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Terry Lord at 816-889-3600 or by e-mail at tlord@courts.mo.gov.

NCACC AWARDS COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR SUGGESTIONS

The 2007-08 Awards Committee wants your nominations for the **J. O. Sentell Award** and the **Morgan Thomas Award**. These awards will be presented at the 2008 NCACC Annual Conference to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The **J. O. Sentell Award** is given to a member of the NCACC who has contributed substantially to the objectives of the conference, including 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 collecting and dissemination of information and ideas concerning the operation and improvement of the offices of appellate court clerks. (See Article II of the Bylaws.)

This award not only honors the recipient, it also pays homage to a founding member, James Oscar Sentell, Jr. He was born in Alabama in 1909 and practiced law there until 1967, when he was appointed deputy clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court. A year later he became clerk of that court, serving until 1982. He was first president of the NCACC. In a tribute entered into the Congressional Record, Senator Heflin stated: Mr. Sentell made immeasurable contributions to Alabama's justice 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**:

<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>CONFERENCE YEAR</u>
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 Appeals Third District	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 United States	Lexington, KY	1985
Luella Dunn	North Dakota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	Austin, TX	1986
Jean Kennett	Supreme Judicial Court Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Hartford, CT	1987
John Scott	Kentucky Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	Helena, MT	1988

Joline Williams	Georgia Supreme Court	Charleston, SC	1989
Frans LaBranche	Louisiana Supreme Court	Tucson, AZ	1990
Jill Engel	South Dakota Supreme Court	St Louis, MO	1991
Rema Mims	South Carolina Court 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
Glen D. Clark	Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One	Des Moines, IA	1996
William S. Fulton, Jr.	U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, Retired	Point Clear, AL	1997
Ella Williams	Michigan Court of Appeals, Retired	Skamania, WA	1998
Joyce A. Goldsmith	Arizona Court of Appeals, Division Two	Portsmouth, NH	1999
John H. Wilkerson, Jr.	Alabama Court of Appeals	Savannah, GA	2000
R. Keith Richardson	Iowa Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	Newport Beach, CA	2001
Marilyn L. Graves	Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals	Minneapolis, MN	2002
David B. Beach	Supreme Court of Virginia	Asheville, NC	2003
Penny L. Miller	North Dakota Supreme Court	Anchorage, AK	2004
Kenneth J. DeBlanc	Louisiana Court of Appeals, Third Circuit (Retired)	Key West, FL	2005
Joseph Lane	California Court of Appeal Second Appellate District	Ft. Worth, TX	2006
Sherie Welch	Georgia Supreme Court	New Orleans, LA	2007

☆☆☆☆☆

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Let's Get Started!

2007 - 2008 COMMITTEES



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All Past Presidents

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Karen Bramblett (LA)
Kristen Brown (PA)

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Continued

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Kelly McNeely (LA)
Jon Wheeler (FL)
Colette Bruggman (ND) – Executive Committee Liaison

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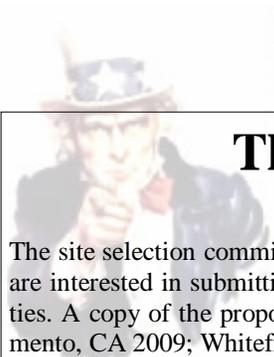
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Jim Pelzer (NY)
Rory Perry (WV) – Executive Committee Liaison



The Site Selection Committee Wants YOU!

By Lisa Matz (TX)

The site selection committee is accepting proposals for the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerk’s 2011 Conference. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please include the location, hotel with rates, meeting space availability, and event possibilities. A copy of the proposal should be sent to each committee member. Future conference sites include Pittsburg, PA 2008; Sacramento, CA 2009; Whitefish, MT 2010.

If you have questions regarding the proposal process, please contact Lisa Matz at lisa.matz@5thcoa.courts.state.tx.us.

This year’s committee members are, Lisa Matz (TX) Chair, Ashley Ahearn (MA), Debbie Autrey (TX), Tee Barnes (GA), Pete Fitzgerald (LA), Trish Harrington (VA), Norm Herring (DC), Kelly McNeely (LA), Jon Wheeler (FL), and Colette Bruggman (ND) Executive Committee liaison.

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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.

Past recipients of the **Morgan Thomas Award**:

1991	Charles Nelson	West Publishing Co.
1992	Justice James Duke Cameron Justice Harry A. Spencer Justice William A. Grimes	(AZ) Retired, (NE) Retired, and (NH) Retired
1995	Sandra M. Roos	American Bar Association
1996	Jane Sanchez Lew Tippet	Bureau of National Affairs Lexis/Nexis
1997	Michael J. Whetstone	West Publishing Co.
2003	Dwight D. Opperman	Former Chief Executive Officer West Publishing Co.
2005	Brenda Stephens	Administrative Assistant Louisiana Court of Appeals, 2 nd Cir.
2007	Linda Watson	Legal Administrative Specialist Louisiana Court of Appeals, 3 rd Cir.

Please complete and return the Awards Committee Suggestion Form by February 14, 2008.

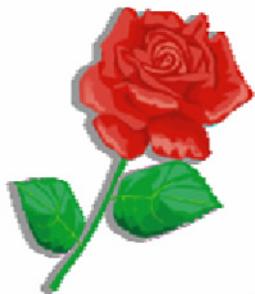
Awards Committee 2007-2008

Ashley Ahearn (MA)
Ed Hosken (DC)
Keith Richardson (IA)

Tee Barnes (GA)
Kathleen Kempley (AZ)
Bill Suter (DC)

Kenneth deBlanc (LA)
Joseph A. Lane (CA)
Laura Roy (MO)

Dallas Alexander Cameron, Jr.



We offer our condolences to Christie Speir Cameron who lost her husband August 13, 2007 after a long illness.

Dallas Cameron was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received his law degree. He served in the FBI and then became the first Training Director for the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts and then worked with the Judicial Standards Commission as their first Executive Director. He was named Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts in 1979 and became Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and served in that capacity until he retired in 1999.

Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

By Leslie Steen (AR)



As most of you know, I deal primarily with fiction and foolishness in this column. Sadly, I must revert to facts this time although there is certainly more than enough foolishness involved, so please bear with me.

When Chris Crow told me we were going to serving hurricanes in New Orleans, I began a quest to get hurricane glasses for the hospitality suite. Having no luck in acquiring them, I got in touch with Pete Fitzgerald, and within minutes, he had the glasses ordered and paid for. I assured him we would take care of paying him back as soon as we got to New Orleans and received the hospitality suite budget. Getting his money back to him became an obsession with me and I almost drove Amy Reitz nuts about it.

On Saturday night, Amy gave me \$221 to give to Peter, which is not a wise thing to do with a man who spends the majority of his waking hours looking for his glasses, car keys, and TV remote. I put the money in my pocket and went looking for Pete. I didn't find him until Sunday morning at registration and I signaled him to come over so I could pay him. He gave me the receipt and I reached in my pocket - the money wasn't there. I frantically started searching my pockets pulling everything out - lighter, knife, room keys, credit cards, lists of things to do (I'm very green), a small chainsaw - no money anywhere. Then I had the most severe panic attack I have ever had - which includes falling out of a boat in the Chesapeake Bay in early March fully clothed, wearing hip boots, with a camera and binoculars around my neck, and experiencing a few rocket attacks while I was in Vietnam.

I rushed off to backtrack where I had been that morning, and I had been a busy man. I went to the elevator and immediately tired to put my credit card into room key slot. I went back to my room and searched, to the front desk and reported the missing money, to the parking deck, to the hospitality suite, to the Cotton Room - and back. Somebody had picked up the money before I could locate it. Of course this was a fruitless search and I dreaded telling Peter and Amy. Later that day, Amy paid Peter and I repaid the hospitality suite budget later in the week.

I will say, if you ever lose anybody's money, make sure it is Peter Fitzgerald's. He was as nice, gracious, and understanding as you would expect Pete to be. But, it was still not a good way to start conference and I agonized over it all week.

It was a long drive home on Friday and I got to my house late in the afternoon and the temperature was hotter than New Orleans. I threw a load of laundry in the washer, played with my dog, had a late dinner, and went to bed. The next morning, I put the clothes in the dryer and when I opened the door, a \$100 bill fell out on the floor, and after carefully searching though the clothes, I had collected \$238 - the last \$100 bill was under the last item of laundry. It was a very happy morning for me.

There are three morals to this story: (1) avoid cameras and binoculars - they are evil and will try to drown you; (2) avoid rocket attacks, they are evil and they will kill you; and, (3) when you get old and forgetful, wash your drawers.



Family and Medical Leave Act

By Jon S. Wheeler (FL)

At our recent NCACC conference in New Orleans, Debbie Brown, Associate Vice President of Legal Affairs and HR at Stetson University College of Law, took some time to share her expertise and insights on that troublesome topic, the Family and Medical Leave Act. Since its enactment in 1993, that law has proved to be a source of great frustration for many employers and us clerks. As Ms. Brown explained, a good portion of that frustration has been attributed to some arguable overreaching by the Department of Labor (DOL) in the crafting of the implementing regulations, several of which have been challenged successfully in court.

Ms. Brown began with an overview of the FMLA basic requirements, taking time to highlight for the group the particularly problematic areas. One of the most prominent areas of concern is that of intermittent or reduced schedule leave. In a recent report she discussed, the DOL has admitted that this option is used far more commonly than originally anticipated, with the DOL estimating that between 8-17% of covered and eligible workers taking FMLA intermittently. That works out to between 6.1 and 13 million people.

A second area of great frustration is how well the advance notification provisions work (or do not), with Mrs. Brown reporting on a recent Society for Human Resource Management research statistic indicated that notwithstanding the 30 day notice requirement provision, more than half (57%) of respondents received less than one week notice for episodic health conditions.

Ms. Brown concluded with a review of what we can expect for the future. Throughout her presentation, she had reported on the results of the DOL's Request for Information ("RFI") in December 2006. Many were aware that the DOL has for years placed the FMLA on its agenda for new rulemaking but new rules have to yet appear. With this RFI, the DOL took the unusual step of collecting and compiling into a single report the experiences and frustrations workers and employers have had with the FMLA. Titled *Family and Medical Leave Act Regulations: A Report on the Department of Labor's Request for Information and issued June 27, 2007*, it contained no proposed revisions to the regulations. As explained by Mrs. Brown, the report highlighted the prevalence with which unscheduled intermittent leave is being taken as well as frustrations by both employers and workers regarding is the medical certification process. That report can be accessed at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmla2007report.htm> and is worth a read.

Mrs. Brown also alerted the group to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's May 2007 issuance of two new documents related to the overlapping area of family care giving. Titled *Enforcement Guidance: Unlawful Disparate Treatment Of Workers With Caregiving Responsibilities* and *Questions and Answers about EEOC's Enforcement Guidance on Unlawful Disparate Treatment of Workers with Caregiving Responsibilities*, these new documents reflect the EEOC's perspective that although federal EEO laws do not prohibit discrimination against caregivers per se, there are circumstances in which discrimination against caregivers might, in the EEOC's view, constitute unlawful disparate treatment. They can be accessed at <http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/caregiving.html> and http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/ganda_caregiving.html We left with the perspective that while regulatory relief does not appear to be on the horizon, at least the session was fast paced and entertaining and we know we are not alone in trying to make the FMLA work for our employees and our courts.

Alabama Appellate Court E-Filing Pilot Program

By Rebecca Oates (AL)

On August 9, 2007, Lane Mann from the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, John Wilkerson from the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, and John Lazenby, Director of Technology for the Alabama appellate courts, made a presentation to the conference on the appellate courts' e-filing pilot project.

E-filing and E-service are easy once the critical issues are determined and software to solve the issues are developed. Some of the critical issues to be considered are:

- (1) the document management system (DMS),
- (2) case management system (CMS),
- (3) integrate DMS with CMS,
- (4) the desire for paper,
- (5) security, and
- (6) availability to the system.

Some of the benefits of e-filing and e-service for the clerks' offices include: reduction in time spent opening, sorting, and date-stamping mail, copying and entering data in the case management system, transporting and retrieving files from the courts and reducing cost of paper and postage concerning releasing of the courts' decisions, orders, and other correspondence. Some of the benefits for the judges and their staffs include having access to the files immediately, and accessibility by multi-users simultaneously.

On October 1, 2007, an appellate court website opened with a DMS that communicates with the CMS for each of the 3 appellate courts. Thus, the Alabama appellate courts now have the capacity to move toward functioning totally in an e-environment. Currently limited to lawyers, who use their bar number as part of their password, the website allows for e-filing of all matters, including writs, motions and briefs. It allows for the appellate courts to issue all notices, orders and decisions by e-notification.

If you want to visit the website, go to www.judicial.state.al.us. John Lazenby has created a

special test appeal system for NCACC members so that you may see the basic functions of our CMS. The instructions are as follows:

You may connect to our test system across the internet. You can create a demo account, e-file a sample document and check the status of a sample case.

1. Using your web browser, go to <http://207.157.124.114>
2. Register as a new user by clicking on the link entitled "Register as a new user?"
3. The system is designed to limit registration to members of the Alabama Bar. You may create a test account using a Bar Id of "00000000" (eight zeros).
4. Once registered, log into the system using the e-mail address and password you provided.

NOTE: We suggest that you use a valid e-mail address for your registration. This will allow you to receive a transaction confirmation by e-service when you upload a sample e-filing.

5. Currently, the ability to check the status of a case is under development. We have created a sample case for your review. To view the sample data, click on the "Status" menu and enter case number 2060121.

Feel free to give us your feedback. We welcome your suggestions.

You may reach John Wilkerson at jwilkerson@appellate.state.al.us or (334) 229-0729; Lane Mann at: lmann@appellate.state.al.us (334) 229-0752, and John Lazenby at jlazenby@appellate.state.al.us or (334) 229-0664.

If you would like to view a copy of the e-filing pilot project rules, they are also found on the website.

NCACC 35th Annual Meeting

By Irene Bissozo (PA)



Get ready for the 35th Annual Meeting in beautiful, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2008 Annual Meeting will be upon us sooner than expected.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 3-8 and join the Pennsylvania delegation in Pittsburgh, PA. Accommodations are being offered at the historic Pittsburg Renaissance Hotel in the heart of the cultural district at the rate of \$109.00.

Pittsburgh is a walking city with the downtown business and shopping areas in close proximity as well as the strip district, known for its restaurants and night-clubs and of course, there are Pittsburgh's sports arenas! The Renaissance Pittsburgh is a 4 diamond, historic landmark hotel that faces the Allegheny River.

Besides an onsite restaurant, there is a wine bar and traditional bar. The hotel recently became non-smoking. The conference rate will be offered Friday, August 1-2, as well as Friday, August 8, depending on availability. Information regarding making of reservations will be made available in a future issue of *The Docket*. More details regarding the hotel can be found at www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pitbr-renaissance-pittsburgh-hotel. If you are unfamiliar with the Pittsburgh area, the Greater Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau offers a site worth visiting at www.visitpittsburgh.com.

Rory Perry (W VA) and the Program Committee are working on an exceptional educational program and beautiful Western Pennsylvania awaits your visit. Future editions of *The Docket* will keep you apprised of more details.





Awards Committee Suggestions Form

J. O. SENTELL AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and give your reasons. (If more space is needed, please attach additional page(s).)

I nominate: _____ No nomination

Reasons: _____

MORGAN THOMAS AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and give your reasons. (If more space is needed, please attach additional page(s).)

I nominate: _____ No nomination

Reasons: _____

Please return this form by February 14, 2008

by FAX ► Laura Roy, Clerk
FAX: (314)539-4324

by E-MAIL ► Laura.Roy@courts.mo.gov

OR by MAIL ▼

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