



THE 44th NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

AUGUST 6 to AUGUST 11, 2017

Leading our Court Communities into the Future

By: Rex Renk (MT)

The NCACC Program Committee is excited to announce that the education program for the 44th Annual Meeting is taking shape with a focus on management and leadership skills. As managers of our appellate court offices and as leaders within our court communities, our role is somewhat unique. We often find ourselves “in the middle” managing the interaction with the public and attorneys on one side and the court and internal staff on the other; not to mention managing our own staff and coordinating with the lower courts. Such a unique position places effective communication, management, and leadership skills at a premium for us to be successful in our roles and it is to that end, that this year’s committee has endeavored to design an education program to help us better meet those challenges.

Before highlighting the daily education sessions, the committee would first like to report the participation of two speakers new to the conference. First, **Scott Harris**, Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, has agreed to make a presentation during the week with a topic yet to be determined. And second, we are excited to announce this year’s *Opperman* speaker will be **Michael J. Gerhardt**, the Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor in Constitutional Law and Government at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Professor Gerhardt has written widely on the subject of law, federal appointments, the legislative process and the constitution. His latest book, *The Forgotten Presidents: Their Untold Constitutional Legacy* was selected as one of the best non-fiction books of 2013 by *The Financial Times*. In addition, Professor Gerhardt has an extensive background in public service, having advised Congress and the White House on a wide range of legal topics. He is the only legal scholar to participate in confirmation hearings for five of the eight current justices on the U.S. Supreme Court. The details of which days and times Mr. Harris and Professor Gerhardt will speak are currently being worked out.

On Monday, August 7, we will have an in-depth presentation from **Bob Lowney**, Senior Manager at Judicial Council of California, who will lead us through an interactive multiphasic personality inventory workshop. It has been ten years since the NCACC has offered one of these evaluations (*Emergenetics* in New Orleans, 2007) and we look forward to having such a dynamic speaker lead us through this engaging and enlightening exercise. Monday afternoon will feature a leadership session on emotional intelligence presented by **Kristine Van Dorsten**, Senior Education Developer for the California courts and Certified Professional Coach, Trainer and Consultant. **Pam Harvitt**, who was the *Opperman* speaker in Snowbird, Utah, will re-join us on Tuesday morning to take us through a program addressing the challenges and tools necessary for managing multi-generational workplaces—a contemporary topic which is becoming increasingly important in our daily work. Tuesday afternoon will feature a session on Labor/Employment Law by **Patti Williams**, Supervising Attorney of the Leadership Services Division of the Judicial Council of California.

Wednesday again will be the technology day featuring the vendor exhibits and showcases. On either side of the vendor show, we are excited to feature two panel presentations which address the important issue of electronic records. The first panel will explore the transfer of electronic trial court records to appellate courts and the second panel will address the critical issue of privacy and access to those and other electronic records. On Thursday, **Tom Hall**, former Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, will present an interactive ethics program exploring, in part, the NCACC’s code of ethics in comparison with other national models.

So, that is a summary sketch of the education program we have developed so far. With the conference still more than six months away, we are still working on finalizing the many details. But, a complete schedule will be available in the next edition of *The Docket*. Finally, I give my sincere thanks to all members of the Program Committee who are working hard to put together an interesting and useful education program for our members. We are excited about this program and hope you share our enthusiasm.

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

IRENE BIZZOSO (PA)

It's hard to believe that the New Year is upon us already. With the fast rate that time is passing the 44th annual meeting of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerk's at Harvey's Lake Tahoe Hotel will be upon us in no time. Never fear though, as all the committees have been diligently working on behalf of the NCACC and preparations are well underway for the Nevada conference.

In late October, the Executive Committee convened at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, the site of the 2018 annual meeting. Host Kevin Lane chose the location well—the hotel on Harbor Island is a mere stone's throw from San Diego International Airport and provides either bay or marina views. The staff is used to hosting meetings and was quite helpful. The Executive Committee

conducted the usual business including, but not limited to, following up on policies and changes adopted during the Annual Business meeting in Denver; discussing the development of the educational and vendor programs for Tahoe; reviewing liaison assignments; and discussing finances. Kevin was able to provide wonderful weather (I know you all know how influential he is, but may not be aware of his true powers). In all seriousness, I have no doubt that the 2018 annual meeting will be well attended and very successful with Kevin as Host and Eileen Fox at the helm as President.

In November, I had the honor and pleasure of representing the NCACC at the 21st Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. As you may recall from past articles, the dinner is held at the Supreme Court of the United States and the award is presented annually to a state court judge “who, in the opinion of the selection committee, possesses the qualities of judicial excellence exemplified by Chief Justice Rehnquist.” This year's recipient was the Honorable Marc C. Carter, Judge of the 28th District Court in Harris County, Texas. Judge Carter is a remarkable and charismatic individual. As a veteran himself and former assistant district attorney, as well as having served as a criminal defense attorney, he recognized the need for a specialized court for Veterans. As a jurist, he formed one of the first Veterans Treatment Courts in Texas which has served as a national model. His example and leadership have apparently led to the establishment of 26 Veterans Treatment Courts in the great state of Texas. Aside from Judge Carter's many family and friends, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and many other jurists were in attendance. I had the pleasure of speaking with many of them including members of other national organizations such as Scott C. Griffith, the President of NACM, as well as Judge Katherine Tennyson, President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

IRENE BIZZOSO (PA) *(Continued)*

December brought the mid-year meeting of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). I was able to meet and converse with many of your state's counterparts and learned that clerks are not alone in some of their daily concerns and challenges. Concepts that concern each of us in our roles were prevalent. Access, fairness, public trust, best practices, efficient and relevant data collection were amongst these timely topics. While many involved the trial courts, these concepts do not stop there and are acutely relevant to the appellate world and the administration of justice. As it has been said many times of the NCACC, the knowledge shared amongst colleagues and within our educational conferences aids the development of skills necessary to accomplish our goal of improving the administration of appellate courts. Shared insights can lead to real solutions.

While some of our committees have been very busy leading up to the New Year, such as our superb program committee, others are only ramping up now given their charges and all will report their accomplishments in time for the Executive Committee's spring meeting in April.

I want to thank all of you for what you bring to the NCACC. Without your participation, support, and vision, we would not be the force we are. I know it can get harder and harder each year to juggle the various aspects of your professional careers and your personal lives with the voluntary commitment to this organization, and I appreciate all that do so. I know it is worth it and hope you believe that too.

Wishing you all a healthy and productive 2017.

Respectfully,

Irene M. Bizzoso President.

NCACC ON TWITTER!

If you have a Twitter account, please make sure to follow us—our username is @NCACCCorg. If you tweet a matter of interest to the Conference, please make sure to include @NCACCCorg in your tweet. Hashtags also provide an easy way for us to share photos and information with each other. If you post pictures to social media (Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram) during our annual meetings or if you ever have a picture that might be of interest to the membership, please include the hashtag #NCACCCorg with your pictures so we can all enjoy them.



*By: Brian Cotta
CIO / Assistant CEO
California Court of Appeal, Fifth District*

Court constituents, including Justices, Judges, Administrators, CIO's, management, vendors and others around the country and even some from other countries, congregated for [e-Courts 2016](#) at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas in mid-December 2016. The Cosmopolitan was a new choice in location for the e-Courts conference and proved to be an exceptional venue with its central location on the strip, proximity to the airport and huge conference center; the success of the location has poised itself to be the selected venue for the e-Courts 2018 conference.

For the second time in history (last time being 2014), the e-Courts conference was completely sold out for both attendees and exhibitors, well in advance of the registration deadline. For all of the plenary sessions, there was an overflow viewing room setup so that attendees had more room to spread out and could watch a video feed of the event on large screens. Additionally, folks who could not or did not attend the conference in-person were able to stream much of the content and sessions live online.

The conference would be remiss if there was not content centered around CMS and e-filing. However, e-Courts 2016 brought on a new twist of interesting topics such as disruption of normality, change adoption, modern website design and resources, as well as focusing on self-help, project management and collaborative eco-systems. The key theme of the entire conference gravitated around positive disruption and how technology is the force field driving new directions, strategies and offerings by courts. The "new workforce" and data management/analytics were two captivating topics that resonated with many. My colleagues and I found these "newer" topics to be engaging and extremely relevant. Another interesting topic at this conference was a presentation by the winners of the [CourtHack](#) (hackathon) 2016 that was held in Salt Lake City, Utah in March. The charge of the hackathon was for talented young programmers to gather and kick-start innovation and create usable software programs/apps for courts to use and expand upon.

The conference was kicked-off by keynote speaker Gary Marchant, a professor from Arizona who talked about the importance of and need for change, technology revolutions, consumption adoption rates, and, lastly, emerging technologies and increasing types of electronic evidence relevant to courts and the justice system.

The Court Information Technology Officers Consortium ([CITOC](#)) held its annual meeting the day before the conference and contributed to the topics around disruption. Information Technology leaders are encouraged to join and get involved with CITOC.

The next Court Technology related conference coordinated by the National Center for State Courts ([NCSC](#)) will be the Court Technology Conference ([CTC](#)) scheduled for September 12-14, 2017, in Salt Lake City, Utah. CTC and e-Courts leap frog each other year-after-year, with CTC being the larger event, typically inclusive of breakout sessions and education tracks geared toward certain interests and topics.

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS REQUESTED

Nominations for the **J.O. Sentell Award** and the **Morgan Thomas Award** are being sought by the 2016-2017 Awards Committee. These awards will be presented at the 2017 NCACC Annual Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

James Oscar Sentell, Jr. was a founding member and the first president of the NCACC. **The J.O. Sentell Award** is given to a NCACC member who has contributed substantially to the objectives of the conference by 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 the collection and dissemination of information and ideas concerning the operation and improvement of the offices of appellate court clerks. (See Article II of the Bylaws)

The Morgan Thomas Award is given in recognition of an individual who is not a member of the NCACC, but who has made significant contributions to professionalism and supports the goals of the NCACC, as a body and of its members individually.

Past recipients of both awards are listed in the NCACC Directory and on the NCACC website. Last year's recipient of The J.O. Sentell Award was Bill DeCicco, Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (DC). Last year's recipient of the Morgan Thomas Award was Karyn Bowie of Bloomberg BNA.

Award Committee Members:

Deana Williamson (Chair) (TX), Lillian Richie (EC Liaison) (LA), Bill DeCicco (DC), Ed Hosken (VA), Marilyn May (AK), Meredith Montgomery (AK), Ruth Willingham (AZ),

AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

J.O. SENTELL AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and provide your reasons.

I nominate: _____

Reasons: _____

MORGAN THOMAS AWARD

Please make your recommendation below and provide your reasons.

I nominate: _____

Reasons: _____

If more space is needed, you may attach a separate page.

Please submit the Awards Nomination Form no later than March 1, 2017 to:

Deana Williamson

Email: deana.williamson@txcourts.gov

Mail: Court of Criminal Appeals, P.O. Box 12308, Austin, TX 78711

or Fax: 512-463-7061.

Scholarship Assistance Available for 44th Annual Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada

If lack of funding from your court may prevent you from attending our annual conference, please apply for a scholarship! Scholarship funds are available to promote attendance at our annual meetings by members who otherwise would be unable to attend. In some years, we do not award all of the funds available for scholarships, so do not hesitate to apply.

Funding may be requested for transportation and lodging, and the registration fee may be waived. You may request a full or partial scholarship. If you apply and later find that full or partial funds are available to you from your court, please inform the scholarship committee so we can help as many applicants as possible.

The application is posted on the NCACC website and is included in this issue of *The Docket*. Scholarship award criteria are detailed in the scholarship committee's operational guidelines, found in the NCACC directory.

Please submit your application to Nikiesha Cosby, National Center for State Courts, by May 1, 2017. Nikiesha's email and mailing address are on the application form. If you have questions about the process, please contact committee chair Marilyn May at mmay@akcourts.us.

Scholarship Application

44ND ANNUAL MEETING

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

August 6-11, 2017



National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

If the lack of funding may prevent you from attending the annual meeting held in Lake Tahoe this year, please consider applying for a scholarship. Scholarship funds are awarded as a means of promoting attendance at annual meetings of the NCACC by members who would otherwise be unable to attend. Scholarship money may be used for transportation and lodging expenses. If you apply for a scholarship and later discover that your court will fund part or all of your trip, please advise the Scholarship Committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marilyn May, Scholarship Committee Chair, at mmay@akcourts.us or (907) 264-0606.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please review the scholarship selection criteria outlined in the NCACC directory (Scholarship Committee Operational Guidelines). Completed application should be sent to Nikiesha Cosby at the National Center for State Courts **by May 1, 2017.**

Please complete form and return to:
Nikiesha Cosby: ncosby@ncsc.org

Or mail to Nikiesha Cosby:
National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185

FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING IN LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA – AUGUST 6-11, 2017

Name: _____

Title: _____

Employing Court: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Are you an NCACC member in good standing? Yes No

Total number of NCACC members employed by your court: _____

Is your court offering any funding for your attendance at the Annual Meeting? Yes No

If yes, what amount? _____

Are there any restrictions on these funds? Yes No

If yes, please list the restrictions: _____

Did or will your court fund your attendance at other educational programs during the twelve months immediately preceding the 2017 Annual Meeting? Yes No

If yes, please identify the program(s) and total amount expended: _____

Is your court funding the attendance of other staff at the NCACC annual conference? Yes No

If so, how many? _____

Have you or another member of your office received a scholarship within the past five years? Yes No

If so, who and when? _____

What amount of financial assistance are you seeking from NCACC: _____

TRAVEL

List the estimated fare for economy or coach airline ticket: _____

-OR-

List the total roundtrip mileage from your home to the conference site: _____
(mileage reimbursement rate will be determined by the Executive Committee)

LODGING

Number of nights: _____ Rate per night: _____

REGISTRATION FEE

Are you requesting a waiver of the \$400 conference registration fee? Yes No

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please explain why you believe you should receive a scholarship. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

I hereby certify that the foregoing answers are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I acknowledge my obligation to keep the NCACC apprised of any changes in my funding status that might affect my eligibility for scholarship assistance. I understand that my attendance at all education sessions is required should I receive scholarship assistance.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

NOMINATION FORM

Officers and Executive Committee
2017-2018

The deadline to submit nominations is March 1, 2017

Office of Vice-President: _____

Presently held by: Daniel E. Shearouse (SC)

Office of Treasurer: _____

Presently held by: Janet Johnson (AZ) (appointed to an unexpired term; eligible for nomination to her own term)

Executive Committee Position 1 (2-year term): _____

Presently held by: Lillian Richie (LA)

Executive Committee Position 2 (2-year term): _____

Presently held by: Jenny Abbott Kitchings (SC)

Executive Committee Position 3 (2-year term): _____

Presently held by: Jakob Trierweiler (AZ)

Executive Committee Position 4 (1-year term): _____

Presently held by: Christopher A. Prine (TX) (appointed to an unexpired term; eligible for nomination to his own term)

Your participation in the nominations process is vital to the well-being and growth of the NCACC. The Nominating Committee actively seeks nominations from all members and relies heavily on those nominations in determining the proposed slate of officers. Feel free to submit a partial list of nominations if you do not have suggestions for every position. Consider nominating yourself, if you are willing to serve. Do what you can, but please do something.

Please e-mail nominations to:

Colette M. Bruggman (CA)

Colette.Bruggman@jud.ca.gov