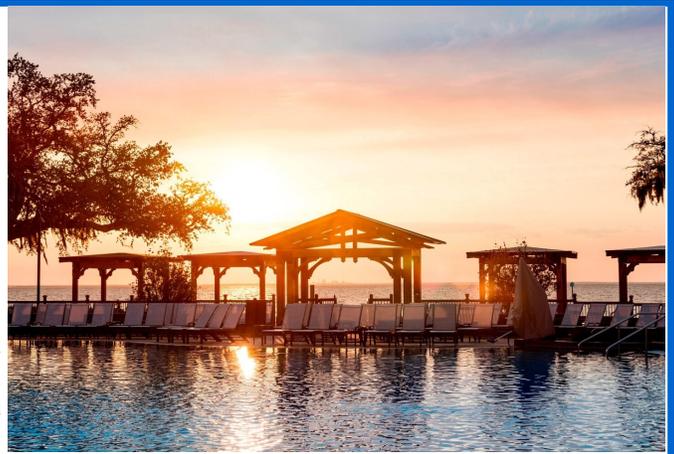




### THE 47th NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA AUGUST 2-AUGUST 7, 2020 Scott Mitchell, Host



It is hard to believe that we are a little more than seven months away from convening at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama, on August 2-7, 2020, for the 47th Annual Meeting of the NCACC. It seems like we just unpacked our bags from Lexington!

On Monday evening, we will make our way to Mobile for an evening of music, food, and fun in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom of the historic Battle House Hotel. On Wednesday evening, we will go to Gulf Shores to stick our toes in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico as we enjoy an evening along the sugar-white sands of Alabama's beaches.

Chris Prine (TX) and the Program Committee have been hard at work planning an informative education program that will be of benefit to us all. Speaking of the education program, I hope everyone will be on the lookout for great items to donate for the Sunday night silent auction, as well as saving up your money to bid on those items! It is largely through our members' generosity at the silent auction that we are able to experience an outstanding education program year in and year out as well as provide scholarship assistance for members to attend.

I hope everyone will take the opportunity to bring your family or friends with you to Alabama. There is enough to do at the Grand Hotel to keep you busy the entire week. However, I want to share with you some great adventures you or your family may wish to consider taking while in Alabama:

- Go to the beach. Spend the day on the beaches at [Gulf Shores and Orange Beach](#). If you have a desire for live music and good times while you are at the beach, go to the world-famous [Flora-Bama](#).
- If you are looking for something more educational take a trip to [Fort Morgan](#), and then take the ferry over to Dauphin Island to see [Fort Gaines](#). Both of these forts played important roles in the Battle of Mobile Bay. While on Dauphin Island, check out [Dauphin Island Sea Lab](#).
- Plan a day in Mobile. Mobile is home to the [USS Alabama](#) and has some great museums such as the [GulfQuest](#), the [Mobile Carnival Museum](#), and the [History Museum of Mobile](#). Check out [Historic Oakleigh](#) or go see the beautiful [Bellingrath Gardens and Home](#).

Check out the many things to do in nearby [Pensacola, Florida](#). While there visit the magnificent [National Naval Aviation Museum](#). If you schedule your visit right, you can see the [Blue Angels practice](#).

If you are a literary buff, make the two-hour drive to Monroeville, Harper Lee's hometown and the basis of Maycomb in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*. Visit the old [Monroe County Courthouse](#), the setting of the courtroom scene in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Make your plans to join us in Sweet Home Alabama!

## Inside This Edition:

- 47th Annual Conference** Page 1  
*Scott Mitchell, Host (AL)*
- The President's Page** Pages 3-4  
*Laura Roy (MO)*
- Retirement Notices** Page 5
- E-Filing and Electronic Courts—The Twilight Zone?** Pages 6-13  
*Tom Hall*
- Call for Nominations for Officers and EC Members** Pages 14-15  
*Deana Williamson*
- Nominations for J.O. Sentell And Morgan Thomas Awards Requested** Page 16  
*Lillian Richie*
- Scholarship Assistance** Pages 17-19  
*Amy Funderburk*

## THE DOCKET

### News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

---

- President: Laura T. Roy (MO)
- President-Elect: Edythe (Eydie) Gaiser (WV)
- Vice-President: Larry Royster (MI)
- Past-President: Daniel E. Shearouse (SC)
- Secretary: Sherry Williamson (TX)
- Treasurer: Jim Hivner (TN)
- Executive Committee: Debbie Autrey (TX)  
Timothy A. Gudas (NH)  
Greg Hilton (MD)  
Meredith Montgomery (AK)  
Renee Simien (LA)  
Deana Williamson (TX)

### Communications Committee

- Doug Robelen (VA) 804.786.6492  
Editor [drobelen@vacourts.gov](mailto:drobelen@vacourts.gov)
- Sherry Williamson (TX)  
Assistant Editor  
[sherry.williamson@txcourts.gov](mailto:sherry.williamson@txcourts.gov)
- Clarissa Hodges (TX)  
Chair  
[clarissa.hodges@txcourts.gov](mailto:clarissa.hodges@txcourts.gov)
- Bowen Greenwood (MT)  
[Bowen.greenwood@mt.gov](mailto:Bowen.greenwood@mt.gov)
- Meredith Montgomery (AK)  
[mmontgomery@akcourts.us](mailto:mmontgomery@akcourts.us)
- Mary Beth Kuenzel (FL)  
[kuenzelm@flcourts.org](mailto:kuenzelm@flcourts.org)
- Greg Pachmayr (IN)  
[greg.pachmayr@courts.in.gov](mailto:greg.pachmayr@courts.in.gov)
- Deana Williamson (TX)  
[deana.williamson@txcourts.gov](mailto:deana.williamson@txcourts.gov)

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

LAURA ROY (MI)



Last week Missouri experienced snow, freezing drizzle and snow days, and this week it is sixty (60° F) degrees and my fellow St. Louisans are jogging in T-shirts and shorts. Throw in a little flooding and welcome to life in Missouri as 2019 closes and 2020 begins.

## Alabama

I drafted my first President's Page in October, just after the Executive Committee's fall board meeting in Portland, Oregon, the site of our 2021 conference. Our next annual conference will be August 2-7, 2020, in Point Clear, Alabama, at the Grand Hotel, which also served as the site of our 1997 conference. It is never too early to start planning for August! Our host, Scott Mitchell (AL), has been working hard to plan for another outstanding conference. You do not want to miss this conference at this historic and grand hotel, so add these dates to your calendar now and watch for further information from Scott.

Chris Prine (TX) and the Program Committee have already scheduled conference speakers, David Fram and Gary Marchant. Mr. Fram will conduct a two-hour session on the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Mr. Marchant will provide a futuristic look at the judicial system. NCACC members Brian Cotta (CA) and Amy Wood (AZ) will present at the conference, and the *What's Bugging You* session is once again on the agenda. Greg Hilton (MD) will provide an update on the E-Filing White Paper, and Larry Royster (MI) and John Olivier (LA) will have a panel discussion on E-filing for incarcerated filers.

## Rehnquist Dinner

Since the fall board meeting, President-Elect Eydie Gaiser (WV) and I had the privilege to represent the NCACC at the William H. Rehnquist Award Reception and Dinner held at the Supreme Court of the United States in November 2019. Judge Duane Slone of the Circuit Court of Tennessee's Fourth Judicial District was selected to receive this award for his ground-breaking work helping people with opioid use disorder. The judge simply described himself as a "mountain person" from east Tennessee who "meets people where they are." However, those who spoke of him that night described him as a judge who takes steps to help defendants with opioid use disorder and who creates programs to help free them from their addiction (The Recovery Cabin, the Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy for those not eligible for drug courts, and the partnership with the Tennessee

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

LAURA ROY (*Continued*)

Department of Health). What most impressed me, however, was the introduction of his nine-year-old son, Joseph. Judge Slone and his wife adopted Joseph as an infant who was born suffering from withdrawal as a result of his birth mother's opioid use. Joseph was present at the dinner, and the boy received a standing ovation. Talk about a mountain person from east Tennessee walking the walk! The opioid epidemic has affected everyone in this country in one way or another, and this award to Judge Slone was well deserved.

## Committee Updates

In this issue, you will see articles from the Nominating, the Scholarship, and the Awards, Resolutions and Memorials Committees. Please take this opportunity to consider your NCACC colleagues. I encourage you to nominate members to serve on the Executive Committee. Deana Williamson is the chair of the Nominating Committee, and she would love to hear from you. Lillian Richie and Doug Shima are seeking nominations for the J.O. Sentell Award and the Morgan Thomas Award. Last year, the amazing Sherry Williamson received the Sentell Award, and you will find a list of past Sentell recipients in the NCACC Directory. The Scholarship Committee also has an article in this issue. If the lack of funding prevents you from attending the Alabama conference, please consider applying for a scholarship. If you have further questions, please contact Amy Funderbunk (NC), the chair of this committee. The Site Selection Committee, chaired by Tom Hall (FL), is hard at work to make a recommendation for the 2023 conference. As you can see, the NCACC is a member-run organization, and I cannot express my gratitude enough for the members who serve on all the committees. They work very hard, and the members are why this organization is strong.

## Spring Executive Meeting

Finally, the Spring Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020, here in St. Louis. I am honored to host the Executive Committee in the city where I have worked for 28 years. (I also intend to feed the committee toasted ravioli, gooey butter cake, frozen custard, and thin crust pizza.) If there are any questions or concerns that you think the Executive Committee should consider, please do not hesitate to contact me before April. As I have said before, I am deeply honored to serve as the president of this wonderful organization and I am very humbled by your faith in me. I do hope to see you this August in Alabama.

## **RETIREMENT NOTICES**



Congratulations to our newest batch of retirees! May each of you enjoy a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement:

**Eileen Fox** – Eileen, a past president of the NCACC, retired effective December 31, 2019, as Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire. She has been succeeded as Clerk by fellow NCACC member Tim Gudas (Congrats, Tim!). In a recent email, Eileen related, “The NCACC has been so important to me during my years as clerk. As a clerk from a small state, the information, guidance and friendship that members generously offered was invaluable and reassuring.”

**Penny Miller** – Penny retired as Clerk of the North Dakota Supreme Court, effective January 1, 2020. Penny served her Court for over 30 years, including over 27 years as the Clerk. In addition to memories, Penny is “taking down the plaque commemorating the J.O. Sentell Award which I received in 2004.” Penny says she will “fondly remember the NCACC as an organization, as well as the people I have met through the years. As a 32-year-old Clerk of the Supreme Court, the NCACC and its members provided me with seminars and professional experiences I could not have received elsewhere.”

**Susan Clary** – Susan, the host of our recent conference in Lexington, has announced her retirement as Clerk of the Supreme Court of Kentucky. Susan tells us that, “[f]or over 30 years it has been my true honor to serve as the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Kentucky and as a NCACC member. I thank each of you for the opportunity to have worked beside you doing the important work of this organization and for your dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our nation’s court systems.”



# **E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? Tom Hall<sup>1</sup>**

The 1960's TV Show "The Twilight Zone" was famous for surreal story lines with plot twists and surprises throughout the story. The line "Imagine, if you will" is often attributed to the show and the internet is full of memes around that phrase, usually with a picture of the show's creator and narrator, Rod Serling, as the background. State courts across the country have indeed "imagined, if you will," something else very surreal – state-wide true electronic filing and fully electronic courts. Just like the stories from "The Twilight Zone," the route to that goal has been filled with many twists and surprises.

In 2010, NCACC published a White Paper detailing the state of electronic filing in state appellate courts across the nation. True e-filing, as defined in the paper, was in use sporadically at best. E-filing then consisted mostly of email.

The 2010 Report was updated in 2014 and significant progress had been made. This year, the Technology Committee has agreed to once again update the study. The Committee will soon reach out to all state court members and ask that everyone report on where their court is on the transition to true e-filing and electronic courts. Both the 2010 and 2014 reports can be found on NCACC's web site.

This article, focusing on where Florida is on the Supreme Court of Florida's 2010 announced goal of having the Florida court system be fully electronic, is intended as context that hopefully will help people better understand how to respond to the survey when it is sent out. The first step in fully electronic courts is e-filing.

Florida now has, with one principal exception, a single statewide E-filing Portal. With a single username and password, a registered user can file from anywhere in the world where there is access to the internet to any court in Florida. In fact, attorneys must use the Portal to file. Self-represented litigants may use the system but it is not mandatory for them.

The system is simple to use. One simply goes to the System's web site: [www.myflcourtagency.com](http://www.myflcourtagency.com), and then clicks on the File Now button.

---

<sup>1</sup> Tom Hall is a former Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida. He served from 2000 until 2013. Tom currently is Of Counsel with the Bishop & Mills law firm in Florida with offices in Tallahassee and Jacksonville. Tom practices exclusively appellate practice. Tom is also President of TLH Consulting Group LLC and provides consulting services for those doing business with Florida's court system. In that capacity, Tom is a consultant with the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority which runs Florida Courts E-Filing Portal. He was previously a member of the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board of Directors.

# E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)*



That takes you to the filing page, which provides the page where you sign in.



## News & Information

- 12/30/2019 Check out the new Civil Cover Sheet effective January 1, 2020. <https://youtu.be/7gJFBIcyqps>
- 12/09/2019 All Portal accounts in a pending activation status for longer than 72 hours have been deleted.

Welcome to the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal

Help  

## Login

\* Required Field

\* User Name:

\* Password:

I'm not a robot



[Sign In](#)

[Forgot User Name?](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)

## **E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)***

Once signed in, filers are given the choice of filing a new case or filing something in an existing case. From there, that choice takes the filer to a page geared specifically to that sort of filing. The filer is required to fill out information about themselves, others in the case, and the type of document being filed. Once they hit File, the document is sent to the Portal, which automatically date and time stamps the document, and then sends it to the appropriate clerk's office around the state where it is placed in a docketing queue. That all happens within seconds. The Portal also serves the other parties and attorneys by email and sends a receipt to the filer for the filing. When the local clerk's office docketed the document, another receipt is sent acknowledging the docketing. And if there are fees involved, a receipt for the paid fees is produced and sent to the filer.

The system is actually multiple systems that work together to make it appear as one system. There is a payment module, a service module, and a separate system for appellate and trial courts, although few people realize that.

As background, Florida has a four-tiered court system. There are two levels in the trial courts (county and circuit) and two levels in the appellate courts (district courts and the Supreme Court). There are five intermediate appellate courts, divided into five districts. For most cases, those courts are the courts of last resort. Florida has a Supreme Court and like many Supreme Courts, it has limited jurisdiction.

Currently, case initiation in criminal courts cannot be done through the Portal. This restriction was actually requested as an exception by the criminal bar, particularly state attorneys and public defenders. Prior to implementation of the Portal, local court systems had developed systems that allowed state attorneys, law enforcement officers (who initiate most criminal proceedings in Florida directly based on an arrest affidavit) and public defenders to file electronically directly into the local clerk case management system. Those filers did not want to be required to file through the Portal until the Portal could replicate the full capability of all those systems, or the local system could adapt their CMS to accept such pleadings directly from the Portal. There is currently a court committee working on developing criminal case initiation capability through the Portal.

There has also been a growing demand to take advantage of the Portal's capability to expand its use to court system partners like the Department of Corrections (to send prisoner commitment packages), Driver's license offices (to send completion of driver's license school) and others.

Florida is the third most populous state in the country. The original agreement to build the Portal required it to have a capacity for handling 5,000,000 filings. But the numbers being filed quickly exceeded that, and the current filing volumes would be difficult to imagine, if they were not actually happening.

## E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)*

Below is a chart documenting the filings through the Portal for November of 2019 (the last stats currently available that have been converted into a usable chart).



### November E-Filing Stats

Recipients	Number
Submissions to Trial Court	1,353,467
Submissions to Department of Corrections	716
Submissions to District Courts of Appeal	11,714
Submissions to Florida Supreme Court	1,051
Submissions to Bureau of Vital Statistics	718
Submissions to Reception and Medical Center	240
<b>Total E-Filing Submissions</b>	<b>1,367,906</b>
Total Individual Documents Submitted	1,993,544
Total Number of Pages	9,957,429

\*\* October 2019 had the highest number of monthly submissions to date at 1,655,874

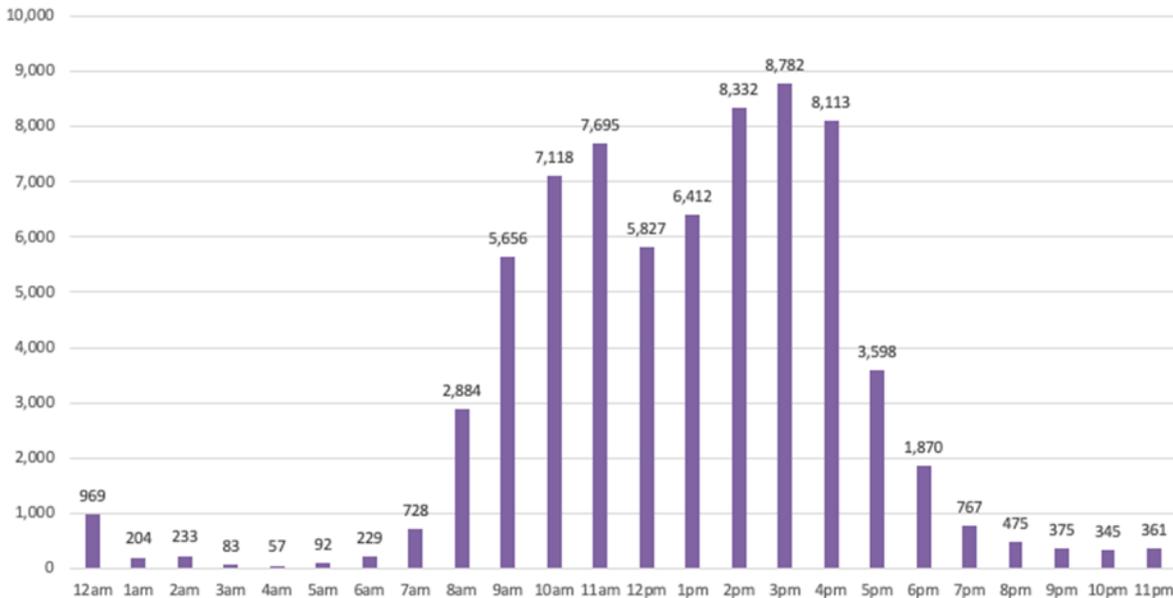
There were more than 1.3 million filings in November. The October filings, which the chart notes were the highest number of monthly filings to date since Portal use became mandatory for attorneys in April 2013, calculates to be right at 2,300 filings an hour or 38 filings a minute.

Of course, the filings do not come in consistently over the 24 hours, 30 days in a month model. Although the system is available 24/7/365, as the below chart shows, most filings are still filed during the traditional workday. The highest volume usually occurs between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Between 3:00 and 4:00 pm in November, for example, filings were coming in at a rate almost 2.5 a second.

## E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)*



### November Average # of Filings Per Hour



The monthly filings are fairly consistent and thus the yearly totals are large as well. See the page below from the Portal's Annual Report. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year there were more than 25,000,000 documents filed, consisting of over 119,000,000 total pages. One other thing the Portal does is provide automated service on the other parties and attorneys, and substantial savings have inured to the litigants in saved postage costs.

Although electronic filing for self-represented litigants is optional, many do use the Portal. There are currently almost 150,000 self-represented litigants registered to use the Portal. In addition to attorneys and self-represented litigants, the system has many other participants in the court system who may file using the system based on user roles. Process servers, court reporters, mental health professionals, and mediators are just a few of the user role-authorized filers.

Florida's system is two way and judges can issue orders and opinions through the same system. There are also third party vendors authorized to do batch filing (large volume of filings through a single filing on behalf of others through the same system).

# E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? (Continued)

## NUMBERS

( JULY 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2019)

The Florida Courts E-Filing Authority is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors consisting of eight Clerks of the Circuit Court and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, which serves as the Chief Justice's designee on behalf of the state and appellate courts. The Board is responsible for leading the public agency tasked with providing a statewide access point for the electronic access and transmission of court records to and from the courts.

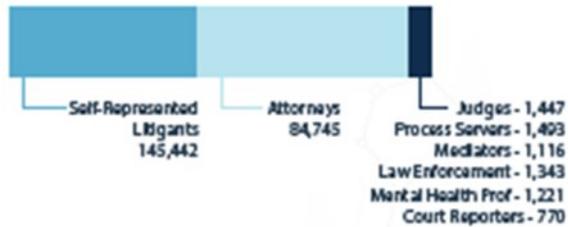
**17,196,291**  
SUBMISSIONS

**25,536,041**  
DOCUMENTS

**119,481,211**  
PAGES

**247,949** TOTAL FILER  
ACCOUNTS

**47,756** HELP DESK  
CALLS



## ENHANCEMENTS



### STATE AGENCY INTEGRATION

Implemented the ability to send the full commitment packets to the Florida Department of Corrections.



### VIRUS PROTECTION

Initial virus scanning of all filed documents was integrated into the portal to protect filers from malware and other malicious threats.



### USER EFFICIENCIES

Increased file size to 200 MB for appellate and Supreme Court filings, created ability for filers to create "favorites" lists, and made uploading documents quicker.

E-Service Notices  
saved filers  
approximately  
**\$30,270,174**  
in postage  
costs from  
2014-2019

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)*



### “Active” Portal Users by Filer Role in November

Filer Role	# of Accounts	# of Submissions	% of Submissions
Attorneys	79,051	1,131,782	82.7%
Judicial Filers	1,203	131,453	9.6%
Process Servers	1,395	30,218	2.2%
Self-Represented Litigants	147,208	10,794	0.8%
Law Enforcement	1,395	10,084	0.7%
State Agent	399	21,257	1.6%

The numbers for appellate courts make up a relatively small percentage on the total numbers, but are significant for appellate courts.

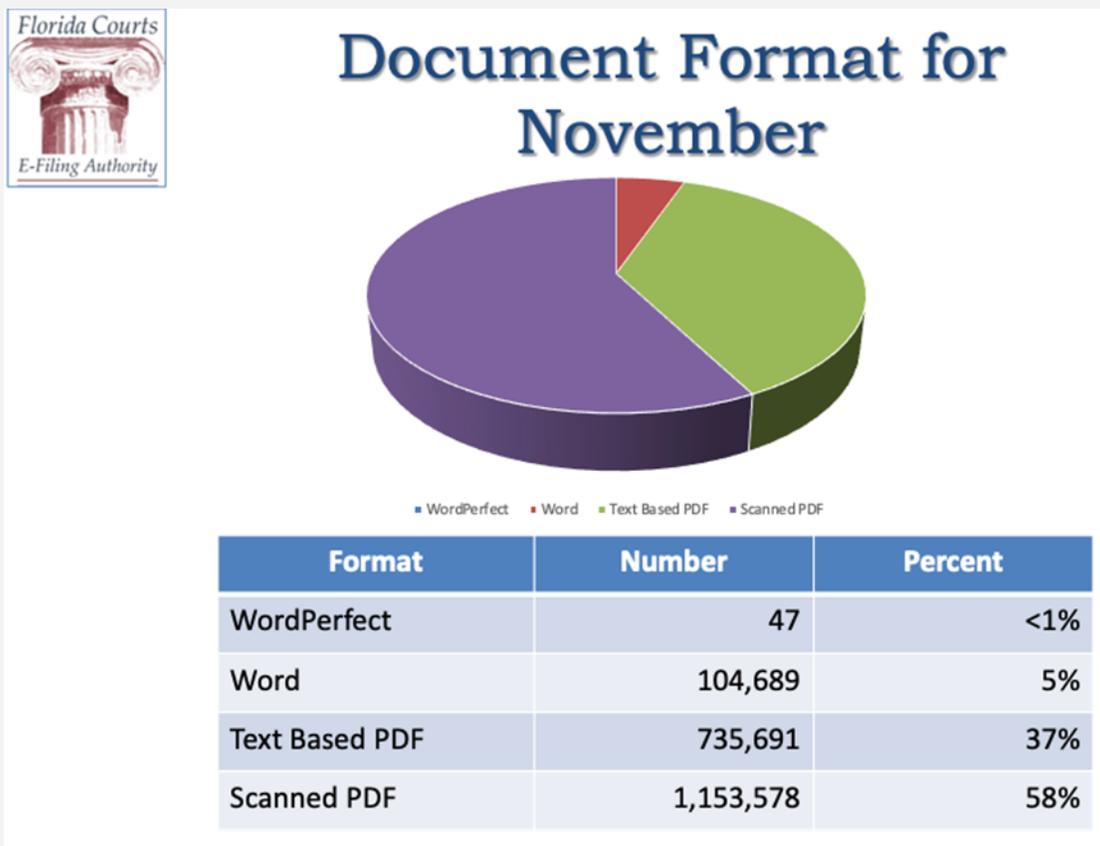


### DCA & FSC November Stats

District Courts of Appeal	Submissions	Documents	Pages
1 <sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeal	2,263	2,957	188,598
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Court of Appeal	2,783	3,200	139,032
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Court of Appeal	1,526	1,979	228,310
4 <sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeal	2,490	2,985	274,093
5 <sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeal	2,652	3,127	177,453
The Florida Supreme Court	1,051	1,303	21,590

## **E-Filing And Electronic Courts – The Twilight Zone? *(Continued)***

Soon the system will require that filers file in a format called PDF A2 but now the Portal accepts filings in standard word processing formats Word and WordPerfect, and people do file in each.



But what makes Florida’s Portal unique is that it is run by clerks and not judges. The Portal is operated through an interlocal agreement between all the clerks of court of the state. The Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court is a signatory as clerk and on behalf of the Chief Justice, but the Portal is operated through Florida Courts E-Filing Authority. The Authority is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Supreme Court Clerk and 8 trial court clerks. Although the Supreme Court Clerk has some veto power of a few key issues, for the most part the Supreme Court Clerk’s Role is no different than the other clerks.

Florida also has a Florida Court Technology Commission. That group, consisting of judges, clerks, court administrators, technical personnel, and attorneys, sets forth, for the most part, the technical standards for the Portal and other technical operations for the Courts system.

Fully electronic courts remain a long way off in Florida. Self-represented litigants can still file in paper. Lots of original documents, like wills, continue to be filed in paper. But the bottom line is that Florida’s system, despite lots of twists and surprises along the way, is moving toward being fully electronic.

**Call for Nominations for  
Officers and Executive Committee Members  
Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2020**

The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the following offices:

Office of Vice-President, Secretary, and Executive Committee Members

As you know, the success of NCACC is dependent on its members participating and serving in any way possible. Please take time to think about who could be an effective leader for each position listed. You may also nominate yourself. To be eligible to serve as an officer, the member must be a “regular” member in good standing for the two years preceding the election. After receiving and reviewing the nominations, the Nominating Committee will submit a recommendation to the membership for members to fill each position.

The duties of each position to be filled are listed on the next page. Please contact me if you have any questions. The other members of the nominating committee are: Lisa Collins (UT); Ed Hosken (VA); Tim Gudas (NH); Chris Prine (TX); and Dan Shearouse (SC).

Please send nominations to me or another committee member by email by **March 2, 2020**.

Deana Williamson (TX), Chair  
Nominating Committee  
[deana.williamson@txcourts.gov](mailto:deana.williamson@txcourts.gov)

**Offices to be filled:**

Office of Vice-President: (one-year term, succeeding to office of President-Elect):

\_\_\_\_\_

Presently held by Larry Royster (MI)

Office of Secretary: (two-year term): \_\_\_\_\_

Presently held by Sherry Williamson (TX)

Executive Committee Members, 3 Positions (2-year terms):

Position 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presently held by Timothy A. Gudas (NH)

Position 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presently held by Renée Simeon (LA)

Position 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Presently held by Deana Williamson (TX)

## **Description of Offices and Duties of Officers:**

**Article V Par. 3: Election and Succession of Officers.** The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of the President at the expiration of the term as President-Elect. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect at the expiration of the term as Vice-President. The President shall succeed to the office of Past-President at the expiration of the term as President. At each annual business meeting, the Vice-President shall be elected by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting and entitled to vote; the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected for two-year terms, the Secretary in even-numbered years and the Treasurer in odd-numbered years. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be eligible for reelection.

**Article VI Par. 1: Duties of the President.** The President shall serve as the chief executive officer and shall preside at all meetings of the Conference and its Executive Committee.

**Article V Par. 5: Duties of Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for the taking of the minutes of the Executive Committee and the annual business meeting or any called meeting and for distributing them to the Executive Committee and the National Center for State Courts. The minutes of the annual business meeting or any called meeting of the full Conference shall be transmitted to the members of the Conference with the call of the next annual business meeting; this requirement may be met by publication in The Docket, the NCACC newsletter. The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the billing of every member of the Conference for annual dues no later than January fifteenth of each year and the maintenance of a list of all members in good standing.

**Article VII Par. 2: Executive Committee.**

(a) **Powers and Duties.** The Executive Committee is the Board of Directors. It shall direct the affairs of the Conference and shall meet annually prior to the annual business meeting of the Conference and at other times at the call of the President or seven members of the Committee. All matters before the Executive Committee shall be determined by a majority vote of those present. Seven members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall decide any question raised on the interpretation and application of these Bylaws.

*Please review the NCACC Bylaws for further details about these positions.*

## NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS REQUESTED

Nominations for the **J.O. Sentell Award and the Morgan Thomas Award** are being sought by the 2019-2020 Awards Committee. These awards will be presented at the 2020 NCACC Annual Conference in Point Clear, Alabama.

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) Last year's recipient of The J.O. Sentell Award was Sherry Williamson, Clerk of the Eleventh Court of Appeals (TX).

**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. The most recent past recipient of the Morgan Thomas Award was Shauna Strickland of the National Center for State Courts.

### Award Committee Members:

Deana Williamson (EC Liaison) (TX), Doug Shima (KS) (Co-Chairman), Lillian Richie (EC ) (LA), Haley Marlow (TX), Clarissa Hodges (TX), Ed Hosken (VA), Lisa Collins (UT).

---

## 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 February 15, 2020 to:**

Lillian Richie

Email: lrichie@la2nd.org or Fax: 318-227-3735

Mail: 430 Fannin Street, Shreveport, LA 71101

**SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE  
FOR 47th ANNUAL MEETING  
Point Clear, Alabama**

Are funding or budget constraints keeping you from attending the 2020 annual conference in Point Clear? If so, 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 funds may be used for transportation to and from the meeting, as well as lodging at the meeting. The application may be accessed on the NCACC website, or in this issue of *The Docket*. Scholarship criteria may be found in the NCACC directory under the Committee Operation Guidelines/NCACC Scholarship Committee.

Please submit your scholarship application by email or postal mail to Nikiesha Cosby, National Center for State Courts, by May 1, 2020. If you apply for a scholarship and your trip is later funded, please advise the Scholarship Committee so that the available scholarship funds may be appropriately awarded. Feel free to contact Amy Funderburk, Scholarship Committee Chair, at [alf@sc.nccourts.org](mailto:alf@sc.nccourts.org) if you have any questions or comments.

# Scholarship Application

47th ANNUAL MEETING

Point Clear, Alabama

August 2-7, 2020



*National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks*

If lack of funding could prevent you from attending the annual meeting held in Point Clear 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 to pay for transportation to and from the meeting and/or lodging. Please do not hesitate to apply. If you apply for a scholarship and later discover that your court will fund your trip, please advise the Scholarship Committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Amy Funderburk](mailto:Amy.Funderburk@ncsc.org) (NC), Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please review the scholarship selection criteria outlined in the NCACC directory.

Applicants must complete the entire application. Completed forms should be signed and sent by email or postal mail to Nikiesha Cosby at the National Center for State Courts, by **May 1, 2020**.

Nikiesha Cosby

[ncosby@ncsc.org](mailto:ncosby@ncsc.org)

National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

National Center for State Courts

300 Newport Avenue

Williamsburg, VA 23185

-- FUNDING REQUESTED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA AUGUST 2 – AUGUST 7, 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employing Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you or anyone in your office had a scholarship in the last four years?  Yes  No

Would your court have funded the attendance of NCACC members from your office to other educational programs during the twelve months immediately preceding the 2020 Annual Meeting?  Yes  No

If yes, how many programs did you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 (may not exceed six nights): \_\_\_\_\_ Rate per night: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER EXPENSES**

List the nature of expenses and amount:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 program is required should I receive scholarship assistance.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_