



National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks Site Selection Committee Report March 31, 2024

The Site Selection Committee considered host bids for the NCACC conference in 2027 from Gregory Hilton for Annapolis, MD (or other nearby area) and from a consortium of Florida clerks (Mary Beth Kuenzel, John Tomasino, Kristina Samuels, Mercy Prieto, Lonn Weissblum, Sandra Williams, Stacey Pectol, and Tom Hall) for St. Petersburg or Tampa, FL. To help evaluate those bids, the committee created a fillable PDF form with numerous questions about the city and surrounding areas, including proximity of airports, availability of mass transit, potential hotels for the conference, the federal per diem rates, recreational opportunities, etc. Appended to this report are the forms completed by Greg Hilton and the Florida clerks. Also, a blank form has been uploaded to the Documents Archive section of the Site Selection Committee webpage for use by future Site Selection Committees.

On March 27, the committee members met by Zoom to discuss the host bids. Greg Hilton and Tom Hall are members of this committee, so they only joined the beginning of the meeting to answer questions from the other members. They then left the meeting and did not participate in the discussions and deliberations of the two bids. Both locations have many positive aspects and opportunities such that either one would make a truly wonderful conference site. Ultimately, though, the consensus of the committee is to recommend that St. Petersburg/Tampa be chosen as the site of the 2027 NCACC conference.

The members of the Site Selection Committee are Kyle Burton (Vice-Chair), Debbie Autrey, Colette Bruggman, Ron Carpenter, Liz Garcia, Tim Gudas, Tom Hall, Greg Hilton, Ed Hosken, Theresa McCarthy, Kathy Mills, Kate Morgan, Lilia Oquendo-Solis, Dan Shearouse, Victor To, Deana Williamson, and Nathan Wilson. It was my pleasure to serve as the chairperson of the committee because everyone was so thorough and thoughtful with their feedback in developing the PDF form and evaluating the prospective conference locations.

In closing, I'd note that one concern expressed about the St. Petersburg/Tampa location is that the NCACC's permissible conference dates fall within the hurricane season. Given the often-unprecedented severe weather events happening across the country, it may be impossible to schedule a conference anywhere that is completely safe from interruption. But it was suggested that the Executive Committee should consider changing or expanding the dates in which the conference can be held under the bylaws to avoid scheduling conferences during periods when severe weather is typically the worst in certain areas of the country. It was also noted, though, that later conference dates might create problems for clerks who need to ready their young children for the new school year, which apparently starts in early August for some school districts.

Larry Royster
Chair

Kyle Burton
Vice Chair