



FCCA *Journal*

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Federal Court Clerks Association
2007 Conference - Tempe AZ

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill McCool, Clerk, Middle District of Florida



Greetings. This issue of the *FCCA Journal* celebrates the 2007 Annual Conference in Arizona, and provides you with updates on the activities of the association. Suffice it to say, we have been very busy on your behalf.

First, let me congratulate Rick Weare, District Court Executive in the District of Arizona, and Deb Lucas, Rhonda Van Dyke, Mary Benchimol, and all the members of Team Arizona on a spectacular FCCA Conference in Tempe, Arizona. The educational program was the best we've ever conducted, and the evening with retired Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was, for all of us, the most memorable event ever for FCCA. We had 67 new attendees and a record 350 total attendees at the conference. Thanks again to all of you who made this a special experience for all who attended.

My term as your President is but two years, and I plan to make the most of every day for the benefit of FCCA members and judiciary employees. We are working on a broad communication strategy to improve communication and outreach about FCCA to all courts. It is important for us to craft a message about who we are, and what we plan to accomplish. Pat McNutt, our very dedicated *FCCA Journal* editor, has agreed to lead this effort and she has formed an ad hoc committee, called the Marketing and Outreach Committee, consisting of Board members and other interested FCCA members. An important benefit of this committee's work will be to increase membership in the association. The committee has composed six unique marketing messages to carry to FCCA members. The first message was sent out recently, and focused on the Tempe Conference. We hope that you will share the marketing messages with all the staff in your office, so we can keep everyone informed on FCCA's activities.

I also want to congratulate my good friend, Sheryl Loesch, on her successful leadership as our FCCA President. Thanks to Sheryl's vision we started an important initiative in seeking legislation from Congress to amend the Federal Employees Retirement System service calculation to allow for FERS employees in the judiciary to apply their unused sick leave towards their years of service. The ad hoc committee appointed by Sheryl has produced a position paper that will eventually be shared with key members of Congress and their staffs. We are joined in this effort by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association, and the Federal Judges Secretaries Association. Our lobbyist is confident we can get the service calculation changed. The benefits of this initiative would extend to all FERS employees in the Judiciary. This initiative illustrates an important aspect of FCCA. We are interested in improving the lives of all employees, including non-members. Once people learn more about what FCCA is accomplishing, they will join and lend us their voice as we advocate for positive change.

The second important initiative is the creation of an ad hoc Legislative Affairs and Policy Communication Committee. Sheryl Loesch, now your Immediate Past President, has agreed to chair this committee and we have appointed a group of FCCA Board members to participate. This committee will seek legislative initiatives to pursue on behalf of FCCA and its members. We are joined in this important partnership by Director Duff and the staff at the Administrative Office. We will be closely coordinating our activities with them to ensure the most effective approach to important issues. The committee produced a very balanced letter on the recently completed Compensation Study from the Committee on Judicial Resources. Several important recommendations were put forth in the study. The committee's letter was delivered to Judge Royal Ferguson, chair of the Committee on Judicial Resources. Judge Ferguson was very complimentary of FCCA's balanced approach to this issue. The FCCA letter is included in this issue of the *Journal*. You can expect FCCA to continue studying important legislative and policy matters and offering appropriate opinions and leadership to benefit judiciary employees.

Finally, we will be working with the Board to increase membership, continue to offer strong educational opportunities at our annual conferences, and enhance our relationships with the Federal Judicial Center, the Administrative Office, and the Judicial Administration Program at Michigan State University.

Our 2008 Annual Conference will be June 21 - 28 in Louisville, Kentucky, Our host clerk, Jeff Apperson, is developing another strong educational conference for our members. We look forward to working closely with Jeff to develop programs to meet the professional development needs of our members.

Our organization is best characterized as one big family. I am proud to be sitting at the head table, and pledge that we will work diligently and effectively to continue our strong educational programs, communications outreach, and legislative and policy initiatives, on your behalf.



From the Editor

By Patricia McNutt, Clerk, Eastern District of Tennessee



Greatness. What is it? How do we achieve it? Do we know it when we see it?

Vincent van Gogh said: "Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." The Tempe Conference is an example of greatness. Team Tempe worked together taking a series of small steps to create an educational conference that was remarkable. The conference workshops, the speakers, the social activities, the setting, and the organizational effort were outstanding. In other words, it was a great conference.

We are now "Racing for Greatness" to the Louisville Conference, scheduled for June 21 through June 28, 2008. Jeff Apperson's article in this issue should whet your appetite to be a part of yet another great conference. Team Louisville has already taken a series of steps to achieve greatness, by conducting a raffle to earn funds for the conference, by identifying exciting events, and by conducting research to develop the best possible educational agenda. They will continue their "Race for Greatness" up to and through the conference. Samuel Johnson said: "Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance."

What about each of us? Can we achieve greatness? According to James Harvey Robinson: "Each of us is great insofar as we perceive and act on the infinite possibilities which lie undiscovered and unrecognized about us." Interesting thought, but how do we find these undiscovered and unrecognized possibilities? Only by opening yourselves to new opportunities, can we discover our potential greatness.

The FCCA provides many opportunities to discover talents, organizational skills, and creativity we never knew we had. By working together in a series of small steps we can achieve greatness in the FCCA. Just consider what the FCCA has done through the work of its active members in its 86-year history:

1. Built the largest professional organizational for federal judiciary employees.
2. Sponsors Annual Conferences, 79 conferences as of the 2007 Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona.
3. Provides disaster relief, e.g., to victims of California wildfires, 9/11, the devastating 2005 hurricane season and more.
4. Sponsors legislation to improve benefits - such as the current FERS sick leave initiative.
5. Creates opportunities for professional development through association with Michigan State University to obtain certificate/degree in judicial administration.
6. Provides opportunities for career enhancement by participating on FCCA committees and attending conferences.
7. Sponsors a shared leave benefit program to allow members to request shared leave across the judiciary.
8. Publishes a *Journal* with articles on cutting-edge topics in the judiciary and provides opportunities for members to contribute their own articles.
9. Supports an FCCA ListServe to allow members to communicate with FCCA colleagues on judiciary issues of interest.
10. Supports an International Committee to work with international associations and U.S. agencies to assist developing countries.
11. Serves others in need by organizing and promoting blood drives.
12. Keeps you current on hot topics in the judiciary through the monthly on-line Current Events.

The FCCA has done many great things in its 86-year history. These great things were accomplished by the collective efforts of its members. But think how many more great things could be accomplished if every member participated fully in the organization and if FCCA had even more active members. In the end, greatness is measured in the deeds we do, and those deeds will be our monument. "Deeds, not stones, are the true monuments of the great." John L. Motley.



From the Clerks' Council

Listening to Your Views:

A Summary of FCCA Survey Results

The Deputy Clerks' Council initiated a survey earlier this year to assess what court employees think about the FCCA. With Board approval and support from the Clerks' Council and then President Sheryl Loesch, the survey was launched in April 2007. The FCCA received 905 responses to the survey. Employees from 67 of the 94 district courts responded, as well as employees of 9 of the courts of appeals and employees of the court of international trade, judicial panel on multi-district litigation, court of federal claims, and court of appeals for veterans claims. Not all respondents identified their job titles; however, based on those who did provide job titles, we can be confident that the opinions expressed in the survey are from a representative sample of the employee population. Of the respondents, approximately 65% are current FCCA members, 13% were members at one time, and 22% have never been members.

Of the services performed by the FCCA, the three most important services according to survey respondents are:

- 1) promoting the professionalism, integrity, and distinctness of the federal judiciary;
- 2) providing an effective collective voice to convey the views and interests of its members to the Judicial Conference, Administrative Office, and Congress; and
- 3) helping judiciary staff in times of need.

In terms of satisfaction, respondents generally agreed that the FCCA is doing a good job providing all of the services listed in the survey. The three services that were rated highest in terms of importance also received the highest ratings in terms of satisfaction.

From the open-ended comments, it is clear that providing views of FCCA members to the Judicial Conference, the Administrative Office, and Congress is something that is foremost on the minds of respondents. Many respondents expressed appreciation that the FCCA is taking a stand on the inadequacies of the current sick leave policy that prevents FERS employees from receiving any credit for unused sick leave at retirement. Other ideas that respondents suggested for future efforts to inform and educate policymakers include:

- 1) elimination of the windfall provision that reduces Social Security benefits for CSRS offset employees;
- 2) college tuition reimbursement programs;
- 3) better insurance (health/dental/prescription drug/life/vision/long term disability);
- 4) elimination of state tax on federal pensions;
- 5) health plan options for domestic partners;
- 6) pre-tax health insurance premiums for retirees (work with NARFE on this issue);
- 7) better working conditions and salary increases;
- 8) more job security;
- 9) overtime pay and compensatory time for time spent in travel status;
- 10) sick leave donations for the voluntary leave donation program; and
- 11) a program for repayment of student loans.

Several respondents mentioned in the open-ended comments that they would like to attend FCCA conferences, but the conferences are cost prohibitive for them. Some respondents suggested shorter conferences and regional conferences. Several suggested that the training provided at conferences be taped and made available on-line for those unable to attend and that other educational opportunities be made available on-line on the FCCA website.

From the Clerks' Council

Continued from page 7

We appreciate all of you who took time to respond to this important survey. Please continue to share your opinions and ideas with the FCCA leadership.

Best Wishes to Our Friend and Colleague, Kevin Rowe - Kevin Rowe, Clerk of Court for the District of Connecticut, will retire in October. Kevin has been a valued member of the executive board of the Clerks' Council since 2003. Thank you, Kevin for your support and service to the FCCA.

Mentoring Program

Lance Wilson, Clerk of Court for the District of Nevada, is in charge of the Clerks' Council new clerks' mentoring program. If you are a new clerk who would like to be assigned a mentor or an experienced clerk who would like to serve as a mentor, please contact Lance.



From the Deputy Clerks' Corner

*By Jenine Wright, Deputy Clerks' Council Chair
District of Kansas*

Greetings from the Deputy Clerks' Council!

Hats off to "Team Arizona" for a wonderful conference in June. They outdid themselves and all of their efforts were very much appreciated!

The Deputy Clerks were honored to have Allen Brown with the Administrative Office speak to us at the Deputy Clerks' Luncheon in Tempe. Mr. Brown spoke to the group about the Court Compensation Study. He had a captive audience and answered individual questions after his presentation.

Team Western Kentucky is hard at work on the 2008 Conference in Louisville June 21 - 28, 2008. It isn't too early to start thinking about a program or speaker for our Deputy Clerks' Luncheon. If you have an idea for our luncheon in Louisville, please contact one of the following members of the Deputy Clerks' Council (DCC) Executive Board:

Jenine Wright, Kansas District Court, Chair

Cristina Squieri, California Central District Court, Immediate Past Chair

Donna Barchard, First Circuit Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit Rep

Maria Carpenter, Connecticut District Court, 2nd Circuit Rep

Mike Hearn, Pennsylvania Eastern District Court, 3rd Circuit Rep

Rob Walker, Virginia Eastern District Court, 4th Circuit Rep

Rhonda Lafitte, Texas Eastern District Court, 5th Circuit Rep

Geneva Ashby, Tennessee Eastern District Court, 6th Circuit Rep

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From the Deputy Clerks' Corner

Continued from page 7

Karen Brickner, Indiana Northern District Court, 7th Circuit Rep

Michele Nelson, Missouri Western Bankruptcy Court, 8th Circuit Rep

Renee Young, Washington Western District Court, 9th Circuit Rep

Stephen Mandel, Florida Northern District Court, 11th Circuit Rep

Cassandra Smith, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, National Circuit Rep

There is a vacancy for the 10th Circuit Representative on the DCC Executive Board. If you are a member of FCCA in the 10th Circuit and would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Jenine Wright, Chairperson.

The DCC is open to all deputy clerks of a United States Court or special United States Court who are members of FCCA. The Council's primary purpose is to be responsive to the specific needs and interests of the deputy clerk members and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on matters affecting them. The DCC is governed by an Executive Board, so let them hear from you!



FCCA Blood For Life 2007

By Deenah Levine, Blood Drive Chairperson

Thanks again to everybody who participated in the 2007 Blood For Life Program. I plan to send forms to all the representatives for this year's blood drives. I also have included a form in this article.

Although we do not give out special certificates for the individuals that gave the most blood, I would like to give a special thanks to Ariana Estariel from the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation in Washington, DC for giving 10 pints of blood. Also I would like to give special thanks to Judith FitzPatrick from the District of Connecticut who donated 6 pints of blood, Kathy Hammond and Debra Peterson from District of South Dakota, and Anne Stygles from District of Columbia who each donated 5 pints of blood.

The court with the third most pints donated (88 pints) was the District of Utah. The court with the second most pints (92 pints) was Southern District of New York. The court that donated the most pints (124) was the District of Columbia which received a framed certificate. Thank you very much.

There were five lucky blood donors who won \$50 each. Cris Squieri of California Central District won twice. Cris was very generous and put her winnings back into the drawing. Other winners were Mark Coates, District of Columbia; Michael Guranich, Southern District of New York; Marlin Miller, District of Kansas; and Lincoln Sorrel, District of New Mexico.

Great Job. Thank you very, very much for being so generous.

To date the courts have donated 12,314 pints since 1985. My challenge for the courts this year is to get more courts than ever to participate. In 2003, thirty courts donated blood. We can surpass this number. Please report any blood you donate to your representative. Representatives, please send in your forms.



BLOOD FOR LIFE DONORS

Date of Report: _____ **Reporting Period: May 1, 2007-April 30, 2008**
Report due: on or before May 15, 2008

U. S. Bankruptcy or District Court: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

Local FCCA Blood Drive Coordinator: _____

Total # of pints donated in this year's Blood Drive _____
 (include **all** pints donated by your court, FCCA members *and* non-members)

Name of FCCA Donor (Please Print or Type)	Total # of Pints	Name of FCCA Donor (Please Print or Type)	Total # of Pints

Send report to: Deenah Levine
 FCCA Blood Drive Chair
 United States Bankruptcy Court
 450 Main Street
 Hartford, CT 06103

Telephone: 860-240-3675
 Facsimile: 860-240-3595

E-Mail: **Lotus Notes**
 Deenah_Levine@ctb.uscourts.gov



Spotlight on Members



April joined the Ohio Northern Bankruptcy Court in April 1998. Prior to joining the court, she graduated from the American Institute for Paralegal Studies in 1995 and went to work for a local attorney specializing in immigration and international adoptions. She enjoyed working with the Immigration and Naturalization Service employees and decided to pursue a career in public service. She went to work for the Social Security Administration until an opening in the courts became available.

While classified as a Case Administrator, she has many "other duties as assigned," including CM/ECF Trainer, Help Desk Specialist, Electronic Court Recording Operator, Chapter 7 Asset Specialist, and CM/ECF software tester. She also works on several committees and writes articles for the Ohio Northern Bankruptcy Court's ECF Newsletter for external users.

April joined the FCCA in 2005 and has attended two annual conferences. Chicago was her favorite conference. She has recently become the FCCA District Representative for the Ohio Northern Bankruptcy Court.

April recently completed the Michigan State University Judicial Administration Program's non credit bearing certification program. Her local office held a graduation ceremony and party to commemorate the occasion. Much to April's surprise, her supervisor made special arrangements with Dr. Maureen Conner and Dr. Sharon George to participate in the ceremony. A good time was had by all.

Anyone interested in pursuing the various MSU programs should go to their web site, www.judicialadministration.msu.edu. The courses can be taken on-line or at conferences across the country. April really relished the opportunity this program provided and recommends it to everyone working in any court system.

April spends most of her leisure time with her husband Bill and two dogs, a border collie named Quinn and a blue heeler named Show Me (she's from Missouri, the Show Me State). She also enjoys reading, scuba diving and canine disc competitions.

Ian currently serves as Chief Deputy of Operations at the Northern District of California, having come up "through the ranks" in his district. He has been a "proud member" of FCCA since he began his career with the federal court, fresh from UC Berkeley, almost 31 years ago. Among his achievements at work, Ian has served as project manager to completely replace antiquated courtroom public address systems with state-of-the-art sound systems and evidence presentation equipment.



Having attended a great many FCCA conferences over the years, he stated that it's awfully difficult to claim one as a favorite, although New Orleans still stands out in his mind as among the most memorable. ("It's pretty tough to top 'Mardi Gras' at Prom Night.") He also stated that his decision to join FCCA and participate in the organization has contributed greatly to his success at work and, personally, has enhanced his life through the many good friends and acquaintances he has made since becoming a member.

Ian previously served two terms on the FCCA Board of Directors, representing the Ninth Circuit. He is currently serving as Chair of the Professional Development Committee and the Carol C. Fitzgerald Scholarship Committee, positions he has held for four years. He greatly enjoys working with the dedicated teams of the host courts each year to help insure that high quality educational programs are provided to all members at the annual conferences. He also continues to serve as the District Representative for the Northern District of California.

Ian resides about thirty miles east of San Francisco with his significant other and their three cats. Together they enjoy traveling the world in search of the perfect reef and the magnificent creatures that inhabit the undersea world. His hobbies include scuba diving and underwater videography.

Ian received a Special Service Award at the 2007 Annual Conference in Tempe for his contributions to FCCA.



IN MEMORIAM - Allen Newman

*By Barbara Boyle, District Representative
Northern District of Georgia*



This profile is in tribute to Allen Newman who worked in the Atlanta Office in the Northern District of Georgia. He passed away unexpectedly on July 17, 2007, after fighting an illness for some time. He continued to come into the office as his treatment and condition permitted. Allen's continued presence in our office throughout his illness was exemplary of his devotion to our Court and his colleagues.

Allen joined the staff of the Northern District on April 14, 1975, as a temporary clerk. In January 1976, he began his full time career in the bankruptcy court (district and bankruptcy were consolidated at that time), then was a civil and criminal docket clerk for the district court, then became Senior Judge Charles A. Moyer's courtroom deputy clerk in 1987. In recent years, Allen served in the capacity as Judge Moyer's courtroom deputy clerk and secretary. He was an active member of the FCCA and our District Representative since 2001 and several years before 1998.

Allen was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1947. His passion outside of the office was cars and especially his Model A. In fact, he was a member of the Model A Club and sported his vehicle with the other members on our roads all over the country. He also owned a variety of other cars including a Cadillac, a Bentley, and a Jaguar and his last car was a red convertible.

Traveling abroad was another passion of his. He traveled all over Europe and the Caribbean Islands. His last trip was to Hawaii last year.

He collected antiques and other beautiful things. He was particularly fond of Waterford and Wedgwood.

Allen loved music. He was a clarinet major and played the piano. Most of all, Allen loved people. He never hesitated to open up his home and heart to people in need.

Allen will truly be missed by his chambers' staff and the rest of us in the clerk's office and court family.



National Officers and Circuit Representatives Elected at Annual Conference

By Anne Stygles, Nominations Chair, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

And the winners for national office are: President-Elect James R. Larsen, District Court Executive/Clerk of Court, Eastern District of Washington and Secretary, Sue Rigan, Jacksonville Division Manager, Middle District of Florida. Both James and Sue were elected for a two-year term beginning in 2007. Both nominees ran unopposed and were enthusiastically elected by the members at the business meeting on June 28, 2007, at the annual conference in Tempe, Arizona.

The following two Circuit Representatives ran unopposed and were elected for a two-year term:

9th Circuit - Michael Nagy, Director of IT, District of Southern California

11th Circuit - Nancy M. Gilman, Opinions/Judgment Clerk, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals

President William M. McCool appointed the following Circuit Representatives at the conclusion of the conference (they will serve a two-year term):

1st Circuit - Claire Parvin, Financial Administrator, District of Rhode Island

3rd Circuit - Michael Palus, Courtroom Deputy, Western District of Pennsylvania

5th Circuit - David J. Maland, Clerk, Eastern District of Texas

7th Circuit - PeggyAnn Guernsey, Chief Deputy Clerk, Northern District of Indiana

Congratulations to all of the newly elected and appointed officials.



FERS Sick Leave Initiative

By Sheryl Loesch, Past President

The FERS Sick Leave initiative continues to progress. For those of you who may not be aware, the Federal Court Clerks Association has joined forces with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC), the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association (FPPOA), and the Federal Judges Secretaries Association (FJSA) to retain the services of a Washington lobbyist who is working on behalf of these four associations to encourage legislators to introduce legislation that will enable judiciary employees under FERS to have unused sick leave hours credited toward years of service upon retirement. Earlier this year, a subcommittee consisting of representatives from each of the four associations was formed to work with the lobbyist on this initiative. With the guidance of the lobbyist, a "Position Paper" was drafted that will be circulated to certain Senators and Congressmen who serve on various Congressional Committees involving the judiciary by some of our court colleagues who reside in the individual districts represented by these Senators and Congressmen, or by court colleagues having an established rapport with these Senators and Congressmen or their staffers. Once individual contact has been made, the lobbyist plans to follow up with scheduling meetings with these legislators to further this process. This initiative has the support of the Administrative Office. I am very hopeful our efforts will succeed. I will continue to keep our membership advised on the progress made in this area.

FCCA Ad Hoc Committee on Legislative Affairs/Policy Communication

By Sheryl Loesch, Chair

FCCA President Bill McCool formed an ad hoc committee to review and provide input on legislation and AO policies that may have an impact on our members. The members of the Committee are: Sheryl Loesch, Patricia McNutt, William McCool, James Larsen, Karen Mitchell, Michael Palus, David Maland, and Robin Tabora. The ad hoc committee has already met to discuss and respond to the recent recommendations made by the Judicial Resources Committee regarding the Compensation Study. A copy of the letter that was sent on behalf of the FCCA's membership is included on Pages 16-17. The committee is also tracking legislation that could affect our retirees. This is going to be an active committee and it will serve as an excellent vehicle to communicate the needs of our members to our legislators and to the AO.



FCCA Ad Hoc Committee on Marketing and Outreach

By Pat McNutt, Chair

A growing concern of the FCCA officers and board is that judiciary employees are not aware of the FCCA, its purpose, and benefits of membership. Even some members aren't aware of the FCCA's purpose and the benefits it provides to members. To address this concern, President Bill McCool formed the ad hoc Marketing and Outreach Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to develop marketing/outreach messages about the FCCA. The goal is to reach all of FCCA's members and to gain new members by informing them about the FCCA with the marketing/outreach messages.

The members of the Committee are: Bill McCool, Jim Larsen, Pat McNutt, Sue Rigan, David Stechmann, Cheryl Sweat, Michael Nagy, Joey LaMura, Pam Twiford, Dennis Bilecki, Ginny Hurley, and Jim De La Torre. The Committee has met twice by conference call and has developed a series of marketing messages. The first of these was sent by President Bill McCool to all Circuit Representatives who were asked to send it to all District Representatives, who in turn were asked to send it to all members in their district and to non-members, if local policy permits. Also, posting the message on bulletin boards was suggested, again, if local policy permits. A copy of the message is included on Pages 13-15.

The other messages will be sent about every two to three weeks using a "progressive marketing" strategy, moving from a more general to a more specific message to build interest. The Committee is considering developing specific messages about the MSU program, the FERS sick leave initiative and the Louisville Conference. Another idea is to develop a booklet of testimonials of members about the impact FCCA has made on their careers, professional and personal development. A reunion at an annual conference honoring Past Presidents, officers and board members also is an idea to spur interest in staying connected with FCCA.

We would like to hear from you. Have you received a marketing message? What did you think about it? Was it effective to inform you about FCCA and to stimulate your interest? Do you have any ideas to share with us on how we can better inform judiciary employees about FCCA and encourage them to join? If you have answers to any of these questions or would like to contribute ideas to this Committee, please contact Pat McNutt at patricia_mcnutt@tned.uscourts.gov.





HIGHLIGHTS OF FCCA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TEMPE, ARIZONA



- ★ The annual conference in Tempe is now history, and we can't thank Rick Weare and his entire staff enough they did in hosting Conference. Starting Former Associate Sandra Day childhood on the beauty of the U.S. Phoenix, to the extra between the Arizona Angeles Dodgers and Western Barbecue at were given every flavor of this unique and fascinating area of our country. FCCA salutes Team Arizona for a truly unforgettable conference.
-
- Team Arizona**
- ★ The annual conference in Tempe is now history, and we can't thank Rick Weare and his entire staff enough they did in hosting Conference. Starting Former Associate Sandra Day childhood on the beauty of the U.S. Phoenix, to the extra between the Arizona Angeles Dodgers and Western Barbecue at were given every flavor of this unique and fascinating area of our country. FCCA salutes Team Arizona for a truly unforgettable conference.
 - ★ for the outstanding job FCCA's 79th Annual with an evening with Supreme Court Justice O'Connor and her Lazy B ranch and the District Courthouse in inning baseball game Diamondbacks and Los the runaway bus, to the Pinnacle Peak Patio, we opportunity to sample the
 - ★ Jill Sayenga, Deputy Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, spoke about the Court Compensation Study Working Group and its proposal.
 - ★ The FCCA Conference hosts an annual first time orientation class. There were 68 first time attendees who were individually recognized and really enjoyed their experiences.
 - ★ The lobbyist has made significant progress on the FERS sick leave initiative that will impact all deputy clerks at retirement.



- ★ For those interested in possibly applying to the MSU program, you should know that in addition to taking classes at the FCCA conferences, you can also take classes on-line. The Conference overall is a very good opportunity for sharing ideas with other court workers. It is always interesting and educational to see how others facing the same challenges that we face find solutions to those problems in creative ways. The educational classes were great, but the best thing about the conference was getting to meet other clerks and deputy clerks from all over the country. It was interesting to talk to people from other districts about their procedures and the many different ways other districts handle matters.
- ★ There was a packed house at the retirement planning classes given by Jim DeLaTorre, who has been teaching classes every year, and inspires us to plan now for our future in an easy-to-understand format.
- ★ The historian room is an annual tradition for all members to enjoy throughout the conference, a compilation of slides are shown daily of the day's events, and all conference pictures are posted on the FCCA website following the conference.
- ★ Some comments from FCCA members and first time attendees:
 - ▶ "I feel that the FCCA conference was very productive in terms of the educational opportunities it provided." Lynn Kamke, Division Manager.
 - ▶ "From an IT standpoint, I found the most interesting aspect of the conference was the amount of importance placed on keeping up with future technology demands related to data storage and application development." Mark McLain, Web Administrator.
 - ▶ "Attending the FCCA conference is a great networking tool. I can understand now why so many people attend this conference year after year." Russell Eslinger, Courtroom Deputy.
 - ▶ "I attended my fourth conference and have learned so much over the years from the trainers from the FJC and court staff who provide a fun, learning atmosphere. I am honored to attend the annual educational conferences and enjoy serving on the Board as the Sixth Circuit Representative and representing colleagues in their absence. The Board meeting is always a great opportunity to meet your colleagues in person who are on other committees, discuss new ideas and obtain information to bring back to share with other FCCA members. It was also interesting to attend the orientation meeting of 68 first time FCCA members; the same orientation I attended in 2004." Cheryl Sweat, Administrative Assistant.
- ★ Some courts consider attendance at the conference an opportunity for training. Check with your Human Resources Specialist.



*Please join us next year for the
"RACING FOR GREATNESS"
FCCA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky
June 23-27, 2008.*



Team Western Kentucky

Visit www.fcca.ws for conference highlights and FCCA news and
JOIN TODAY AND SUPPORT THE FCCA
by contacting your Circuit Representative or
Pam Twiford, FCCA Membership Chair, at twifordp@cafc.uscourts.gov.



First Time Attendees

FEDERAL COURT CLERKS' ASSOCIATION



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James R. Larsen, President-Elect
Sheryl Loesch, Past President
Sue Rigan, Secretary
John Zingo, Treasurer
David Stechmann, Historian

111 North Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

August 8, 2007

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Yvonne Goodloe
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Karen Mitchell
Jenine L. Wright

Judge W. Royal Furgeson
United States District Court
655 E. Durango Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78206

RE: Court Compensation Study

Dear Judge Furgeson:

As an association, we are committed to working jointly with the Judicial Conference and A.O. and our local court operations to identify cost containment solutions for salary and compensation.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

2005 Sheryl Loesch
2003 Jeffrey A. Apperson
2001 Joseph A. Haas
1999 W. Samuel Hamrick
1998 Martin H. Oogjen III
1997 Lance Wilson
1996 Richard H. Weare
1995 Cameron Burke
1994 J. Barry Dunford
1993 George A. Ray
1992 Carol C. Fitzgerald
1991 Ralph DeLoach
1990 Robert F. Connor
1989 Joseph A. Haas
1988 Joyce Witt
1987 Carl Brents
1986 Robert Shemwell
1985 Jesse Casaus
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1981 James Vandegrift
1980 William W. Luddy
1979 Gerold L. Clapp
1978 Wallace J. Furstenau
1977 Edgar Schofield
1976 James F. Davey
1975 Cletus J. Schmidt

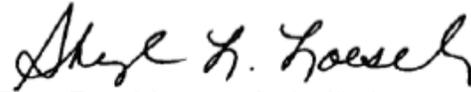
One of the recommendations being considered is providing funding for a one step increase as court employees move through their pay grades on an annual basis. The present system allows for a two or four step increase per year. Employees in the final steps of salary range, will receive a one step increase based on performance and longevity. Under the present system, moving through your career development could take 20 years. If we move to a one step increase, it could possibly take employees 42 years to move through all steps.

We would encourage the local court officials to be mindful that all employees look forward to and plan for their step increases which will ultimately establish a retirement basis for them. Should a court not adequately fund and reward employees for their above standard performance, morale and their annual compensation would be greatly affected.

We are hopeful that local courts will be able to use decentralized funding to maintain compensation step increases for employees even though cost containment initiatives will greatly limit funding.

On behalf of our membership of the Federal Court Clerks Association, we support a balanced approach that would call for all of the judiciary to share equitably in whatever cost containment efforts relative to compensation are deemed necessary. We look forward to continuing to work with the national committees and the Conference to maintain a compensation system that is fair, just and appropriate for the members of the Federal Court Clerks Association. Should you need a more detailed explanation or have any questions, we have members that could provide those answers.

Sincerely,



Past President on behalf of
Bill McCool, President of FCCA

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RESOURCES
of the
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

HONORABLE W. ROYAL FURGESON, JR., CHAIR
HONORABLE WILEY Y. DANIEL, CHAIR, STATISTICS SUBCOMMITTEE
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HONORABLE GARY L. LANCASTER
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HONORABLE JAMES P. O'HARA
HONORABLE WILLIAM H. PRYOR JR.
HONORABLE KENNETH F. RIPPLE
HONORABLE GEORGE Z. SINGAL

August 14, 2007

Ms. Sheryl L. Loesch
Clerk
United States District Court
300 George C. Young
United States Courthouse
80 North Hughey Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

Re: FCCA Compensation Study

Dear Sheryl:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. The Judicial Resources Committee and staff will strive to follow your recommendations.

Very truly yours,



Royal Furgeson

Membership Matters

Update on the 2007-2008 Membership Drive

By Pam Twiford, Membership Chair



This is the first membership drive that has been aligned with the terms of our Officers and Board of Directors. I feel the change has been a change for the better. We no longer have to deal with two separate term periods. Our Circuit and District Representatives have communicated this change with success. I want to thank them for that.

We are presently in the middle of the membership drive. I am pleased to report that we presently have 461 members. The breakdown is as follows: 17 Unit Executives; 18 Chief Deputies and 426 Deputy Clerks with additional membership applications arriving each day. I will provide a final count in the next issue of the *Journal*.

One new item we are hoping to provide to each member is a self mailing welcome letter that will include a membership card. The FCCA Board of Directors will review a proposal shortly. Hopefully this will become an additional incentive to join the FCCA. An important reminder – please keep your address current while you are a member of the FCCA. It is important that all paper *Journals* issued are mailed to the correct address. Just e-mail me with the change at Twifordp@cafc.uscourts.gov.

Just a few items to think about if you are considering membership with the FCCA. Whether it's benefitting from the many educational opportunities provided by the FCCA, the scholarship fund, leave sharing program, or the blood drives, not to mention the networking and social benefits of attending the annual conference, I can honestly say that I made the right choice in becoming a member.

It's a choice where membership matters to make a difference in the judiciary that benefits all employees, expands our horizons, develops our careers, and enhances our educational opportunities. If you are not already a member, please consider joining the FCCA. It matters to all of us.

Please note the picture to the left of my article. I want to remind all members that you will receive an FCCA pen from your District Representative. The pens are the association's way of saying "thank you" for joining FCCA. The pens were purchased using funds out of the Deputy Clerks' Council's budget. The pens were distributed to the Circuit Representatives, who in turn distributed these to their District Representatives who give them out as people in their Districts join FCCA.



Share Your Time

By Laudan J. Batino, Leave Share Chairperson, Office of the Circuit Executive, Ninth Circuit

Share your time with a fellow FCCA member through the Voluntary Leave Share Program! This is a great program with rewards for both the recipient and the donor. The donor gets the satisfaction of knowing they've helped someone in their time of need and the recipient receives the leave donation so that they can concentrate on their personal or family medical emergency and recover without the worry of any financial burdens. The process is relatively simple. We review the request, validate the status of the member, and forward the request to the FCCA board members and circuit representatives for distribution to FCCA members.

The Voluntary Leave Share Program allows an individual employee, who experiences a personal or family medical emergency and exhausts all available paid leave, to receive donated annual leave from fellow employees. In order for an employee to receive donated leave, they must first meet the criteria in the *Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures*, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1630.2, Voluntary Leave Share Program. Once approved under the program, normally the Human Resources Specialist will send an e-mail to members of the district's court unit.

Here's how you can help. Sometimes, the word doesn't get to the FCCA Leave Share Committee. If you're aware of an FCCA member who's an approved leave recipient, please send me an e-mail by cc: Mail or at lbatino@ce9.uscourts.gov. Also, please send the following information: Name, Position, Title, and Grade of Employee; Type of Court and Location; number of years as an FCCA member; brief description of medical emergency situation; and leave donor forms. Leave donors must submit an Application to Become a Leave Recipient along with an SF 71, Application for Leave, to their local Time and Attendance Clerk for processing. These forms are available through their Personnel/Human Resources Unit. The Voluntary Leave Share Program has helped many Judiciary and FCCA employees since its inception. Feel free to give me a call at 415-355-8969 if you have any questions.



FCCA Can Help Our Retirees

By David Borkoski, Retired Deputy Clerk, District of New Mexico

When we begin to think about retiring many questions and concerns come to mind. After you discuss the possibilities and attend a pre-retirement seminar, such as those offered by NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) or those offered at the FCCA Annual Conferences, you begin to feel confident about your plans. The next logical step is to request an estimated retirement annuity from the AO. After all of that is in place you take the step and RETIRE. No more alarm clocks, no more overtime, no more pesky attorneys, no more waiting into the night for a jury verdict.

Then surprises begin to surface such as the realization that you no longer enjoy all the benefits of an active deputy clerk. One of those vanishing benefits is that the monthly FEHBP premiums which you pay are no longer made with pre-tax dollars. There has been historic monetary parity between the active and retired federal employees, but no longer.

Senator John Warner and U. S. Representative Tom Davis have introduced legislation (S.773 and H.R. 1110) to allow the federal government's civilian retirees and active and retired military personnel to pay these health care costs again with pre-tax dollars. Their efforts are cosponsored by many of their colleagues but no law has been passed yet. The efforts for such a move are escalating.

There are over 35 separate federal organizations that have raised their voices in support of this legislation. I would ask that the Federal Court Clerks Association join in this noble effort to help our retirees and pass a resolution in support of the aforementioned legislation. After all, this will benefit all deputy clerks eventually.



Securing Representatives in All Circuits

*By Cheryl Sweat, FCCA Sixth Circuit Representative
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee*

The FCCA is always encouraging its members to get involved. One way to do this is volunteer. Volunteer your skills, knowledge, expertise and time.

The Circuit Representatives were given a goal to find a District Representative or a contact person for each district that has a vacancy. The District Representative or contact person distributes information from the Circuit Representative or Board to their members. It is preferred but not required that the individual be an FCCA member. I had three vacancies in my Circuit and recently filled one vacancy.

To secure a vacancy, I referenced the membership list provided by the Membership Chair and then sent an e-mail to all the FCCA members in the Sixth Circuit, provided a short description of the District Representative's roles and responsibilities. I was amazed at the positive responses and interest I received from one e-mail. All you have to do is ask!

The overall duties of the District Representatives are provided in the FCCA bylaws at <http://www.fcca.ws/docs/FCCABylaws3-14-06.pdf> on page 11, Article XI, section 2. C: "The district contacts shall be responsible for the collection and distribution of information between the Executive Board and the membership within their offices and shall promote membership and active participation in the Association." Also when there is something newsworthy, your Circuit Representative sends an e-mail with the information to all of their District Representatives and asks them to "forward it to the members." The membership drive is the most "cumbersome" duty and is also a time when you can have fun and interject your creativity. The District Representative distributes ballots for absentee voting and reports on the names of people who have donated blood during the past year. Each person who donates a pint of blood is eligible to receive \$50 from the FCCA in a drawing at the annual conference, and the donor is entitled to one entry for every pint donated.

The FCCA is creating a "roles and responsibilities" list that clarifies most of the positions and terms of President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Clerks' Council Chair, Deputy Clerks' Council Chair, Treasurer, Historian, Circuit Representative, and District Representative. Please let me know if you would like to know more about a specific position and I will be happy to provide information. The list will be posted on the FCCA web site.

I encourage all of the new FCCA members who attended the first time attendee orientation at the Tempe conference to contact their District or Circuit Representative or the Membership Chair and get involved.



“Racing for Greatness”

FCCA Annual Conference

June 21 - 28, 2008
Louisville, Kentucky

Employees of the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky are working hard to prepare for your arrival next June at the FCCA 2008 Annual Conference! Indeed, we are very excited about the opportunity to show off one of the best kept secrets in the United States—Louisville (See web site: <http://www.louisville.com/>).

Among the many events we have planned for your visit are an elegant President’s reception at the Muhammad Ali Center on the Ohio River, a cruise on the historic river boat “Belle of Louisville” and an afternoon at the races at “Churchill Downs,” home of the Kentucky Derby. The hotel venue is the Galt House (See web site: <http://www.galthouse.com/>). It is on the river as well and is situated near “Fourth Street Live,” a wonderful entertainment district, as well as, parks and restaurants. Indeed, everything is within walking distance of the hotel except for the very short bus ride to the track.



Churchill Downs

We are currently reviewing surveys and the agendas of past conferences to determine the best educational agenda. We look forward to working with the Administrative Office, Federal Judicial Center and Michigan State University on completing the agenda.

Please plan to be with us in June! You won’t regret it!

See You in 2008!

Runaway Bus

By Pat McNutt, Eastern District of Tennessee

After an exhilarating night at the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game, a tired group of FCCA members boarded the bus back to the Tempe Mission Palms. People were resting, chatting and nodding off. Suddenly, David Stechmann (aka Ralph Kramden) jumped from his seat and grabbed the wheel of the bus. His action got everyone’s attention as we realized that the bus driver had stepped off the bus, the emergency brake had popped out, and the bus was quickly rolling head on into on-coming traffic. David calmly maneuvered the bus to avoid a major collision and personal injury. The FCCA members cheered his heroic efforts and Team Tempe awarded him the first-ever Ralph Kramden Hero Award. Thanks, David.



David Stechmann as Ralph Kramden & Rick Weare

2009 Conference Site Selected

By Maria Carpenter & Rob Walker
Site Selection Committee Co-Chairs

The Site Selection Committee is pleased to announce the site of the 2009 FCCA Conference - Detroit, Michigan!

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan is excited to host the conference and is committed to providing members with a memorable week-long educational and social experience.

David Weaver (Court Administrator/Clerk of Court) and Team Detroit anticipate that the conference will be held in mid-July and are currently ironing out the final arrangements, including the selection of the host hotel in the adjoining Detroit suburb of Dearborn.

Dearborn is the headquarters of the Ford Motor Company and its history is built on the industrial innovation of Henry Ford. It is conveniently located ten minutes from downtown Detroit and the Canadian border and much closer to the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. It will be an ideal location for conference attendees and their families.

Dearborn offers a host of fun and exciting attractions. The Henry Ford is the nation's largest indoor-outdoor American history museum and entertainment complex encompassing Greenfield Village (spread over 90-acres, a noted museum that comes alive with unforgettable sounds and settings of America's past), the Henry Ford Museum (houses one of the largest collections of Fords ever assembled), the Ford Rouge Factory Tour (where Ford's F-150 pickup truck is built and the site where automotive manufacturing as we know it came of age), the Benson Ford Research Center (houses an open treasury of research, historical expertise and unparalleled collections documenting the American Experience), and the Henry Ford IMAX theater (cinema classics and feature-length documentaries come alive on a screen six stories wide and eight stories tall).

Dearborn is also the home to the Automotive Hall of Fame, providing visitors with an interactive experience that celebrates the achievements of people of the worldwide motor vehicle industry. Dearborn now has a sizeable Arab American population. The Arab American National Museum is the first museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture.

Also located in Dearborn is one of the nation's largest shopping malls, the Fairlane Town Center. Dearborn has two traditional downtown districts complete with appealing specialty shops, cafes, restaurants, theaters, and trendy night-clubs.

The City of Detroit also offers a vast array of interesting attractions to see and enjoy. Several outstanding cultural attractions include: The Detroit Institute of Arts (the fifth-largest fine arts museum in the United States with over 60,000 works), the Detroit Historical Museum (chronicles the life and times of the region's 300-year history), the Motown Historical Museum (traces the roots of Motown Record Corporation and chronicles its impact on 20th century popular culture and musical styles), and, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (the world's largest institution dedicated to the African American experience, located in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center).

Detroit also offers Belle Isle (the crown jewel of Detroit's public park system) and three exciting casinos (MGM Greek-town, Motor City and MGM Grand Detroit) to try out your luck.

Since Detroit was ranked as the Best Sports City for 2007 in North America by *The Sporting News*, how could anyone pass up a visit to Comerica Park (home of the Tigers, a combination ballpark, theme park and baseball museum) to watch an impressive performance of the 2006 American League Champions Detroit Tigers?

As you can see, there will be many fabulous attractions to see and experience during our 2009 conference. The Site Selection Committee extends its sincere appreciation to David Weaver and Team Detroit for their commitment and hard work thus far.

Stay tuned for additional updates on the conference in future editions of the *Journal*.





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2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Ronnie Honey, Eileen Levine, June Phillips, & Nadine C. Smith - 25 years in FCCA



Mark McLain and Russell Eslinger at Diamondbacks v. Dodgers baseball game



Deputy Clerks' Luncheon - Allen Brown, Guest Speaker



Spanish Survival Skills - Ana-Cecilla Rosado, Laura Garica, & Marcia Resler



Basic Self-Defense



Bill McCool and Sheryl Loesch share a Mexican dance

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona

Betty & Larry
announce
wedding plans



Back Row:
Adriana Camelo &
David Borkoski
Front Row:
Veronica Delgado
& Bobbi Cenicerros



Bill McCool sworn in by Chief District Judge John M. Roll



Deputy Clerks' Council Executive Board - Robert Walker, Stephen Mandel, Jenine Wright, Karen Brickner, Rhonda Lafitte, Cassandra Smith



Dinner Dance - NDCA Group Photo



Dinner Dance - New Jersey Group Photo

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Dawn Stephens and her babies



Diane Emmons & Jim Larsen, President-Elect



Cheryl Sweat and Pat McNutt with Hero Ralph Kramden



Richard Weare & Chief District Judge John M. Roll



Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder & Sheryl Loesch



Richard Weare & Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



"Hail the Chiefs" Chief District Judge John M. Roll & Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schoreder



President's Reception Boston Group Photo & Friends



Joanne Cook, Tom Murawski, Amy Hickox, & Cameron S. Burke



Maureen E. Conner & Wayne Wolfe



Travis Green, Stephen Mandel, & Sandy Mandel



President's Reception Tempe Group Photo

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Geri M. Smith, Sue Rigan, Cassandra Smith, Debbie Shattuck, Cindy Idema, Helen Costello



President's Reception Florida Group Photo



President's Reception Group Photo



President's Reception Group Photo



Chuck Evans, Dawn M. Bullock & Cristina Squieri

*Mary Donnellan,
Judy Litwin,
Marie Bell,
Jennie Hueting*



2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Western Barbecue Cleveland Group Photo



Roseanne Guzzi, Gabie Batista, & Lourdes Vazquez



Kerry Reynolds & Kathleen Zoratti



Western Barbecue Group Photo



Western Barbecue Group Photo

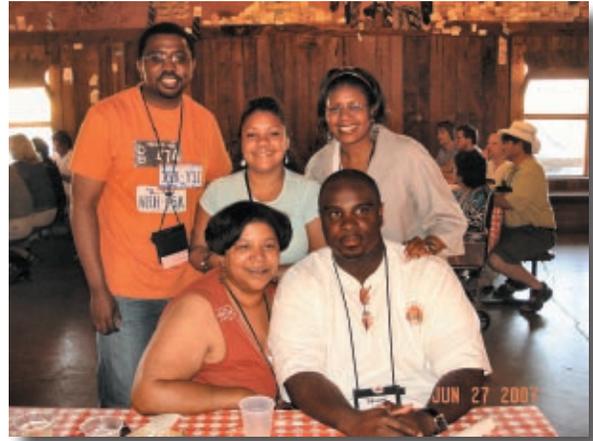


Joey LaMura & Kathy Tait

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Western Barbecue "I could use a cold one"



Western Barbecue Group Photo



Barbara & Stephen Boyle



Cowgirls Denise Vought & Vickie Downing



Cindy Reynolds & Vicky Kirkpatrick



Mary Donnellan

2007 FCCA Conference - Tempe, Arizona



Robert Lowney, Lance Wilson, & Jill Sayenga



Cowgirls Tracey C. Couling & Stephanie Briscoe



Western Barbecue Group Photo



Western Barbecue Group Photo



God Bless America to end Tempe Conference



Maureen E. Conner, Ph.D. - Teaching MSU Workshop

2009 FCCA Conference Includes Certificate Graduation for MSU Students

By Maureen E. Conner, Judicial Administration Program Director

Take heart MSU students, the dedication and commitment you have shown to your education and professional development is soon to be rewarded. Your president, Bill McCool, has confirmed that Dave Weaver, host clerk for the 2009 conference and MSU graduate himself, will coordinate a certificate graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be followed by an MSU reception honoring the graduates.

For students who started in the Judicial Administration Program in 2004 and attended all designated MSU courses, they need only take the courses scheduled for the 2008 conference and complete the capstone experience. Students who started in 2004 but were not able to attend all subsequent conferences may take the courses on-line to allow for a 2009 graduation. Students who started after 2004 can participate in future graduations or expedite their course work through the on-line offerings and graduate with the 2009 cohort.

Of those students who started the Judicial Administration Program in 2004, twenty to twenty-five students are on track to graduate in 2009. They are true pioneers. They put their faith in FCCA and MSU to provide a quality educational experience, and both organizations worked hard to do so. The 2009 graduation will be a celebration and the culmination of a lot of hard work for the students and the two organizations.

Planning Your 2008 Attendance

Jeff Apperson, host clerk for the 2008 conference, has begun planning with MSU to insure that the final courses for the first cohort will be available. There are three remaining course offerings which are: Resources, Budget, and Finance; Court and Community Communications; and Education, Training, and Development. One additional day will be added to the conference for the MSU students and others who wish to attend. Currently, the Education, Training, and Development course is slated for the extra day. Students are advised to watch all upcoming conference information closely and make travel plans accordingly.

Thinking About Your Final Project

Successful completion of the Judicial Administration Program certificate requires a final project called the capstone experience. In this project, students will apply what they have learned to a court opportunity or challenge. In September and October 2007, each student will receive from the Judicial Administration Program a student record reflecting all courses taken through the summer 2007 conference season, the description of the capstone experience, and instructions on submitting their project concepts to MSU for approval. To seek approval of the final project, students will be required to submit a proposal covering the following:

- Description of Project
- Statement of Problem
- Method
- Use of Judicial Administration Program Courses
- Evaluation Criteria
- Submission Deadline

Students are encouraged to think about how their capstone experience can increase their knowledge and abilities while simultaneously helping the courts. Thus, discussing ideas with the clerk of court, colleagues, other students, and MSU is encouraged.

A Final Word About 2007

MSU wishes to express its gratitude to Team Tempe for the attention the conference planners gave to the requirements of the Judicial Administration Program courses. Last, but certainly not least, the instructors for the Information Technology Management course, Chuck Diard, Mark Adams, and Pat Shubird, did an outstanding job and their sessions were rated very high by the students for usefulness of subject matter and instructor teaching abilities.



FCCA Recognizes Numerous Award Recipients

By Sue Rigan, Awards Chair

The Federal Court Clerks' Association presented over 230 awards and certificates, including three Special Service Awards. The FCCA Foundation presented two Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Awards. All were presented on Thursday, June 28, 2007, at the annual conference in Tempe, Arizona. This year's Special Service Award winners were Ian Keye, from the Northern District of California; Robin Tabora, from the District of Columbia; and Cheryl Sweat from the Eastern District of Tennessee. The winners of the Opperman Public Service Award (the "\$1500" award) were Susan Saylor, from the Middle District of Florida, and Janice Boucher from the District of New Hampshire.

Ian Keye has been a leader in our organization for nearly 20 years and has dedicated many hours of hard work on behalf of the FCCA. He served a number of years as the 9th Circuit Representative, District Representative for the Northern District of California, member of the Site Selection Committee, Awards Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, and currently serves as Chair of the Professional Development Committee. He spends countless hours each year helping to plan our annual conferences. Ian is well-known for his friendliness, enthusiasm, and support for our organization. His commitment to professional excellence is outstanding. His dedication and efforts to promote and enhance the FCCA are invaluable to our organization.

Robin Tabora has been a very devoted member of the FCCA for 30 years. She attended her first conference eleven years ago and had not missed one since. She always encourages her staff to attend the conferences as well. Robin currently serves on the FCCA Board of Directors as the Representative for the Washington, DC Federal Courts. She is also the Chair of the Conference Advisory Committee. Her strong support of the FCCA is clearly evidenced by her many hours of time dedicated to FCCA projects. Her unwavering commitment to promote excellence and enhance the FCCA is exemplary.

Cheryl Sweat currently serves on the FCCA Board of Directors as the Sixth Circuit Representative and makes extra effort to faithfully fulfill her duties. In addition, Cheryl provides invaluable assistance preparing the FCCA Journal. Her work obtaining advertisers for the Journal has been phenomenal. As a result of her effort, we have new advertisers which in turn raised revenue significantly. Her numerous ideas to improve and enhance the Journal provide greater, more user-friendly information to our members. Her devotion and service to the FCCA serve as a role model for others to follow.

Recipients of the Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award are recognized by the Foundation for their exemplary customer service. Susan Saylor and Janice Boucher were nominated for going above and beyond the call of duty as employees of the Federal Courts. Detailed profiles of their service follow this article.

In addition to the above awards, Team Tempe received a matted and framed certificate of appreciation for being our Host Court. Six members were recognized for 25 years of FCCA service: Linda Flanders, Ronnie Honey, Eileen Levine, June Phillips, Nadine Smith, and Donna Stuhl. A special certificate of recognition was presented to Steven Mandel and Don Miller for their work on the FCCA ListServ. Over 200 certificates of appreciation were given to District Representatives, FCCA committee members, and other FCCA members in gratitude for their service.

Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your continued support of FCCA!



*Ian Keye, Robin Tabora, & Cheryl Sweat -
Special Service Award Winners*



*Susan Saylor, MDFL - Dwight D. Opperman
Public Service Award Winner*

2007 Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Awards

Jenine Wright, Chair of the Deputy Clerks' Council, announced this year's winners of the Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award at the Tempe, Arizona Annual Conference. This award recognizes and rewards Deputy Clerks who consistently render extraordinary service to the public. Congratulations to:

Janice Boucher

District of New Hampshire

- Has served in her district for over 22 years
- Has been a member of FCCA for 13 years
- Has served as a case manager/courtroom deputy for 3 District Judges and 2 Magistrate Judges and as intake/court support
- Was instrumental in the development of her court's procedures governing attorney electronic filing of case opening documents in civil and miscellaneous cases
- Is an integral part of her court's new employee training program
- Maintains over 100 forms for internal and public use
- Is responsible to audit incoming CJA Vouchers prior to sending them up to a judicial officer for approval
- Primarily responsible for records management in the office
- Played an instrumental role in developing her court's case closing procedures to assure the accuracy and completeness of records
- She has consistently maintained a positive, optimistic and pleasant demeanor and conducted herself with poise and dignity.
- Is one of the first to volunteer for special projects
- Serves on various social and professional committees within the Clerk's Office
- Performs the work of two to three people
- She is an integral part of their court's new employee training program
- She is the first person the public speaks to when they call the court or come to the Clerk's Office. She serves as a fantastic ambassador for her Court.
- Numerous attorneys have made a point to comment on how pleasant, helpful, patient and informative she is when assisting them. The public has frequently shared similar sentiments
- Some prisoners in correspondence have commented on her kindness and patience with them. She is a tribute not only to her district but to the entire federal judiciary

Susan Saylor

Middle District of Florida

- Has served with the Court for 18 years and has served as a Courtroom Deputy
- Has been a member of FCCA for more than 6 years
- Her calm and patient demeanor lends itself to enhancing the image of the Clerk's Office and the Courts
- In her position, she interacts daily with family members of defendants who have found themselves placed in unbelievable circumstances
- She is always willing to assist, direct, and comfort them which helps to alleviate part of their anxiety
- Her kind personality and willingness to assist the public leaves those members of the public with a positive impression of the Court that they will not forget
- She treats lawyers, judges, and lay persons alike with respect and dignity
- She has received commendation letters from parties and attorneys thanking her for her assistance in matters involving the Court
- She has been complimented for her professionalism, good natured assistance, and work ethic
- She developed a more efficient CJA Panel Attorney Payment System
- She makes herself available to assist in the Clerk's Office with docketing, filing, and any major projects that arise
- She has served as the back-up clerk for the Finance Deputy Clerk
- She handles all of her Magistrate Judge's travel arrangements to conferences, keeps the Court's calendar, sets all hearings, orders all of the supplies in chambers, does the bulk of the filing and completes all reports that must be filed regarding case management
- She provides coverage for other Magistrate Judges and District Judges when their clerks are unavailable
Her Magistrate Judge says, (and I quote) "She is a joy to be around!"

Historian Report

David Stechmann, Historian

The 79th Annual FCCA Conference in Tempe, Arizona, was a grand experience. I would like to thank Richard Weare and his entire staff for the excellent job they did in hosting the annual conference. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Debra Lucas, Rhonda Van Dyke, Lori Landis, Betsy Tait, Mary Benchimol, and the entire team Tempe for all their efforts and cooperation in helping me host the day-to-day Historian activities. Team Tempe and FCCA provided its members with a wealth of information and an opportunity to meet retired Associate Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The social activities provided all of us the opportunity to experience the Southwestern hospitality, climate, gorgeous landscapes, spectacular entertainment and most of all, fun in Tempe. It truly made for an unforgettable conference in the Valley of the Sun.



A big "THANK YOU" to everyone for supporting me as your Historian. More importantly, thanks for all the support and sincere appreciation shown toward our efforts to present the history and evolution of past FCCA events in a fun and interesting way.

The fifth year of the Historian Room (better known as David's Room) was a huge FCCA success. The Historian room was centrally located in the courtyard of the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel with lots of space for everyone to enjoy looking back and remembering the fun times and people that help make FCCA what it is today. We presented a new exhibit on the 2006 Boston conference, along with Volume II of Journals of the years from 1997 spring to 2003 summer/fall. It is interesting to view all the Journals displayed in one setting. It gives you a real feel for what FCCA has accomplished. Participation in the assembling and dismantling of the exhibits was at an all time high with Tony Juarez, Joseph LaMura, John Zingo, Pat McNutt, Cheryl Sweat, Maria Carpenter, Deenah Levine, Eileen Levine, Ariana Estariel, Robin Tabora, Bob Barth, and many more who stopped by to help make The Historian Room possible.

Shooting the photos during the conference seems like an endless task. The reward is in capturing the memories of members as they experience an FCCA conference. A few lines from an old tune from an FCCA song reads: "While old friends we are greeting, we will find some who are new; and so when they hold that meeting, you can bet I'll be there too." I was there and I know that everyone enjoyed viewing the daily display of photos from the 2007 Tempe conference. I am excited to report that Maria Carpenter, Jess Nelson, Chuck Evans, Roseann Guzzi, Cheryl Sweat were there too and they contributed their photos to the Historian's efforts. I'm happy to announce that you can view many of the photos in this issue of the Journal along with all the photos (950+) at [http://picasaweb.google.com/Federal Court Clerks Association](http://picasaweb.google.com/FederalCourtClerksAssociation) or at the FCCA web site. Send our web site master Stephen Mandel a note if you enjoy viewing the photos and for the great job he's done in continuing the site. Without his efforts none of this would be possible.

In conclusion I hope everyone is as excited as I am about the progress we've made and enjoyed the great week in Tempe. If you have any interest in FCCA history or photography and would like to get involved in any way, please give me a call at 504-589-7690 or e-mail me at David_Stechmann@laed.uscourts.gov



WEB UPDATES

- ◆ President Bill McCool's Introduction
- ◆ Clerks Council's Section
- ◆ Modified FCCA Rate Card referencing advertising payment deadline
- ◆ 2008 FCCA Membership Form

ON THE WEB

- ◆ Tempe conference pictures and survey
- ◆ Tempe workshop materials, group photo and roundtable discussions at <http://www.azd.uscourts.gov/azd/fccaconf.nsf/docview/postconf>
- ◆ Monthly Current Events
- ◆ Current Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs Contact List (UPDATED August 2007)
- ◆ Current FCCA District Representatives Contact List¹
- ◆ Sunday, June 24 and Thursday, June 28 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Membership Introduction Video created by Sheryl Loesch and Bill McCool

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ 2007/2008 Membership Period runs from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008
- ◆ 2007/2008 Membership Drive ends September 30, 2007 (BUT YOU CAN JOIN ANYTIME)
- ◆ January 19, 2008 - FCCA Mid Year Board Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky
- ◆ March 7, 2008 - Consent to Run (Submit to Anne Stygles)
- ◆ March 14, 2008 - Nominations (Submit to Anne Stygles)
- ◆ April 15, 2008 - Ross Levy Memorial Award (Submit to Jenine Wright or Corrine Szalay)
- ◆ April 15, 2008 - Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award (Submit to Bill McCool)
- ◆ April 15, 2008 - FCCA Special Service Award (Submit to Sue Rigan)
- ◆ April 15, 2008 - Angie Award (Submit to Karen Mitchell)
- ◆ April 15, 2008 - Carol C. Fitzgerald Scholarship Program - (Submit to Ian Keye)
- ◆ May 15, 2008 - Blood for Life Report (Submit to Deenah Levine)
- ◆ June 21-28, 2008 - FCCA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky
- ◆ December 14, 2007 (for February 1), April 20, 2008 (for June 1), and August 23, 2008 (for October 1 - HARD COPY) - Deadlines to submit *Journal* articles for publication

IN THE FUTURE

- ◆ "What the FCCA Committees are Doing For You" Article
- ◆ FCCA Board, Officers and Representatives' Roles and Responsibilities

1 NOTE: *All lists are current as of this printing of the Journal. Any changes that are not reflected will be shown in the next issue and should be directed to the Circuit Representative AND Pam Twiford, Membership Chair.*

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