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2006 Annual Conference

Boston, Massachusetts

Summer/Fall 2006

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheryl L. Loesch, Clerk, Middle District of Florida



It is an exciting time to be part of the Federal Court Clerks Association. The Boston Conference was a huge success and provided conference attendees with a strong educational program as well as lots of fun. One of the highlights of the conference was meeting Mr. Jim Duff, new Director of the Administrative Office. Mr. Duff attended both the President's Reception and the Opening Ceremonies. It was an honor for those of us in Boston to get to meet Mr. Duff, who took the time to mingle with the crowd and personally met most of the conference attendees. As court employees, we are most fortunate to have Mr. Duff at the helm of the Administrative Office and we look forward to a long and collegial relationship with him. Other highlights of the conference included a strong MSU program. FCCA continues to support the MSU program and the benefits it offers court employees. The conference also was supported by facilitators and presenters from both the Administrative Office and the Federal Judicial Center. "Fun" times included a wonderful clambake outing and an evening harbor cruise. Team Boston rolled out the red carpet for us

and did an outstanding job as our conference hosts. A huge thank you goes out to them!

I am pleased to report that FCCA's membership topped 1,000 members. This shows the level of importance court employees place on being affiliated with our Association. In spite of a temporary increase in dues that covered an 18-month period in order to bring the membership period in line with the terms of our Board members, our membership numbers stayed strong. FCCA continues to pursue initiatives that would be of benefit to its

ees' unused sick days. The Administrative Office supports our efforts in this area.

As we just passed the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, I want to share with you that I continue to receive thank you notes and letters from members of our court family who were assisted through the Hurricane Relief Fund established by FCCA. Their stories are both touching and tragic. It is in times of crisis that we really see our court family pull together and help each other. I am glad that FCCA was able to coordinate the relief efforts that

were supported by all our court agencies and most associations.

As we begin to enter the fall and winter seasons, we turn our attention toward the 2007 conference in warm and sunny Tempe, Arizona. As many of you know, the District of Arizona played host to an FCCA conference back in 1991 and they have always been strong sup-

porters of FCCA. They have many surprises in store for us and you will be hearing more about conference details in the months to come.

I am so proud to be the President of such a professional and well-respected Association. I look forward to serving you throughout the next year.



Board Meeting - Boston

members. One initiative that is moving forward is the offering of additional benefits (health, dental, etc.) at group rates to FCCA members. Watch for more information on this in the near future. The FCCA is also assisting the newly formed Government Managers Coalition in its efforts to address the matter of FERS sick leave and the possible compensation for FERS employ-



From the Editor



By Patricia McNutt, Clerk,
Eastern District of Tennessee

John F. Kennedy said "Liberty without learning is always in peril; learning without liberty is always in vain." As Americans, we are fortunate to have liberties and freedoms that many people across the world do not enjoy. We also have numerous opportunities to learn. The 2006 Annual FCCA Conference in Boston gave us the opportunity to celebrate the history of our great nation and the freedoms we enjoy, and to learn about many topics of importance to our jobs.

Team Boston provided one of the best educational conferences yet; although each of the six conferences I have attended provided excellent educational programs. My and my staff's favorite programs at the Boston conference included: *Unleashing the Power of Creativity*, *Love/Hate Relationships of Punctuation and Grammar*, *CM/ECF Version 3.0*, *MJSTAR*, *Human Resources Management Classes* presented by the MSU program, and *Business Etiquette*. Where else but at an FCCA conference can you find such a variety of topics, taught by skilled professionals, who know the business of the courts and can relate the topic specifically to our jobs? I don't know of any other conference or seminar which can compete with the FCCA conference.

Which brings me to the point of my column. Why don't all courts pay

the conference fee and travel expenses of employees who attend the FCCA educational conference? Perhaps some judges or court unit executives do not realize that the *Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures* permits appropriated funds to be used for this purpose. Vol. 1, Ch. 3, Part F, ¶2.B.9. The *Guide* provides that the expenses of attending an FCCA educational conference can be paid by local court funds, provided: "the training is a necessary expense." *Id.* In determining whether the expense is *necessary*, the *Guide* lists the following factors to be considered: (a) is the training essential or will it otherwise contribute to improved job performance; (b) is the training in the best interest of the judiciary and not primarily for the personal gain of the employee; (c) is the training cost-effective; and (d) is the training not available locally or through electronic means?

The FCCA conference training easily meets these conditions. The training is always related to work performed by court employees and will contribute to improved performance (condition 1). The training is in the best interest of the judiciary because it relates specifically to judiciary programs, such as MJSTAR and CM/ECF, judiciary budget, human resources, etc., and is not for personal gain of the employee (condition 2). The training is cost-effective because it is provided by experts on the topics from the AO, FJC and private sector at a minimum conference fee (condition 3). Finally, training covers a broad range of topics of current interest, including up-to-date reports on matters such as budget, IT and human resources that are not elsewhere available in one convenient program (condition 4).

Further the AO has endorsed the payment of expenses for employees to attend the educational program of the FCCA conference. In an April 14, 2000,

letter to Ralph DeLoach, Clerk, District of Kansas, Phil McKinney, AO, said with regard to payment of expenses of employees to attend the FCCA Conference:

"I also understand that a number of training and plenary sessions, including those sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center and involving direct participation by the Director of the Administrative Office and some of his senior staff members, will be held. **You may use appropriated funds to attend these training programs.** (Emphasis supplied.) ... It is appropriate to pay for transportation costs as well as subsistence costs related to the time spent at the training from your local budget."

The same conditions referenced above apply today. FJC staff and senior AO staff members participate in the training program. The Director of the AO also attends the conference on occasion, as did Mr. Duff, who gave opening remarks at the Opening Ceremonies in Boston.

The FCCA conference provides excellent educational opportunities, covering a broad-range of job-related topics, taught by experts in their field. There is every reason for court unit executives who want their staff to receive excellent, relevant, up-to-the-minute training to take advantage of this training for their employees.



Historian Report

By David Stechmann, Historian

The 78th Annual FCCA Conference in Boston was an exceptional historical experience. I would like to thank Sarah Thornton and her entire staff for the excellent job they did in hosting the annual conference. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ginny Hurley, Sheila Diskes, Chickie Cummings, and the entire team Boston for all their efforts and cooperation in helping me host the day-to-day Historian activities. Boston and FCCA provided its members with a wealth of information and an opportunity to meet new AO director James C. Duff. The social activities provided all of us the opportunity to savor the history that is Boston, Massachusetts. It truly made for an unforgettable conference.

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone for supporting me in another two-year term 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 4th year of the Historian Room (better known as David's Room) was a huge FCCA success. The Historian room was centrally located with lots of windows and 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 new exhibits on the 2005 Chicago conference, the 1992 Boston conference and a great vintage photo from the 1959 Boston conference. Participation in the assembly of the exhibits was at an all time high. Joseph LaMura, John Zingo, Pat McNutt, Cheryl Sweat, Maria Carpenter, Anne Kuschel, Anne Stygles, Karen Hom and many more who stopped by helped make The Historian Room possible by helping to unpack and organize the room. A special thanks goes out to Eileen Levine and Ian Keye for provid-

ing refreshments during our preparation.

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 FCCA song: "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 2006 Boston conference. I'm excited to report that Maria Carpenter, Jess Nelson, and 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 at <http://picasaweb.google.com/FederalCourtClerksAssociation> or at the FCCA web site. Please send our web site master Linda Wade-Bahr a note if you enjoy viewing the photos and the great job she has done in establishing the site. Without her 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 historical Boston. 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 DavidStechmann/LAED/05/USCOURTS ⚖️

Things Jurors Think About

By Don Ferguson, Editor of *Court Crier*
and Retired Chief Deputy Clerk
U.S. District Court,
Eastern District of Tennessee

On the 16th day of trial and at the conclusion of the third day of delibera-

tions, a U.S. District Court jury in the Chattanooga Tennessee, courtroom of Chief Judge Curtis L. Collier, upon preparing to enter the courtroom with its verdict on June 8, handed courtroom deputy Mari Stanfill a note titled "Top Ten Signs (plus three) the Trial Has Gone On Too Long." The list follows:

1. You refer to reporting to court as "going to work."
2. You choose clothes to match your jury badge.
3. You check to see whether you qualify for federal employee benefits.
4. You start organizing a Juror Book Club, and everyone signs up to bring a covered dish.
5. You think one of the bailiffs looks really hot!
6. You consider sending a note to the judge asking...?
7. You know the names of your fellow jurors but you forgot your children's names.
8. You expect your family to stand up whenever you enter the room.
9. You ask whether we can rent the jury room for our first annual reunion.
10. You make more money here than you do at work.
11. When you call Republic Parking to complain that their machine ate your debit card, the customer service rep knows you by name.
12. You start thinking your fellow jurors are funnier than Jeff Foxworthy.
13. You make up stupid lists like this.

The Jury



FCCA Blood Drive Report 2006

By Jane R. Bauer, Blood For Life Chair



Michael Palus Receiving Award for WDPA

May 2005 - April 2006 was another successful year for FCCA blood drives. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our dedicated FCCA members, this year we saw our highest total donations in the 22 years the FCCA has been sponsoring blood drives. With 31 courts reporting, we collected 1535 pints of blood and platelets! FCCA members donated 175 of those pints. That makes our grand total over the past 22 years 11,839 pints. I expect that once this report is published, there may be some courts who find out they were not included in the total. Don't worry! If that happens, please send me the information and I will modify the reports.

We have several people who donated five pints of blood or platelets that deserve honorable mention for letting the vampires have at them: Mary Stottlemeyer from the Southern District of California, Pat Fosbrook from the District of Maryland, Victoria Kirkpatrick from the Northern District of Ohio, Kathy Hammond and Debra Peterson from the District of South Dakota, Darlene Moore from the Western District of Washington and David Godwin from the Northern District of West Virginia. We also have one person who received a certificate of appreciation for her donations: Ariana

Estariel from the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation in Washington, D.C. Ariana donated nine pints this year.

Our conference host court, Team Boston, received recognition at last year's conference as the highest donor court. But by doing that, they seemed to have thrown down the gauntlet and faced stiff competition this past year. While they were not the highest donor court this year, they did make it into the top three as number three with 206 pints. With 256 pints donated, our number two court is the Eastern District of California, who also just lured my district's chief deputy away to become their Clerk. And, the court with the most pints donated did an outstanding job this year – the Western District of Pennsylvania collected 278 pints. Awesome job! A framed certificate of appreciation was presented to the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The five winners of our drawing for a check for \$50 each are: Lisa Adams from the Central District of California, Mary Jo Peters from the District of Oregon, Ariana Estariel from the JPML, Pat McNutt from the Eastern District of Tennessee and Lisa Urso from the District of Massachusetts.

This year our host conference court held a blood drive on the Mass General Bloodmobile, which was parked outside of the hotel. Because of the high quality of the educational classes, scheduling issues made it difficult for people who wanted to donate blood to get the opportunity, but we do appreciate those people who were able to squeeze it into their schedule. Twelve pints were collected. This year the Deputy Clerks' Council sponsored a special drawing for FCCA members who donated on the Mass General

Bloodmobile. The winner of that \$50 is John Reilly from the District of New Jersey.

Congratulations to everyone and thank you for your donations.



Newly Elected Officials

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

And the winners for national office are: Treasurer-John Zingo, Financial Manager, Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Historian-David Stechmann, Courtroom Deputy, Eastern District of Louisiana. Both John and David were elected for a two-year term beginning in 2006. Both nominees ran unopposed and were enthusiastically elected by the members at the business meeting on July 20, 2006, at the annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Circuit Representatives, all of whom ran unopposed, for the even-numbered and the Washington, DC Federal courts are:

2nd Circuit - Deenah A. Levine, Electronic Court Recorder Operator, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, CT

4th Circuit - Robert L. Walker, Deputy Clerk, Eastern District of Virginia

6th Circuit - Cheryl Sweat, Administrative Assistant, Eastern District of Tennessee

8th Circuit - Susan Kern, Deputy Clerk, Southern District of Iowa

10th Circuit - Ralph DeLoach, Clerk, District of Kansas

Washington, DC Federal Courts - Robin D. Tabora, Chief Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Courts for the District of Columbia

Congratulations to all of the newly elected officials.



Credentialing Opportunities Continue to Grow Through the FCCA/MSU Partnership

*By Maureen E. Conner, Ph.D., Executive Director and
Dr. Sharon George, Student/Academic Services Director*

The 2006 FCCA Annual conference offered two Judicial Administration Program courses: Human Resource Management and Essential Components of Courts. Team Boston and Joe Haas worked diligently to offer a schedule that allowed conferees to take advantage of the Judicial Administration Program courses while still enjoying other conference offerings. They are to be commended for their efforts.

Creative scheduling combined with high-quality learning opportunities resulted in an addition of 13 FCCA members participating in the Judicial Administration Program—10 in Essential Components of Courts and 13 in Human Resource Management. At the start of the conference, 36 FCCA members were fully enrolled in the Judicial Administration Program. Many other FCCA members have participated in Judicial Administration Program offerings but have not activated their student status. The new participants from 2006 and past participants may join the Judicial Administration Program and activate their student status by submitting the necessary application and payment forms to Sharon George georges@msu.edu.

The FCCA and MSU partnership is a value offered to association members as well as employees of the federal district courts. The Board of FCCA is committed to the future development of its members and will offer them Judicial Administration Program courses on Information Technology Management and Visioning and Strategic Planning at the 2007 conference.

For those students interested in pursuing the credit-bearing certificate or the Masters Degree in Criminal Jus-

stice, Specialization in Judicial Administration, classes are now being offered. The MSU credit-bearing offerings have expanded to include policy analysis courses from the Department of Political Science. Now students can choose from courses focused on management and leadership development and/or policy analysis. For more information go to <http://judicialadministration.msu.edu>

Please contact Sharon George, Academic/Student Services Administrator, if you have questions regarding program options, on-line courses, or need fee forms at georges@msu.edu or 517.432.1716.



From the Deputy Clerks' Corner

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



It was great seeing "old" friends again and meeting "new" ones at the Boston Conference. Team Boston out did themselves! Kudos to them for a GREAT conference!!

At the conference, the Deputy Clerks' Council (DCC) had pins and lanyards to sell. The sale of these items is a fund raiser for FCCA. The seed money for the purchase of the pins/lanyards comes out of the Deputy Clerks' Council budget, so in order to make a profit for the organization, the pins/lanyards must be sold.

The pin collection was started by Cris Beeman, former Deputy Clerks' Council Chair in 2003. There are four years of pins available – 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 (see picture). It is not too late to start your collection! There are a few of the previous years' pins left. To catch up, the DCC is making an offer you can't refuse. The lanyard and all four pins (see picture) sell for only \$20 + \$1 for shipping/handling. It is a \$25 value! Individually the pins and lanyards sell for \$5 + \$1 shipping and handling.

If you would like to order these collectors' items, send your check made out to FCCA to:

Jenine Wright
U.S. District Court
401 N. Market
Wichita, KS 67202

Please support your professional organization - buy a pin!



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Awards Presented - Boston Conference

*By Sue Rigan, Awards Committee Chair
Western District of Michigan*

The Federal Court Clerks' Association presented two Special Service Awards and one Ross Levy Memorial award; and the FCCA Foundation presented one Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award, on Thursday, July 20, 2006, at the annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts. This year's Special Service Award winners were Judy Shelton, from the Northern District of West Virginia, and Jenine Wright, from the District of Kansas. The winner of the Ross Levy Memorial Award was Linda Wade-Bahr, from the Northern District of Florida. The winner of the Opperman Public Service Award (the "\$1500" award) was Patricia Coppola Russo, from the District of Massachusetts.



*Judy Shelton Receiving
Special Service Award*

work on behalf of the FCCA, most recently coordinating the Historian for a Day program. Her dedication and efforts to promote and enhance FCCA are invaluable to our organization.



*Patricia Coppola Russo Receiving
Opperman Public Service Award*

Judy Shelton has been the district representative for the Northern District of West Virginia since 1985 and previously served on the Board of Directors for many years as the 4th Circuit Representative. She currently serves on the Site Selection committee and previously served as Chair of the Nominations committee and Awards committee. She has attended 19 of the past 20 conferences and many people recognize her when they see her because of her friendliness, enthusiasm, and support of our organization. Judy has dedicated many hours of hard



*Jenine Wright Receiving
Special Service Award*

Jenine Wright has been a very devoted member of the FCCA since 1994. She became the district representative for the District of Kansas almost immediately and she became the 10th Circuit Representative on the Board of Directors a few years later. She currently serves on the Board as Chair of the Deputy Clerk's Council. As Chair, she is working very hard organizing fund raising activities and reaching out to members. She has attended almost every conference since she first started working for the courts. She is an avid supporter of the

Blood for Life program, and last year alone donated six pints of blood. Her strong support of the FCCA is clearly evidenced by her many hours of time dedicated to FCCA projects.

Linda Wade-Bahr received the Ross Levy Memorial Award. One need only look at the FCCA's web site to realize her proficient technological skills. By efficiently maintaining the FCCA's web site, she gives our organization a professional, polished appearance, while at the same time serving as Web Design Engineer/Administrator for the Middle District of Florida. A more detailed profile of Ms. Wade-Bahr's accomplishments will appear in a separate article.

Recipients of the Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award are recognized by the Foundation for their exemplary customer service. Patricia Coppola Russo was nominated by her Boston Teammates for going above and beyond the call of duty as Customer Service Clerk for the District of Massachusetts. Her dedication and patience with pro se litigants is exemplary. Indeed, she treats every customer with the same courtesy and efficiency no matter what their need. A more detailed profile of her service will appear in a separate article.



*Linda Wade-Bahr Receiving Ross Levy
Memorial Award*

Continued on page 13

Awards Presented - Boston Conference

Continued from page 12

In addition to the above awards, Team Boston received a matted and framed certificate of appreciation for being our Host Court. Six members were recognized for 25 years of FCCA service: Rhonda Lambert, Karen Toft, Laura Brinn, Thelma Mason, Marianne Matherly, and Cheryl Roels. Over 200 certificates of appreciation were given to various FCCA members in gratitude for their service.

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



A Dream Comes True

By Vonzetta Austin, Docket Clerk
U.S. District Court,
Middle District of Alabama

After driving past the U.S. Federal Courthouse for many years, I have always had the desire to work in this building. On January 27, 1992, my dream was fulfilled when I was hired to work in the U.S. Federal Court clerk's office. Our court consists of two divisions: civil and criminal. I work in the civil division processing civil cases. For my first position, I was hired as an intake clerk. With this position, I was met with the challenge and pleasure of working directly with the public and also with attorneys. I learned the procedures for filing civil rights lawsuits of people who believe their civil rights have been violated. I also learned that even prisoners have the right to file civil lawsuits when they believe their rights are violated. When I began working here, there were only 15 employees; now there are 31. I worked as an intake clerk for four years.

In 1996, I was promoted to my current position of docket clerk. Now, I am responsible for maintaining assigned civil cases, from opening to the

closing of each one. I really enjoy working in the clerk's office.

These experiences have motivated me for my next dream and goal of striving for advancement. To help me accomplish this, I am presently attending Troy University at Montgomery majoring in Business Administration/Management. I did not realize that returning to school would be so chaotic. From caring for a diabetic and disabled husband, and supporting a daughter in college, the stress sometimes seems almost unbearable. I am still learning how to balance my time with my family, work and school.

Trying to successfully accomplish all these things has caused me to stay up late nights studying and spending weekends writing papers. Sometimes, I spend my lunch hour catching up on assignments for school.

One day, I know that the sacrifices made now will payoff, and I will have accomplished my future dreams and goals. I will be able to look back and laugh about all the funny things that happened to me while going from work to class. In conclusion, I am thankful that my biggest dream has come true and I am very happy to be part of this great court family.



New FCCA Advertisement and Winner - C. Andrew Coomes

Courthouse Project Coordinator
U.S. District Court,
Middle District of Florida

[Editor's Note: See article "Are You Creative?" on page 21 of Spring 2006 Journal.]

Since leaving private practice in 2001 when I started with the court I have had a variety of tasks. Hired as project coordinator on the construction of the new Orlando courthouse annex, I initially spent most of my time on that

project for the first three years. During that time I also was heavily involved in the building mold and mildew studies done in Florida Middle in Orlando (a serious health problem in our area). Now, while still helping on the Orlando courthouse project, I am doing research, putting out monthly statistical reports for the court, preparing PowerPoint presentations, working on COOP plans, hurricane preparedness plans, influenza pandemic preparedness plans, and preparing other various studies and reports.

As for the ad, my reaction was sort of a spur of the moment thing. When I saw Cheryl Sweat's e-mail I thought I would try to quickly throw something together. My thought was to use the Uncle Sam recruiting poster I had seen many times over the years. Going online I was able to find a number of examples of Uncle Sam plus the poster I was looking for. I grabbed the picture, went to the FCCA web site to get some data and put the ad together. I don't think I spent more than 30 or 45 minutes doing it but decided to send it in anyway. I am glad Cheryl and the judges liked it but I honestly did not expect it would be selected. I thought there would probably be some folks experienced in the ad business who would have submitted entries.



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Federal official court reporter Sharon Borden demonstrates realtime reporting at The Courtroom 21 Project, College of William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, VA

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



Members of Deputy Clerks' Council



Attendees touring the USS Constitution



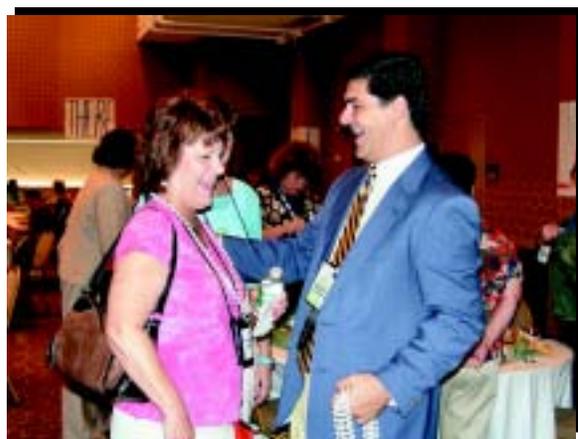
Team Boston



President's Reception - Team Florida Middle with Director James C. Duff



President's Reception - Jenine Wright, Maria Carpenter, and Bonnie Stinson



President's Reception - Debby Shattuck and David Stechmann

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



Team Arizona - Rhonda Van Dyke, Deb Lucas, Lori Landis, Betsy Tait



President's Reception - Mary Lou Gonzales, Sandra Schwarz, Ariana Estariel, Veronica Delgado



President's Reception



President's Reception - James C. Duff and Judge Douglas P. Woodlock



President's Reception - Nancy Olansky, Sandy Smith-O'Neil, Trish Carter, Susan Bridges



Deenah Levine at Vendor Fair

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



President's Reception - Anne Stygles, Maureen Conner, Tyrone DeShazier (standing), Marlene Davis, Mark Zaffarano



Ginny Hurley and Sheryl Loesch



President's Reception - From left to right: Joy Gadomski, Carlene Kinsey, Victoria Kirkpatrick, Marsha McDowell, and Stella Leno-Clifford (standing)



President's Reception - Sandra O'Hara, Carrie McKee, Julie Dennis, Bob Dennis



President's Reception - Mike Dobbins, Linda Wade-Bahr, Ralph DeLoach



Harbor Cruise Group

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



Harbor Cruise Group



Harbor Cruise Group



*President's Reception -
Jeannie Hueting, Dee Vought, and Leida Santiago*



President's Reception - Vicki Jones, Carol Vaughn, Anne Lawron, Amy Hickox



Attendees enjoying a group photo

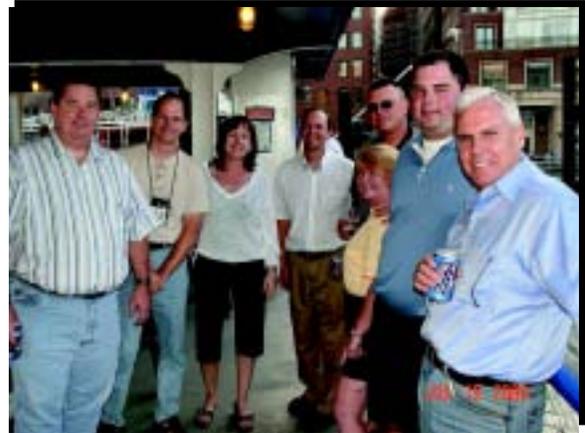


Presidents Reception - Michael S. O'Brien and family

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



President's Reception



Harbor Cruise Group



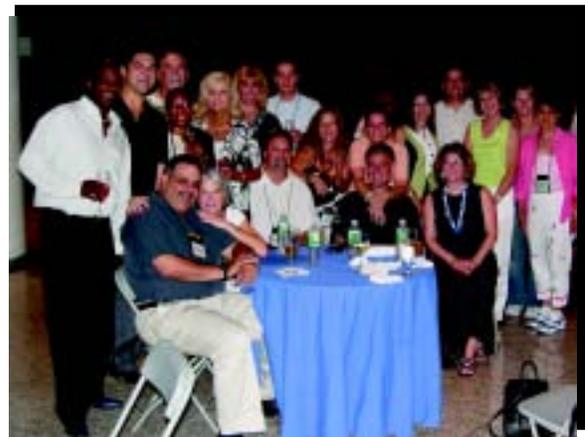
Harbor Cruise Group - Rosalie Womack, Barbara Walker, Nadine Smith, June Phillips



Harbor Cruise Group



Kathy Owings, Pat McNutt, Bob Lowney, Cheryl Sweat, Geneva Ashby



President's Reception

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



Orientation for First Time Attendees



Team Boston and Judge William G. Young



Opening Day Ceremonies - Sarah Thornton, Judge William G. Young, James C. Duff, Benjamin Franklin, Sheryl Loesch



Left to right: Marie, Dianne, Chickie, Debby, Tony V, (comedian) Ginny, Helen, Marie, Judy, Edis, Barbara, Sheila



District Court Representatives



Opening Ceremony - James C. Duff

2006 FCCA Boston Conference



Dinner Dance - Bill McCool, Eileen Levine, and Jim Davey



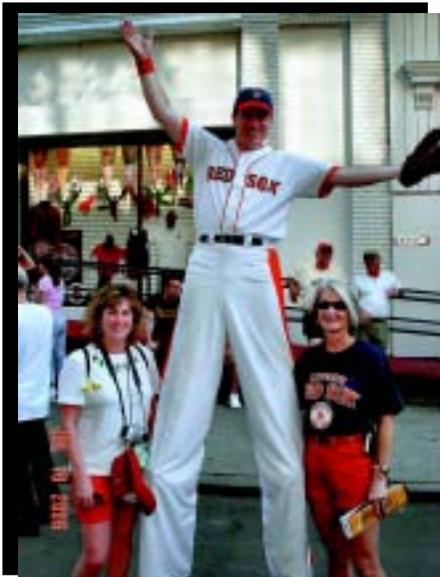
Dinner Dance - Don and Chickie Cummings



Clam Bake



Dinner Dance - Melissa Rhoades



Fenway Park - Cheryl Sweat, Pat McNutt



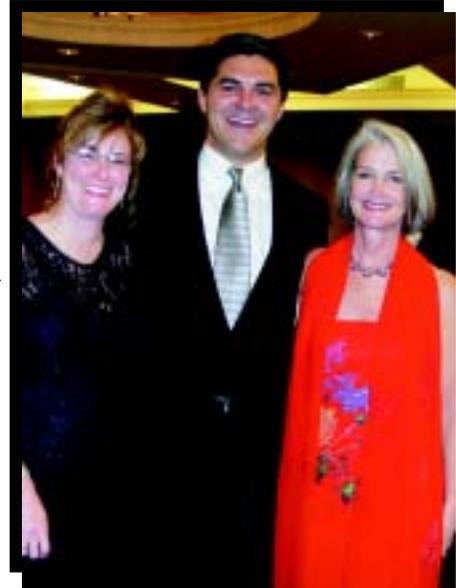
Clam Bake - Michelle A. Tambellini and Pat McNutt

2006 FCCA Boston Conference

Fenway Park -
Jim
DeLaTorre



Dinner Dance -
Cheryl Sweat,
David Stechmann,
Pat McNutt



Dinner Dance - Northern California Group



Dinner Dance -
Florida Group:
Linda Wade-Bahr,
Shannon Shoulders,
Leida Santiago,
Jessica Lyublanovits,
Alycia Marshall



Fenway Park - Ian Keye, Jimmy DeLaTorre,
David Stechmann, Joe LaMura



Harbor Cruise - Mary Ann DeLap, Jessica Nelson,
Robert L. Walker, Anita Nelson, Laura Brinn

Spotlight on Members



Andy Coomes

Andy's current position is courthouse project coordinator for the Middle District of Florida. He also deals with environmental and security issues, assists in disaster planning, project research and statistical analysis, prepares internal monthly reports and prepares meeting presentations. He has been with the court for five years.

He joined the FCCA in 2001. He has attended one conference.

Andy graduated from Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri, with a B.S. in 1958 and received a J.D. degree from Georgetown Law in 1961. He initially trained in avionics in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1963 and then served as a JAG officer from 1963 to 1969.

His three beautiful children and five grandchildren keep him busy.

Before coming to the federal court Andy practiced law in Orlando for 31 years. During that time he served his community in various capacities and as a member on several boards. He was a member and officer of the Board of the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association for six years; a volunteer mediator for the Orange County Bar Association in general civil and family law matters for twenty-five years; served on a Grievance Commit-

tee of the Florida Bar, Ninth Judicial Circuit, as member and as vice-chair; a founding member and served on the Board of Directors of the "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation; was an active member serving several terms on the Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club of North Orlando from 1975 to 1999, and a member and chairman of Diocesan Board of Education for the Catholic Diocese of Orlando. He was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church for 34 years serving on the parish school board and parish council.

His hobbies include reading, fishing, and photography.

His most special and memorable project/contributions at work include helping to facilitate district-wide testing, evaluation and remediation of serious environmental problems caused by mold and mildew in several of the older courthouse buildings and working through some contentious initial design issues in the Orlando Annex construction project which is now happily nearing completion.

His awards received include the first annual Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in 1982 and Honorary Lifetime Member Award of the "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

"Working for the court after many years practicing law was a big change but it has been most enjoyable, being warmly embraced by so many fine folks. Experiencing what it means to belong to the court family has been a blessing."



Linda Wade-Bahr 2006 Ross Levy Recipient

*By Corrine A. Szalay
Ross Levy Award Committee*

At the Conference in Boston in July, I had the pleasure of presenting the

2006 Ross Levy award to Linda Wade-Bahr from the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. Linda received the award plaque and a check for \$200. Linda was nominated for the award by Sheryl L. Loesch, Clerk of Court. Ms. Loesch had this to say about Linda:

"It is my honor and pleasure to nominate Mrs. Linda Wade-Bahr of the Middle District of Florida for the FCCA Ross Levy Memorial Award. Linda's outstanding work on the FCCA web site has been both exemplary and has had an outstanding impact on the entire FCCA organization as well as any nonmembers who view the FCCA web site. Her creativity and superior skill as a webmaster is apparent in the design of the web site as well as its user-friendly appearance. The FCCA web site showcases the Association in a professional manner which reflects positively on the organization as a whole. Linda has spent many hours of her personal time maintaining the web site and making suggested changes to it. Linda is a true asset to the Association."

When I contacted Linda after the conference to get some personal information for this article, she promptly responded. I feel I cannot improve on her own words, so here is what she wrote to me:

"I truly was as surprised as I was honored. Taking care of the FCCA web site is something I enjoy very much. To receive an award for doing something enjoyable is as much as anyone could hope for.

"As far as personal information... I had been a single mom to my wonderful son Chandler (who is also one of my best friends) for eleven and a half years until marrying my soul-mate this past November. My husband, Randy, gave me two exceptional daughters, Dallas and Nova. The five

Continued on page 21

Ross Levy Recipient

Continued from page 20

of us are very fortunate to all love and enjoy each other very much.

"As an art major going to college on a music scholarship, I did not end up working in either field. Painting, playing French Horn, and working out are now my hobbies. Thankfully though, as my position in the Systems Department for Middle Florida advanced to Web Design Engineer/Administrator, I now am able to enjoy digital graphic design as part my job.

"Thanks to my Clerk of Court, Sheryl Loesch, who asked that I design the 2003 FCCA Conference web site and put together a presentation for the opening ceremonies, our then President, Jeff Apperson, had enough confidence in me to ask that I redesign the FCCA web site. I'm very appreciative of Jeff and Sheryl for allowing me the opportunity to be involved with the FCCA web site.

"My latest effort in web design has been to develop the site for the International Association For Court Administration. The FCCA's International Relations Committee has been very involved in the development of this new association and I am proud to be part of it."

As I do after each conference when there is a recipient of this award, I telephoned Eleanor Levy, Ross's mother, who created this award to honor her son. She was very happy to hear about Linda and assures me that she will have her daughter Caren log on to the FCCA web site to check it out. She looks forward to receiving this issue of the Journal along with the photos taken by our Historian, David Stechmann, our 1999 Ross Levy recipient.



A voice in court administration and employee benefits.

Update on the 2006-2007 Membership Drive

By Pam Twiford, Membership Chair

As the end of the year approaches and the days count down I am pleased to report that the membership count continues to rise. As of the writing of this article we have a total of 1,107 members. The breakdown is as follows: 53 Unit Executives, 56 Chief Deputies and 998 Deputies.

One thing I should mention is the Board decided to include a question on the recent conference satisfaction survey. The question pertained to the membership dues. "Since this was a transition year for the membership period, which was extended from 12 months to 18 months, would you support a onetime adjusted/reduced membership fee so that new employees or those who did not join during the 2006-2007 membership drive could do so now and pay the regular 12-month membership fee for the remainder of this transition period which ends on June 30, 2007." I hope everyone had a chance to complete the survey and answer this important question.

With our membership drive coming up shortly, it is time to start working on a theme. I was e-mailed a suggestion by Jenine L. Wright, our Deputy Clerks' Council Chair. She stated the theme came from a magazine she had recently read. It mentioned how "Membership Matters" to all organizations. I can see how that theme can and does relate to the FCCA. I feel it is a great theme and hopefully you do too. Please start mentioning this around your office, that being an FCCA member matters to all of us. Here are some reasons why your FCCA "Membership Matters" for you:

Personal and professional development—FCCA is your professional organization.

- Career Enhancement
- Network of contacts
- Disaster Relief

Awards:

- Ross Levy Memorial Award—\$200
- Angie Award Plaque
- Special Service Award Plaque
- Dwight Opperman Public Service Award—\$1500
- Blood for Life Awards—\$250

Your Membership Matters for FCCA!

Membership dues are used for:

- Awards
- Scholarships
- Expenses in publishing and mailing of the journal
- Assistance in disaster relief efforts
- Preserving the Association's history
- Liability Insurance
- Educational Expenses
- Start-up money for courts hosting annual conferences

If you know of anyone who would like to become a member or renew their membership, please have them complete a membership application by downloading a copy from the FCCA web page at <http://www.fcca.ws>. If you have any questions regarding membership please feel free to contact me at 202-312-5522. Membership does "Matter"!



Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award Nomination

[Editor's Note: In lieu of an article, Team Boston submitted its form nominating Patricia Coppola Russo for the Dwight D. Opperman Award. The nomination form says it all and Pat Russo won the award.]

Nominee: Patricia Coppola Russo
Court: District of Massachusetts
Position: Customer Service Clerk
Submitted By: Team Boston (Marie Bell, Theresa Catino, Helen Costello, Joanne Cull, Mary Cummings, Sheila Diskes, Edis Feldhouse, Ginny Hurley, Debby Keefe, Judy Litwin, Marie A. O'Keefe, Dianne M. Smith)
Date: February 28, 2006

Team Boston proudly nominates Patricia Coppola Russo for the Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award.

Pat has been a member of the staff of the District Court for the District of Massachusetts and a member of the FCCA since 1995. Pat has served the court in a number of roles, most recently as a Customer Service Clerk, since 2002. We feel that Pat has really found her niche in this position.

Pat takes every opportunity to assist the public and the bar at our front counter, and treats every visitor to the Clerk's Office with dignity and respect. Pat's attitude toward the public and the bar never waivers. She always has a smile on her face and cannot wait to go that extra step to help. Pat has the same attitude toward every person who arrives at our counter, a visiting dignitary, an attorney with a problem, a messenger or a pro se litigant who needs a little hand-holding.

While preparing this nomination, we've asked her supervisor for her comments on specific tasks Pat has performed in her role as a customer service clerk. Her supervisor responded with:

"Pat is going above and beyond in her dedication and patience with the pro se Plaintiffs that appear at this window each and every day.

Pat does not hesitate to guide them through the step by step procedures. She shows more patience and understanding with first time pro se litigants as well as our everyday repeat pro se litigants. She has also instructed many of them on the public terminals, which is a great advantage to them.

Pat does not hesitate to interrupt her hectic daily schedule to take the time to explain each and every step of the complaint process.

I also feel that the pro se litigants have a good rapport with Pat because of her easygoing attitude."

The customer service section of this office is often shorthanded, but Pat never lets the weight of any extra work show. She is as friendly and helpful to the first visitor of the day as she is to the last. More importantly, Pat is not afraid to ask questions of her colleagues or supervisors when a question is asked that she cannot answer. Pat looks at these questions as an opportunity not as a burden, but as a chance to learn so that she can better assist the next person.

After reviewing a recent draft of this nomination, a member of Team Boston mentioned that we should be sure to include Pat's willingness to help her colleagues. That is a very good point. Pat recognizes that public service does not end at our front counter.

She is as willing to help a colleague with a question or problem as she is to assist an attorney or litigant at our front counter. She knows that whatever she can do to help a colleague ultimately will benefit the public, the bar and the court.

Recently Pat has had to overcome personal challenges. During this difficult period, she continued to exhibit her usual warmhearted nature on a daily basis. She never complained and, in fact, took on additional challenges at work during this very difficult time. She continually puts others above herself.

We are proud to have Pat Coppola Russo represent us and wholeheartedly nominate her for this prestigious award.



*John Joseph Moakley US Courthouse
on Fan Pier, South Boston*

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Summer - Fall 2006



By Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit Representative

On the Web

- September Current Events
- Current Officers and Board & Committee Contact List
- Current FCCA District Representatives Contact List¹
- Sunday, July 16, 2006, Board Meeting Minutes
- Thursday, July 20, 2006, Business Meeting Minutes
- Monday, August 7, 2006, Teleconference Meeting Minutes
- Current FCCA Treasurer's Report / Financial Documents
- Blood Drive Report and Yearly Totals
- Boston Conference Pictures
- FCCA Membership Introduction Video created by Sheryl Loesch and Bill McCool



In The Future

- Results of Conference Planning Committee's Satisfaction Survey (by Robin Tabora)
- 2007 Blood Report Form (by Jane Bauer)
- 2007 FCCA Membership Form (by Pam Twiford)
- FCCA Mission Statement (by Maria Carpenter)



Dates to Remember

- January 13, 2007 - FCCA Mid-year Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
- January 1, 2007 - Submission of FCCA Journal articles (due to Pat McNutt) - Publication date is February 1, 2007
- June 24-29, 2007 - FCCA Conference in Tempe, AZ

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.*