



FCCA *Journal*

Official Publication Of The Federal Court Clerks Association

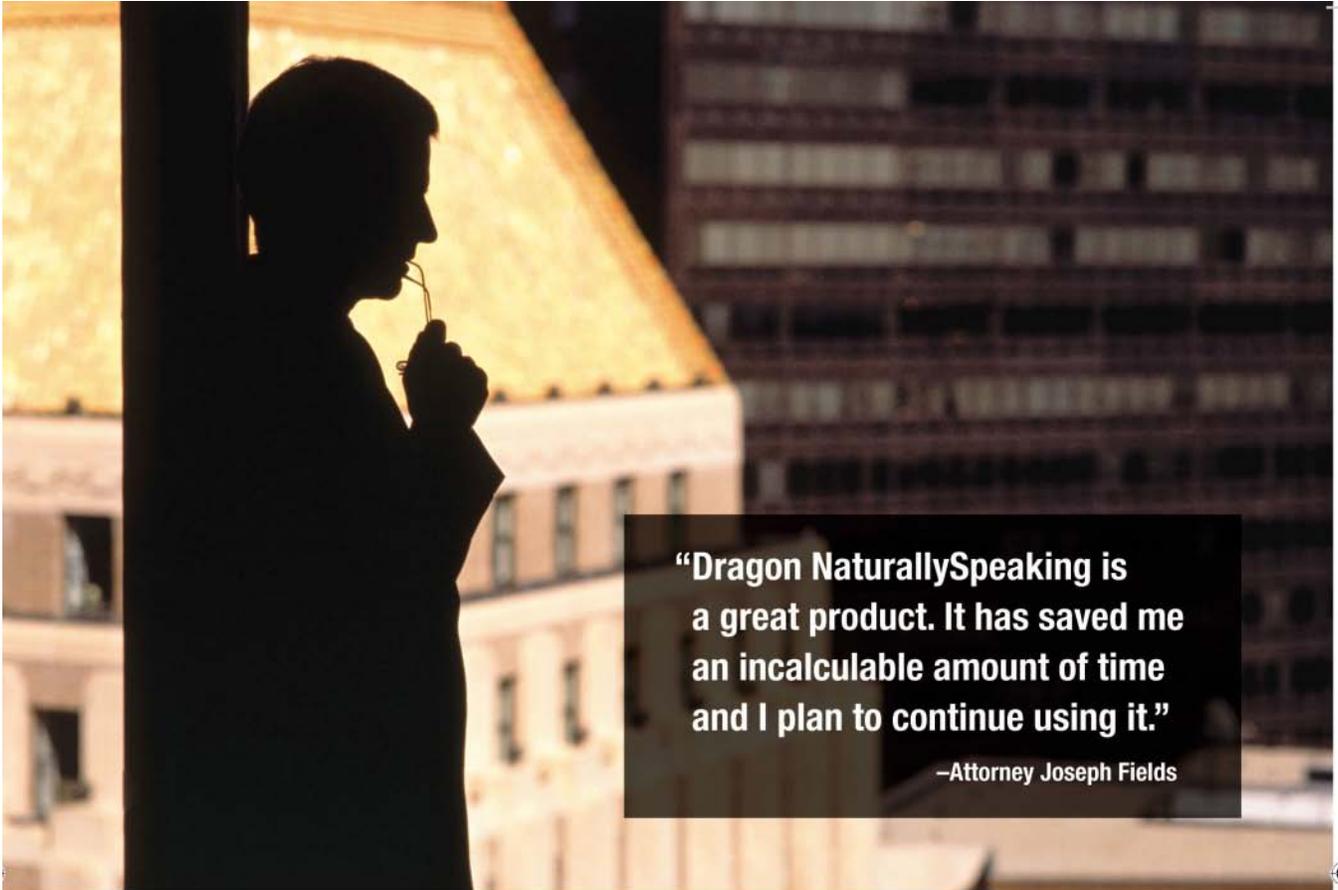
Vol. IV No. 4

Winter 2007



FCCA Annual Conference

**Tempe, Arizona
June 24-28, 2007**



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NUANCE

Winter 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



It's hard to believe it's 2007! I hope all of you had a wonderful, safe holiday season and join me in looking forward to the events in store for us in 2007.

By the time you receive this issue of *The Journal*, the FCCA Mid-Year Board meeting will have taken place. Interesting items discussed at that meeting included updates on the Michigan State University program, several membership benefits initiatives (including information on the possibility of providing some sort of credit for unused sick leave when FERS employees retire), and details regarding this year's 2007 conference in Tempe.

As all members should be aware, the FCCA Board made the decision to offer a one time adjusted/reduced membership fee so that any new employees or those who did not join FCCA during the regular 2006 membership drive can do so now and pay the regular membership fee for the remainder of this transition period that ends **June 30, 2007**. By joining during this period, employees will be able to attend the Tempe conference.

I want to thank all the members who attended last year's conference in Boston who took the time to complete the automated survey that was dis-

tributed. The FCCA Board took your responses to heart, which is one of the reasons for offering the above-mentioned one time adjusted/reduced membership fee. We want to hear from you!

I want to thank the FCCA's Clerk's Council and the NCBC for their support of the recent International Association for Court Administration's (IACA) conference held November 13-15, 2006, in Verona, Italy. This conference was a huge success and a personal highlight in the careers of many of us who attended. Be sure to read the IACA Executive Committee letter about the conference and its activities inside this issue of *The Journal*!

Now is the time for me to ask for your involvement in FCCA. This year elections will be held for Circuit Representatives from the odd-numbered circuits as well as Secretary and President-Elect. If you have ever wanted to get more involved in FCCA, please consider running for one of these offices.

Thank you for your continued support of FCCA! While we continue to face many challenges on the national front, we are able to do so with such a dedicated, professional group of members like YOU. I am hoping to see each of you in Tempe this summer!



Welcome to the...

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The Tempe Mission Palms Hotel is located in downtown Tempe near Arizona State University and conveniently located just 10 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and all major highways in and around Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona.



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Mention you are with the FCCA conference when making your reservation.

Conference Room Rate: \$105



From the Editor



By Patricia McNutt, Clerk,
Eastern District of Tennessee

Looking back on 2006, it was a good year for the members of the FCCA. Those members showed their caring spirit by sponsoring and donating to the Hurricane Relief Fund to help our court family affected by Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes. The Hurricane Relief Fund raised over \$159,000 and of which over \$92,000 was donated by FCCA members alone. We are very thankful for the generosity of our members, and also for the mild hurricane season in 2006.

FCCA members also donated blood, the gift of life. In 2006, the FCCA had the highest total blood donations in the 22 years the FCCA has been sponsoring blood drives. Let's do even better in 2007!

Newly-elected officials in 2006 include Treasurer, John Zingo; Historian, David Stechmann; Deenah Levine, Second Circuit Rep.; Robert L. Walker, Fourth Circuit Rep.; Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit Rep.; Susan Kern, Eighth Circuit Rep.; Ralph DeLoach, Tenth Circuit Rep.; and Robin D. Tabora, D.C. Federal Courts Rep. These officials, plus the remaining Board members, met in Las Vegas for the Mid-Year Meeting to plan an exciting agenda for the FCCA in 2007.

The FCCA sponsored a fabulous conference in Boston in July 2006. Based on survey results, it was one of

the best ever, particularly with regard to the educational agenda. If you missed this one, resolve now not to miss another one.

Speaking of surveys, Robin Tabora prepared a survey of members to obtain their views on the Boston conference, among other matters. Read her article in this issue of *The Journal* to learn about the results. The FCCA Board will use the results to improve on conferences and address other issues important to members. For complete results visit www.fcca.ws - History- Previous Conferences - Boston Conference.

In February 2006, *The Journal* went on-line and is published twice per year on-line and once per year in hard copy. This has reduced costs for the FCCA so that funds may be spent on other initiatives to assist members, like scholarship funds. To learn how to apply, read the article on scholarships in this issue. Also, we've attracted several new advertisers, which is exciting, and largely the result of Cheryl Sweat's efforts.

The Michigan State University Program continues to grow and offer opportunities for FCCA members to obtain either a Judicial Administration Program noncredit certificate, a credit-bearing certificate, or a master's degree from MSU. The FCCA remains committed to providing high-quality educational programs to its members.

We are working to attract new members. As of the Mid-Year Meeting, we had a total of 1,141 members. President Sheryl Loesch and President-Elect Bill McCool made a quality video to highlight the benefits of FCCA as a tool to attract new members.

We also started a new feature, "Current Events," which appears monthly on the FCCA web page, www.fcca.ws. It contains up-to-date information about matters affecting the judiciary.

Finally, we had a number of well-deserving award winners who received awards at the Annual Conference in Boston, including: Ross Levy Award, Linda Wade-Bahr; Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award, Patricia Cuppolo Russo; Special Service Awards, Judy Shelton and Jenine Wright. Please read the articles in this issue of *The Journal* about how you can nominate someone to receive an award in 2007.

Looking ahead to 2007, FCCA members have much to be excited about. We have a very strong leadership team in Sheryl Loesch and Bill McCool and the Board. They have some exciting plans for 2007, including offering certain benefit programs to FCCA members.

This year there will be elections for President-Elect, Secretary and Circuit Representatives from odd-numbered circuits. Read the article in this issue of *The Journal* on making nominations, and then nominate a deserving person.

Another exceptional conference will be held in Tempe, Arizona, June 24-28, 2007. If the cover photo of the sunset over the desert doesn't tempt you to put on cowboy boots and come to Arizona, the outstanding educational program is sure to do so. If you can plan to stay extra days, there is much beautiful scenery to be enjoyed. A Pink Jeep Tour in Sedona, where you can see the red rock hills at interesting angles, is not to be missed.

We also have some exciting opportunities to become involved with international organizations and to promote the rule of law in developing countries. Be sure to ask Jeff Apperson about his experience this summer and read his article in this issue.

Resolve to get more involved in the FCCA and make 2007 your best year ever!



1918 Flu Pandemic

It Could Happen Again! Are We Prepared?

By Robert L. Walker, Case Manager
USDC, Eastern District of Virginia at Richmond

The year was 1918. The United States joined the Allies in the Great War (commonly known as *World War I* or, *the war to end all wars*) helping to defeat the Germans and bring peace to Europe. By war's end, nearly 10 million had died, including 115,000 American troops. Some 20 million suffered from permanent wounds. President Woodrow Wilson's *Fourteen Points* insisted on the formation of the League of Nations, to preserve the peace by settling all disputes by arbitration instead of war.

On the home front, the Sedition Act was adopted by Congress, essentially making it illegal to publish anything negative about the U.S. Constitution, government or military. Congress enacted the "summer time" daylight saving law. President Wilson pushed for Women's Suffrage, which passed in the House, but failed in the Senate for a third time. Women were again denied the right to vote.

The United Way of America was founded. The first official U.S. Mail flight was launched and the first air-mail stamps were sold for 24 cents.

The syndication of Ripley's "Believe It or Not!" began. Warner Brothers Pictures was incorporated in California. Celebrities John Forsythe, Pearl Bailey, William Holden, Mike Wallace, Jack Paar, Eddy Arnold, Ann Landers and Abigail Van Buren (*twin sisters*), Ted Williams, Paul Harvey, Rita Hayworth, Art Carney and Spiro Agnew were born.

The Boston Red Sox won their fourth World Series, defeating the Chicago Cubs 4 games to 2. The Raggedy Ann doll appeared in toy stores. Camel

cigarettes were the favorite smoke, especially among the armed forces. Kelvinator launched the first home use refrigerator.

1918 was also remembered for something more horrific than the cruelest war in recent memory . . . the deadly global *1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic*, which was more lethal than the Black Death Bubonic Plague in the mid-14th century. By the time it ran out of steam in April 1919, 20 to 40 percent of the world's population were infected and 50 to 100 million people died. Approximately 675,000 deaths, including 43,000 servicemen, were recorded in the U.S. alone. The catastrophe unfolded as the worst flu epidemic in U.S. history.

The first of the mysterious flu cases was reported in military camps throughout the U.S., including Fort Riley, Kansas. By noon on March 11, 1918, 100 servicemen were hospitalized after complaining of flu-like symptoms. Within a week, 400 additional servicemen joined them. By the end of spring, 48 servicemen had died. The "first U.S. wave" of the deadly pandemic flu had begun.

By June, affected soldiers throughout the U.S. carried the flu virus to the brutal trenches in Europe where it mutated into a killer virus and quickly spread to their comrades and people throughout Europe and Asia. Thus, the global pandemic flu had begun.

Almost half of the U.S. troops killed during the war fell victim to the killer virus instead of the enemy. The Allies named it *Spanish Influenza*, because Spain was the only country to give it greater press coverage.

As the war wound down, thousands of victorious troops returned the United States, some bringing the killer virus back with them. By late August, it first appeared in Boston. Two weeks later, it had spread to the civilian population throughout the East. The "second wave" of the deadly pandemic flu had begun.

By October 1, 12,000 people had died of flu and bacterial infections. An additional 200,000 victims would die that month alone. By November, the killer virus had reached the west coast and claimed many more lives.

The onset of illness was rapid and struck with impunity. Victims were known to feel well in the morning. By noon, they felt the first symptoms, (*general weakness, difficulty breathing, severe aches in their muscles, backs, joints and head*). By nightfall, they either had high fevers, pneumonia, suffered from bouts of delirium or died. For many, it was that quick.

Regardless of gender, age, social or economic status, everyone was at risk to the killer flu. People age 20 to 40 were affected the most and suffered the highest mortality rate. Many died within hours or days, because the mysterious virus rapidly destroyed the air sacs in their lungs, resulting in pneumonia.

For 16 months, the pandemic flu was nearly inescapable. Even President Wilson suffered from the flu while he was negotiating the Treaty of Versailles to end the war. Anyone who was lucky to avoid infection had to contend with widespread food shortages (*or rationing*), economic losses, shortages of medical personnel and

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1918 Flu Pandemic

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supplies, restrictive public health ordinances and psychological horrors.

Although uncertain about its exact origin, scientists believe the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic may have been caused by an unusually severe and deadly strain of the subtype H1N1 of the species Influenza A virus, which is deadly to domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans.

One theory is that the virus strain originated at Fort Riley, Kansas, where servicemen bred poultry for human consumption. It is believed that the virus strain jumped directly from birds to humans, but this is only speculation. Once humans were infected in 1918, it became a virulent pandemic flu. Lack of natural immunity caused the disease to spread rapidly.

Could the world experience another 1918 Spanish Pandemic Influenza? Absolutely yes. The world also encountered the "Asian flu" of 1957 (caused 70,000 U.S. deaths) and the "Hong Kong flu" of 1968 (caused 34,000 U.S. deaths). Worldwide, these viruses alone killed nearly 4,000,000 people.

Actually, it's not a question of if, but when. Global flu pandemics usually occur every 20 to 30 years. However, a pandemic can only occur if a new flu strain emerges, if the new flu strain can infect humans and cause serious illness, and if the new flu strain can spread easily. A similar outbreak to the 1918 pandemic flu today could claim 1,400,000 American lives.

Everyone is at risk. Therefore, everyone should always be prepared for the inevitable, which could occur at any time. There is no stopping it, unless an effective vaccine is developed and is readily available worldwide.

Most of us have experienced a seasonal flu (or common flu) during our lifetime. It is a respiratory illness caused

by influenza type A or type B viruses. It can be transmitted by touching objects with flu viruses on it or from person to person in respiratory droplets released by coughing and sneezing. The symptoms are all too familiar. Most people have some immunity to combat it on their own or choose the use of a vaccine (a seasonal flu shot). Anyone in a weakened capacity is at a high risk for serious flu complications. Therefore, an annual vaccination is recommended.

Avian (or bird) flu is caused by influenza viruses that are natural and very contagious among migratory (wild) birds, but it doesn't make them sick. However, the disease can spread to domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks and turkeys, and make them very sick or kill them. Symptoms in humans are more severe (i.e., pneumonia and severe respiratory diseases, which can prove fatal). The risk of avian influenza to humans is low, except for the highly pathogenic H5N1 variant, which first appeared in humans in 1997 in Hong Kong.

Most of the recent accounts of victims infected with the H5N1 variant resulted from direct contact with infected domesticated birds (i.e., in third world countries where the domesticated poultry industry is unregulated). Currently, humans are not immune to the disease and there is no vaccine commercially available.

Fortunately, there is no pandemic flu in the world today. However, with the world's explosive population growth, overcrowding and mobility, scientists are keeping a watchful eye on the H5N1 variant, particularly in eastern Asia, where the highest number of infections and deaths have been recently recorded. Further mutations may make it easier to infect humans and spread rapidly, resulting in the next global flu pandemic.

In the United States alone, a severe flu pandemic could lead to widespread illness, a large number of

deaths, and long-term economic losses. During an outbreak, occurring in waves of 6 to 8 weeks, Americans would be challenged with dramatic changes to their ordinary daily lives.

Local government offices, businesses and schools could be closed. Citizens could be quarantined in their homes. All forms of social interaction could be disrupted and avoided. Transportation, including of food and essentials, could be interrupted. Health care facilities and hospitals could be overwhelmed with numbers of sick and supplies of antiviral drugs might be limited. With a high mortality rate, funeral homes could also be overwhelmed. Although temporary, the impact could be felt for years.

Health experts warn that in order to be prepared for the next flu pandemic, we need to plan now, in our homes, organizations and communities.

The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, issued by President Bush on November 1, 2005, directs the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to lead the charge to stop or slow down the spread of a flu pandemic to the U.S., minimize the domestic spread of a flu pandemic to prevent widespread suffering and deaths, and lessen the impact of a flu pandemic on our infrastructure, economy and every day life.

The HHS Plan is designed to provide national, state and local policy makers and health officials with a blueprint to prepare for and respond to a flu pandemic. To review the plan, please visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plan/>.

HHS, through its National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is developing pre-pandemic vaccines based on current lethal strains of H5N1, collaborating with industry to increase the nation's vaccine production capacity and seeking ways to ex-

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1918 Flu Pandemic

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pand or extend the existing supply (*i.e.*, development of antivirals Tamiflu® and Relenza®, which are being stockpiled by the U.S. government).

The U.S. government has formed partnerships with other countries, including the World Health Organization, to develop worldwide surveillance of circulating influenza strains, response activities and containment strategies.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the current outbreaks are the result of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian (bird) influenza, which is the largest and most severe on record. WHO provides valuable information and answers to questions about avian flu. Please visit http://www.who.int/topics/avian_influenza/en/.

The HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has conducted extensive research for developing critical actions necessary in response to a flu pandemic. CDC also provides valuable resource information on avian flu. Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>.

Individuals, families, communities and organizations must be vigilant in planning now in order to protect themselves later. The effects of the next flu pandemic can be lessened if preparations are made ahead of time.

For valuable planning and preparation resource information and checklists, please visit the official HHS government flu pandemic web site at: <http://pandemicflu.gov/>.

To review individual state plans, please visit: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/stateplans.htm>

The next influenza pandemic is already overdue. If it unfolds, everyone around the world will be at risk. It will

sweep our society like wildfire and will potentially become the worst disaster known to man. If we fail to act and prepare now, the short and long-term consequences will be far more devastating than the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic.

Note to Editor:

Last fall, the Clerk's Office, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, hosted an interesting presentation on Pandemic Flu led by an epidemiologist from the Virginia Department of Health. After attending, I decided to research further on how the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic impacted the world and how the next flu pandemic could affect all of us. After careful research, I am absolutely convinced that we need to prepare now. I would strongly encourage all courts and court units to contact their local Health Department to determine if a similar presentation is available for their staff. Court personnel should periodically familiarize themselves with the emergency preparedness plans in their courts and review the judiciary's emergency preparedness program on the J-Net at http://jnet.ao.dcu/Emergency_Preparedness/.



Consider Yourself Asked

By Jane Bauer
Blood for Life Chair

Did you know that only 5% of the eligible population donates blood? Have you ever donated blood? Will you donate blood? If you have never donated because you have never been asked, consider yourself asked! That is the current theme of the American Red Cross Blood Services unit.

Giving blood is the most precious gift you can give. You never know when you, a loved one, or a friend will need blood. Blood must be available before it is needed. On an average day, 38,000 units of red blood cells are needed.

Blood is a medicine that can only be given from one person to another -

no other source is currently available. Volunteer blood donors are needed on a daily basis to give blood for the thousands of patients who need it.

In the minority population there is a greater amount of blood types O and B than in Caucasians. Because large amounts of blood are needed to treat Sickle Cell disease, there is a growing need for minority blood donors.

If you are a middle-aged male, a study published in the British Medical Journal suggests that donating blood can reduce your risk of heart disease!

You do not need to wait for your office to hold a blood drive to donate blood or platelets. You are eligible to donate every 56 days. If you donate somewhere besides a court blood drive, please let your blood drive coordinator know so your donation can be counted. Also, members who donate blood or platelets are eligible for a \$50 cash award from the Blood for Life drawing at the annual conference.

If you need to report blood donations, the donation year runs May 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007. You may either fax me the report or send it to me via e-mail no later than May 15, 2007. My fax and e-mail information is on the "Blood for Life Donors" form which is available on the FCCA's web site.

So Consider Yourself Asked!



Arizona Welcome Sign

BLOOD FOR LIFE DONORS

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Reporting Period: May 1, 2006-April 30, 2007

Report due: on or before May 15, 2007

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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: Jane Bauer
 FCCA Blood Drive Chair
 United States District Court
 450 Main Street
 Hartford, CT 06103

Telephone: 860-240-3206
 Facsimile: 860-240-3211
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 Jane_Bauer/CTD/02/USCourts@USCourt
or
 Jane_Bauer@ctd.uscourts.gov

2006-2007 Membership Update

By Pam Twiford

On December 1, 2006 the Board approved to offer the remaining membership period (December 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007) at discounted rates. They are as follows:

- \$20 Deputy Clerk/Retired/Other
- \$50 Chief Deputy/Other Court Executive
- \$75 Unit Executive

I am pleased to report that I have received approximately 15 additional membership applications since this offer was announced. Please keep the applications coming in. Also remember you will have to renew your membership as of July 1, 2007.

At the time this article is being written our membership totals 1,141. The breakout is as follows: 1,030 Deputy Clerks, 58 Chief Deputies and 53 Unit Executives.

It is now time to talk about the upcoming membership drive. It will start on **July 1, 2007**. All membership materials will be forwarded to your Circuit Representative by **May 18, 2007**. This will give everyone time to assemble their packages and forward them to your District Representatives. Our theme this year will be "Membership Matters." As I had mentioned in our last issue of *The Journal* being an FCCA member matters to all of us. You will be happy to know that the membership fees will remain the same as the discounted rates presently being offered. This is great news. So please spend a few minutes to review why your FCCA Membership Matters to you.

- MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN COURTS
- NETWORKING, INFORMATION SHARING
- PROMOTING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- A VOICE IN COURT ADMINISTRATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
- DISASTER RELIEF
- IMPROVING SERVICE TO THE COURT AND PUBLIC
- ANNUAL CONFERENCE

If you know of anyone who would like to become a member or renew their membership at the reduced rates, please have them complete a membership application by downloading a copy off of the FCCA web page at <http://www.fcca.ws>. Feel free to give me a call if you should have any questions at 202-312-5522.



FCCA 2007 Annual Conference Climbing to New Horizons

By Deb Lucas

The 2007 FCCA Annual Conference promises to be a conference to remember. The planned educational program should definitely offer something for everyone! Team Tempe has spent a great deal of time reviewing the comments and suggestions provided by previous conference attendees so that we could attempt to offer the educational opportunities requested by the membership. Although the schedule is still a work-in-progress, we have included a tentative agenda in the accompanying information.

The Tempe Mission Palms hotel is only steps away from more than 170 shops, galleries and restaurants. Many of the desert-hued hotel guest rooms

and suites overlook the beautiful courtyard area located in the center of the hotel. Guests may decide to spend their free afternoon at the picturesque pool with splendid views of downtown Tempe and the surrounding mountains or at the fitness center overlooking the pool. The hotel features 303 sleeping rooms, a restaurant, lounge and poolside cabana. A room block has been reserved with room rates of \$105 per room per night with up to quadruple occupancy. Conference attendees will also receive complimentary shuttle service to nearby Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Tempe Town Lake is located adjacent to downtown Tempe and provides a two-mile recreational haven for kayaking, sailing or rowing. The park also boasts five miles of pathways for walking or jogging. The weather in June will be warm so attendees will want to plan their wardrobe accordingly - casual attire is recommended for all events!

There are many beautiful destinations in Arizona. The Grand Canyon Railway features a train ride from Williams, Arizona, to the Grand Canyon, or visitors may decide to take a drive to see the red rocks of Sedona. Attractions in the Tempe area include the Desert Botanical Garden, the Phoenix Zoo, and the Arizona Mills Mall. The ASU Karsten Golf Course is also very near the hotel for those wishing to squeeze in a quick round of golf.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The members of Team Tempe love to have a good time so we have spent many hours coordinating the social events to ensure an enjoyable time for conference attendees of all ages!

Sunday evening we will kick off the conference with the President's Reception which will be held in the Abbey ballroom of Tempe Mission Palms hotel. The ballroom opens into the ho-

Continued on page 11

Climbing to New Horizons

Continued from page 10

tel courtyard and music will be provided by our own, Tony Juarez.

The most anticipated event of the conference will be an evening reception with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Justice O'Connor has graciously agreed to address the conference attendees at an evening reception to be held in the Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many members to personally meet this truly remarkable woman. The event will include heavy hor's d'oeuvres and local musical entertainment.

For the sports enthusiasts, the Team Tempe has planned a trip to Chase Ballpark to catch a Diamondbacks game. If all goes as planned, the DBacks should be facing the LA Dodgers. The weather should be no issue as the stadium roof can be closed allowing the entire park to be air-conditioned if it is too warm. Come see the only ballpark in America with a swimming pool in the outfield!

Yee Haw! Calling all cowpokes! The FCCA wagon train will be heading for Rawhide, so put on your cowboy hat and boots and enjoy an evening of good food and gunfights. Rawhide is an 1880s town situated in the Gila River Indian community. As you wander down Main Street, you can shop in the general store, ride a mechanical bull, or pose for a photograph in an 1880s costume. Bring a hearty appetite as there will be big chuck wagon barbecue buffet with plenty of music for dancing after dinner. If that is not enough excitement for one night, guests may also decide to walk a few steps across the desert to try their luck at the Wild Horse Pass Casino. The trip should definitely provide action and adventure for all ages! For more information, please visit www.rawhide.com.

On Thursday evening we will celebrate another successful FCCA Conference - Arizona style. The final banquet will be a Mexican Fiesta so prepare yourself for some very good food - and lots of it! Dress up in your most colorful outfit (shorts are encouraged), and plan to dance 'til you drop!



2007 Mid-Year Meeting

By Patricia L. McNutt,
Clerk, U.S.D.C., Eastern Tennessee

The Mid-Year Meeting was held at the Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Saturday, January 13, 2007. We would like to thank Clerk of Court for the District of Nevada, and former President of the FCCA, Lance Wilson, for making arrangements for the Board to meet in the courthouse.

The Board went to work at 8:30 AM and concluded after 3:00 PM. Key topics included an annual update from Rick Weare and Deb Lucas on the 2007

Annual Conference in Tempe, Arizona, June 24-28, 2007. Be sure to read the articles about the conference in this issue. (The conference web site should be up by the time *The Journal* is posted on-line.) The educational, social, and networking activities are fantastic, as is the hotel.

Jeff Apperson gave an update on the 2008 Annual Conference to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. Jeff is in the initial planning stages for the 2008 conference, but already has great ideas for educational programs and social activities. The conference will most likely be held in late June to coincide with the peak period for activities at Churchill Downs.

The Secretary and Treasurer's Reports can be found on-line at www.fcca.ws. The FCCA is financially sound and offering more benefits and opportunities to members than ever before. *The Journal* has attracted many new advertisers in recent issues. Membership is increasing. The Board is committed to working for you and improving the FCCA.



Mid-Year Board Meeting

2007 Federal Court Clerks Association Conference Draft Agenda

By Deb Lucas

Saturday, June 23, 2007

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Early Registration

Sunday, June 24, 2007

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration

10:00 am Optional Golf Tournament - Karsten Golf Course at Arizona State University
(www.asukarsten.com)

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm President's Reception

Monday, June 25, 2007

7:30 am - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

7:30 am - 8:30 am Registration Continues

7:30 am - 8:30 am MSU Orientation

7:30 am - 8:30 am First Time Attendee Meeting

8:30 am - 10:00 am Opening Ceremony

Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Musical Medley

Welcome

Chief Judge John M. Roll (District of Arizona)

Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder (Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals)

Keynote Speaker

10:00 am - 10:15 am Break

10:15 am - 11:45 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Lunch on own

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm Personal and Professional Development Workshops

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Personal and Professional Development Workshops

6:00 pm An Evening with Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Catered Dinner

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

7:30 am - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

7:30 am - 8:30 am Registration Continues

7:30 am - 8:30 am District Representative Meeting

8:30 am - 10:00 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops

10:00 am - 10:15 am Break

10:15 am - 11:45 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Clerk Luncheon

11:45 am - 1:15 pm Deputy Clerk Luncheon

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm Personal and Professional Development Workshops

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Personal and Professional Development Workshops

6:00 pm Optional - Diamondbacks Ball Game

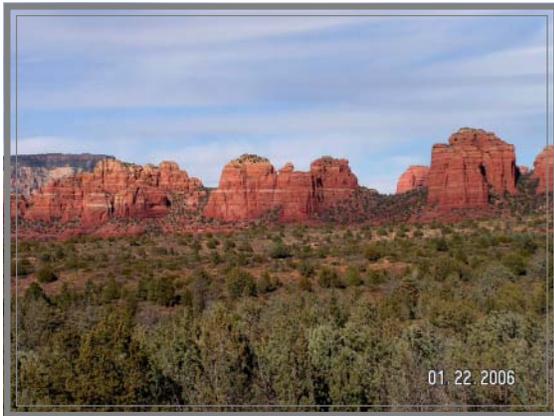
2007 Federal Court Clerks Association Conference Draft Agenda
(Continued)

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

6:00 am Optional - Fun Run to "A" Mountain
7:30 am - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 8:30 am Registration Continues
8:30 am - 10:00 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops
10:00 am - 10:15 am Break
10:15 am - 11:45 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops
11:45 am - 1:15 pm Vendor Fair with Box Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm Personal and Professional Development Workshops
2:45 pm Free Afternoon
4:30 pm Western Barbeque - Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass (www.rawhide.com)

Thursday, June 28, 2007

7:30 am - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 8:30 am Registration Continues
8:30 am - 10:00 am Plenary Session
10:00 am - 10:15 am Break
10:15 am - 11:45 am Personal and Professional Development Workshops
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Business Lunch
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm Business Meeting
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm Plenary Session
3:15 pm Free Afternoon
6:00 pm Cocktail Reception Farewell Dinner Dance



Sedona, Arizona

**List of Educational Sessions for the FCCA Conference
June 2007**

By Deb Lucas

Topic Name	Presenter
MSU: Intro. to Information Technology	TBD
MSU: Conclusion to Information Technology	TBD
MSU: Visioning and Strategic Planning	Maureen Connor
MSU: IT information	TBD
AO Update	TBD
Basic Self-Defense	Spencer/Rea
Border Patrol Initiatives	Jesus Rodriguez
	Michael Milby
	David Maland
Mail and Identity Theft	Greg Torgenson
CSRS and Retirement Planning	Jim Delatorre
FERS and Retirement Planning	Jim Delatorre
Risk Management	Jim Delatorre
TSP and Investment Planning	Jim Delatorre
Flexibility in the Workplace	FJC
Organizing Skills	FJC
Working Collaboratively	FJC
Generations at Work	FJC
Roundtable Discussions	8 separate discussions District of AZ staff
Spanish Survival Skills	Marcia Resler
Work Ethics	Deb King

Deputy Clerks' Council Launches FCCA LISTSERV

By Robert L. Walker, Case Manager
USDC, Eastern District of Virginia
at Richmond

EDITORS NOTE: The following article is a reprint of the article published in the spring 2006 Journal. Jane Bauer's "Ramblings," p. 16, refers frequently to this article; therefore it is reprinted for your convenience.

Recognizing that effective communication within the FCCA is essential for its continued growth, strength and success, the Deputy Clerk's Council invites all current members to subscribe to the FCCA ListServ.

A ListServ is essentially a powerful electronic mailing list of people interested in a certain topic or specific area of interest. It allows for widespread distribution of a variety of information within a group or facilitates discussion among a group with or without moderation. It reaches a vast audience and solicits an interactive response. It is a unique opportunity for users in the workplace to give back to their profession.

The FCCA ListServ is an effective and convenient method for members to distribute all kinds of information simultaneously to every member on the list - announcements, notifications, suggestions, comments, work-related questions and solutions - you name it. For example, you may have a suggestion for training at an upcoming conference or you may have an ECF question - the possibilities are endless.

Our listserv allows for fast, simple, and informative communication between members who share common organizational and work-related interests. As we take advantage of this exciting and convenient opportunity to gather and exchange information, our organization and professions will continue to strengthen and grow.

The Deputy Clerk's Council extends its sincere appreciation to Stephen Mandel and Don Miller, IT professionals from the Northern District of Florida at Pensacola, who were very instrumental in the construction of the listserv using a server in their district. They will serve as List Owners and be readily available to provide technical assistance, privacy and security.

The FCCA ListServ operates from a secured server, which requires that you use your work e-mail address to communicate with it. There are two addresses to remember. To send commands to the FCCA ListServ, please use: listserv@listserv.flnd.circ11.dcn. This is the FCCA ListServ address. To send messages, please use: FCCA@listserv.flnd.circ11.dcn.

To subscribe to the listserv, open Lotus Notes, type in the address field: listserv@listserv.flnd.circ11.dcn. Leave the Subject field blank. In the body of the message, type the command: SUBSCRIBE FCCA Your Name. For example, SUBSCRIBE FCCA Robert L. Walker. The command is not case-sensitive, so you can use upper or lowercase letters and include your middle initial. Please type your name as you would like it to appear to others.

Within seconds, you should receive a Welcome Message, an Instructional Message, and a Subscription Confirmation Message. Congratulations, you are now registered! If you don't receive all three messages, please notify Steve at

(Stephen_Mandel@flnd.uscourts.gov)
or Don at
(Don_Miller@flnd.uscourts.gov).

To unsubscribe to the FCCA ListServ, please follow the same instructions, except type the command: SIGNOFF FCCA. Members are not permanently committed to the list and may leave at any time.

To avoid receiving a heavy influx of emails, which may be overwhelm-

ing, members have the option of receiving them in digest format. This will compile an entire day's postings into a single daily e-mail. Use the FCCA ListServ address and type the command: SET FCCA DIGEST.

Contributions to the FCCA ListServ are automatically archived. Archive files offer the opportunity to maintain previous postings for both discussions and broadcast e-mail. Newcomers to the list may want to review them to see if questions have previously been answered.

For a list of archive files, use the FCCA ListServ address and type the command: INDEX FCCA. To review an archive file, use the FCCA ListServ address and type the command: GET FCCA LOGxxxx (i.e., to review archive file 0602, type: GET FCCA LOG0602). A search option may be added at a later date.

For a complete list of commands, use the FCCA ListServ address and type the command: INFO REFCARD.

All messages and responses are sent to every subscriber on the list. As with any e-mail, proper etiquette is essential. Please identify yourself, keep your messages, questions and comments brief, stick to the topic intended for discussion, be courteous and considerate of others' time, avoid meaningless messages, such as "I agree!" and more important, never send jokes or anything inappropriate. Members are encouraged to follow the discussions presented, and/or to join in and respond to whichever messages or discussions you choose.

At this summer's conference in Boston, the Deputy Clerk's Council will meet to discuss additional options and ideas for the FCCA ListServ, so please stay tuned. A theme for the conference is "United We Stand." It is our hope that the FCCA ListServ will unite and strengthen our organization through the continued sharing of information and ideas.



From the Deputy Clerks' Corner

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

"Try It – You'll Like It"...

is a phrase that can be applied to FCCA. If you've never been a member of FCCA, then you don't know what you're missing.

Joining FCCA offers many benefits to its members. One of the major benefits of belonging is the educational opportunities provided at the annual conferences. The conferences also provide forums for the exchange of information and offers networking opportunities.

My first annual conference was in New York City in 1996. I was hooked! The conferences give me the opportunity to learn new things, network with my peers, catch up with friends I've made at previous conferences, and make new friends.

Attending the conferences gives me the opportunity to visit places I might not otherwise get to visit. I usually arrive the weekend before the conference begins and stay after the conference ends to get in some additional sight-seeing.

The 2007 annual conference will be held in beautiful Tempe, Arizona June 24-28.

Team Tempe is hard at work planning a great conference for us.

You ask, "Why should I join if I'm not able to attend the annual conferences?" Attending the annual conferences is only one benefit of being a member of FCCA. There are many other great benefits for joining, and it is affordable at \$20 per year (less than \$2 per month) for deputy clerks, \$50

per year (about \$4 per month) for Chief Deputies/Other Court Executives, and \$75 per year (about \$6 per month) for Unit Executives.

To become a better organization, FCCA needs your energy, ideas, and suggestions.

FCCA needs you! YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

For those of you who aren't currently members, my challenge to you is to join FCCA for one year. I guarantee you'll be hooked.

For those of you who are current members, my challenge to you is to sponsor someone in your district who isn't a member. Hopefully they will like it - if they try it!

Ross Levy Memorial Award

By Corrine Szalay

It is never too soon to start thinking about nominating a deputy clerk who is an FCCA member and "whose performance, both on and off the job ha[s] been exemplary, ha[s] had an outstanding impact on the Federal Court Clerks Association, and is recognized and appreciated."

Please read over the prerequisites of the Ross Levy Memorial Awards Program as published on the FCCA web site and use the form supplied to nominate that deputy clerk that you believe is most deserving of this award.

Tax Season Is Coming!

By Maria Carpenter
Second Circuit District Representative
District of Connecticut

An article was published in a government newsletter last year about Turbo Tax offering free tax service to those in the military. This peaked an interest – could we offer this to our FCCA members?

I wrote to Turbo Tax to ask them just that. Unfortunately, they do not offer any free products to any organizations. However, they did provide me with the following information:

If someone qualified as per the criteria for using the free filing Web site, they can use it. The qualification criteria for using the free filing offer is that the person should be 50 years old or less and should have earned only an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less in 2005. (Note: You may want to check the web site to see what the requirements are for this year.)

The free filing web sites are: www.taxfreedom.com for filing only the federal returns and www.statetaxfreedom.com for filing both the federal and state returns, if the concerned state participates in the program.

Even though the FCCA can't offer this as a service to its members, I thought some may meet the qualification criteria to file free tax forms. Don't forget to check the IRS Web site, too!



Tempe Mission Palms Hotel

Seeking Experienced Retirees

By Gordon Maginnis
IBM Project Executive

Are you retired? Do you have experience with accounting for criminal debt? We are looking for experienced criminal debt specialists or financial administrators who can assist in the data preparation aspects related to the implementation of the Criminal and Civil Accounting Module (CCAM) in the federal courts system. Experience with the CCAM system, CFS1 or the ACT tool (Criminal/Civil data conversion application) is a plus.

IBM is seeking experienced individuals to work as subcontractors helping to implement CCAM. Interested individuals should contact Gordon Maginnis, IBM Project Executive, at (202) 365-5240 or gordon.maginnis@us.ibm.com.

Thank you.

[NOTE: Gordon Maginnis is an IBM contractor for the Administrative Office Accounting and Finance Systems Division, working with Phil McKinney and Mary Mortellaro.]

Trip Report

My Service as United Nations Chief of Court Management for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), June - September 2006, The Hague, Netherlands.

By Jeffrey A. Apperson, Clerk, United States District Court
Western District of Kentucky

In late May of this year, I received a call from the Deputy Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia asking if I would be interested in temporarily assuming the role of Chief of the Court Management and Support Section of the Tribunal, which is located in The Hague, Netherlands, for six months. For background purposes, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was established by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 827. This



Registration at Verona Conference

resolution was passed on 25 May, 1993, in the face of serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and as a response to the threat to international peace and security posed by those serious violations. The Hague was considered a very important symbolic location as it was there that Czar Nicholas II's invitation to the civilized nations of the world to assemble in what was to be the "First Hague Peace Conference of 1899."

After consultation with Chief Judge Heyburn, the court, and my Chief Deputy, Vanessa Armstrong, it was agreed that a leave of absence for four months would be allowed. Even with the acquiescence of the court, taking the appointment was a difficult decision. I had recently hired a chief deputy, I

have a young family, and several other community responsibilities. On the other hand, the opportunity to participate in the evolution of international criminal justice, live in a Western European country, and learn about the operations of the United Nations in a diverse cultural atmosphere was too attractive. In addition, the opportunity to attend the European Union of Court Administrator Conference in Linz was also a motive for accepting the position.

On the first day in the office at ICTY, I realized I had accepted the most daunting challenge of my career. There appeared to be a consensus that there would be little I could do to effect any meaningful change in the institution due to my short term. In a way, that low expectation worked out well. It also was beneficial to be a "temporary employee" and to have as my only interest giving my best advice without the worry of stepping on toes.

In addition to learning the court operating structure, personalities, United Nations protocol, rules of pro-



(left to right) Jeff Apperson; Markus Zimmer; Bar Association Representative; Dr. Gabriele Guarda, President of E.U.R.; Mayor Zanotto; and President Francesco Abate of Verona Tribunal

cedure etc., there were several management issues. My two managers had only been appointed as managers for one month. I also had a big morale issue facing me because the funding for the trials was scheduled to end in 2008 and appeals in 2010, therefore I was



Courtroom in The Hague

asked to assist with a "completion strategy." Obviously, anxiety was high among my 40 staff members as to what would become of their professional futures (they were from 32 countries).

I was assigned many tasks, some of which are too sensitive to discuss. My most important duties, however, were in the following areas:

(1) Supported all trial activities. Six trials were ongoing in three courtrooms starting at 9:00 a.m. and finishing at 7:00 p.m. with only four 20 minute breaks. Each of the six trials were managed by a panel of three judges with one presiding judge. If there were any problems, the presiding judge would call me.

(2) Coordinated 90 bis hearings in the Former Yugoslavia (discovery proceedings).

Continued on page 19

Trip Report

Continued from page 18

(3) Ensured that in court, the document management and electronic presentation system worked and sought to improve the system's effectiveness.

(4) Managed the exhibits. One trial had 9000 exhibits and hundreds of witnesses.

(5) Managed the archive of the court. It was also referred to as the tribunal's legacy.

(6) Managed a staff of 40 from 32 countries. Evaluations, promotions, reorganization, etc.

(7) Managed the Office of Document Management which was a transcript coordination office.

(8) Rewrote Office Procedure (The Directive).

My office hours were generally 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. I worked eight hours most weekends. My objective was to learn while managing.

I bonded with my staff quickly, indeed they were instrumental in my eventual feelings of accomplishment. Their belief in me gave me credibility with chambers and the Registrar, a credibility that eventually ripened into an opportunity to meet with the full court in plenary session the last week at The Hague to present a reform agenda.

While I can't go into much detail, the court unanimously adopted several major recommendations that would improve transparency, help preserve the legacy of the institution, reduce delay and improve general efficiency. While I cannot divulge the record of the proceeding of the tribunal, I was able to obtain their agreement to:

(1) adopt a pilot project for electronic filing and signature in chambers.

(2) authenticate much of the electronic record of the court in order to offer the public a historical electronic record that was accessible universally and preserved in an electronic format. Paper records should become obsolete.

(3) the structure for retention schedules was submitted.

(4) a stronger redaction policy was approved in an attempt to make more of the record public.

In addition, electronic signatures by all parties was agreed to as well as the pilot for attorneys to make electronic presentations in the courtroom beginning with the Seselj case.

One of my other important experiences was my work in coordinating administrative activities and lessons learned with the International Criminal Tribunals of Cambodia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice at the Peace Palace. I could write a report about these experiences separately.

I returned home to a great reception by my court (it was good to know I still had a job), my family (Julie and the kids did miss me, but not as much as I missed them) and with the memories of a great experience in The Hague. President Pocar, Registrar Holthuis, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Tolbert and Deputy Registrar Horning were great people to work with, indeed, they are now my esteemed friends and colleagues.

There is much more I could report, for example, the decision making process at the tribunal could also be reported as the "clash of civilizations that somehow gets the job done."

Most Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Apperson
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Western District of Kentucky



FCCA Special Service Award Nominations Sought

By Sue Rigan
Awards Committee Chair

Nominations for the Special Service Award are now being taken! This award may be presented to any FCCA member who has made a significant contribution or given outstanding service to the FCCA. Any FCCA member may nominate a fellow FCCA member. No more than five Special Service Awards are usually given in a year.

You may e-mail your nomination with a brief description of the reason for the nomination, including an explanation as to the contributions your nominee has made to the FCCA, to: Sue_Rigan@flmd.uscourts.gov or you may mail them to Sue at U.S. District Court Clerk's Office, 300 N. Hogan Street, Suite 9-150, Jacksonville, FL 32202, or fax them to 904-549-1969. Deadline for submitting nominations is **April 16, 2006**.

Committee members Cindy Idema (Western District of Michigan) and Sheila Beauchene (District of North Dakota), will be reviewing the nominations. The recipients will be presented for approval by President Sheryl Loesch and will be given their award at the annual conference in Tempe, Arizona. This is a great opportunity to recognize those "special services" provided by an FCCA member. Perhaps you or someone you know will join the 34 FCCA members who have received this award since its inception in 1995!



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December 22, 2006

Dear Distinguished IACA Colleagues:

On behalf of President Zimmer and the Executive Board of the International Association for Court Administration, this is to report on association activities since our meeting in Verona. But first, our sincere best wishes for a prosperous, productive 2007.

We have received several suggestions for improving the organization and we will be evaluating them next year. Many were long range in scope and very appreciated. Our immediate goals are generally as follows:

- (1) As suggested, draft a vision statement.
- (2) Continue to enhance the content of the web-site. Most of the Verona conference materials should be on-line early next year.
- (3) Continue to add Board Members in the regions. Indeed, we are proud to announce that Judge Eldar Mamedov of the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan is the new Vice-President for our Central Asia region of the organization. Several other changes will most likely occur at the beginning of next year.
- (4) Establish a best practices committee that will also consider recommended standards for court administration as well as the establishment of other concentrated committees.
- (5) Appoint an editorial board for a journal, work with the CEELI Institute to create a training academy and the University of Denver to implement an on-line training curriculum.

- (6) Seek funding from related donors.
- (7) Begin the membership drive. Jessica Lyublanovits has agreed to chair our membership committee.

Again, we wish to thank President Francesco Abate and President Gabriele Guarda for hosting our conference in Verona and the Hotel San Marco for its outstanding hospitality. In addition, the time and effort of the outstanding faculty; Dr. Marco Fabri, Professor Phillip Langbroek, Dr. Barry Mahoney, James McMillan, Dimitrije Sujeranovic, Chief Judge Hossam Ahmed Hassan, Counselor Osama Attaweya, Margaret Groarke, Elmira Pasagic, Chief Justice Thijmo Kondi, Gavin Ruxton, Robin Vincent, Sean Visoth, Anne Marie Wallace, Professor Irina Makeeva, Igor Drozdov, Georgi Svidorov, and Gordana Stoyanova is profoundly appreciated as well as the support of the Federal Court Clerks Association and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks. Also, thanks to the CEELI Institute, World Bank, USAID, the International Development Law Organization, World Learning and the United Nations for your support.

Hopefully, our 2008 conference in Dublin, Ireland will meet the high standards established by President Zalar in Ljubljana and Presidents Abate and Guarda in Verona.

Thanks to all our advisors, members and associates for your contributions in the attempt to help all of us achieve higher standards of administering justice and, consequently, the peace justice brings.

Most sincerely,

The Executive Committee
International Association for Court Administration

Nominations Are Being Sought for National Officers and for Circuit Representatives

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

Our Nominations Committee is looking for a few dedicated, enthusiastic members who are willing to get involved and be nominated for the national offices of President-Elect and Secretary and for Circuit Representatives for the odd-numbered circuits.

If you know of someone who would like to be nominated for the above positions, please contact the individual and encourage him/her to run for one of the aforementioned positions. The individual can be from any court (District, Bankruptcy, or Circuit). If you are interested, please ask an FCCA member to nominate you. Nomination forms will be forwarded to all District Representatives by their Circuit Representatives.

Nomination criteria for national offices and the Board of Directors are:

The individuals must be active FCCA members, must have attended at least two annual conferences. Terms of office for the above positions are two years and begin at the end of the annual conference.

Duties and responsibilities for circuit representatives are:

- 1) distribute expeditiously all communications for FCCA's President and its governing body;
- 2) assist the various committees of the organization with ongoing projects, as needed;
- 3) coordinate the "Blood for Life" program and other local FCCA activities;
- 4) coordinate the Deputy Clerks' portion of the conference pro-

gram as well as the Seniors' Reception, held at the annual conference;

- 5) coordinate the election process for their circuit (biannually) as well as the election of national officers (annually);
- 6) assist the Membership Committee in actively soliciting membership in the FCCA and promoting members' involvement in the organization's initiatives and activities; and
- 7) appoint district representatives to assist them in the above duties.

Nominations for circuit representatives this year apply to the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th circuits.

Nomination forms must be returned by mail to the Nominations Committee Chairperson, Anne Stygles, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 625 Indiana Avenue, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004, or fax to 202-585-3962, before **March 16, 2007**. If you have any questions, please call Anne at 202-501-5979.



Ramblings...

By Jane R. Bauer, Blood for Life Chair
District of Connecticut

[Editor's Note: See companion article by Robert Walker on p. 9.]

Got a minute? Grab a cup of coffee, sit back and let me tell you of my recent experience with new technology. Wait - please don't be scared away. This article will not be full of techno speak, honest. Read on and see what happens when a non-systems person

has a close encounter with a new technology.

Let me start with a disclaimer: I really am not a systems person. And before anyone thinks I am systems bashing, and I arrive at work to find my computer's memory is off somewhere having drinks with my brain's memory never to return, my experience is a reflection of my own limited understanding of technology and not a reflection on the fine job systems people do for us everyday.

So, the FCCA decided to have a Listserv for its members to use. What exactly is a Listserv? I had no clue. In the spring 2006 edition of the *Journal*, Rob Walker had written an article about the new Listserv so my first stop was there. My own, nontechnical definition of Listserv is that it is one giant e-mail mailing list. It works just like when you set up a group in your Lotus Notes e-mail, but you don't need to worry about keeping the group current. Yippee! The List Owners, a couple of systems people who actually understand this stuff, keep up with the subscribers. Subscribers is a fancy Listserv term for the people who want to be on the mailing list. Systems people are probably cringing at my simplistic explanations, but let's face it, they already understand this stuff so I am writing this for the rest of us.

OK, so now we know what a Listserv is, why do we care? Well, from what I understand you can use it to send out questions, solicit information and generally have a work-related e-mail system that has a specific mailing list we can use to communicate with each other. You are probably still saying, so what? Well, I had a specific question about what some other districts were doing in relation to CM/ECF and certain types of attorney filings and had a eureka moment that I could use the Listserv to find that information. As an aside, people who know me usu-

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Ramblings

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ally say “uh oh” when I have one of these moments, so I kept this one to myself.

So anyway, I started with Rob’s article. My own short attention span soon had me skipping over large portions of what he had taken such care to write. Skipping that stuff may help explain my initial confusion over what the heck a Listserv was, but that’s another story. But I did see what I thought was IMPORTANTSTUFFREADME@ONCE. Which turned out to be important stuff.

So your first step is to subscribe to this Listserv. It was easy, even I could do it without assistance. All you do is send an e-mail to the Listserv at Listserv@Listserv.flnd.circ11.dcn. Leave the subject field blank. In the body of the message just type SUBSCRIBE FCCA your name. It is not case sensitive, but the instructions say to please use your middle initial and type your name as you would like it to appear to others. I know, I too was thinking this is too easy. There must be a catch. But really, it is just that easy. Who knew?

So I sent off my e-mail and got an immediate response! Someone (or something) in the e-mail system sent a response that my request to join the list had been forwarded to the List Owners for approval. Wow-approval. I bit my nails for three days until the List Owners decided I was a good candidate to be a member and welcomed me to the list. Was it an omen when, in my welcoming e-mail, they also told me how to unsubscribe? Hmmmm.

I also received an e-mail with volumes of information about the workings of a Listserv. So for the rest of you non-systems people, breathe. Having read Rob’s article, this information was

basically the same stuff! OK, that narrows down the volume of stuff I now feel overwhelmed with. I actually read this stuff and it is written in English. No really, real honest to goodness English. I guess there was just so much of it, I was a bit intimidated.

I decided to wait until I had time to really read and understand this stuff. So you all know what that means. Three months later I have my previously mentioned eureka moment and decide that this would be a good time to learn how to use the Listserv and to solicit information from my fellow FCCA members. So, baby steps. I decide since I have not heard anything from the Listserv since the date I subscribed, I would request a list of archived files to see what I have been missing. The information the List Owners sent me gave simple instructions on how to request the archive list. So I sent my e-mail request off.

OK, how can I say this nicely. Why is it that real e-mail gets bounced back as undeliverable immediately, but government e-mail takes three days? So three days later I get the e-mail bounced back as undeliverable. Great! My first foray into the netherworlds of a Listserv and I broke it. Now what? Hey, Rob Walker wrote that great article that encouraged me to sign up in the first place, he must know something about Listservs so let’s bother him. He forwarded my e-mail SOS to the List Owners. This is probably where I should name names. The List Owners are Stephen Mandel and Don Miller from Florida Northern. They were great about fixing the problem with the Listserv immediately and never blamed me - at least not out loud or in writing.

So what next? I have no idea. As of this writing, I still have not sent my question out on the Listserv. But I will. And if you are a subscriber, please feel free to share an answer to my question. If you are not a subscriber, join us.

And if anyone has any suggestions that will help me understand and use the Listserv, or even if you just want to commiserate with me, send me an e-mail. I’m in Lotus Notes as Jane Bauer/CTD/02/USCOURTS.

In the meantime, thanks for listening to my ramblings.



The 2006 Boston Conference Survey Results are In!

By Robin Tabora
Conference Advisory Committee Chair

Shortly after the Boston conference, the Conference Advisory Committee prepared and sent out its satisfaction survey to all attendees. Last year our survey was completed by 124 attendees. This year we had an even better response. There were just over 200 conference attendees and we received 149 responses. The purpose of the survey is to find out what attendees liked or didn’t like in order to make the next FCCA conference the best experience possible.

Our committee provided the survey results to the FCCA Board and this has prompted much discussion in the last two Board Meetings. The Board approved dissemination of the results to the entire membership through the Circuit and District Representatives. If you haven’t seen the results, please contact one of your local representatives or visit www.fcca.ws - History - Previous Conferences - Boston Conference.

Your responses have already made a significant difference and I would like to share some of the results with you so that you can see how much we appreciate and value your input.

The FCCA Board requested that we include a question on our survey regarding membership dues. As you

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2006 Boston Conference Survey Results

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may recall, this was a transition year for the membership period, which was extended from 12 months to 18 months. As a result of your responses, the Board approved a one time reduction for prorated dues for anyone wishing to join the FCCA from December 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

On the question, "How satisfied were you with the on-line registration?" Eighty percent of the attendees were Extremely Satisfied. Those who were dissatisfied provided specific examples of the problems they encountered, which we have forwarded to Team Tempe to review and act on, if possible.

To the question, "Did the educational agenda meet your expectations?" Over 92% responded Yes, 3% responded No and 5% either skipped this question or chose to provide written comments. Of those who responded, 20.3% provided specific comments in this area. A sample of the comments are: "I'm very pleased with the MSU offerings." "My greatest frustration was that the courses were terrific, but we almost always ran out of time and could have used more hands-on practice or discussion." "I would have liked more handouts, especially on classes that used PowerPoint."

We asked, "Do you think retirees should receive a reduced attendance fee rate?" Of those who answered this question, over 66% thought they should receive a reduced fee rate, and 27.3% felt they should not. 6.7% of the respondents skipped this question. We also received 20 written comments to this question, which provided the Board with excellent information to make an informed decision to offer an "a la carte" registration fee to allow retirees to pick and choose the events they wish to attend and be charged accordingly.

On the question, "What recommendations do you have to improve future conferences?" Forty-four people took the time to provide us with suggestions. This is incredible. Studies indicate most people who complete surveys have no problem checking a box, but they don't often take the time to provide written comments, which is where we get our best information. These comments provided us with the "nitty gritty" stuff that you could never design a question to capture; i.e., Use bigger print on the name tags and include job titles; get Clerks to offer more funding; include more job related sessions; dinner dance less formal; I enjoy a beverage between classes; and so on.

Our Committee would like to thank the 149 people who took the time to complete our survey. Your responses have made and will continue to make a difference. Keep your suggestions coming and we look forward to seeing you in Tempe!



Spotlight on Members



June Phillips Retires

June Phillips retired from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia on Friday, September 29, 2006. June began her career with the courts in August 1981, after many years in the private sector. She began in what was

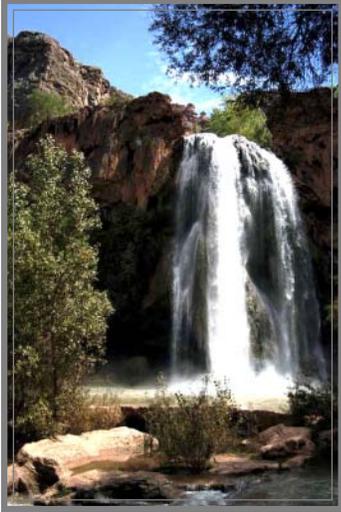
then considered to be Unit B of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals which later became the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. During her tenure at the circuit court, she held the positions of Generalist Clerk, Courtroom Deputy and Secretary to the Motions Attorney. In 1990, June accepted the position of Relief Courtroom Deputy in the bankruptcy court. In 1994 she was selected to be the Courtroom Deputy Clerk for the newly appointed Honorable Judge Robert E. Brizendine. She held that position until her retirement.

In addition to her dedicated and respectable service she gave to the Courts, she also involved herself in the Federal Court Clerk's Association. She joined the organization in 1982 and has attended a number of conferences over the years. She served the organization as Chair of the Nominations Committee and as the 11th Circuit Representative for 2001 - 2003 period.

June's retirement was commemorated with three separate events. The first was a party given in her honor at the Gainesville Divisional Office which was attended by many members of the local bar association. The second was a retirement and awards celebration held in the Atlanta Divisional Office. The final event was a surprise dinner and roast given by her family and close friends.

Reports are that June has already begun enjoying retirement life by traveling, volunteering in the Lions Club and working on home projects.





Havasua Falls

A Hot Deal!

*By Ian Keye
Professional Development
Committee Chair
Northern District of California*

Dreaming of a balmy desert summer renewing your FCCA acquaintances and striking up new friendships in Tempe? Fired up about an educational opportunity that just might land you the job of your dreams? Warming up to that computer course that you've always wanted to take but just couldn't come up with the funds? FCCA has a hot deal for you!

FCCA members may now apply for the Carol C. Fitzgerald Scholarship. Each year awardees can receive up to \$250 toward attendance at the Annual Conference or up to \$500 toward the cost of a career-related course or training program. A total of up to \$2000 for all awards is made available each year. Preference is given to first-time scholarship applicants, but all eligible FCCA members are encouraged to apply.

The Fine Print. To be considered for an award, you must: be a member of FCCA in good standing for at least

two consecutive years; be a deputy clerk employed by the U.S. Courts; submit the application by **April 16, 2007**; sign the Continuing Employment Agreement; and, not be an FCCA Board Member or officer. Additional information is available at the FCCA web site: <http://www.fcca.ws> (Click on "Scholarship Program" for complete details. A link to the application form and Continuing Employment Agreement can be found on the last page of the program instructions.)

If you qualify, a toasty little award just might come your way. Apply for the Carol C. Fitzgerald Scholarship today!



The Pink Jeep Tour

Clerks' Council Update

*By Karen Mitchell
Clerks' Council Chair
Northern District of Texas*

The FCCA is organized to increase the proficiency of its members through continuing education programs. The FCCA also fosters cooperation among the courts and provides a forum for the exchange of information related to judicial administration. These important purposes are achieved largely through annual conferences. The conference in Tempe this year will be a great opportunity for clerks and deputy clerks to participate in substantive training, network with oth-



Sedona, Arizona

ers, and exchange information in an informal and relaxed environment. Do not miss the opportunity to participate in this great event. Keep in mind that appropriated funds can be used for travel and travel-related expenses for employees to attend the educational portions of the conference.

The Clerks Council was pleased to recognize some of our distinguished colleagues who retired in 2006 or early 2007 with plaques from the FCCA. Those retiring included Michael Beck, Clerk of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation; Arlen Coyle, Clerk in the Northern District of Mississippi; Ed Klecker, Clerk in the District of North Dakota; Dan Thomas, Clerk in the Northern District of Georgia; and Marcus Zimmer, Clerk in the District of Utah. We will miss them all!



Sedona, Arizona

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Winter 2007



By Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit Representative

On the Web

- Current Events on FCCA Home Page
- Current Officers and Board & Committee Contact List
- Current FCCA District Representatives Contact List¹
- Wednesday, December 6, 2006, Teleconference Meeting Minutes
- Thursday, November 9, 2006, Teleconference Meeting Minutes
- Current FCCA Treasurer's Report / Financial Documents
- Membership Introduction Video created by Sheryl Loesch and Bill McCool
- 2007 Blood Report Form (by Jane Bauer)
- 2007 FCCA Membership Form (by Pam Twiford)
- FCCA Mission Statement (by Maria Carpenter)
- 2006 Boston Conference Survey Results
- Bylaws - Updated January 4, 2007



Dates to Remember

- Friday, March 16, 2007 - Nominations for President-Elect, Secretary, and Circuit Reps of Odd-Numbered Circuits (due to Anne Stygles)
- Monday, April 16, 2007 - FCCA Special Service Award Nominations (due to Sue Rigan)
- Monday, April 16 - Submission of FCCA Journal articles (due to Pat McNutt) - Next publication date is June 1, 2007
- Tuesday, May 15, 2007 - Blood for Life Forms (due to Jane Bauer)
- June 24-28, 2007 - FCCA Educational Conference in Tempe, AZ
- Monday, April 16, 2007 - Applications for Carol C. Fitzgerald Scholarship (due to Ian Keye)
- Friday, May 18, 2007 - Membership Materials are forwarded to Circuit Representatives
- Saturday, June 30, 2007 - Membership Drive Ends



In the Future

- MSU Link
- Tempe, Arizona Conference and Contact Information

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.*