

FCCA MINUTES
Teleconference Board Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2007 - 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Loesch on Monday, January 29, 2007, at 12:10 p.m. Eastern time.

Those present: Sheryl Loesch, President; Bill McCool, President-Elect; Sue Rigan, Secretary; David Stechmann, Historian. Circuit Representatives: Deenah Levine, Second Circuit; Bob Barth, Third Circuit; Rob Walker, Fourth Circuit; Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit; Peggy Guernsey, Seventh Circuit; Susan Kern, Eighth Circuit, Michael Nagy, Ninth Circuit; Ralph DeLoach, Tenth Circuit; Yvonne Goodloe, Eleventh Circuit; Robin Tabora, Washington DC Federal Courts. Committee Chairs: Karen Mitchell, Clerks' Council; Jenine Wright, Deputy Clerks' Council; Pat McNutt, Journal Editor; Maria Carpenter, Site Selection; Ian Keye, Professional Development; Anne Stygles, Nominations.

FERS Sick Leave Conversion

Sheryl Loesch introduced Ms. Deborah Beck, a lobbyist for William S. Bergman Associates in Washington D.C. Ms. Beck said her company is the oldest lobbyist company in D.C., having been in business for 38 years. She's been a lobbyist since 1991. She does not represent any other associations that would pose a conflict with the FCCA.

Ms. Beck said her plan would consist of looking into the members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees and meeting with their staff. She would then identify some key members and make some preliminary visits to brief them and get them interested in working on our issue of converting FERS sick leave into credit toward years of service upon retirement. The next step is to get someone to sponsor the bill, which would be referred back to the Judiciary Committee once it is introduced. Hearings would not likely be held. It would be a good idea to also start a grass roots campaign at that time. Ideally, the bill would be tacked onto another bill that is quickly moving forward. Ms. Beck charges \$150 an hour and she estimated 100 hours would be a good estimate for starters. She said it took about six months to get the NOVA bill introduced and passed, and that bill affected 186,000 employees. Our bill would only affect about 19,000 employees.

Ralph DeLoach said it is important for us to come up with a "hook," meaning a compelling reason to have this legislation passed. Several suggestions included: we are operating with staff shortages and when people are absent from work, it affects our service to the public; it is an incentive to recruit and retain good people; and, without enough probation officers on the job, we won't have adequate supervision of offenders. Mr. DeLoach suggested having a subcommittee research this further. Sheryl Loesch, Bill McCool Yvonne Goodloe, Karen Mitchell, Pat McNutt, and Robin Tabora agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Ms. Beck said she would like to sit in on the subcommittee's conference call. Ms. Beck suggested addressing

the legislation's economic impact - what will it cost the government and what will it save. Ms. Loesch said she will gather data on the comparison of FERS and CSRS sick leave usage.

In closing, Ms. Beck thought the legislation stands a good chance of passing, especially since the precedent with NOVA has been set. Ms. Loesch said she will organize a subcommittee meeting and meet with other organizations who will hopefully assist with funding. She will also keep the Director of the AO informed of our progress, as it is important not to circumvent any efforts the AO may be undertaking.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rigan
FCCA Secretary