

Ian Keye
Ninth Circuit Representative
Northern District of California

I am very honored and look forward to serving as a member of the FCCA Board of Directors, representing the Ninth Circuit (that's the "small" one, somewhere out West).

One of the very first things I did almost 23 years ago when I began my career with the Northern District of California was to join *our* organization. I didn't know much about FCCA back then (when the hair was considerably longer and considerably less gray), but I recognized its value almost immediately. As District Rep since 1992, I have continued to support FCCA and have received commendation for assistance with national elections. As I have advanced within the court system, I have seen FCCA evolve into an organization that really does make a difference. From the Blood for Life Program to various ad hoc fundraisers for those in need to our *ex officio* seat on the Judicial Conference's Clerks Advisory Council, FCCA continues to prove itself worthy of our commitment. My background with the federal courts includes numerous line positions within operations and, in more recent years, various managerial positions within the district. As Operational Analyst, I currently serve as Clerk's Office representative on both our Local Rules Advisory Committee and our Civil Justice Reform Act Group.

When I started working for the courts, fresh from U.C. Berkeley and full of ideas about how I could make things better, I did see the need in our district for greater involvement and input in the creation of rules and procedures by those who keep the system running on a daily basis – deputy clerks of every level and grade. Sometimes, the simple addition or deletion of a word in a local or federal rule, for example, can have a profound impact on some facet of court operations. I believe my input on the two influential committees mentioned above has, indeed, made a difference and has "made things better" for our operational and administrative staff. My goal, as a member of the FCCA Board of Directors, is to assist our organization to increase *its* role in the formation of Judiciary policies and procedures. FCCA membership includes a great cross-section of the non-judicial members of the Third Branch. We can be critical, impassioned, and exasperated, *and* we can be insightful, industrious and energetic. Underlying all, however, we are highly dedicated to our offices, our courts and our judges, and to the image and importance of the Judiciary in our society today. We are, therefore, an important resource – one that needs to be heard.

FCCA's role in the professional and personal development of our members has become exemplary in recent years. Seminars at the Annual Conference are better and more informative than ever. The *FCCA Journal* has evolved into an excellent source of information on Judiciary innovations, as well as FCCA news and events. And, the newest information source, the FCCA Web Site, is beginning to show its potential at keeping us informed. Now, FCCA is beginning to take its rightful position as the voice of those who contribute so greatly to maintaining and supporting the role of the Federal Judiciary – a very positive development and one to which I hope to contribute while serving as a board member.

Please let me know of your interests and concerns, especially if you work or are a retired member within the Ninth Circuit. My cemail address is: Ian Keye at ~9DC-CAN-SANFRANCISCO, or through the Internet at: ian_keye@can.uscourts.gov.

Your support and trust in me as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Court Clerks Association is truly appreciated.