



# NCBC IMPACT

*Dedicated to the professional development of its members*

Archived Articles

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Volume 11, Issue 2

## President's Message by Ken Hirz

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Impact. With temperatures hovering in the teens this past month in Cleveland, spring is a welcome thought. Of course, given our FY 2011 budget suspense, everyone is feeling the chill. We continue to plan for the 2011 Annual Conference and our host courts LA-E and LA-M and their staff have been busy with the details as we approach the conference dates June 14-17, in New Orleans. Look to their article in this edition and visit their website at <http://www.laeb.uscourts.gov/ncbc2011>, for more information. The Education Committee has done an outstanding job setting the table for this year's education program which features 30 breakouts and other educational opportunities critical to the success of our clerks' offices. Under these austere budget times training becomes even more of a critical element to meet our mission. Review the educational program in detail and you will see how the current classes take you from leadership to teamwork, from human and financial resources to creative problem solving, managing court budgets, technology, and don't forget the ever popular stress management and wellness. The courses scheduled for this conference should help all of us meet the challenges of 2011 and beyond.

I want to encourage our membership to be active with their trade organization, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, and step up to run for one of four open positions on the board. Candidate statements are due March 11. Please consider running for office or nominating a colleague. More information on this can be found in Trisha Harrington's enclosed article.

*Hope to see you in New Orleans in June.*



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**OOPS!**

### CORRECTION

We incorrectly listed

9<sup>th</sup> Circuit:

Maggie Bondi, CA-N

We should have listed

9th Circuit:

Maggie Bondi, Alaska

Sorry Maggie! Please accept our apologies.

### JOIN NCBC

<http://www.ncbcimpact.org/membership.html>

### Emeritus Members

Membership for Emeritus members is open for retirees from federal service according to NCBC by-laws. What many Emeritus members may not know is that they are encouraged to maintain their active status in NCBC by not only continuing membership, but attending the annual conferences. In March 2009, the Board approved the waiver of the registration fee for Emeritus Members and to allow attendance at the president's reception and continental breakfasts. Other events would be payable on an a la carte basis. Please pass this along to any retirees from your court. And of course, if you are nearing retirement, we hope you will take advantage of this policy and continue to retain membership and keep abreast of conference activities.

## **Awards Committee Needs Your Nominations !!** by Milton N. Aguila

The National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerk's Award Committee is inviting nominations to recognize Judiciary employees whose efforts have benefitted the courts and/or the NCBC. The NCBC will be honoring both individuals and groups at the conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. We need your nominations so that these awards can truly and accurately reflect those efforts of your fellow co-workers.

### **Your nominations are sought for the following awards:**

**Outstanding Service Award:** This award represents service provided to NCBC and/or the courts by an individual that goes beyond a single task or assignment. The award is usually presented for longer term efforts.

**Outstanding Achievement Award:** This award represents an achievement by a group that results in savings or changes which benefitted the court system as a whole.

**Special Service Award:** Represents service performed that is more limited in nature; this award tends to recognize one time efforts or assignments on behalf of NCBC or the courts

**Administrative Excellence Award:** An award for accomplishments that is more administrative in nature.

**Outstanding Public Service Award:** Represents service provided to the public that had a positive effect on a community by an individual or group.

**Distinguished Service:** An award to recognize retiring NCBC members and those individuals who are retiring who have had a long history with the NCBC and/or federal service that has had a positive impact on or made substantial contribution to the bankruptcy community.

Milton N. Aguila is serving as Chair of the Awards Committee, and is joined on the committee by Eileen Garrity, Lizette Torres, Crystal Lightfoot, Daniel Paez, Pat Borokhovich, David Doyle, Kathleen Crosser, Eric F. Cyman, Cheri Sorensen, Robin Stanley, Tina Preston, Joanne Felt and Sharon Gardner.

Nominations must be received by **Friday, March 25, 2011**, and may be submitted to me by email at

[milton\\_aguila@nysb.uscourts.gov](mailto:milton_aguila@nysb.uscourts.gov). When submitting a nomination, please use the enclosed [Award Nomination form](#) and attach it to your email. Thank you for taking the time to submit your nominations!!!

## **NCBC Board Positions** by Trisha Harrington, NCBC Secretary

Name	
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate E	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate F	<input type="radio"/>

There is still time to submit your declaration of candidacy for the following open positions available for the 2011/2013 NCBC Board:

- **Secretary**
- **Three (3) Board of Governor Members**

The NCBC Board meets by teleconference once a month and also meets twice a year in person, once at the Mid-year Meeting, held at the conference location for that year and again at the conference.

The NCBC Board works to make the organization better for all NCBC members. Serving on the NCBC Board is a very rewarding experience. I would encourage anyone to become a part of the Board and have the opportunity to participate in and help make a difference in this organization.

Please submit a Declaration of Candidacy and Candidate Statement of 300 words or less expressing your interest in serving in any of the available Board positions. A digital picture in jpeg format not to exceed 720x480 can be included as well. The statement should describe your interest in serving in the position to which you are applying. These statements will be circulated to the general membership prior to the election.

Please submit these items to [trisha\\_harrington@wawb.uscourts.gov](mailto:trisha_harrington@wawb.uscourts.gov) by **Friday, March 11, 2011, at 4:00 PM PST**

## Membership Committee Update

By John Horner

**Membership Drive Continues** - The membership campaign is continuing into March. If you have not already done so, please renew your NCBC membership or become a new member today. The NCBC serves as an independent voice for its members. If you would like to know more about the benefits of membership, please speak with your Local Representative. Circuit Liaisons and Local Representatives are listed in this edition of the *Impact*.

**Membership Drive Visual Aid** - The Membership Committee with guidance from the Circuit Liaisons has prepared a PowerPoint presentation for Local Representatives to use as part of local membership drives. The presentation discusses the NCBC and the benefits of membership. Local Representatives may contact their Circuit Liaison for the presentation if they have not already received it.

**Thank You** - On behalf of the members of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, I express our gratitude to those serving the NCBC as Circuit Liaisons and Local Representatives, whose efforts are contributing to the growth and vitality of our trade organization.

Colleagues: Financial reports are submitted to the Board every month and now a summary of our financial condition will be made available to our members on a semi-annual basis according to the by-laws.

As of January 31, 2011 our total assets were \$83,094.77 which includes \$25,700.51 in our checking account and \$57,394.26 in our savings account.

Our cash flow has been steadily increasing over the last three years by an average of \$16,251 per year. The major contributors to the improvement have been the increase in insurance commissions received from Gallagher Associates and an increase in our membership.

Also, because of the coordinated efforts by the local courts, conference committees and our Board, we have averted any losses during our conferences.

With the leadership of our President, Ken Hirz, the Board is committed to the improvement of services to our members and the National Conference Bankruptcy Clerks organization and diligently seek ways to improve our financial condition.

There are obvious concerns over the government's budget but I foresee a sound financial picture during 2011 for the NCBC organization.

Looking forward to seeing you at our annual conference in New Orleans.

Sincerely, John Ginocchetti, NCBC Treasurer

## The Old Ursuline Convent by Brian Richoux

The Ursuline Convent (1100 Chartres Street in the French Quarter) was completed in 1752. It is the oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley and the oldest surviving structure from the French colonial period in the United States. It was built for the Ursuline nuns, who relocated to New Orleans from Rouen, France “to relieve the poor sick and provide at the same time for the education of young girls.” Over the years the convent has been an orphanage, a hospital during the yellow fever epidemics, a school, and later a residence for local bishops. Today it houses the archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It is open for tours from Monday through Saturday.

The story about the Ursulines in New Orleans would not be complete without mentioning the miracles that have become part of local folklore. The first happened during a fire in 1789 that destroyed hundreds of buildings in the city. Sister St. Anthony placed a statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on a window of the convent, facing the fire. She prayed...and prayed some more. The wind changed directions and the fire never reached the convent!

But the more famous story happened during the Battle of New Orleans. The nuns spent the night of January 1815 in the Ursuline Convent praying to — you guessed it! — Our Lady of Prompt Succor for a victory over the British. The fog miraculously lifted the next day and Andrew Jackson’s outnumbered, rag-tag militia defeated the British in the last battle of the War of 1812. Andrew Jackson visited the convent to personally thank the faithful for their prayers.

In 1804 there was an exchange of letters between the Ursulines and President Thomas Jefferson concerning the future of the nuns and their ministry in New Orleans. It appears that following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Ursulines feared for the future of their convent and their ministry, which had operated for about 75 years under French and Spanish Catholic rule and now came under the rule of their new country, the United States. [On Page 5 of this newsletter there is a poignant letter from the President to Sister Therese de St. Xavier Farjon Superior](#), in which he praises the nuns for their good works and assures them that their convent will remain theirs without interference from the new government.

Some Ursuline trivia: Sister Francis Xavier, a nun at the convent, was the first woman pharmacist in the United States. And, Ursuline Academy, located now in Uptown New Orleans, is the oldest girls school in the United States.

Registration for the 2011 NCBC Conference is now open. [Please click here to view the home registration page and information on how to register.](#) Hotel Registration information is also open and can be accessed via this link. We are looking forward to another great conference! Get "Jazzed for the Journey" in New Orleans on June 14 - 17!



Photo Courtesy of New Orleans.online.com

Washington May 15 1804

To the Soeur Therese de S<sup>t</sup>. Xavier Farjon Superior, and the Nuns  
of the order of S<sup>t</sup>. Ursula at New Orleans

I have received, holy sisters, the letter you have written me wherein you express anxiety for the property vested in your institution by the former governments of Louisiana. The principles of the constitution and government of the United States are a sure guarantee to you that it will be preserved to you sacred and inviolate, and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to it's own voluntary rules, without interference from the civil authority. Whatever diversity of shade may appear in the religious opinions of our fellow citizens, the charitable objects of your institution cannot be indifferant to any; and it's furtherance of the wholesome purposes of society, by training up it's younger members in the way they should go, cannot fail to ensure it the patronage of the government it is under. Be assured it will meet all the protection which my office can give it.

I salute you, holy sisters, with friendship & respect.

Thomas Jefferson

**Courtesy of Thomas Jefferson Papers - Library of Congress.**

[Text of the letter from President Jefferson to the Ursuline nuns.]

Washington, May 15, 1804

To the Soeur Therese de St. Xavier Farjon Superior, and the Nuns of the order of St. Ursula at New Orleans I have received, holy sisters, the letter you have written me wherein you express anxiety for the property vested in your institution by the former governments of Louisiana. The principles of the constitution and government of the United States are a guarantee to you that it will be preserved to you, sacred and inviolate, and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to its own voluntary rules, without interference from the civil authority.

Whatever the diversity of shade may appear in the religious opinions of our fellow citizens, the charitable objects of your institution cannot be indifferant to any; and its furtherance of the wholesome purposes of society, by training up its younger members in the way they should go, cannot fail to ensure it the patronage of the government it is under. Be assured it will meet all the protection which my office can give it.

I salute you, holy sisters, with friendship and respect.

Thomas Jefferson



The Benefits Committee wants to know.....what's on your mind? Have a question about your federal benefits? Send them to our e-mailbox, we'll research them, ask the experts and provide an answer in the next issue of IMPACT. Send your questions in!

**Question:**

How is life insurance through FEGLI (Federal Employees Group Life Insurance) paid out?

**Answer:**

Claims for life insurance benefits are reviewed and paid out by the Office of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (OFEGLI). Death benefits are always the amount of insurance in force at the time of death, based on the annual rate of basic pay and the life insurance enrolled in at time of death. Employing offices work and cooperate with OFEGLI to verify information and resolve discrepancies so that benefits are paid in a timely manner. OFEGLI, an administrative unit of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, pays out life insurance claims for the FEGLI program. If OFEGLI is paying less than \$ 5,000, the beneficiary will receive a check. For pay-outs of \$ 5,000 or more, the beneficiary has a choice of the following: a check or a MetLife Total Control Account (TCA). A TCA is an interest-bearing account set up in the beneficiary's name with MetLife. If the beneficiary is receiving \$ 5,000 or more and makes no decision as to how payment is to be received, the TCA is set up in the beneficiary's name. The MetLife TCA is a "settlement option offered by MetLife for the payment of claims." A TCA is not a checking, savings or money market bank account and is not insured by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) or by any other governmental agency. MetLife guarantees the full TCA amount and all interest earned. MetLife's guarantee is backed by the beneficiary's state guaranty association. If a MetLife TCA is chosen, the relationship is between the beneficiary and MetLife, not with any governmental agency.

The beneficiary has complete control of the TCA account. It's important to remember that life insurance benefits cannot be paid to a minor and to be sure that designations of beneficiary are kept up to date with the proper beneficiaries and their current mailing addresses. Detailed information is available at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov), the source of the information in this column.

NCBC Benefits Committee  
WIWBML\_NCBC\_Benefits



Got something to say ?? Your article could go here !





**Editor's Note:** I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter and that it has proven to be resourceful to you as a member of the NCBC. I would be grateful to receive your comments on the newsletter, both on its content as well as on its structure, and ways to improve it further. We are also welcoming ideas on how to improve membership. All suggestions are welcome. Happy reading!

Yvonne Cherokee (919) 856-4752 ext. 125 [yvonne\\_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov](mailto:yvonne_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov)



**Correspondents:**



**Alyson Johnson**



**Carol Thompson**



**Laura Whitehead**



**Leslie Taylor**

**All newsletter requests should be submitted to the editor.**

Ask The Editorial Committee

The NCBC Impact Editorial Committee is here to serve you. Additionally, this is our 'always open' invitation to share your questions, comments, and suggestions for articles that will provide helpful information to NCBC members. Material should be emailed to [Yvonne\\_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Yvonne_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov).

*This is your newsletter -- let your voice be heard!*

# CIRCUIT LIAISONS AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Circuit	Circuit Liaison	District	Local Representative
1st Circuit	Kristen Batty	District of Columbia	Michael Wint
		Rhode Island	
		Maine	Sheila Dilios
		Massachusetts	Eileen Garrity
		New Hampshire	Kerri Mikolaities
		Rhode Island	Carolyn Sweeney
2nd Circuit	Becky Collette	Puerto Rico	Lizette Torres
		Vermont	
		Conneticut	Lou DiLella
		New York Eastern	Dwayne Cox (co-rep)
		New York Eastern	Donna Tenga (co-rep)
		New York Western	Paul Warren
3rd Circuit	David Bird	New York Northern	Jeffery Dingman
		New York Southern	Laura Brundage
		Vermont	Becky Collette
		Delaware	
		Delaware	Barbara Torres (co-rep)
		Delaware	Lora Johnson (co-rep)
4th Circuit	Laura Whitehead	New Jersey	Jeffrey Peirce
		Pennsylvania Eastern	Tim McGrath
		Pennsylvania Middle	Jackie Cherrybon
		Pennsylvania Western	Jan Hunger
		North Carolina Eastern	
		Maryland	Tracey Matthews (co-rep)
5th Circuit	Debbie Duke	Maryland	Cherita Martin (co-rep)
		North Carolina Eastern	Anne Moell
		North Carolina Middle	Debbie Payne
		North Carolina Western	Robin Felts
		South Carolina	Renee Surette
		Virginia Eastern	Renee Paxton (co-rep)
		Virginia Eastern	Val Valentine (co-rep)
		Virginia Western	Carol Rickerson
		West Virginia Northern	Chris Warsinsky
		West Virginia Southern	Sheila Huffman
		Texas Eastern	
		Louisiana Eastern	Gaynell Donelon
Louisiana Middle	Monica Menier		
Louisiana Western	Mitzie Denis		
Mississippi Northern	Sandra Peoples		
Mississippi Southern	Collette Derouen		
Texas Eastern	Maria Sheppard		
Texas Western	Daniel Paez		
Texas Northern	Katherine Floyd		
Texas Southern			
6th Circuit	Michelle Pierce	Kentucky Western	
		Kentucky Eastern	Amy Smith
		Kentucky Western	Jeanne Tuell
		Michigan Eastern	Natalie King
		Michigan Western	Kim Davis
		Ohio Northern	Lynn Baldwin Bergmeyer (co-rep)
		Ohio Northern	Katherine Shivak (co-rep)
		Ohio Northern	Brenda Heminger (co-rep)
		Ohio Southern	Yvonne Ventre
		Tennessee Eastern	Karen Gwinn
		Tennessee Middle	Sharon Wingler
		Tennessee Western	Cindy Coady

<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Circuit Liaison</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Local Representative</b>
<b>7th Circuit</b>	Ron Hayward	Illinois Central Illinois Northern Illinois Northern Illinois Central Illinois Southern Indiana Northern Indiana Southern Wisconsin Eastern Wisconsin Western	Patricia Reed (co-rep) Margie Maldonado-Rahmoun (co-rep) Sharon Gardner Cathy Hart  Robin Stanley Jill Lass Pam Creydt
<b>8th Circuit</b>	Beth Wilbanks	Iowa Southern Arkansas Iowa Northern Iowa Southern Minnesota Minnesota Missouri Eastern Missouri Western Nebraska North Dakota South Dakota	Tammi Pennington Rebecca Hoefler Kris Botts Grace Goede (Minn.) Sam Runck (St. Paul) Matthew Parker Cecelia Parle Lisa Smith Ginger Elless
<b>9th Circuit</b>	Maggie Bondi Theola Ross	Alaska Washington Western Alaska Arizona California Northern California Eastern California Central California Central California Southern Guam Hawaii Idaho Montana Northern Mariana Islands Nevada Oregon Washington Eastern Washington Western	Maggie Bondi Cindy Ribar Sharon Hurt  Beryl Dixon (co-rep) Sabrina Palacio-Garcia (co-rep) Shawna Dahl Charles White Amy Young Debbie Jenson Colleen Grady  Maria Sanders Jonni Paulsen Shannon O'Brien Theola Ross
<b>10th Circuit</b>	Angie Martin	Oklahoma Western Colorado Kansas New Mexico Oklahoma Northern Oklahoma Eastern Oklahoma Western Utah Wyoming	Deb Beatty Donna Urbom-McClure April Colling Sharon Washburn Debbie Anderson Angie Martin Kyle Crockett James Baumhover
<b>11th Circuit</b>	Tracey Couling	Alabama Southern Alabama Northern Alabama Middle Alabama Southern Florida Northern Florida Middle Florida Southern Georgia Northern Georgia Middle Georgia Southern	Doug Wedge Henrietta Foster Tracey Couling Latonia Isom Alyson Johnson Katrinka Covington Regina Thomas William Tanner Sam Kay

**Your Local Representative is available to answer your questions concerning NCBC membership and benefits.**

## NCBC AWARD NOMINATION FORM



Date:

Nominee:

Court:

Award:

Suggested citation (25 words or less)

The citation represents a hallmark or a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishments. It will be read at the award presentation.

Background:

Succinctly describe the reasons/accomplishments you believe qualify the nominee for the nomination. If you need more space, please forward in the email.

Nominator:

Court:

Phone No.:

Email:

## **AWARD TYPES**

### **Outstanding Service Awards:**

Represents service provided to NCBC and/or the courts that goes beyond a single task or assignment. This award is usually presented for longer term efforts.

### **Outstanding Achievement Award:**

This award is the next level up from the Outstanding Service Award. It represents an achievement by an individual or group that resulted in savings or changes which benefitted the court system as a whole.

### **Special Service Award:**

Represents service performed that is more limited in nature; this award tends to recognize one time efforts or assignments on behalf of NCBC or the courts

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An award to recognize retiring NCBC members and those individuals who are retiring who have had a long history with the NCBC and/or federal service that has had a positive impact on or made substantial contribution to the bankruptcy community.