



# NCBC IMPACT

*Dedicated to the professional development of its members*

[Archived Articles](#)

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## BOARD CORNER

The NCBC Board agreed to hold its mid-year meeting in San Francisco on March 4, 2012. The all day agenda includes a tour of the hotel meeting space, review of the educational agenda, and the conference budget to make whatever adjustments are needed to address the Annual Conference scheduled for August 7-10, 2012. Costs will be reviewed including plenary speakers, audio visual expenses, food, and more as the registration fee will be decided at this meeting.

President-Elect John Horner was approved to travel to Baltimore in mid-September to meet with Clerk Mark Sammons and his staff to tour various hotel properties with our event planner. The initial planning for our 2013 annual meeting has begun. A final decision is expected shortly as to the main hotel and contract negotiations should be completed in November.

The NCBC Board once again approved sponsoring a social event at the FJC Clerk/Chief Deputy Clerk Conference scheduled in October in Charleston, South Carolina. This biannual event is sponsored to encourage membership by the court leadership as the Board sets the stage for the annual membership drive that begins in January.

The NCBC Board Committee Chairs were established:

Education Committee: Teresa Underwood & Eddy Emmons  
 Membership Committee: John Horner

Benefits Committee: Lee Ann Bennett  
 Awards Committee: Eileen Garrity & Kris Botts

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## President's Message by Ken Hirz



Fiscal Year 2012 is proving to be unprecedented as the judiciary addresses a \$440 million budget shortfall. If not for the foresight of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference the interim financial plan reducing budgets by 13.4% could have much worse. Nevertheless, courts will be challenged to meet their mission and staffing requirements in light of this year's outlook. The Administrative Office is calling to maintain the status quo in hopes that the final appropriations bill will result in a higher funding level.

It is expected that the appropriation bills will be completed by Congress this fall and the final allotments delivered to the courts allowing necessary planning to be put in place to manage our austere budgets.

Meanwhile, your NCBC Board has been active in addressing a variety of issues as noted in the attached summary of Board Corner. More information will be provided in the next edition summarizing the work of the various board committees. One of the first actions as we move into the latter part of the year, however, is to put in place the Education Committee to begin planning for the 2012 Annual Conference being held in San Francisco August 7-12, 2012. I'd like to introduce this years committee beginning with the co-chairs, Teresa Underwood, OH-N, and Eddy Emmons, CA-N. They are assisted by the following committee members in setting the stage for our conference program: Lee Ann Bennett, FL-M, Kathy Bernart, CA-N, Eileen Garrity, MA, Kris Botts, IA-S, Barry Lander, CA-S, Kirsten Mahoney, CA-N, Ken Ridgeway, MD, Richard Marshall, FJC, and Stephanie Hemmert, FJC.

The committee is holding its first meeting this month, however, a number of excellent plenary sessions are already being researched and the survey from the post New Orleans conference examined to assist in the planning efforts. Since this is the bread and butter committee setting the table for next year's conference, I want to wish them much success. We continue to grow and improve in our educational offerings each year and given the budget outlook for FY 2012, it is even more important that we offer a full range of training programs to meet our members' needs. I want to thank in advance the many FJC and AO staff that will join us to assist in meeting our training goals for the conference.

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## My Experience with MSU by Heidi Wolven

You may have read in last month's edition of IMPACT that I graduated from Michigan State University's Judicial Administration Master's Degree Program this past spring. I wanted to share with all of you my experience with the Judicial Administration program that will hopefully encourage you to look into this opportunity to further your education through Michigan State.

I began this program in the fall of 2007 while working full time as a Case Administrator for the Central District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court. I obtained my position with the Bankruptcy Court after receiving my B.A. from Bradley University. It was always my intention to continue on to Graduate school, so I was very excited when I found out about this online program offered through Michigan State. This program provided the opportunity for me to continue to work full time, while pursuing an advanced degree. And perhaps the best part is that all the courses are offered online, which allowed me to complete all of the coursework from home on a more flexible schedule than if I actually had to attend a classroom. I took either one or two courses a semester depending on what was being offered. I also took one semester off after the birth of my first child. Yes, in addition to pursuing my degree and working full time I had two children and we moved three times!

To complete the Master's Degree program I had to complete 10 courses totaling 30 credit hours. The final course was a capstone project that involved developing a policy proposal paper. I have to admit that I was nervous about the completion of the capstone project; however I found that my prior coursework had prepared me well for this final project.

The Judicial Administration program at Michigan State provides an excellent opportunity for professionals within the judicial system to further their knowledge and understanding of court operations. I would certainly recommend that if you are interested in continuing your education or advancing your career with the court that you consider enrolling in this program. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide further information on my experience if you are interested: Heidi\_Wolven@ilcb.uscourts.gov. You can also find out more about this program on the Judicial Administration website: <http://www.judicialadministration.msu.edu/>.

### **MSU Offers Judicial Administration Certificate Courses Online in Preparation for the 2012 NCBC Recognition Ceremony in San Francisco**

All ten courses that comprise the MSU Judicial Administration Program Noncredit Certificate offered in partnership with NCBC will be held online during the 2011-2012 academic year. Students who want to receive their certificates at the 2012 NCBC annual meeting and have courses to complete may do so via this online option. All courses will be facilitated by past MSU graduates. Review the schedule of courses and register today with Catharine White at [gamperca@msu.edu](mailto:gamperca@msu.edu)

<b>Date/s of Proposed Noncredit Online Course Offering</b>	<b>Noncredit Online Course Offering</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Course Payment Due Date</b>
<b>September 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b> (3 weeks)	<b>Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts</b> (Core)	<b>Crystal Lightfoot</b>	<b>August 12, 2011</b>
<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b> (2 weeks)	<b>Court and Community Communication</b> (Elective)	<b>Crystal Lightfoot</b>	<b>September 3, 2011</b>
<b>October 17<sup>th</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b> (3 weeks)	<b>Resources, Budget, and Finance</b> (Core)	<b>Jeffrey Allsteadt</b>	<b>September 17, 2011</b>
<b>November 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b> (2 weeks)	<b>Education, Training, and Development</b> (Elective)	<b>Monette Warren</b>	<b>October 7, 2011</b>
<b>November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b> (2 weeks)	<b>Visioning and Strategic Planning</b> (Elective)	<b>Jeffrey Allsteadt</b>	<b>October 28, 2011</b>
<b>January 9<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b> (3 weeks)	<b>Caseflow Management</b> (Core)	<b>Michael Palus</b>	<b>December 9, 2011</b>
<b>January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b> (2.5 weeks)	<b>Leadership</b> (Core)	<b>Jeffrey Allsteadt</b>	<b>December 30, 2011</b>
<b>February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012</b> (2 weeks)	<b>Essential Components of Courts</b> (Elective)	<b>Michael Palus</b>	<b>January 20, 2012</b>
<b>March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012</b> (3 weeks)	<b>Information Technology Management</b> (Core)	<b>Monette Warren</b>	<b>February 5, 2012</b>
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012</b> (2.5 weeks)	<b>Human Resources Management</b> (Core)	<b>Kathy Noel</b>	<b>February 26, 2012</b>

## BOARD CORNER Continued From Page One

### Ad Hoc Committees:

Mentorship Committee: Eddy Emmons

Scholarship & Revenue: Mark Hatcher

The FY 2012 Budget has been subject of discussion during meetings of the Board. The austere budget we face this year lead to a number of directions by various Judicial Conference and advisory committees. Cost containment has been a common theme since FY 2004, however, the depth of cuts expected for FY 2012, have lead the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) to establish a committee and study the impact of cost containment and the possibility of consolidation. Having reviewed this study, the NCBC Board has taken the position to join the NCBJ in opposing "...centrally-mandated consolidation of clerk's offices of the United States District Courts and the United States Bankruptcy Courts as a cost containment measure." The Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference has asked the Court Administration and Case Management (CACM) committee, in consultation with the Bankruptcy Committee, to look into issues involving consolidation of court offices, including bankruptcy and district court clerks' offices, as well as facilitation of mergers of administrative services for the courts.

The NCBC Board further holds that any effort toward consolidation should be on a district by district basis and truly be voluntary as stated in 28 U.S.C. § 156 (d), requiring prior approval of the Judicial Conference and the Congress. The NCBC supports horizontal sharing among the bankruptcy courts, as is being piloted and studied in the Third Circuit. The bankruptcy courts have long had the reputation of being innovative, creative, and efficient and have found innumerable methods to save costs over the years, spurred in part by embracing CM/ECF and finding cost-savings methods of getting the work done with less effort and fewer staff. This trend is expected to continue and FY 2012 is a reminder of how important cost savings efforts will be especially in light of the impact on staffing. It is NCBC's plan to continue to support these efforts by offering educational opportunities to improve the skill set of our membership and the sharing of the courts' innovative strategies at our annual conferences.

## BENEFITS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since 2009, Gallagher Benefit Services has been providing, on behalf of The National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, Retirement/Financial Seminars at no cost to qualifying Bankruptcy Courts. The seminar provides important information for all employees, whether retirement will be in 5 or 25 years, and will address the needs of the CSRS and FERS employee. All courts who have received the training have praised the quality of the training and have relayed how beneficial the training was for their staff. In order to be selected for consideration, your court could not have received the seminar in the last five years and you must have at least 25% of your staff as current NCBC members. If you wish to be considered for this seminar, please submit your request no later than December 15, to the following email address: [Leeann\\_Bennett@flmb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Leeann_Bennett@flmb.uscourts.gov). If selected, a member of the NCBC Benefits Committee will contact you to discuss details.

## Get Involved With the NCBC -- Circuit Liaison & Local Representative Positions Are Now Open

by: John Horner

The NCBC Board is seeking Circuit Liaisons and Local Representatives for terms that will expire this year. Circuit Liaison and Local Representative positions were developed by the Board in 2009 to broaden the organizational structure, increase member involvement, and open communication channels between the Board and members. In the past two years, the Circuit Liaisons and Circuit Representatives from courts throughout the country, have worked to generate several growth and development ideas, which include the recently adopted lifetime membership option. As a result, member affiliation has steadily climbed from a total of 897 members in 2009 to 1,379 members in 2011.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in our growing organization, and would like consideration for a two-year Circuit Liaison or Local Representative position (see list of vacancies below), please submit a one-paragraph statement of interest describing *why you wish to be considered*, to John Horner at [john\\_horner@pawb.uscourts.gov](mailto:john_horner@pawb.uscourts.gov). Please note in the email subject-line the position(s) for which you would like consideration. If you have already submitted a position application, please know that your application is currently under consideration, and you do not need to email a statement of interest.

Many thanks to each of you for your continued support.

### NCBC Local Representative Vacancies

Alabama Middle	Louisiana Eastern	North Carolina Eastern
Arizona	Louisiana Western	North Carolina Western
Arkansas	Maine	Ohio Northern
California Eastern	Maryland	Ohio Southern
California Southern	Michigan Western	Oklahoma Eastern
Colorado	Mississippi Southern	Pennsylvania Middle
Delaware	Missouri Eastern	Puerto Rico
Florida Northern	Montana	South Dakota
Florida Southern	Nebraska	Tennessee Middle
Georgia Middle	Nevada	Texas Southern
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Texas Western
Illinois Central	New Jersey	Utah
Illinois Northern	New Mexico	Virginia Eastern
Indiana Northern	New York Eastern	Washington Eastern
Iowa Southern	New York Southern	West Virginia Northern
Kentucky Western	New York Western	Wisconsin Eastern

### NCBC Circuit Liaison Vacancies

7th Circuit
8th Circuit
10th Circuit
11th Circuit

## **NCBC Staff Positions Application Period Open** by Ken Hirz

According to Section 7 of the by-laws of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks, staff positions are to be appointed by the board for a term of three years. These positions, as all board positions, serve without compensation. The staff positions of Website Administrator is a new position and the Impact Editor is a reposting. Those interested in applying for these positions should submit a resume and narrative highlighting your qualifications and reasons you should be considered. Responses are to be sent to Ken Hirz at [ken\\_hirz@ohnb.uscourts.gov](mailto:ken_hirz@ohnb.uscourts.gov) no later than 4:00 PM ET on Friday, November 18, 2011. A summary of the positions is listed below. For additional information, please refer to the by-laws on the NCBC website at <http://ncbc.memberclicks.net>.

### **Website Administrator**

This position manages the NCBC website through the MemberClicks software application. The major responsibilities of the Website Administrator is summarized as follows:

- Edits and updates the website to maintain current information.
- Appoints NCBC members to a website committee to assist in maintaining the website.
- Serves as a liaison between the website committee and the NCBC Board.
- Attends monthly board meetings.
- Updates membership information and forms.
- Communicates directly with MemberClicks and acts as a resource to the board to enhance communication to the membership.
- Assists the membership committee by creating membership forms and forwarding emails to members for membership renewal.
- Creates the annual conference registration form in cooperation with the local host court and the board.
- Generates reports for the board.
- Drafts custom reports from Memberclicks as requested by board members.

### **Impact Editor**

This position is responsible for managing the NCBC newsletter, IMPACT. The major responsibilities of the Impact Editor can be summarized as follows:

- Authors and edits articles submitted for the IMPACT newsletter.
- Appoints NCBC members to an Editorial Committee to assist in gathering, reviewing and posting articles in the newsletter.
- Provides assignments to Editorial Committee members including writing *Impact* articles.
- Serves as a liaison between the Editorial Committee and the NCBC Board.
- Attends monthly board meetings.
- Works with the Administrative Office and the Federal Judicial Center to solicit articles of current interest to members.
- Receives articles submitted for publication by NCBC members and others.
- Determines the subject matter for some *Impact* articles.



## August 6 - 10, 2012

San Francisco is often called "Everybody's Favorite City," a title earned by its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities, and world-class cuisine. Measuring 49 square miles, this very walk-able city is dotted with landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Alcatraz and the largest Chinatown in the United States. A stroll of the City's streets can lead to Union Square, the Italian-flavored North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf, the Castro, Japantown and the Mission District, with intriguing neighborhoods to explore at every turn.

Views of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay are often laced with fog, creating a romantic mood in this most European of American cities. The City has a colorful past, growing from a small village to a major city nearly overnight as a result of the 1849 Gold Rush. The writers of the "beat" generation, the hippies of the Summer of Love in the late 1960's and the large gay/lesbian population have all contributed to making San Francisco the fascinating place it is today.

The City is home to world-class theatre, opera, symphony and ballet companies and often boasts premieres of Broadway-bound plays and culture-changing performing arts. San Francisco is one of America's greatest dining cities. The diverse cultural influences, proximity of the freshest ingredients and competitive creativity of the chefs result in unforgettable dining experiences throughout the City.

Planning for the 2012 conference is well underway. The NCBC membership for the Northern District of California is excited about what our wonderful "City" has to offer and are looking forward to creating a memorable event. See you in San Francisco!



## Iowa Southern Baby Boom! By Beth Wilbanks

"There's something in the water..." is a phrase that was heard frequently last year around the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa. A baby boom of sorts occurred between August of 2010 and June of 2011 which resulted in six new little ones joining the court family. IASB is a relatively small court which employs less than 30 people in the Clerk's Office headed by Clerk Mary M. Weibel and respective chambers of The Honorable Lee M. Jackwig and The Honorable Anita L. Shodeen. This means that during the year 2010, 19.2% of employees were pregnant!

Starting at the end of 2009 and going all the way through the end of 2010 it seemed there were pregnancy announcements about every other month. The news was always greeted with cheers and well wishes, but behind the scenes it did mean some extra work for the court. Planning for multiple employees to be out on maternity leave (luckily all running consecutively) required some tricky timing and choreography. A good portion of the year was spent cross training and planning for coverage. In the end, everything went relatively smoothly. Even when one employee had her baby five weeks early and another was put on hospital bed rest for three weeks, IASB hung in there and both management and staff made sure things went according to plan in the Clerk's office and court rooms.

Chief Deputy Ginny Satterstrom oversaw the preparations and transitions that went on during the year and also guided the mommies to be through any and all questions involving human resources and leave benefits as well as transitioning back to work. Not a simple feat when one considers all the hormones raging at once! Satterstrom recalls how everything necessary was accomplished, "Cross training became a priority and was accomplished with ease through the cooperation from both the trainers and the trainees. It helped that we added two new staff members in operations just prior to the baby boom, so we were already heavily into a training mode and we just continued on with each new baby announcement. Services to the court, the bar and the public were seamless during the back-to-back maternity absences and it has been a joy to welcome all these sweet babies into our court family!"

It was certainly an exciting time! When the babies started making their arrivals everyone shared in celebrating with baby showers and visits from the new additions. It is just one of the many examples of how IASB employees and management support one another. All the moms are back at work now and settled into their respective positions. Things are starting to get back to normal, but everyone is still staying away from the water...just in case.

# *Congratulations !!!*



From IASB family picnic September 11, 2011.

Photo by: Douglas Johnston

From left to right and in order of birth:

Jared Day, Law Clerk to Judge Lee M. Jackwig - son Grant Day born 8/24/2010

Kelli Platt, Judicial Assistant to Judge Anita L. Shodeen - daughter Payton Platt born 9/10/2010

Shannon Bruns, Financial Specialist - Twins - son Benjamin Bruns and daughter Emily Bruns born 10/6/2010

Beth Wilbanks, Paralegal - son Oliver Wilbanks born 12/16/2010

Megan Weiss, Case Administrator III - daughter Natalie Weiss born 06/29/2011



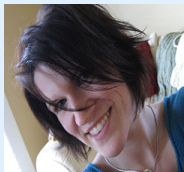
## Editorial Committee

**Editor's Note:** We hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter and that it has proven to be resourceful to you as a member of the NCBC. We 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!

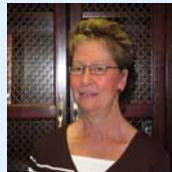
Yvonne Cherokee (919) 856-4752 ext. 125 [yvonne\\_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov](mailto:yvonne_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov)



## Correspondents:



**Alyson Johnson**



**Carol Thompson**



**Laura Whitehead**



**Leslie Taylor**

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

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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!*

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