



NCBC IMPACT

Dedicated to the professional development of its members

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Issue #2

May 2014

President's Message

Lee Ann Bennett, NCBC President



NCBC is very pleased with the favorable treatment of the Judiciary by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, signed by the President in January. It provided an overall 5.1 percent increase in funding for the Judiciary. After years of flat funding and suffering the effects of sequestration, it was a blessing to receive some positive budget news. Hopefully, the additional funding will allow courts to meet needs that might have otherwise been delayed.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who provided me with names of your contacts in Congress. The Legislative Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, along with Ken Hirz and I, met with members of Congress on March 25 & 26 to thank them for their support of the Judiciary and to strengthen the relationships that have been established. The contacts that you provided, resulted in 6 of the 17 meetings.

It also appears that the increase in funding received by courts has allowed them to invest in staff training. Registration for the NCBC Conference in St. Louis opened on April 2 and already we have 340 attendees registered! Thanks to the Education Committee, chaired by Eddy Emmons (newly named Clerk of Court for CANB) on developing an agenda that provides training that is needed as we prepare for our future. The training for this year's conference covers a wide variety of topics including technology and innovation, enhancing leadership, personal and court finance, retirement, customer service, communication, time management, human resources, safety and wellness, improving work environment, and personal enrichment. The agenda truly was a Committee effort and I want to recognize the members: Eddy Emmons (chair), Dana McWay and Donna Beyersdorfer (host courts' clerks), Diana Durkee, Eileen Garrity, Kirsten Mahoney, Kris Botts, Rhonda Patterson, Richard Marshall, Yvonne Cherokee, Gary Streeting, Beth Pfister, Barry Lander, Donna Bard, Ann Iannarelli, Sandi Brask, and Joshua Wiker.

In addition to a great educational agenda, we will celebrate the 10-year partnership between NCBC and Michigan State University (MSU). With the 2014 Conference, we start a new five-year cycle of classes. MSU provides a great opportunity for you to continue your professional development through a non-credit bearing certificate, a graduate certificate, or a Master of Science Degree in Judicial Administration. If you haven't signed up for this year's Conference, there's still time. Come join us in St. Louis!

2014 Publication Dates

February 8

May 2

August 1

November 7

Articles are due to the editor by the
15th of the month preceding
publication

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Board Corner

NCBC's Secretary is busily working on the Election Ballot and by-law change for voting by the membership.

The Awards Committee held our first conference call in March to go over our mission and responsibilities. Currently we are in the process of reviewing both scholarship applications and award nominations until the deadlines have expired at which time, the committee will make their decisions.

The Membership Committee is hard at work on its Membership Drive for 2014 (see this month's IMPACT) and putting the finishing touches on the Member Appreciation Week festivities. If you have not already renewed your 2014 dues, we encourage you to do so - you will want to be eligible for what's in the works. During the next several months, we will start recruiting circuit liaisons and local representatives for those slots that become available at the end of 2014. Plan to get involved - the NCBC needs you!

The Benefits Committee is scheduled to meet every other month on the third Wednesday. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 18th. We are reviewing NCBC benefits options and welcome your questions and comments.

The NCBC Outreach Committee held our first conference call, in March. Other NCBC committee chairs also participated in our first call. The Outreach Committee is developing goals for increasing the commitment to the NCBC and the delivery of services and training opportunities to the courts and the NCBC membership. We welcome ideas from the general membership as to what training opportunities or services are needed among our court family.

The Education Committee held its last meeting in preparation for the final 2014 Conference education program. The committee has selected two excellent plenary sessions and 40 breakout session opportunities. In addition, information sharing and peer to peer breakouts will be returning as well. Speakers from the Federal Judicial Center, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Gallagher Benefits, Federal First, and several other talented NCBC members are scheduled to facilitate the breakout sessions. The committee spent many hours reviewing recommendations in order to present the membership with a variety of choices.

The Past President's Committee met early in 2014 to address a couple of pending issues on behalf of NCBC. The first issue involved a request from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) to reach out to Congressional members in appreciation of the FY 2014 Appropriations Bill and to develop relationships important to the judiciary. This prompted a blast email from President Bennett to solicit our membership that might have a relationship with a member of Congress or their staff. As a result of a number of responses, along with those received from NCBJ, Lee Ann Bennett and Ken Hirz, joined with a delegation of NCBJ judges to meet with members of Congress in late March. The successful reach out effort on behalf of our two organizations will assist the judiciary in telling our story and the importance of an appropriately funded third branch of government.

The second issue for the committee was to address the cadre of insurance offerings through the Federal First program. It has been several years since the NCBC Board has evaluated the broker relationship and the variety of insurance programs. It was recommended to the board to solicit ideas and proposals from brokers to not only improve communication of the insurance programs to our members but to develop a plan to improve, grow, and add to the insurance programs of interest to the membership. The board has agreed to develop a Request for Proposals to send to a number of brokers in order to provide a better plan and compete a product line that will ultimately better serve our members.

The Mentorship Program for 2014 will be delayed until after the July conference. Look for more program details at the Information Sharing session in St. Louis!

It's NCBC Election Time - Meet the Candidates!

Candidate for Treasurer



Ken Hirz, Clerk of Court, Northern District of Ohio

I am honored to submit my name in nomination for the position of Treasurer of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks. I have been a member of NCBC since 1993. I served on the NCBC Board of Governors 2001-2003, after hosting the 2001 Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This was a most memorable and enjoyable event that featured a presentation by former Director Ralph Mecham and a night at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. I have assisted the Board over the years having twice served on the Nominating and Awards Committees and have reviewed hotel contracts and provided other assistance as requested. Since 2008, I have served as President Elect, President [2010-2012], Past President and currently appointed by the Board to serve as Treasurer since August 2013, following the death of our long-standing Treasurer, John Ginocchetti. This year will be the 15th annual conference I have had the pleasure of attending since 1998. Your vote of support would be most appreciated.

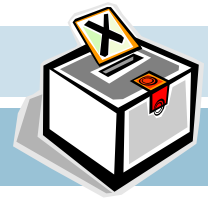
Candidate for President-Elect



Regina Thomas, Clerk of Court, Northern District of Georgia

Through a strange (yet lucky) twist of fate, I find myself running for a position that I currently hold! I was elected to the NCBC Board last year. Shortly after that, John Horner retired, LeeAnn Bennett moved up from President-Elect to President and I was elected by the Board to fill the President-Elect position. In order to be "official", I must be elected by the membership as President-elect and I ask for your support. I am honored to be working with the great officers and directors of the NCBC on behalf of our many members. I was asked to chair the Membership Committee and, along with much help, am focusing on the maintenance of our membership database. We are planning a Members Appreciation Week and have other things in the works. I look forward to continuing this work in the coming months. I am also working with LeeAnn Bennett and Eddy Emmons on the 2015 NCBC conference to be held in Atlanta. There is much to be accomplished in the coming years and hope to have the opportunity to continue service as President-elect of the NCBC. Thank you for your consideration and support.

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Candidates for Board of Governors



Jeffrey Allsteadt, Clerk of Court, Northern District of Illinois

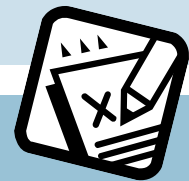
It is an honor to be considered for the Board of Governors position and I thank you for your confidence and support. My courthouse career started in the Michigan State Courts when I was 16 years old. After seventeen years, I joined the Federal System becoming the Assistant Deputy in Charge in the Central District of California. Three years later, I became Chief Deputy of the Iowa Southern District Court. Finally, I am now the Clerk of Court for the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court. I have been involved in state court associations and the FCCA for many years. I now would like to serve as a Governor for NCBC. In addition, I obtained my certificate in Judicial Administration from Michigan State University in 2010. Now I teach all offered MSU Judicial Administration classes and donate my time to the FJC for mentoring assignments. While with the FCCA I was pleased to head the committee for holding the conference in Des Moines, Iowa in 2013. I served on ten different committees, such as marketing and outreach, Chief Deputy Mentoring, Membership, Historical Committee and conference planning. I fully believe in court associations like FCCA and NCBC. Over the years I have made many friends in the court, I have always tried to serve the associations in which I belong. Now, I wish to serve the NCBC and help the Bankruptcy Court move forward in this time of tightening budgets with leadership, advocacy, and educational opportunities for the association. I now seek your support to allow me to work for you as a Board of Governor.

Eric Cyman, Admin. Manager, Northern District of California



Hi fellow members, my name is Eric Cyman and it is with great pleasure that I announce my declaration of candidacy for the NCBC Board of Governors. After I started working for the Northern District of California in San Francisco, I immediately joined NCBC. Attending the previous three conferences has provided me with the opportunity to meet many wonderful people from courts throughout the nation. The majority of new friendships formed while hosting the 2012 conference here in San Francisco. Seeing the positive results from months of hard work inspired me to continue my dedication to this organization. In addition to the 2012 conference, I have been a past member of the NCBC Awards Committee, a current member of an outstanding team that developed and implemented the NCBC Mentorship Program, and recently began serving as a local court representative. I have worked for the court system, state and federal, for almost 17 years, in almost every function from entry level support to administration. I have been an active member of several state court associations as well as the National Association for Court Management (NACM), and served on various conference development committees. No matter what position we hold, I believe the work we do has a profound impact on the lives of others. The important work NCBC does on our behalf is of great benefit to us and I would be honored to work with the organization in meeting its commitments. Similar to many of you, I have dedicated my career to public service; therefore, it would be a pleasure to help represent you. I respectfully seek your support and thank you for your consideration.

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It's NCBC Election Time - Meet the Candidates!

Sabrina Palacio-Garcia, Operations Specialist, California Central



Since joining the NCBC in June of 2010, I immediately became the representative for CACB for the next two years and I am currently the 9th Circuit Liaison and a sitting member of the Awards Committee. In my current duty and role as the Operations Specialist for the Central District of California, I have successfully completed numerous projects to enhance the efficiency of the overall operations of the district: CACB is the largest court in the nation to implement a district wide Call Center. Most recently CACB launched its version of live chat with a twist. Our live chat can be accessed by attorneys while in CM/ECF and by the general public via the Court's homepage. Thus far however, my most ambitious of projects is the AO sanctioned Pathfinder project. CACB is one of three test courts collaborating with the AO on electronic self-representation software that will enable self-represented debtors (Pro Se) to prepare and submit petitions electronically. I understand that as a Board of Governor member I will be responsible for undertaking at least one project as assigned or designated by the president or majority of the Governors. If you will, with the above projects as evidence, I have a proven track record to undertake national and major district programs from conception, R & D, to implementation. Given the chance, you will see that my skill set and expertise will prove to be of high value to the NCBC mission in general and to the future designated project specifically assigned by the board. Finally, in my quest to further understand the office in which I am so ambitiously seeking, I interviewed current and past Board of Governors about their duties and contribution to the office. I am thoroughly convinced that given the opportunity this endeavor will enhance my professional growth and provide valuable wisdom applicable in my career path. In return for this opportunity, I humbly submit my bankruptcy knowledge and project management expertise, my unyielding dedication and prodigious enthusiasm to the position as well as my gratitude for a chance to serve.

Mike Ley, Chief Deputy, Western District of Michigan



My name is Mike Ley and I wish to announce my candidacy to the Board of Governors of NCBC. I started my career in 1982 as an intern with the Bankruptcy Court in Los Angeles. This summer will mark 30 years with the Federal Courts and am proud that 28 of those years have been serving the bankruptcy community. Prior to beginning my position in 1991 as Chief Deputy for Michigan Western, I worked for the Bankruptcy Court and U.S. Trustee in Texas Eastern. We have all experienced the instant sense of credibility and pride when you tell someone that you work for the federal courts. It is a privilege to serve the federal judiciary and it continues to be an incredibly rewarding adventure. We all face new challenges every day in our jobs and I would welcome the opportunity to serve the interests of NCBC and the challenges that lie ahead. I have been fortunate to have worked for dedicated Clerks who have given me latitude to contribute in a variety of ways to the mission of the court. Since 2007, I also serve as this court's Financial Manager overseeing accounting functions and preparation of budget and spending plans. Outside the court, I teach a courts process class at Grand Valley State University and serve on the Legal Studies Advisory Board. I am a member of the International Association of Court Administration. If elected to the NCBC Board, I pledge my best effort to help support and advance the interests of NCBC and would enjoy working with the dedicated people who make up our great organization.

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It's NCBC Election Time - Meet the Candidates!

Elizabeth (Liz) Lucero, Div. Manager, Northern District of California



My name is Elizabeth (Liz) Lucero and I work for the Northern District of California, as the San Francisco Division Manager. I would like to announce my candidacy for one of the vacant seats on the NCBC Board of Governors. I have been employed in the judiciary for 26 years and have been an active member of NCBC for a number of years. I believe that NCBC is an organization that actively promotes initiatives and programs geared towards assisting court employees to enhance their necessary skills and advance professional growth. I am currently enrolled in the Michigan State University Program, which has been a great development/learning experience. In 2012, I was afforded an opportunity and actively involved in the planning and implementation of the annual conference which was held here in San Francisco. It was a pleasure hosting the conference and working with the organization to ensure our fellow members had a great experience and memorable time. NCBC is an organization that works for us! If elected, I will promote the same goals that are important to all of us!! Thank you for considering me for a Board of Governors position and would be honored to receive your vote of confidence.

Mona Sparks, Chief Deputy, Kentucky Eastern



I, Mona Sparks, am announcing my candidacy for a Board of Governors position with NCBC. I have proudly been a member of NCBC since 1989 and I appreciate the work performed by this organization. I would truly be honored to serve you on the Board of Governors. As an employee with the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky for 34 years, I have served my district as an Intake Clerk, Financial Deputy, and Finance Manager and continue to serve in my present position as Chief Deputy Clerk. My experience within my court has led me to meet many of you as we have networked together during OPS forums, Town Hall meetings, and financial forums and while working beside you on national projects including drafting Guide rewrites and initiatives such as FAS4T, pay.gov and JFINSYS. During my attendance at previous NCBC conferences including those held at Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland, and San Francisco I have met many NCBC members and I would be honored to serve on the Board of Governors. My knowledge base of the courts and the NCBC community is broad and I am looking forward to representing you. As an alumna of the Federal Court Leadership Program (class of 2000) and a summa cum laude graduate holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, I am willing to use my skills and experiences to keep the NCBC on a path of greatness. If you select me to the Board of Governors, I believe my expertise will serve as an advantage to bring your concerns and interests to the attention of the NCBC leadership. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I appreciate your vote.



Save the Date! NCBC's First Annual Membership Appreciation Week Is Scheduled
for May 2014

National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks

Member Appreciation Week

May 12th - May 16th, 2014

In recognition of all our members and their continued
support

Join us in NCBC's first annual Member Appreciation Week

We will hold contests and raffles throughout the week.
Prizes include gift cards and paid memberships!!

**To participate, membership dues must be current by
May 9th, 2014.**

Stay tuned for more information!!



NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

Michigan State University (MSU) launched the Judicial Administration Program in 2003. In 2004, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks and the Federal Court Clerk Association, along with other court affiliated associations and organizations, partnered with MSU to offer the Judicial Administration Noncredit Certificate Program through their conferences. Thus, the partner-provider network grew and now involves partnerships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Ukraine. There are currently 2,268 students in the noncredit certificate program. Of that number, 219 students are fulfilling their course requirements through NCBC.

Celebrating the Partnership and the Students

None of what MSU has accomplished would have been possible without the dedication of the partnering organizations. NCBC was an early adopter and supporter of offering university-affiliated courses for its members. NCBC saw the future and met it head-on. For the past ten years each NCBC president and board member remained committed to the partnership. As we enter our 11th year and third five-year cycle of courses, we celebrate all those who have graduated from both the credit bearing and noncredit-bearing certificate programs and encourage current and new students to continue with their education.

Noncredit Certificate Graduates

Stephanie Armstrong	Brenda Heminger	Pat Reed
Kathy Bernart	Rhonda Hylton	LaTia Sanders
Laura Brundage	Crystal Lightfoot	Amy Stewart
Kathleen Chamberlin	Laurie Maldonado	Casenia Stripling
April Colling	Teresa McBee	Monette Warren
Tracey Couling	Heather Mize	Gull Weaver
Paul Dickson	Kathy Noel	Roberta Yorkey
Eileen Garrity	Sabrina Palacio-Garcia	Jan Zari
Ronald Hayward	Haley Poindexter	

Graduate Certificate Graduates

Daniel Lynch
Elizabeth Wilbanks
Heidi Wolven

These students have been actively served by Mr. Barry Lander, Clerk of Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of California. Barry has served continuously as the NCBC liaison to MSU. In that role, he has organized 11 years of courses and taught many of them. He has tirelessly recruited instructors from the NCBC members, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. From past-president Mr. Wayne Wolfe to current-president Ms. Lee Ann Bennett, Barry has continued to carry out the goals of the association as they relate to continuing the MSU Judicial Administration Noncredit Certificate Program. He has done it with great humor, enthusiasm, and commitment. NCBC, MSU, and the students have been very, very well served through Barry's efforts.

NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

2014-2018 Schedule of Live Course Offerings at NCBC Conferences

MSU and NCBC look forward to preparing a new generation of leaders. To that end, the 2014-2018 MSU schedule of courses begins now. For more information, attend the MSU orientation session at the 2014 conference (July 15 at 8:00 a.m.) and attend the MSU courses

2014-2018 Schedule of Live Course Offerings at NCBC Conferences
2014#
Purposes & Responsibilities of Courts (6)#
Leadership (6)
2015#
Court & Community Communication (5)#
Caseflow Management (8)
2016#
Resources, Budget, & Finance (7)#
Human Resources Management (7)
2017#
Information Technology Management (6)#
Visioning & Strategic Planning (5)
2018#
Education, Training, & Development (5)#
Essential Components of Courts (5)

“The Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of Ohio has long been a supporter of the Michigan State University Judicial Administration Program. To date we’ve had eleven employees participate. Five have graduated, one is scheduled to graduate at the 2014 NCBC Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, and the remaining five employees are progressing through the program and expect to graduate over the next three years. The course offerings provide for a well-rounded curriculum for any serious bankruptcy professional interested in improving their understanding of the court operations from the details of caseflow management to broader organizational vision developed in strategic planning.”

Ken Hirz, Clerk of Court, OHNB

NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

What Was Available Then...

The Judicial Administration Program began by offering three educational options:

- The Noncredit Certificate Program comprised of ten courses and a capstone project. The ten courses were offered via online self-paced study or live through the partner-provider network.
- The Graduate Certificate comprised of four on-line academic courses. The noncredit certificate could be applied toward the Graduate Certificate, with a conversion project; thus, fulfilling two of the four course requirements.
- The Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Judicial Administration Specialization. The master's degree was comprised of courses focused on both criminal justice and judicial administration.

In my opinion, the future of the judiciary depends upon the availability of highly trained professional court administrators to lead the court system into the 21st century. Based on my experience as a graduate of the master's certificate program at MSU, I believe that Michigan State's Judicial Administration Program provides that necessary training ground.

I strongly encourage administrators, who are passionate about their work and desire to grow professionally, to seriously consider taking courses through the Michigan State program. For those who aspire to positions in court administration, Michigan State's program will position you to better compete for management positions and, once secured, to succeed in them. "

Daniel J. Lynch, Clerk of Court/U.S. Magistrate Judge, NHD

What Is Available Now...

- Interactive Online Noncredit Certificate Program New to the Judicial Administration Program, in addition to the traditional line-up, is an interactive online noncredit certificate program. This forum allows students to engage with each other and the instructor through online a-synchronized discussion groups. Students may take self-study or interactive courses, in addition to the MSU courses at NCBC. The master-teacher for the interactive courses is Mr. Jeffrey Allsteadt, Clerk of Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Illinois. Jeffrey facilitates all ten on-line courses. The schedule and associated costs for the 2014-2015 academic year can be found under Appendix A.
- Master of Science in Judicial Administration The other major development in the Judicial Administration Program is the new Master of Science Degree in Judicial Administration. This 30-credit online master's degree was launched during the 2013-2014 academic year. To review the required courses comprising the degree, review Appendix B.

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NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

The master's degree can be completed in six continuous semesters for students attending with a full-course schedule. Rolling admissions are now being offered allowing students to apply to graduate school no later than six weeks prior to the semester start date. The deadlines to submit application materials are listed in Appendix C on page 14..

"The judiciary needs experienced leaders now more than ever. The hard working and dedicated court staff around the country can reap the rewards and satisfaction of taking classes online, online with a mentor or at conferences. I believe in this program so much that I also teach in it so that I can give back and provide real world experience to the next generation of leaders. I strongly recommend attending Michigan State's Judicial Administration program if you have a desire to advance in the court system."

Jeffrey P. Allsteadt, Clerk of Court, ILNB

Additional Information

Judicial Administration Future Credentials Research Project along with MSU, with its partners, engaged in research to determine the desirable credentials for the top-two judicial administration positions in courts over the next decade. The full report will be released this Spring. The summary findings indicate that individuals who wish to have a career in the courts with greater leadership authority and management responsibilities need to generally have the following: a master's degree in judicial administration or another graduate degree in management; one to five years of experience demonstrating progressively more refined management capabilities; leadership characteristics that involve the ability to think critically, analytically, and creatively and the ability to communicate persuasively and clearly. Last, the research pointed to the need for candidates who aspire to the top-two positions to have mastered a number of competencies related to court operations.

MSU and NCBC look forward to preparing a new generation of leaders. For more information about The Judicial Administration program go to <http://cj.msu.edu/programs/judicial-administration-program/> or contact Catharine White gamperca@msu.edu.

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NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

Appendix A: Non-credit Online Courses

2014-2015 Dates	Course Offering	Contact	Course Fees
September 8th – September 28th, 2014 (3 weeks)	Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts (Core)	6	\$72.00
September 29th – October 12th, 2014 (2 weeks)	Court and Community Communication (Elective)	5	\$60.00
October 13th – November 2nd, 2014 (3 weeks)	Resources, Budget, and Finance (Core)	7	\$84.00
November 3rd – November 16th, 2014 (2 weeks)	Education, Training, and Development (Elective)	5	\$60.00
December 1st– December 14th, 2014 (2 weeks)	Visioning and Strategic Planning (Elective)	5	\$60.00
January 5th – January 25th, 2015 (3 weeks)	Caseflow Management (Core)	8	\$96.00
January 26th –February 8th, 2015 (2 weeks)	Leadership (Core)	6	\$72.00
February 9th – February 22nd, 2015 (2 weeks)	Essential Components of Courts (Elective)	5	\$60.00
February 23rd – March 15th, 2015 (3 weeks)	Information Technology Management (Core)	6	\$72.00
March 16th – March 29th, 2015 (2 weeks)	Human Resources Management (Core)	7	\$84.00

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NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

Appendix B: Master of Science Required Courses

REQUIREMENTS

Master of Science Degree in Judicial Administration: 30 total credits required

Core Foundation Courses: 15 credits required

Course Number	Title	Hours
CJ 812*	Criminal Justice Management Seminar	3
CJ 829*	National and Global Trends in Court Planning	3
CJ 860*	Historical Foundations/Contemporary Frameworks in Judicial	3
CJ 861	Budget Planning and Resource Allocation for Court Performance	3
CJ 862	Workforce Planning and Management in the Courts	3

Core Research Methods Courses: 6 credits required

Course Number	Title	Hours
CJ 811	Design and Analysis in Criminal Justice Research	3
CJ 887	Quantitative Methods in Criminal Justice Research	3

Approved Electives: 6 credits required

Course Number	Title	Hours
JRN 892	Special Topics: Courts in the Media	3
CJ 863	Courthouse Planning: Space, Technology, Security, and Disaster	3
CJ 864*	Elements of Essential Court Operations	3
Approved Elective	By approval of academic advisor	3

Plan B Policy Paper: 3 credits required

Course Number	Title	Hours
CJ 896**	Policy Analysis under Conditions of Change (Plan B Policy Paper)	3

*Students desiring to complete the graduate certificate only, must take the courses marked with an asterisk – CJ 812, CJ 829, CJ 860, and CJ 864.

****CJ 896 Prerequisite:** CJ 811 and (CJ 887 or concurrently) **CJ 896 Recommended Background:** At least 75% of MS coursework complete

NCBC and MSU: 10 Years of Partnership

Dr. Maureen E. Conner, Professor and Director Judicial Administration Program

Appendix C: Master of Science Application Deadlines

DEADLINES TO SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS					
START DATE		CLASSES BEGIN		APPLICATION DEADLINE	
<i>Summer</i>	2014	<i>May 12,</i>	2014	<i>March 1,</i>	2014
<i>Fall</i>	2014	<i>August 27,</i>	2014	<i>July 2,</i>	2014
<i>Spring</i>	2015	<i>January 12,</i>	2015	<i>November 17,</i>	2014
<i>Summer</i>	2015	<i>May 18,</i>	2015	<i>March 23,</i>	2015
<i>Fall</i>	2015	<i>September 2,</i>	2015	<i>July 8,</i>	2015
<i>Spring</i>	2016	<i>January 11,</i>	2016	<i>November 16,</i>	2015
<i>Summer</i>	2016	<i>May 16,</i>	2016	<i>March 21,</i>	2016
<i>Fall</i>	2016	<i>August 31,</i>	2016	<i>July 5,</i>	2016
<i>Spring</i>	2017	<i>January 12,</i>	2017	<i>November 16,</i>	2016
<i>Summer</i>	2017	<i>May 15,</i>	2017	<i>March 22,</i>	2017
<i>Fall</i>	2017	<i>August 30,</i>	2017	<i>July 5,</i>	2017
<i>Spring</i>	2018	<i>January 8,</i>	2018	<i>November 13,</i>	2017
<i>Summer</i>	2018	<i>May 14,</i>	2018	<i>March 20,</i>	2018
<i>Fall</i>	2018	<i>August 29,</i>	2018	<i>July 5,</i>	2018
<i>Spring</i>	2019	<i>January 7,</i>	2019	<i>November 13,</i>	2018
<i>Summer</i>	2019	<i>May 13,</i>	2019	<i>March 19,</i>	2019



NCBC Scholarship/Tuition Assistance Program

Kris Botts - Chair, Awards Committee

Just a reminder that 2014 is the second year of the NCBC Scholarship/Tuition Assistance program that was created to assist deserving, qualified NCBC members in their pursuit of continuing education. The program currently has an annual budget of \$4000. Recipients will receive up to \$500, which can be used for attendance at the annual conference or for approved continuing education courses. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Must be a current NCBC member and in good standing for a minimum of the last two consecutive years.
- Must be a deputy clerk, currently employed by the U.S. Courts.
- Must complete the application process before the deadline provided.

Applications must be received no later than **May 15, 2014**. The application is available on the NCBC website at: <http://ncbc.memberclicks.net/scholarship-info->

Planning for Retirement Just Got Easier

James De La Torre, CRPC

There is a saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words” which simply means a picture tells a story. While it’s unclear who originally coined this phrase, there is a lot of truth to this saying. When it comes to understanding your benefits and planning for retirement; if a picture is worth a thousand words, than a report detailing your pension and other federal benefits is priceless.

If you combine the complications of federal benefits with the dynamics of financial/retirement planning it’s not hard to see why federal employees are at a disadvantage. The problem is compounded when federal employees retire and they have to make decisions based only on the information they have at hand and not objectively with all the options on hand.

Planning for your retirement just got easier. NCBC understands the challenges employees face and has taken steps to help members address this issue. NCBC members now have access to a new service, a CSRS-FERS Benefits Calculator which generates a 21 page detailed report. This report is intended to assist employees in understanding the income, benefits and expense associated with federally sponsored benefit programs. What makes this report unique is that it projects benefits and expenses out over 30 years in retirement. This unique feature allows you to see what retirement looks like throughout life in retirement. This report is free to NCBC members, and the benefits covered in the report analysis include:

FERS or CSRS Pension

Your FERS or CSRS pension benefits are determined based on years of service, age and high three salary. The calculator provides detailed information on the amount of pension income you can expect when you retire. It also shows “what if” scenarios if you are considering waiting a few more years before retiring. The report includes the impact COLA has on your retirement income and your survivor benefit options.

Social Security

The calculator program includes your social security benefits, based on the age you want to start receiving benefits. The calculator includes the FERS Supplement benefit, windfall elimination provision or Pension offset provisions if applicable.

Thrift Savings Plan

The calculator program projects your current TSP investments and contributions into the future up until you decide when to begin withdrawing money. The program provides all withdrawal options available with the TSP to provide you with an idea of what’s the best way to distribute money from your TSP.

FEGLI

The amount of life insurance you may have with FEGLI changes over time, and so do the premiums. The calculator will provide valuable information on how these amounts change and the impact it could have on retirement income.

FEHBP

Even though your employer pays approximately 75% of your FEHB premiums in retirement, your portion of the premiums can be more than you realize. The program calculates your FEHB premiums and how they are adjusted each year through medical inflation.

Planning for Retirement Just Got Easier

James De La Torre, CRPC

Continued from page 15

Planning for retirement is a process and it's never too early to start. You will need to complete a questionnaire in order to receive your free analysis report. Send James an email to receive the questionnaire or if you have questions or would like additional information at: jdelatorre@fedadvantage.com.

James De La Torre has conducted federal benefit and financial planning seminars across the country. He is a key note speaker at federal conferences and works with federal professional organizations on improving the communication about federal benefits to their membership. Jim has appeared as a guest on "Fed Talk" on the Federal News Radio network, discussing the gaps in federal benefits and the financial impacts employees face. Please direct questions or comments directly to James at jdelatorre@fedAdvantage.com.

Spotlight on Court Developed Programs

QR Codes for Easy Access to Calendars

Sandi Brask - California Central



Last year, the Central District of California began using QR (Quick Response) codes as an alternative method for attorneys and others to quickly download and view judges' calendars. Soon thereafter, even our Chief Judge had QR codes posted outside of his courtroom so attorneys could have easy access to his courtroom procedures.

Although QR codes were originally developed for industrial uses, they have emerged as a common and quick way to access information available on the Internet. The availability of dozens of apps to read the codes, for all types of mobile devices, makes it easy to access information in this manner.

California Central is exploring the use of QR codes for other uses too. Our district has an extremely high rate of *pro se* filers, last year alone over 18,500 petitions were filed in our district by self-represented parties. In an effort to better serve this group, we are in the process of developing informational brochures that will be distributed in our Intake departments and the self-help clinics around the district. This will allow us to provide targeted information for debtors such as directions to 341(a) meeting locations, how to get help filing for bankruptcy, and other valuable information that is available on the court's website.

Did you know that the Bankruptcy Methods Analysis Program (BMAP) recommends the use of QR codes as a best practice? See item X.14 in the link below (Click the link. The Jnet page will open. Click X, External User Training and Support, then scroll to X.14):

<http://jnet.ao.dcn/resources/reports-and-publications/oversight-internal-controls-and-audit/internal-control-and-audit/frequent-findings-and-best-practices/judiciary-methods-analysis-program/best-practices/current-best-practice-recommendations>

CM/ECF Next Gen Update

Used With Permission

NextGen Employs JENIE Sign-on

The AO recently posted on its Next Generation of CM/ECF (NextGen) website *JENIE Idle Timeout Information* at: <http://jnet.ao.dcn/resources/national-applications-and-systems-supported/case-managementelectronic-case-files-cmecf-next-generation/Jenie-Idle-Timeout-Information>. This information describes why JENIE was selected for the NextGen user authentication process and the 90-minute idle timeout limit that will be included.

JENIE is part of a single sign-on initiative undertaken by the AO. The goal of the single sign-on initiative is to minimize the number of sets of user credentials (login names and passwords) that Judiciary employees must remember to access applications and networks.

When NextGen was in the design phase, JENIE's idle timeout setting, which was then one hour, came to the attention of court staff who were reviewing the design for user authentication.

A number of these court staff expressed concern that the one-hour setting would be an unacceptable disruption to the work of judges. The Committee on Information Technology discussed the issues concerning the idle timeout setting for JENIE at its June 2013 meeting. The Committee noted that case management information is often highly sensitive and that the Judiciary is obligated to protect it as it does its financial information.

In light of the concerns expressed about the length of the idle timeout for Next Generation CM/ECF, however, the Committee endorsed an extension of the idle timeout for JENIE from 60 to 90 minutes.

For questions on this issue, please contact Robby Robinson, Court Services Office (*Robby Robinson/DCA/AO/USCOURTS* or 202/502-1545) or Barbara Kimble, Judicial Services Office (*Barbara Kimble/DCA/AO/USCOURTS@USCOURTS* or 202/502-3129).

Wisconsin Eastern Holds Third Annual Bring Your Children to Work Day

Janet L. Medlock, Clerk of Court

The agencies in the United States Federal Courthouse in the Eastern District of Wisconsin sponsored a “Bring Your Children to Work Day” on April 16, 2014. Approximately 33 children participated. District Court Judge Charles N. Clevert started the day by welcoming the children to the courthouse. Some of the events included a Centennial Courtroom tour and a career panel presentation which included the U.S. Attorney, an attorney from the Federal Defender Services Office, a U.S. Probation officer, a courtroom deputy from the District Court, and an agent from the U.S. Secret Service. The U.S. Probation Office and U.S. Marshals Service each gave special presentations displaying electronic monitoring and law enforcement equipment. The Department of Homeland Security also showcased two explosive detection canines, Ringo and Jericho. The highlight of the day was the trial of Shrek, who was accused of shoving an apple down Snow White’s throat. Magistrate Judge Patricia Gorence (“Judge Judy”) presided over the trial and witnesses included Harry Potter, Sheriff Woody, a minion from *Despicable Me*, and the Dynamic Duo: Batman and Robin. With Bailiff Snoopy keeping everyone in line, the result was unanimous... NOT guilty!

The day culminated with Judge Clevert presenting to each child certificates signed by Chief Judges Griesbach and Pepper. The children had a great time and learned a lot about the roles their parents, grandparents and caregivers play in the federal government. Hopefully, the program inspired the next generation of federal judges, clerks, law enforcement officers, attorneys and other future federal employees!





2014 NCBC Conference Update

July 14 - 18, 2014

St. Louis, MO

Jennifer Dawson, Missouri Eastern, Cathy Hart, Illinois Southern & Susan Ryan, Missouri Eastern

NCBC registration has now been open for several weeks. The last day to register is June 13th. If you haven't yet registered for the conference and plan to attend, be sure to register TODAY! Missouri Eastern and Illinois Southern court staff are finalizing the conference curriculum and other activities to ensure your experience in St. Louis is a memorable one! The article highlights some of the activities we are excited to share with you during the week of NCBC:

Follow the Arch Scavenger Hunt

The Clerks of Missouri Eastern and Illinois Southern invite you to join the Follow the Arch Scavenger Hunt. All registered conference attendees are invited to look for a replica of the St. Louis Arch at different areas within our conference events. Each conference participant who finds a replica of the Arch will receive an entry into our drawing. Attend multiple conference events for extra chances to win. Two fantastic prizes will be given away. The only condition is that winners must be present at the time of the drawing in order to claim their prize. Check the NCBC registration packet for more information.

Wellness Activities

We invite you to participate in a run or walk around scenic downtown St. Louis. Group runs and group walks will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday mornings with both groups meeting in the lobby at 6:00 a.m. Runners will be provided with an opportunity to run two or three miles with the course passing back near the hotel at approximately two miles. The course for the walkers is being finalized and will be between one and two miles. Whether you participate in the run or walk, there are many sights along the way, including a beautiful view of the Old Courthouse and the Gateway Arch. Bring your sneakers and join us!

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour

The Anheuser-Busch Brewery tours featured on the NCBC registration page have SOLD OUT. For those who weren't able to sign up for a tour, don't worry! Brewery tours are available every 15 minutes during the week. Simply call Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tours or visit their web site and make your own reservation. The tours are free! Call 314-577-2626 or visit <http://www.budweisertours.com/z01/>

St. Louis Cardinals vs. the Los Angeles Dodgers (Friday, July 18 and Sunday, July 20)

The 2013 National League Champions, the St. Louis Cardinals, are taking on the Los Angeles Dodgers the weekend after the conference ends – Friday, July 18, Saturday, July 19, and Sunday, July 20. All Cardinals games are exciting, but this particular series should prove to be extra competitive because the Cardinals played and defeated the Dodgers in the National League Championship series. This is also the first series the Cardinals will play, after the All-Star break. If you are planning to extend your stay in St. Louis after the conference ends and you are interested in going to any of these games, we highly recommend you get tickets ASAP. Tickets can be purchased on-line at: http://stlouis.cardinals.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp?c_id=stl

St. Louis Ballpark Village

We are excited to announce the St. Louis Ballpark Village is now open for business! It is located directly across the street from the conference hotel – the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. Ballpark Village offers a number of unique dining and entertainment experiences that include The Budweiser Brew House, Fox Sports Midwest Live!, Cardinals Nation, Howl at the Moon, and several other venues. More information is available on the St. Louis NCBC web site under the [Local Attractions](#) tab.

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Taste the Local Flavor

Known for Italian cuisine, thin-crust pizza and a dessert discovered by accident, these St. Louis staples are available at restaurants in every neighborhood. While you are here, also be sure to try St. Louis toasted ravioli, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, Gus' Pretzels, and gooey butter cake. You won't be disappointed! More information can be found on the St. Louis NCBC web site under the [St Louis Food](#) tab.

St. Louis' Eclectic Neighborhoods

St. Louis is known as a city of neighborhoods and each neighborhood offers its own unique vibe, from sleek and sophisticated, to cozy and charming, to hip and trendy. Hop in a cab or take Metrolink to the Central West End, Lafayette Square, Soulard, The Loop, or Washington Avenue. Details about all of these neighborhoods can be found on the St. Louis NCBC web site under the [St Louis Neighborhoods](#) tab.

We look forward to seeing you soon in St. Louis!



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

There is a lot going on within our organization. The information contained in this issue of Impact demonstrates that the NCBC board and staff are hard at work on behalf of our members. The host courts are making final preparations for this year's conference. We are celebrating the ten year anniversary of the MSU program. It's election time.

The editorial staff makes every effort to keep NCBC members informed of what is going on with NCBC and with the courts. We value your opinion and would love to hear from you. If you would like to provide feedback about the newsletter, please contact me.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Laura Whitehead, Editor