



Special Edition
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Human Resources Forum 2017: Chicago, IL



By: M. Regina Thomas, NCBC President

Regina Thomas

2017 Human Resources Forum

Chicago, IL

By: Lisa Haney, TNWB

I wanted to take this opportunity to give you the brief history of how the Human Resources Forum began. Upon returning one year from an Operational Practices Forum, I felt that something similar should be held for court staff that serve in personnel and human resources positions. The structure would allow us to come together, discuss current issues, learn from each other, and build relationships. Often times, in the field of human resources, you deal with issues that you cannot discuss with just anyone and you really need a trusted colleague to be able to share with and discuss those issues. I pitched the idea, to then-Clerk of Court, Jed Weintraub. He thought it was a great idea and encouraged me to move forward in pursuing options for funding. Unfortunately, due to other programs and national needs, funding for the program was not available through the Administrative Office or the Federal Judicial Center. Undeterred, we moved forward with our court funding the program. The first HR Forum was held in Memphis, Tennessee in 2008. We hosted the program again in 2010 and 2015. Each year, we filled the available space to maximum capacity.

two and a half days to hear about and discuss human resource topics.



My goals for the HR Forum have always been for participants to:

- Network
- Share our knowledge & experiences
- Ask questions
- Meet at least three new people
- Have Fun!



We cannot do this alone! As human resources professionals, we are the resources that our court employees look to when they need assistance and it is important that we get it right, handle it with genuine concern, professionalism and compassion. We can grow all of those attributes by networking with those that provide the same service, sharing our knowledge, asking questions of the experts and of each other. Am I passionate about my job? Yes! Our employees are our greatest asset and they deserve our best. Meeting three new people helps us grow our colleague base. Having fun allows us to relieve some of the stress of the job. I believe that we met our goals for the 2017 HR Forum.



I was thrilled when Regina Thomas, NCBC President, contacted me about partnering together to host a 2017 Human Resources Forum. The partnership allowed us to move the program to a larger venue and open it up to 300 participants. I was very fortunate to have a new Clerk of Court, Kathy Ford, who was on board with our court's continued support of the program. On April 25, 2017, 295 court employees from all across the Federal Judiciary who deal with human resources issues gathered together for



I often use the phrase, "It takes a village!" Many thanks to a great local team— Kelley Rousseau, Beth Puckett, Ricketta

2017 Human Resources Forum Chicago, IL Conference Recap (continued)

Bailey, Matt Burgess, and Connie Wilson who joined us in Chicago. Those who could not join us in Chicago but were invaluable during the planning process were Mona Potter (website development), Alisa Kasich (registration site), and Justin Foreman and Michael Brooks (procurement), and last but certainly not least, my Clerk, Kathy Ford.



I want to also thank the presenters who took time out of their busy schedules to prepare presentations and be with us for the two and half days. Court Services Office: Jason Edwards, Laura Buchanan, and Christina Martin; HRMIS: Brenda Reale and Supriya Kumar; Office of Human Resources: Janice Chiverton; Office of General Counsel: Charlene Hardy; and Benefits and Retirement: Cindy Roth and Henry Broitman.



Thank you to Regina Thomas, NCBC President and Clerk, GANB and Eddy Emmons, NCBC President-Elect and Clerk, CANB. It was a great partnership and I could not have done it without you!

A very special thank you to all of you who attended the 2017 HR Forum. Your support for the program and your participation was awesome! I hope we are able to meet again soon!

For more information, please feel free to visit the [2017 HR Forum website](#).

Editor's Note

By: Jan Zari



Hello NCBC members! I hope that you have enjoyed this special 2017 Human Resources Forum Recap edition of the Impact.

This year's HR Forum was an outstanding experience and it was great to be able to meet and learn from so many fellow Human Resources professionals from all across the Federal Judiciary! I hope to see and talk to you all again very soon! Visiting the beautiful city of Chicago was an incredible experience as well, and many of us had the opportunity to experience the city's diverse sights, sounds, and delicious eats. Take the time to conquer your fear of heights and visit the iconic Willis Tower on your next visit to "The Windy City!"

Thank you once again to Lisa Haney and everyone involved in the planning and execution of this wonderful event. I know I speak for many when I say that you all did an amazing job! Until next time...see you in Denver!