



National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks

Special Edition
Issue
September 2016

NCBC/FCCA 2016: Celebrating Our Partnership in Service

Washington, D.C.



President's Message

By: M. Regina Thomas, NCBC President



Have you recovered yet? I am not sure that I have, but I sure had a great time in Washington, D.C. with 925 of my closest federal judiciary friends. I have spoken to large groups of people in the past but admit that opening the conference on Tuesday morning and peering out over that packed ballroom was amazing! I am proud of how the NCBC and FCCA came together to produce an outstanding educational program - congratulations and thanks to Education Committee Chair, Teresa Underwood and her committee. There are so many others to thank, really, too many to list here. Please know that every one of the NCBC officers, board, and staff had a hand in the success of the conference, along with our many volunteers, court trainers and presenters. As you know, a program of this size and scope requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordination.



We hope you enjoy this special conference edition of the Impact. Thanks to all who made it possible, especially Impact Editor, Jan Zari and Co-Historian, Jennifer Paro (our photographer extraordinaire!) Remember to Save the Date for the next NCBC conference to be hosted by the District of Colorado – July 17-20, 2017!



Thank you for your support of the NCBC and its important mission.

Regina Thomas, President, National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks

NCBC/FCCA 2016: Conference Recap

From August 8 to August 11, over 900 Clerk's Office staff members from federal courts across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. to attend the joint 2016 conference of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC) and the Federal Court Clerks Association (FCCA). After several months of planning by both associations, attendees were treated to an exciting and event-filled week that included many educational opportunities, social and networking events, as well as a chance to take in the many sights, sounds, and tastes of our beautiful nation's capital.



The Monday before the first official day of the conference gave attendees a chance to pick up their registration materials and get settled into the conference hotel, the beautiful Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Washington, D.C. Students enrolled in the MSU Judicial Administration Program also enjoyed a full day of educational courses. The Boards for the NCBC and FCCA also held their respective meetings in preparation for the week's events and activities.



The first day of the conference featured the opening ceremony with welcoming remarks from M. Regina Thomas, NCBC President, Thomas G. Bruton, FCCA President, Angela D. Caesar, Clerk of Court for the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia, Hon. Beryl A. Howell, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and Hon. S. Martin Teel, Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia. Attendees were also addressed by James C. Duff, Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Scott Harris, Clerk of Court for the Supreme Court of the United States, and Dana K. Chipman, Director of the Education Division for the Federal Judicial Center.

Following the opening session, and throughout the conference, attendees were offered a variety of educational breakout sessions on topics including team building, emotional intelligence, needs assessments, TSP, NextGen CM/ECF, writing, professional development, leadership skills, effective writing, communication skills, interviewing, creating effective presentations, and much more! More information on the specific breakout offerings at this year's conference can be found [here](#).



This year, the conference once again offered two courses from the [Michigan State University Judicial Administration Noncredit Certificate Program](#): "Resources, Budget, and Finance" and "Essential Components of Courts." At each NCBC Conference, MSU offers two different courses as part of its certificate program in the area of judicial administration. Students in the program gain valuable education and exposure to the various aspects of court management and administration.



This year's conference once again featured the annual Information Sharing Session, where exhibitors from the AO, FJC, MSU, FCCA, NCBC, and local courts brought new programs, applications, and other innovations to share. Special thanks to everyone who participated for showcasing your work and talents!

NCBC/FCCA 2016: Conference Recap (continued)

There was also a special breakout session for Clerks and Chief Deputies, featuring AO updates from Jill C. Sayenga, Deputy Director, Mary Louise Mitterhoff, Chief of the Court Services Office, Sheryl Walter, General Counsel, Elena J. Simms, Acting Chief of the Budget Division, and Farhad Safaie, Chief Technology Officer.



picture. Lively music and dancing rounded out an evening of fun, fellowship, and the celebration of another successful conference!



On August 10, attendees attended the FCCA/NCBC program, featuring updates from Laura C. Minor, Associate Director of the AO Department of Program Services and Joseph R. Peters, Associate Director of the AO Department of Technology Services. The annual MSU Judicial Administration Program graduation celebrated the accomplishments and achievements of both FCCA and NCBC members earning their Masters Degree or Certificate in Judicial Administration.



The final day of the conference featured the business meetings for both associations. During the NCBC meeting, various members were recognized by Awards Committee chairperson, Mona Sparks, for their accomplishments and outstanding service to the NCBC and to their local courts. The 2016 election results were also announced. Eddy Emmons was elected as President-Elect, Ken Hirz was re-elected as Treasurer, and Mona Sparks and Sabrina Palacio-Garcia were re-elected to the Board of Governors. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your continued service to and support of the NCBC! Ken Gardner, Clerk of Court for the Colorado Bankruptcy Court also gave a memorable presentation for next year's NCBC Conference, which will be held in Denver in July 2017.

This year's closing dinner event was held at the beautiful Newseum, an interactive museum of news and journalism, where conference attendees and their guests were treated to a wonderful tour of the museum, which featured exhibits including sections of the Berlin Wall, the history of the Internet, TV, and radio, and newspapers from around the world. A wonderful array of appetizers and desserts was served and NCBC Historian Jennifer Paro was able to successfully coordinate the annual group



NCBC/FCCA 2016: Conference Recap (continued)



Editor's Note

By: Jan Zari



Hello NCBC members! I hope that you have enjoyed this special 2016 NCBC/FCCA Conference Recap edition of the IMPACT.

With my bags unpacked and put away, I can finally reflect on an outstanding 2016 Conference experience. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you and our FCCA colleagues, and thank you all for providing so much excellent feedback on the work of the Impact Editorial Committee! I can't wait to see you all again next year in Denver!

Thank you once again to everyone involved in the planning and execution of this year's conference! I know I speak for many when I say that you all did an amazing job!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, would like to be a part of the Editorial Committee, or submit an article for the next issue of the IMPACT, please feel free to contact me at Jan_Zari@cacb.uscourts.gov.

The final plenary session featured keynote speaker Barbara Braunstein, who engaged the audience with an inspiring, motivational, and very funny message about the power of positive thinking. She reminded attendees to: 1) Start each day with a positive attitude, 2) Stop negative talk, 3) Stay away from negative people, 4) Praise and compliment others freely and often, 5) Learn to receive praise and compliments graciously, 6) Learn to see criticism positively, 7) Give others the benefit of the doubt, 8) Cool off when things heat up, and 9) Celebrate your successes!

For more information on the 2016 NCBC/FCCA Conference, please visit the [2016 NCBC/FCCA Conference Website](#). Additionally, take a minute to check out the [NCBC Social Hub](#) for even more information!