



# IMPACT Newsletter

Dedicated to the professional development of its members

## NCBC 2018: THE CORE OF EDUCATION

Join us in  
**New  
York  
City**

### President's Message

By: Eddy Emmons, NCBC President

Our annual conference of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks was held in New York, New York on August 12 through 15, 2018. Six hundred participants gathered at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square for a memorable, informative, and worthwhile conference.

Several people spent many months planning the event--and it showed. We thank those involved in making this year's conference a success. There are so many moving parts in putting on a conference of this size and for those of you who contributed, we wish to extend a heartfelt thank you!

Vito Genna, Clerk of Court, Awilda (Willie) Rodriguez, the conference project manager, and the gracious staff of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York deserve our appreciation for making this year's conference a tremendous success. In addition, the Education Committee planned an exceptional program. Eileen Garrity chaired the hard working committee, which included Barry Lander (CASB), Beth Johnson (FJC), Ellen Haas (FLSB), Kelley Rousseau (TNWB), Josh Wiker (TXNB), Mecca Carter (OHSB), Megan Hussey (MAB), Matt Brittain (NCMB), Russell Paluso (CASB), Sandi Brask (CACB), Autumn Porter (NYSB) and Sharon Zurowski (ILNB).

Also, a big thank you to our partners from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Federal Judicial Center who provided a dynamic group of speakers for many of the educational sessions. The expertise and knowledge these speakers brought to the presentation were invaluable to our members -- the breakouts were informative and relevant.

Please enjoy our special conference edition of the Impact. A special thank you to Jan Zari, Jennifer Paro, and the Impact editorial committee for putting together this montage and recapturing the memorable events of NCBC 2018 New York.



# NCBC 2018: Conference Recap

From August 12 to August 15, over 600 Clerk's Office staff members from bankruptcy courts across the country assembled in New York City, New York to attend the 38th annual meeting of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC). After several months of planning by the host court, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, led by Clerk of Court Vito Genna, attendees were treated to an exciting and eventful week that included a wide variety of educational opportunities, networking events, and a chance to learn about and explore the "Big Apple."

The Sunday before the first official day of the conference gave attendees a chance to pick up their conference materials and get settled into the conference hotel, the New York Marriott Marquis located in the heart of New York City's famous Times Square. Students enrolled in the Michigan State University (MSU) Judicial Administration Program enjoyed a full day of educational courses while the NCBC Board held their pre-conference meeting in preparation for the week's events and activities. Attendees gathered in the evening for a welcome reception at the beautiful Alexander Hamilton Custom House, home of the Southern District of New York.

The first full day of the conference featured an opening ceremony and welcoming remarks from M. Regina Thomas, NCBC President, Vito Genna, Clerk of Court, and the Hon. Cecelia Morris, Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Lee Ann Bennett, Deputy Director for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Hon. Karen E. Schreier, Judicial Conference Committee Chair for the Committee of the Administration of the Bankruptcy System delivered updates and words of appreciation.

The afternoon plenary session was facilitated by The Water Coolers, an NYC-based comedy group who gave a Broadway-worthy presentation, complete with songs and dances relating to various workplace scenarios and how we as Court employees can overcome difficult situations on the job.

The Water Coolers also created and performed a special song specifically for Bankruptcy Court employees. A video recording of the song can be found on the [NCBC YouTube](#) page or by clicking [here](#).





# NCBC 2018: Conference Recap



Following the opening session, and throughout the conference, attendees were offered a variety of educational breakout sessions. The various breakout sessions offered throughout the conference included such topics as planning for a successful judiciary retirement, planning your judiciary career, presentation lessons from the Broadway stage, transitioning to Office 365, cybersecurity, hot HR topics affecting the courts, national IT initiatives, respect in the workplace, and more. More information on the specific breakout offerings as well as course materials from the sessions can be found [here](#).



For the final year, the NCBC offered two courses from the [MSU Judicial Administration certificate program](#): “Visioning and Strategic Planning” and “Education, Training, and Development.” Next year marks the official end of a 20-year partnership between the NCBC and MSU. Students currently enrolled in the program have until March 2019 to complete the course requirements and submit their capstone projects in order to graduate at the 2019 NCBC Conference in Chicago.



This year’s conference once again featured the annual Information Sharing Session, where exhibitors from the AO, FJC, 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!



On August 14, conference attendees were addressed by Associate Directors James R. Baugher, Mary Louise Mitterhoff, and Joseph R. Peters from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Education Division Director, Dana K. Chipman from the Federal Judicial Center. Each speaker spoke glowingly about the work being done by the courts and by all the talented individuals in the bankruptcy community.



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On the final day of the conference, attendees gathered for the NCBC business meeting, where the annual election results were announced to all. Congratulations to our new President-Elect Una O'Boyle, Treasurer Mona

Sparks, and Mary Schott and Carolyn Baker, who were elected to the Board of Governors. Various courts and NCBC members were recognized by Awards Committee chairperson, Teresa Underwood, for their special service and outstanding accomplishments in their local courts, to the NCBC, and in the bankruptcy community. A special tribute was given to outgoing President, Regina Thomas, expressing our gratitude and appreciation for her contributions, dedication, and leadership for the past 3 years. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your continued service to and support of the NCBC! Jeffrey Allsteadt, Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois also gave a presentation for next year's NCBC Conference, which will be held in Chicago in August 2019.



To wrap up the conference, plenary speaker Amy Herman gave an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation on "[The Art of Perception](#)," utilizing works of art to engage the audience by asking attendees to examine how they see things and how their minds work when presented with a scenario. Through her clever use of paintings, sculptures, and

photography, Ms. Herman pointed out ways that we can see and think outside the box. She encouraged us to avoid making unsafe assumptions that can lead to drawing conclusions that are not only untrue, but potentially damaging.

For more information on the 2018 NCBC Conference, please visit the [2018 NCBC Conference Website](#).

## A Heart-Warming Reunion By: Vito Genna

It was a pleasure to host the NCBC in New York City this summer. As always, the education and the members' networking are priceless, and there is always one memory that we will remember from each conference. One of those memories from this year's conference was a thirty-year reunion of a former clerk of court and some of her employees.

Soon after the opening ceremony, Shirley Penix (from Macon, Georgia) approached the conference information booth asking to speak with Chief Judge Cecelia Morris. I mentioned to her that Judge Morris had left to go back to her office in Poughkeepsie, NY, over 100 miles north of NYC. Shirley proceeded to tell me that it was such a joy and delight to see Chief Judge Morris after 30 years and there are others that would love to see her too. It turns out that when Judge Morris began her career with the Judiciary as the clerk of court in Macon, Georgia she hired Rhonda Thomas, Shirley Penix, Theresa Hayes and Shirley Williams, and along with Joanna Jones, they all worked together until Judge Morris left to become the clerk of court in NYC.

I called Judge Morris to inform her and immediately she said, "I am catching the first train back to NYC tomorrow morning to see them". Below is a photo of a joyful reunion after 30 years.



From left to right:  
Rhonda Thomas, Courtroom Deputy  
Shirley Penix, Judicial Administrator  
Joanna Jones, Operations Manager  
Hon. Cecelia Morris, Chief Judge  
Shirley Williams, Courtroom Deputy  
Theresa Hayes, Case Administrator

## “We’re NCBC”

To the tune of “We Are The Champions” originally performed by Queen  
Lyrics by Brandon Lowden for The Water Coolers

We work the case,  
Get through the grind...  
Doing our duty  
And “other duties as assigned.”

Cost containment and SAS cuts  
Cause stress and doubt,  
But we still roll with the punches,  
At least until JENIE times out!

And we go on and on and on and on....

We’re NCBC, my friends,  
Helping folks through the process, With NextGen.  
We’re here to help you  
If your business fell through.  
Ready to face it, whatever the case  
In bankruptcy court!

Bankruptcy is tough but it’s better with the good folks from NCBC!

To our pro se debtors:  
We understand your side!  
But please stop asking us for legal advice  
We just can’t provide!

And could you try printing neatly?  
We love when you do!  
Because if you write in crayon on toilet paper, we still  
Have to process it through!

And we go on and on and on and on....

We’re NCBC, my friends,  
Helping folks get back on their feet again.  
The market keeps churning,  
So, we’ll keep on learning.  
Ready to face it, whatever the case...

We’re NCBC, my friends.  
On whom the courts and the public both depend,  
Helping debtors and creditors,  
Making lives better,  
Ready to face it, whatever the case  
In bankruptcy court!





# NCBC 2018: Conference Recap



## Editor's Note

By: Jan Zari



With my bags finally unpacked and put away, I can finally reflect on what was an outstanding and memorable 2018 conference experience. It was a pleasure to meet and catch up with so many of you, 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 Chicago (and we can debate the real winner behind the New York vs. Chicago pizza rivalry)!

Thank you once again to Vito Genna and his crew at New York Southern and to everyone else who was involved in the planning and execution of this year's conference. Your hospitality was second to none and I know that I speak for many when I say that you all did an outstanding job!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, are interested in joining 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](mailto:Jan_Zari@cacb.uscourts.gov).