



August 5-8, 2019

CHICAGO

“Building the Bridge to a Better Bankruptcy Community”

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September 2019

NCBC IMPACT Newsletter: Special Annual Conference Recap Edition

President's Message

By: Eddy Emmons, NCBC President



Our annual conference was held in Chicago, Illinois from August 5 through August 8, 2019. I am pleased to report that the conference was a great success!

This conference was 12 months in the making, and the result was an outstanding educational program and a memorable time in Chicago, Illinois.

Congratulations and thank yous are extended to Jeff Allsteadt, Sharon Zurowski and the staff of the Illinois Northern Bankruptcy Court. They did a spectacular job and genuinely deserve our appreciation. A special thanks to Chief Judge Pamela Hollis for making us feel welcomed and for providing her insights on places to visit during our stay.

We were honored to hear from Judge Karen Schreier, outgoing Chair, Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, as well as guest speakers from the Administrative Office (AO) and the Federal Judicial Center (FJC). Thank you to Mary Louise Mitterhoff and Dana Chipman. Also, I want to thank the AO, FJC, FedAdvantage, and staff from various courts for providing training at this year's conference.

As always, our Education Committee planned an exceptional program. Chaired by Eileen Garrity and Sharon Zurowski, they both worked with the education committee to come up with outstanding opportunities. We featured 34 breakout sessions, Info Sharing, Info Labs, and two dynamic plenary sessions. We thank the committee for their dedication. They are: Barry Lander (CASB), Rich Marshall (FJC), Autumn Porter (NYSB), Jan Zari (CACB), Jeffrey Peirce (NJB), Matt Brittain (NCMB), Patty Nelson (TXWB), Sheri Brolick (MIWB), Tommie Wills (AZB), and Sandi Brask (CACB).

Please enjoy our special conference recap edition of the Impact. A special thank you to Jan Zari, Jennifer Paro, Kimberly Rubal, and the Impact Editorial Committee for capturing the memorable events of this year.



NCBC 2019: Conference Recap

From August 5 to 8, over 600 Clerk's Office Staff members from bankruptcy courts across the country assembled in Chicago, Illinois to attend the 39th 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 Northern District of Illinois, led by Clerk of Court Jeffrey P. Allsteadt and Chief Deputy Sharon Zurowski, attendees were treated to an exciting and eventful week that included an assortment of educational opportunities, networking events, and a chance to learn about and explore "The Windy City."

The Monday before the first full day of the conference gave attendees a chance to pick up their conference materials and settle into the conference hotel, the Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile, located on Chicago's famed premier commercial district. Participants enrolled in the NCBC's LEAD Academy pilot program enjoyed a full day educational workshop while the NCBC Board held their pre-conference meeting in preparation for the week's events and activities. For the first time ever, a First Time Conference Goers Get-together gave first time conference attendees a chance to meet and mingle with the NCBC Board members and learn more about the NCBC, the duties and responsibilities of each Board member, and an overview of what to expect during the conference. All attendees gathered in the evening for a welcome reception at the rooftop of the beautiful Gwen Hotel.

The first full day of the conference featured an opening ceremony and welcoming remarks from Eddy Emmons, NCBC President, Jeff Allsteadt, Clerk of Court, and the Hon. Pamela S. Hollis, Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The Hon. Karen E. Schreier, Judicial Conference Committee Chair for the Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System delivered updates and words of appreciation.

The morning plenary session was facilitated by Second City, a Chicago-based improv group who gave an entertaining presentation, complete with songs, dances, and audience participation relating to various workplace scenarios and how we can facilitate more effective conversations and more positive interactions by being mindful about our choice of words. More information on Second City can be found [here](#).



NCBC 2019: Conference Recap

Following the plenary session, and throughout the week, attendees were offered a variety of educational breakout sessions. The various breakout sessions offered throughout the conference included such topics as bankruptcy law, personal growth, the dark web/cybercrime, Microsoft Office 365, retirement planning, customer service, online information and IT security, financial planning, leadership topics, and more. More information on the specific breakout offerings, as well as course materials from the sessions can be found [here](#).

On Wednesday, August 7, the conference kicked off with the NCBC Program, which included updates from Mary Louise Mitterhoff, Associate Director for the Department of Program Services at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and Dana K. Chipman, Education Division Director from the Federal Judicial Center. Cathy White from the Michigan State University (MSU) Judicial Administration Program and Barry Lander, MSU/NCBC Liaison, then recognized the final 46 NCBC Graduates from the Michigan State University Judicial Administration Certificate Program, marking the end of a 15-year partnership between the NCBC and MSU.



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. New this year were learning labs with live hands-on demonstrations of new and developing programs and applications. Special thanks to everyone who participated for showcasing your work and talents!

Attendees enjoyed a beautiful evening event at the Crystal Gardens at the famous Chicago Navy Pier, complete with dinner, dancing, and a beautiful evening fireworks show.



NCBC 2019: Conference Recap

On the final day of the conference, the NCBC Business Meeting was held, and each of the members of the NCBC Board gave a report on the work of their committees over the past year. The annual election results were then announced to all. Congratulations to our Secretary, Shannon Morris, who was elected to a second term, and to Matt Brittain and Eileen Garrity, who were re-elected to a second term on the Board of Governors. Khadija White-Thomas was elected to her first term on the Board of Governors. Various courts and NCBC members were recognized by Awards Committee Chairperson, Mona Sparks, for their special service and outstanding accomplishments in their local courts, to the NCBC, and in the bankruptcy community. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your continued service to and support of the NCBC!

Kathy Campbell, Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California gave a presentation for next year's NCBC Conference, which will be held in Anaheim, CA from July 5-8, 2020. The NCBC 2020 Promotional Video can be found [here](#).

To wrap up the conference, plenary speaker Randy Fox used his officiating, leadership, and life experiences to deliver a high-energy closing presentation. With a 20-year career as a corporate leader and as an accomplished NCAA Basketball Official, Mr. Fox demonstrated his unique perspective on effective leadership and teamwork to help us realize that we can achieve great results in our lives both inside and outside of work. More information on Randy Fox can be found [here](#).

For more information on the 2019 NCBC Conference, please visit the [2019 NCBC Conference Website](#).



Membership Awards Now Available

By: Mona Sparks, NCBC Awards Committee

Membership Certificates are available for download and print from the [NCBC Website](#). Check to see if your court NCBC membership percentage is Gold (75%-100%), Silver (50% - 74%) or Bronze (25% - 49%). Congrats to our eleven Gold Courts:

- California Southern
- District of Columbia
- Georgia Middle
- Georgia Southern
- Hawaii
- Iowa Southern
- Louisiana Middle
- Maine
- Montana
- Rhode Island
- Wisconsin Western



New NCBC Logo Unveiled



On the last day of the conference, President Eddy Emmons unveiled the winner of the NCBC Logo Contest.

Mari Heuerman, Case Administrator from the United States Bankruptcy court, Western District of Washington submitted the winning design, chosen from

among 22 unique logos submitted by contributors from across the judiciary.

Speaking about her design, Ms. Heuerman explained that she "set out to create a simple logo that would reflect the mission and the people who make up the NCBC. The Roman portico was inspired by the US Supreme Court building, reflecting our connection to the federal judiciary. On top of each pillar is an image representing one of the four mission areas: torch (leadership), scales of justice (advocacy), books (education) and key (solutions). The pillars, as support for the roof, symbolize the mission supported by NCBC."

Thank you once again to everyone who submitted their designs for the NCBC Logo Contest!

Thank You from the NCBC Education Committee

NCBC along with NCBC Education Committee wishes to thank the Northern District of Illinois for being a great host court. We would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to all the trainers and exhibitors that made this year's conference so successful, from the AO presenters, FJC trainers and Court trainers. We also want to thank FedAdvantage, BNC, Chicago UST and the Chicago FBI for supporting our Educational pursuits.

LEAD Academy Pilot Program Holds First-Ever LEAD Academy Workshop

Earlier this year, the NCBC launched the its LEAD Academy Pilot Program. The LEAD (Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, and Development) Academy Sub-Committee, led by Sandy Smith, recently retired from the Eastern District of California, worked together along with the NCBC President and NCBC Board, along with various instructors from local courts to put together the new 4-month program designed to help non-supervisory NCBC members gain essential leadership skills to take on greater responsibilities in their current position. The program officially kicked off on May 20, 2019.

The program is comprised of three distinct components, including a mentorship component, attendance at NCBC Conference workshops, and the creation of a self-development plan.

As part of the program, an all-day workshop with all 47 LEAD Academy participants was held on August 5, the day before the first full day of the Annual Conference. During the workshop, instructors presented on various leadership topics and participants engaged in exercises and group discussions. Stay tuned for more information on the Pilot Program's completion in the next issue of the Impact!



NCBC 2019: Conference Recap



Editor's Note

By: Jan Zari, NCBC Impact Editor

With my bags unpacked and finally put away, I can finally reflect on what was a memorable 2019 conference experience in one of my favorite cities! It was a pleasure to meet and catch up with so many of you, and I want to thank you all for providing so much valuable feedback on the work of the Impact Editorial Committee. This year, the committee hosted a Starbucks Gift Card Raffle at the Information Sharing Session. Congratulations to our lucky winners: Sam Rakipi (MIEB), Ray Matlock (ILNB), Erica Adams-Williams (MIEB), Stacey Drechsler (PAWB), and Monette Warren (CASB)!

Thank you once again to Jeff Allsteadt, Sharon Zurowski, and the staff from Illinois Northern for being such accommodating and gracious hosts. Your hospitality was top-notch, and I know that I speak for many when I say that we appreciated all of the hard work that you put into this conference! Cal Central has a tough act to follow in 2020!

I'd like to extend an invitation to all of you to get involved or continue to be involved in your organization. The NCBC wouldn't be the organization it is without you! There are so many ways to be involved. Join a committee, write an article for the Impact, take photos during the conference, run for a position—the possibilities are out there!

