

**National Conference of Metropolitan Courts
2011 Conference Agenda and Educational Program**

The Great Recession

Catalyst to Reduce Delay, Advance High-Tech Solutions & Streamline Work

Unless otherwise noted, all education sessions will be conducted at the
Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801

Wednesday, October 19

Welcome and Getting Started

12Noon to 1:30 pm

NCMC Board of Directors Meeting (luncheon meeting)

By invitation only

Site: Orange County Courthouse, Judges' Conference Room, 23rd Floor

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Optional Court Tours

- High-tech Courtroom
 - Centralized Interpreter, Court Reporter, and Audio-Visual Centers
- Meet at: Judges' Conference Room, 23rd Floor, Orange County Courthouse
(Contact Peggy Brice at 407-836-2380 for scheduling and directions)

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Welcome Reception – Hors d'oeuvres and Hosted Bar

Hon. Rufus King III, Senior Judge (ret.), Superior Court, District of Columbia
Chairman of the Board, NCMC

Hon. Belvin Perry, Jr., Chief Judge, Circuit Court, Ninth Judicial District of Florida
President, NCMC

Site: Orange County Regional History Center and Old Courthouse
65 East Central Boulevard
Downtown Orlando, FL

Thursday, October 20

Reducing Delay and Cost in Metro Courts

8:00 am to 9:00 am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Site: Orange County Courthouse, Judges' Conference Room, 23rd Floor

9:00 am to 9:30 am

Opening Remarks and Conference Overview

Hon. Belvin Perry, Jr., President, NCMC

Matt Benefiel, Court Administrator

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Effective Ways to Reform Civil Case Processing

Facilitator: Pamela Gagel, ESQ. IAALS, University of Denver

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), founded in 2006, is a national, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the process and culture of the civil justice system. Headquartered at the University of Denver, the Institute provides leadership, research, and practical solutions for the nation's trial courts at both the federal and state levels. Ms. Gagel, the Assistant Executive Director, will share Institute insights that target metro courts.

10:30 am to 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am to 12Noon

Front-end Criminal Case Innovations: Lessons from the Field

*Facilitators: Hon. Douglas Rayes, Presiding Criminal Department Judge
Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Court Administrator
Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County (Phoenix)*

Fast-acting, front-end felony processing approaches have been instituted and refined in Phoenix by consolidating preliminary hearings, arrangements and pleas in one appearance with startling results in reducing trial court delay. In this jurisdiction of 4 million people, over 40% of all felony cases are disposed within 40 days of arrest through collaboration among prosecutors, defense lawyers and probation. Other improvements include a unique criminal settlement/pretrial conference approach, and a recent move to a master calendar scheduling system for jury trial settings that promotes date certainty.

12Noon to 1:15 pm

Group Luncheon and Discussion

Trying Cases in the Court of Public Opinion: The Casey Anthony Trial

*Facilitator: Karen Levey, Public Information Officer
Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida*

1:15 pm to 1:30 pm

Break

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Business and Commercial Courts: Saving Time and Money

*Facilitator: Hon. Hon. Frederick J. Lauten
Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida*

The growth of specialized business courts over the last two decades in metropolitan areas from three pilot projects in 1993 to over 40 sites in 22 states has been dramatic. Globalization, information technology, new product development, outsourcing, mergers and acquisitions have all driven the demand for dedicated commercial dockets. Businesses are looking for predictability and a set of legal principles on which they can depend with confidence to avoid future legal entanglements. How can metro courts develop these specialized courts and what does the future hold for them?

2:30 pm to 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm to 4:00 pm

The New Self-Service Approach: Strategically Moving Work to Users

*Facilitators: Hon. Lee Smalley Edmon, Presiding Judge
Jack Clarke, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Superior Court of California in Los Angeles County*

Trial court leaders will need a broader array of service-delivery strategies as courts face increasing demands and fewer resources. The standard solution, to hire more staff as intermediaries is becoming increasingly infeasible. A better strategy is to become a more user-friendly court, relying more on court users to participate in service delivery. One of the largest urban courts in the nation, the Los Angeles Superior Court, has embraced this philosophy and is re-making how they serve their customers. Their approach holds promise for other metro courts in re-engineering services.

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm **Special Reception: Lexis/Nexis (host)**

Site: Terrace 390 Restaurant
390 North Orange Avenue
Downtown Orlando

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm **Dinner on Your Own**

Friday, October 21 ***Boosting Efficiency through Technology and Reengineering***

8:00 am to 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

Site: Orange County Courthouse, Judges' Conference Room, 23rd Floor

9:00 am to 10:30 am **What Trial Court Leaders Need to Know About Technology**

*Facilitators: Larry Webster, National Center for State Courts
Jim Harris, National Center for State Courts*

It's hard to understand how best to adapt urban courts to the constantly changing array of new technology unless you are sensitive and perceptive as to what is available and what value it holds for court operations. This session presents a review of court technology from National Center experts who work with trial courts on a daily basis. It will touch on some important guidelines for trial court chief judges and court executives to embrace in the effective use of high-tech video, voice and data in urban courts; how best to acquire computerized case management systems (CMS); and innovative ways to use the Intranet and Internet to improve productivity within the court and among its justice system partners.

10:30 am to 10:45 am **Break**

10:45 am to 11:45 am **Developing the High-Tech Courtroom**

*Facilitators: Hon Belvin Perry, Jr., Chief Judge
Matt Benefiel, Court Administrator*

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, known by its colorful nickname "Ninja," is one of the most technically advanced regarding high-tech court proceedings. Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Matt Benefiel, together with the judges and staff of the court, will review and discuss how they built such systems and how they keep them up-to-date. Their advice and counsel can help other courts avoid mistakes and ensure best practices prevail.

11:45 am to 12Noon **Break**

12Noon to 1:30 pm **Group Lunch and Discussion**
iCivics: Public Education about the Courts via the Internet

*Facilitators: Hon. Harry Lee Anstead, former Chief Justice, Florida Courts
Ms. Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director, FLREA*

iCivics Inc. promotes civics education and encourages young people to become active citizens through an array of web-based interactive games and activities for students. It was founded by retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to address the growing problem of failing student grades on civic

examinations. A poignant example of that distressing fact is the recent national finding that only 7 percent of eighth graders can describe the three branches of government.

iCivics programs and activities can mesh nicely with virtually any court public education program for young people. In addition to video games that teach the fundamentals about government to students, lesson plans are also available for teachers concerning the branches of government.

Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Anstead is the iCivics chairperson for his state, and Ms. Pitts heads the Florida Law Related Education Association, a nonprofit organization, established in 1984, to improve justice and expand education for democracy through the development and implementation of law related education programs for Florida youth. They will share their insights about this new way to educate people about their courts.

1:45 pm to 2:00 pm

Break

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Roundtable Discussion: Leading Metro Courts in Times of Crisis

Facilitators: Hon. Donna Jo McDaniel, President Judge

Ray Billotte, Court Administrator

Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Gordon Griller, Executive Director, NCMC

As the recession wears on, metro court leaders face unrelenting problems regarding shrinking resources and growing demands for services. Morale at all levels is suffering. How are presiding judges and court executives coping and moving their courts forward? How can you set a strategic agenda for change when unanticipated problems surface? How do you deflect attacks on you personally when disagreements are really vested on the issues, the message, and your position of authority? How do you "...deliver disturbing news and raise difficult questions in a way that moves people to take up the message rather than kill the messenger?" [Heifetz and Linsky, Leadership on the Line]

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

NCMC Board and Members Business Meeting

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Adjournment – Education Sessions

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Closing Dinner (hosted)

Site: Del Frisco's Restaurant (5 miles south of the Courthouse)

729 Lee Road

Orlando, FL 32810



2012 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania in Allegheny County (Greater Pittsburgh)

October 2011 (dates to be determined)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania