In 1975 the Lawyers Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Judicial Administration Division (JAD), chaired by attorney Howard Stern, recommended the formation of a new conference, saying: “It was the conclusion of the Committee that the Judicial Administration Division cannot effectively perform the role for which it was established without the participation of lawyers; that the present circumstance of substantial non-participation has led other committees and sections, in which lawyers do participate, to become involved on a piecemeal and ad hoc basis with specific problems of judicial administration; that there is at present no effective agency which coordinates this work. Finally, the Committee was of the opinion that within the Division lawyers and judges must have greater opportunity for contact and communication and that the traditionally more active role of the lawyer in support of judicial reform must be stimulated, constructively channeled and be made a more viable force in approaching the goals of the Division.”

Judge John Reardon, JAD chair, reported later that year that the JAD Council unanimously approved the creation of a Lawyers Conference (LC) at the ABA Midyear Meeting. At the ABA Annual Meeting in Montreal in August 1975, the JAD presented to the ABA House of Delegates (HOD) a recommendation that a Lawyers Conference be created and presented proposed bylaws for the new Conference. The recommendation was approved by the House.

The Conference came into being through the efforts of the Division’s Committee on Lawyers: Howard Stern (chair), Walter Armstrong, Kirk McAlpin, Ben Miller, Keith Stott, and Curtis Von Kann. The goal of the new Conference was to effectively utilize the interests of the organized bar and of the lawyer members of the Judicial Administration Division for the improvement of the administration of justice in the courts.
Leadership

1975-1976

William B. West III, Dallas, TX (chair), Howard Stern, Paterson, NJ (vice-chair), R. Stanley Lowe, Casper, WY (secretary)


Major Accomplishments

With a clarion call for volunteers, chair West states in the Judges Journal that “the axiom ‘never volunteer’ does not apply! We need your active participation as, spurred by the speakers at our initial meeting, we move to join the judges in a partnership plan to solve critical justice problems.”

LC Executive Committee holds its first meeting in Chicago on October 24, 1975.

The LC endeavors its first joint project with Appellate Judges Conference (AJC), organizing bench-bar committees in all fifty states for the purpose of preparing appellate practice handbooks; John H. Finger of San Francisco serves as national co-chair of the project.

A new project is considered, to implement recommendations of JAD Task Force on Courts and the Public based on the premise that the bar should respond to unjust criticism of courts and judges.

3,200 non-judge members of JAD are automatically enrolled into the new Lawyers Conference.

The first budget for the Lawyers Conference for the fiscal year 1976 is “zero” dollars of the total $343,345 allocated to JAD. A revised budget at the behest of the JAD chair, Hon. Griffin Bell, allocates $3,000 to LC.

1976-1977

Leadership

Howard Stern, Paterson, NJ (chair), R. Stanley Lowe, Casper, WY (chair-elect), DeWitt Williams, Seattle, WA (vice-chair), Bernard Meyer, Mineola, NY (secretary)


- 2 -
Major Accomplishments

Preparation of appellate practice handbook as a joint project with AJC goes forward.

The Conference agrees to implement recommendations contained in the manual Meeting Criticisms of Bench and Courts at the ABA HOD request; undertakes the task to develop procedures.

LC examines feasibility of uniform rules of local practice in the federal district courts.

To improve state and local bar support for judicial administration projects, prominent lawyers are appointed to coordinate activities at the local level.

LC identifies mutually beneficial projects for collaboration with other JAD Conferences.

LC Executive Committee meets at the National College of the State Judiciary and considers what role they might have at the College.

1976-1977 Continued

Leadership

R. Stanley Lowe, Casper, Wyoming (chair)

Major Accomplishments

LC reorganizes its committee structure into three categories: liaisons with judicial conferences, administrative committees, and action committees. James Economos chairs Budget; Leon Segan chairs Education and Meetings; Earl Kintner chairs Administrative Adjudication Processes; John Finger chairs Advocacy and Professional Skills; former Alabama Chief Justice Howell Heflin chairs Court Organization and Administration; Sandy d’Alemberte chairs Non-Judicial Dispute Resolution.

LC joins with National Conference of Administrative Law Judges (NCALJ) to sponsor a program at the New York ABA Annual Meeting on creating a corps of administrative law judges and separating the administrative law judges from the 30 federal bureaus, commissions and agencies.
1978-1979

Leadership
DeWitt Williams, Seattle, WA (chair)

Major Accomplishments
LC holds a Bench-Bar Conference in conjunction with the 1979 ABA Midyear Meeting in Atlanta. Under the leadership of Howard Stern, lawyers and judges meet and exchange ideas and views about the work of the JAD Conferences.

Under the leadership of Fannie Klein, the LC Committee on Court Organization applies for funding through the American Bar Endowment to write and publish a first edition of the handbook entitled The Improvement of the Administration of Justice.

The joint project on producing appellate practice handbooks creates new handbooks in Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Utah and Virginia; Rex Hanson assumes leadership of the project. The handbooks provide a refresher course in appellate practice and an outline of procedural steps, time limits, brief preparation, and motion practice.

Leon Segan, LC program chair, presents the Conference program titled Meeting Criticism of Courts and Judges at ABA Annual Meeting in Dallas, August 1979.

LC distributes a manual on Meeting Criticism of Bench and Courts and urges state representatives to organize local bars to create permanent committees to meet unjustified criticism. Chair DeWitt Williams notes that “the judiciary is not in a position to defend itself in most instances; and therefore, it behooves the bar to be prepared to step in and help maintain the image of the judicial institution against undeserved public assault.”

1979-1980

Leadership
James P. Economos, Chicago, IL (chair), Florence R. Peskoe (chair-elect), Jo-Ann W. Grace (vice-chair), Leon Segan (secretary)

Major Accomplishments
LC focuses on criteria for screening attorneys seeking election or retention to judicial offices; LC under leadership of James E. McDaniel submits Guidelines or Criteria to be Utilized in the Screening of Applicants for Judgeships in State Courts to the JAD Council.
LC Committee on Federal Courts submits report entitled What Practicing Lawyers Look for in Written Opinions or What Lawyers Want and Don't Want.

Revision of the Judicial Administration Handbook is delayed for lack of funding, but LC proceeds with organizing for update; Fannie Klein to edit the revised edition.

A reconstituted committee offers assistance to state committees formed to prepare handbooks on appellate practice.

LC Committee on Advocacy and Professional Skills focuses on criticism of competence of the trial bar, qualification criteria for trial practice, and training for advocacy.

LC joins JAD urging states to adopt the current Standards of Judicial Administration.

Robert Yegge, chair of Fund Raising Committee, reports a $30,000 foundation grant to support work of the Conference.

President of the World Association of Lawyers, Antonio Garrigues Walker, Madrid, Spain, delivers the principal address at the LC luncheon, August 2, 1980, during the ABA Annual Meeting in Hawaii.


1980-1981

Leadership

Florence R. Peskoe, Freehold, NJ (chair)

Major Accomplishments

LC numbers reaches up to 3,000 members, larger than any other JAD conference.

Harsh economic times force LC to defer some work and plan for future.

Work proceeds on the new edition of the Judicial Administration Handbook; Professor Fannie Klein of Institute of Judicial Administration and recipient of the Warren Burger Award, serves as project director; the hand book The Improvement of the Administration of Justice is released at Annual Meeting.

LC encourages local bars to establish committees to deal with unjust criticism of judges and mobilizes the bar to speak on behalf of the courts.

LC puts on program at New Orleans Annual Meeting which describes the best ways to tell the public how our courts work.
1981-1982

Leadership

Jo-Ann W. Grace, Los Angeles, CA (chair)

Major Accomplishments

Ed Schoenbaum, Courts and Community Committee chair, addresses the role of court publicists (public information officers) and judicial criticism. Committee creates catalogue of materials referred to as Ideabook: Projects and Programs for Improving Community Understanding of the Courts; envisioned as companion to 6th edition of The Improvement of the Administration of Justice.

LC Committee on Advocacy and Professional Skills, chaired by Richard Fruin, examines abusive litigation tactics; project is called “Sanctions for Litigation Abuse.”

1982-1983

Leadership

Leon Segan, New York, NY (chair), Theodore A. Kolb (chair-elect), Edward J. Schoenbaum (vice-chair), Eugene J. Murret (secretary)

Major Accomplishments

The LC launches a newsletter called Lawyers Letter, which will include news of court improvements or court problems from states or localities. The first edition includes “Reports from the States” where members describe recent innovations in the administration of justice.

LC presents “Model Cable Television Package” to ABA, creating a central resource for information on all the hardware (cable stations and facilities) and software (tapes, films, programs), available to educate the public about the judicial system.

Ed Schoenbaum of Springfield, IL, chair of Community and Courts Committee, publicizes the new Explaining the Courts: Materials and Sources, a catalog of public information materials which is used by courts, bar associations and others.

LC holds a workshop at Annual Meeting to help state bars, CLE programs and courts to produce appellate practice handbooks.

LC premiers its program at ABA Annual Meeting in New Orleans utilizing the Fairmont Hotel’s Channel 2: Small Claims Court, A Civil Case and Street Law.

LC chair Leon Segan nominated for JAD vice-chair.
Leadership

Theodore A. Kolb, San Francisco, CA (chair), Edward J. Schoenbaum (chair-elect), James E. McDaniel (vice-chair), Eugene J. Murret (secretary)

Major Accomplishments

Ted Kolb appoints committee to encourage adoption of JAD recommended Guidelines for Reviewing Qualifications for State Judicial Office; the Guidelines, developed by LC, are not intended for performance evaluation of sitting judges, but for candidates for judicial office.

Chair Kolb says that the primary function of the LC is “to address subjects which require the close cooperation of bench and bar for their resolution. Second, it is to undertake projects necessary for the proper administration of justice in which the judiciary is vitally interested but unable to speak out.”

LC Federal Courts Committee, under leadership of Alice O’Donnell, joins with the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges (NCFTJ) to survey trial lawyers in four judicial districts for information about whether judicial intervention in the settlement process would be helpful; after completion of its surveys, LC publishes Settling Civil Suits - Litigators’ Views about Appropriate Roles and Effective Techniques for Federal Judges. The study concludes that lawyers want the judiciary to become more involved in the settlement process.

The Conference appoints a task force, headed by William Dickson, to prepare model legislation on judicial immunity and insurance coverage for judges.

Courts and Community Committee, chaired by Edward J. Schoenbaum, completes publication of Explaining the Courts, a materials and sources book to help explain the courts to the public.

LC, under chairmanship of Paul Ulrich and Winslow Christian, and AJC set target date of 1985 for completion of the Appellate Handbook Project.

LC is assigned task of implementing the final report of the ABA Action Commission to Reduce Court Costs and Delay in cooperation with National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ), AJC and NCFTJ.

Dean Robert Yegge publishes new LC newsletter.
1984-1985

Leadership

Edward J. Schoenbaum (chair), James E. McDaniel (chair-elect), Eugene J. Murret (vice-chair), Robert B. Yegge (secretary)

Major Accomplishments

The State Courts Committee of the Relations with Courts Group seeks to study the problems caused by the lack of uniformity of court rules within a state and problems caused by sudden or unexpected changes in court rules without bar input; study led by John Greacen.

LC creates Task Force on Litigation Costs and Delay, chaired by Ted Kolb and seeks $325,000 in grants for a two-year project to speed trials and reduce litigation costs at selected sites; the project is intended to implement the findings of the ABA Action Commission to Reduce Court Costs and Delay; a three person, full-time staff will provide technical assistance. Douglas Somerlot is named project director for the court delay reduction work.

LC receives a $250,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation and another foundation for use by the Task Force on Reducing Court Costs and Delay.

The Appellate Advocacy Committee of the Relations with the Courts Group studies pre-briefing settlement conferences; led by Paul Mark Sandler.

Judicial Qualifications and Selection Committee of Bench and Bar Group distribute Judicial Selection Standards, a cooperative effort by LC and other JAD conferences.

The Judicial Immunity, Judicial Evaluation and Judicial Qualifications and Selections Committees coordinate with the ABA Project on Judicial Evaluation on problems facing judicial evaluators.

The Judicial Compensation Committee is slated to study judicial salaries and help convince the public that judges deserve better pay. The Committee on Judicial Compensation, headed by Bill West, compiles descriptions of successful state campaigns to raise judicial salaries.

The Courts and Community Group helps to increase public understanding of the role, function and limitations of the courts by pulling bench and bar together at national, state and local levels.

The Courts and Community Group forms three subcommittees: the Committee on Unjust Criticism of the Bench, which develops and publishes guidelines on how to meet unfair criticism of judges; the Committee on Model Cable TV, which compiles materials for use on TV to educate the public about the court system; and the Committee on Overcrowded Jails, which works to relieve overcrowded jails.
The Committee on Unjust Criticism of the Bench, chaired by Peter Roper, works with the state and local bar associations to develop responses to unjust criticism of judges.

The Federal Courts Committee works on settlement issues, surveys litigators and four federal districts and finds that judges should be involved in the settlement process; published *Settling Civil Suits*.

The 1985 Annual Meeting programs address court-law automation, sanctions against rule breaking trial lawyers. Larry Polansky’s committee predicts that “computers will soon substantially change the way courts and law offices do business.”

Jim Alfini’s Committee on Evaluating Judicial Performance reviews the Kuh Commission’s report to the HOD and provides comments.

Paul Ulrich leads the joint Appellate Handbook Project with goal of encouraging preparation of handbooks describing appellate practice in each state. Ulrich and Winslow Christian of AJC present the *National Appellate Handbook* to Chief Justice Warren Burger at a ceremony at US Supreme Court on July 5, 1985, culminating a nine year effort to obtain for each state a high quality manual of appellate practice.

LC includes 2,300 members.

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**1985-1986**

**Leadership**

James E. McDaniel, St. Louis, MO (chair), Eugene J. Murret, New Orleans, LA (chair-elect), Robert B. Yegge, Denver, CO (vice-chair), Herbert H. Anderson, Portland, OR (secretary)


**Major Accomplishments**

LC and National Center for State Courts (NCSC) sponsor the September 1985 National Conference on Court Delay Reduction; speakers tell 500 judges, court administrators and lawyers that the ABA Court Delay Reduction Standards are an important tool for delay reduction; implementation of the Standards is a major goal of the LC Court Delay Reduction Task Force; the Standards call for court control of the pace of litigation, active caseflow management, adoption of time standards and date-certain scheduling; ABA President William Falsgraf is keynote speaker.
The Delay Reduction Project is a $250,000 project promoting adoption of the ABA Court Delay Reduction Standards, surveying the status of trial calendars across the country, developing a delay reduction text, and promoting joint bench-bar efforts; led by Task Force chair Ted Kolb of San Francisco; project is funded by grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Dart and Kraft Foundation.

The Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay Task Force issues its inaugural edition of Change Exchange, a quarterly newsletter keyed to chief justices of state high courts, state court administrators and bar association officers and executives; announces the publication of a text for bar association committees on how to organize, design and implement delay reduction programs; reports that the NCSC study concludes that “local legal culture” is a crucial factor in delay reduction citing local expectations about how long a case will take to resolution.

LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay selects State of Texas and Wayne County, Michigan as demonstration sites to evaluate the success of measures for approaches to cut down on expense and time resolving disputes pending before courts.


LC presents Annual Meeting Program on “Attorneys Fees”, and “Using Lawyers as Judicial Adjuncts to Reduce Court Backlog and Delay.”

The Model Program for meeting unjust criticism of the courts is completed and mailed to bar associations; chaired by Peter Roper, the program assumes that it is undesirable for a judge to answer criticism in the news media and proposes a structure and process for receiving, screening and evaluating criticisms and creates guidelines to determine when the bar association should respond.

Bench-Bar Relations Committee completes its survey of state bar associations and finds that only nine states convene a bench-bar conference although most states have some form of informal communication between judges and lawyers; the committee develops a model plan for convening of bench-bar conferences.


Working with Kemper Group, LC produces a video court response on drunk driving for distribution to judges, schools and other interested groups.

Court Administration Committee works to develop guidelines for law office/court interface of computer technology.
1986-1987

Leadership

Eugene J. Murret, New Orleans, LA (chair), Robert B. Yegge, Denver, CO (chair-elect), Herbert H. Anderson, Portland, OR (vice-chair), Richard L. Fruin, Jr., Los Angeles, CA (secretary), James E. McDaniel (ABA HOD delegate)

Executive Committee: Charles Douglas III, Concord, NH, Jerome E. Bogutz, Philadelphia, PA

Major Accomplishments

ABA Board of Governors agrees to continue funding of the LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay after its grant funds are exhausted; the Task Force promotes the Standards Relating to Court Delay Reduction developed by the National Conference of State Trial Judges, consults with bar leaders, insurance industry and corporate community, and provides technical assistance to jurisdictions developing delay reduction programs.

LC Delay Reduction Task Force is composed of lawyers, nationally recognized experts in caseload management, state and federal trial judges with delay reduction experience, and a state chief justice.

LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay publishes the book, Defeating Delay: Developing and Implementing a Court Delay Reduction Program.

LC Delay Reduction Task Force holds a series of seminars with national representatives about the local legal culture.

LC Committee on Modernizing Trial Techniques and Procedures, chaired by Frederic Rogers, looks at new techniques for presenting evidence and eliminating time consuming, costly trial procedures; research is assisted by American Bar Foundation.

LC Committee on Simplification of Jury Instructions studies use of computers to make jury instructions understandable; software can identify lengthy sentences, uncommon words.

LC video cassette Benchmark for Justice, produced by Kemper Group, discusses role of courts and the problem of drunk driving, and stars judges who are using novel approaches to sentencing in DUI cases.

LC Executive Committee establishes Affordable Justice Committee at San Francisco Annual Meeting to identify research and action projects to achieve justice at an affordable cost and address alternative dispute resolution methods.

Chaired by William West, the LC Judicial Compensation Committee continues efforts to improve compensation of judges, relying on the recently published A Handbook on State Judicial Salaries. Committee begins study of judicial fringe benefits including pensions, life insurance, vacation and other benefits.
The Bench-Bar Committee, chaired by Peter Roper, distributes a model program outline to meet unjust criticism of judges to state, local and federal bar officers.

1987-1988

Leadership

Robert B. Yegge, Denver, CO (chair), Herbert H. Anderson, Portland, OR (chair-elect), Jerome E. Bogutz, Philadelphia, PA (vice-chair), Richard L. Fruin, Jr., Los Angeles, CA (secretary)

Executive Committee: Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA, Ernest Friesen, San Diego, CA, Larry P. Polansky, Washington, DC, Lawrence Pusateri, Chicago, IL

Major Accomplishments

LC co-sponsors Denver conference, April 1988, on Tomorrow’s Solution to Today’s Problems, a second national conference on court technology.

LC Task Force on Delay Reduction conducts March 1988 satellite seminar on developing a trial court delay reduction program based on Standards Relating to Court Delay Reduction.

Task Force on Delay Reduction receives $98,000 first phase grant from Bureau of Justice Assistance of the US Department of Justice to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions that implement delay reduction programs at the appellate level based on AJC Standards Relating to Appellate Caseflow Management and Delay Reduction.

Young Lawyers Division (YLD) appoints 50 state representatives to the LC.

LC Executive Committee appoints state representatives from Law Student Division (LSD) in each state.

LC Committee on Modernizing Trial Techniques and Procedures, led by Frederic Rodgers, sends surveys to JAD members to identify outdated evidentiary and procedural methods and intends to produce speedier trials without sacrificing due process.

The LC Judicial Indemnity and Insurance Committee outlines model indemnity statute and prepares a survey of insurance programs for judges.

The Sanctions Committee, chaired by Richard Fruin, presents findings on sanctions imposed throughout the country.

The Overcrowded Jails Committee, chaired by Barbara Flicker, creates the Overcrowded Jails – Informational Report including three articles covering the topics of building jails, the litigation approach to jail overcrowding and an overview on solutions to jail overcrowding.
Chair Yegge announces need to address clients’ reactions to the high cost of legal representation. LC Affordable Justice Committee focuses on legal needs of middle class individuals and small businesses.

LC Task Force on Reduction of Delay publishes *Caseflow Management in the Trial Court: Now and for the Future* by Maureen Solomon and Douglas Somerlot.

LC membership is opened to professional, non-lawyer administrators who work in the courts.

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**1988-1989**

**Leadership**

Herbert H. Anderson, Portland, OR (chair), Jerome E. Bogutz (chair-elect), Richard L. Fruin, Jr. (vice-chair), Larry P. Polansky (secretary)

**Major Accomplishments**

LC establishes Dispute Resolution Committee with Paul Carrington of Duke University Law School as chair.

Eugene Murret is appointed chair of a liaison committee to other JAD conferences to monitor their work.

LC’s idea for a national conference on legislative-judicial relationship is adopted by the Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, Council of State Governments and National Conference of State Legislators; purpose is to explore better relations and communications between the legislative and judicial branches; Dean Yegge serves as LC representative on steering committee.

LC Judicial Compensation Committee, led by chair William West, develops the *Standards for Judicial Compensation* providing suggestions for determination of appropriate levels of judicial compensation, fringe benefits, leave provisions and retirement benefits.

Long Range Planning Committee, led by Richard Fruin, presents long range plan.

LC sponsors programs at ABA Annual Meeting in Hawaii: *Reducing Delay in the Trial Courts - Reality or a Pipe Dream?* and *Three Conversations about Affordable Justice for Middle Class Citizens.*
1989-1990

Leadership

Jerome E. Bogutz, Philadelphia, PA (chair), Richard L. Fruin Jr., Los Angeles, CA (chair-elect), Larry P. Polansky, Washington, DC (vice-chair), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (secretary)

Major Accomplishments

LC Executive Committee (EC) votes to change bylaws and make the YLD liaison a regular voting member of the EC.

LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay coordinates ABA activities in court cost and delay reduction, serves as a clearinghouse, and promotes adoption of Standards Relating to Court Delay Reduction and the Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction.

Planning for publication of a compilation of bench-bar activities around the country goes forward coordinated by LC Bench-Bar Relations Committee.

LC Standards for Judicial Compensation are approved by JAD Council and submitted to ABA HOD for adoption.

1990-1991

Leadership

Richard L. Fruin, Jr., Los Angeles, CA (chair), Larry P. Polansky, Washington, DC (chair-elect), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (vice-chair), Barbara Flicker, New York, NY (secretary)

Major Accomplishments

The Conference has 1,750 members.

Steven Brill, Editor of American Lawyer, announces at a meeting of the Lawyers Conference Committee on Modernizing Trial Techniques and Procedures that he will soon launch a new nationwide cable television network that will carry live trial coverage and continuing legal education courses. The network later becomes known as Court TV.

The Lawyers Conference Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay, now under the leadership of retired Washington State Chief Justice Vernon Pearson, offers a compendium of resources on delay reduction: Delay on Appeal: A Process for Identifying Causes and Cures, Caseflow Management in the Trial Court: Now and for the Future, and Defeating Delay: Developing and Implementing a Court Delay Reduction Program.
State Justice Institute awards Lawyers Conference Task Force on Reduction of Cost and Delay $200,000 for a project to reduce state appellate court delay. Under the grant the Task Force provides technical assistance to eight state appellate courts that are experiencing delay.

Delay Task Force invites four western courts to workshops in San Diego. The first workshop in Annapolis, MD includes the Alabama Supreme Court, the Vermont Supreme Court, the 10th District Ohio Court of Appeals and the 5th District Illinois Appellate Court.

Douglas Somerlot publishes quarterly issues of Change Exchange with material on caseflow management and delay reduction.

LC Bench-Bar Committee works on a manual, describing successful bench-bar programs.

A new mission statement for the Conference supports and improves the administration of justice through four broad goals: 1) providing a forum for lawyers interested in improving administration of justice; 2) collecting, studying and disseminating information and recommendations to solve critical problems; 3) educating the public about the justice system; and 4) working with the judiciary to identify and adopt improved procedures and new technologies.

ABA Annual Meeting program on the Courtroom of the Future, directed by Tony Cotter, provides an extensive look at the technologies available to courts and lawyers.

1991-1992

Leadership

Larry P. Polansky, Alexandria, VA (chair), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (chair-elect), John M. Greacen, Richmond, VA (vice-chair), William T. Session, Kansas City, MO (secretary)

Executive Committee: Hon. Paul Cotter, Washington, DC, Ira Raab, Woodmere, NY, Maridel Campbell McQueen, Olympia, WA, Lawrence Pusateri, Chicago, IL, Lisa Feldman, Los Angeles, CA, Francis L. Bremon, Dayton, OH, Marilyn Kulifay, Houston, TX

Major Accomplishments

Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay, under leadership of Ed McConnell, focuses on litigation cost reduction in a belt-tightening era.

LC co-sponsors the Third National Court Technology Conference in Dallas, TX, attended by 2,000 judges, court administrators, attorneys, and other justice system professionals; Chair Polansky serves as Conference Director.

As the only JAD Conference without an ABA Delegate to the House of Delegates,
LC directs efforts at persuading JAD to name a lawyer as the JAD Delegate to the ABA HOD.

At the 1992 ABA Annual Meeting, LC presents programs on Merit Selection of Judges, developed by Stan Lowe, and Computer Use for Judges, developed by Vicki Cashman and John Kleinheksel.

Fran Bremson leads a “Future of the Courts” project looking at national trends for the immediate and long-term future of the courts.

Leadership

Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (chair), John M. Greacen (chair-elect), William T. Session (vice-chair), Tony Cotter (secretary)

Executive Committee: Mary McQueen, Ira Raab, Marla Greenstein

Major Accomplishments

On August 2, 1992, the Lawyers Conference adopts a long-range plan to reflect the Conference’s new mission statement and goals. “The purpose of the Lawyers Conference is to ensure that the courts in their day-to-day operations meet the legitimate needs of the lawyers who practice in them and in the public they serve. The broad goals of the Lawyers Conference are: 1) To represent the interests of practicing lawyers, academics, and court administrators in the Judicial Administrative Division’s deliberations; 2) To develop solutions to problems that arise when the needs of lawyers differ from the needs of judges and courts; 3) Working with the judiciary, to assist in the implementation of improved procedures and new technology; 4) To involve and educate lawyers and the public in judicial administrative issues and techniques; and 5) If they will give us a means by which to do so, to speak on behalf of judges within the Association when they are unable to speak.”

A special task force on the future of the LC meets in Denver, CO and discusses future direction of the Conference and possible roles within JAD and ABA, especially in the areas of technology and future of the courts. LC plans to build on successes with cost and delay reduction, modernizing trial techniques, technology and future of the courts.

Fran Bremson’s Future of the Courts Committee plans an ABA Annual Meeting program focusing on a comparative law examination of the impact of judicial systems on industrial competitiveness in the US and other world trade powers; Professor Arthur Miller is recruited to moderate the program.

ABA Board of Governors approves pilot study by the Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay chaired by Ed McConnell to assess the cost of implementing delay reduction programs in courts; the study will examine attorney
billing records to determine if fast track systems have reduced litigation costs.

Task Force headed by Larry Polansky and Mary McQueen applies to State Justice Institute (SJI) for grant to conduct a national conference on the funding crisis in the justice system.

JAD Council agrees to support LC request for an HOD delegate; LC argues that its position is unique in that it is the only non-judicial conference in JAD, and its membership includes practicing trial lawyers, academics and researchers with an interest in judicial administration, and both lawyer and non-lawyer court administrators.


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**1993-1994**

**Leadership**

John M. Greacen, Albuquerque, NM (chair), William T. Session, Kansas City, MO (chair-elect), Mary McQueen, Olympia, WA (vice-chair), Francis Bremson, Sacramento, CA (secretary)

Executive Committee: Hanson Lawton, Friendswood, TX, Blake Ramsey, Portland, OR, Victoria Cashman, Dayton, OH

**Major Accomplishments**

Chair John Greacen announces that “The Lawyers Conference will be the dominant voice of practicing lawyers of the American Bar Association on court-related issues,” while unveiling the Conference’s new vision and logo during the 1994 Midyear Meeting. In addition he states that “The vision and logo established that the Conference purpose is no longer to serve judges; instead, it is to make sure that the needs of the practicing bar are taken into account in the administration of our courts.”

LC works on a videotape on court operations from a customer’s point of view with the prospect of improving service of the public. The video entitled *One Customer at a Time* urges judges, administrators and court staff to adopt a customer-service orientation.

ABA Board of Governors agrees to fund the Bench-Bar Committee *Guidelines on the Use of Sophisticated Technology in the Courtroom* and a series of publications on technology.
1994-1995

Leadership

William T. Session, Kansas City, MO (chair)

Major Accomplishments

Under a grant by the SJI, the Lawyers Conference Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay with JAD publishes the Report of the Study Committee—Preparing the record on Appeal: Study and Guidelines for Solving Common Problems.

In May 1995 LC holds its first Annual Conference Meeting at the Tucson National Golf and Conference Resort with CLE, Conference business meetings and networking. ABA President George Bushnell presents keynote address.

LC joins other ABA entities supporting State Justice Initiatives and Criminal Justice Improvements, projects of the ABA Coalition for Justice.


LC forms committee to begin work on publication of a new edition of The Improvement of the Administration of Justice handbook.

Work continues toward the first in a series of guidelines for the admissibility of technologically sophisticated evidence.

LC sponsors three major programs at the Chicago Annual Meeting: Modern Technology and the Courts; Drugs, Crimes and Violence in our Society: What Can and Should Be Done? a Presidential Showcase Program, and Managing Notorious Trials.

LC celebrates 20th birthday at Chicago’s famous Italian Como Inn during ABA Annual Meeting. Nine former chairs attend and recall pleasant memories of the Conference.
Leadership

Francis L. Bremson, Sacramento, CA (chair), Marla N. Greenstein (chair-elect), Douglas Somerlot (vice-chair), Hon. Rebecca Albrecht (secretary)

Executive Committee: Hans Lawton, Blake Ramsey, Victoria Cashman, Charles Vanstrom, Pam Bresnahan, Ryan E. Tibbitts, Maureen Kerrigan

Major Accomplishments

LC works with National Center for State Courts and National Conference of State Legislatures on the September 1995 National Interbranch Conference on Funding the State Courts.

The LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay with the NCSCJ publishes the *Handbook for Appellate Judges: Management Information and Court Performance*. 
Based on the theme of “Resolving Legal Disputes in the 21st Century,” LC holds the Second Annual Lawyers Conference in Newport Beach, CA, April 16-21, 1996. Marla Greenstein and Barry Mahoney coordinate the conference, which includes programs on alternative dispute resolution, new technologies, access to justice, the future of the jury trial and more.

Jerry Wolf and Ed Hendricks develop the role of LC in the Coalition for Justice activities, including a handbook for implementing state justice initiatives.

JAD bylaws are changed to permit lawyers to join judicial conferences as affiliate members. The lawyers are allowed to participate in work of the judicial conferences but may not hold conference office.

The LC works on four publications including a 7th edition of The Improvement of the Administration of Justice, a revised monograph of Responding to Criticism of Judges, a monograph and CD on the Admissibility of Technologically Sophisticated Evidence, and monograph on Court Performance Standards from the Perspective of the Practicing Attorney.

Joseph Trotter and Harvey Solomon oversee the major production of the video, One Customer at a Time, which reports heavy sales.

LC creates its award “For special or substantial contribution to the field of judicial administration by a current or former member or associate of the American Bar Association.” The first award is presented to Dean Robert Yegge of Denver, CO. At the time of the award, Yegge had been a member and leader of LC for 18 years and served as editor of the Lawyers Letter.

At the ABA Annual Meeting in Orlando, LC debuts an interactive CD Rom entitled Computer Animation in the Courtroom.

The Judicial Administration Division changes its name to the Judicial Division (JD) at the Orlando ABA Annual Meeting. LC receives a representative in the ABA HOD (JD by-laws provide that the JD delegate come from LC).

The JD nominating committee approves the LC recommendation to name Charles Patterson as the JD Delegate to the ABA HOD.
Leadership

Marla N. Greenstein, Anchorage, AK (chair), Hon. Rebecca Albrecht, Phoenix, AZ (chair-elect), Ryan E. Tibbitts, Salt Lake City, UT (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (HOD delegate)

Executive Committee: Jerry Wolfe, Ed Hendricks, Roger Warren, Marcia Koslov

Major Accomplishments

LC conducts a two day conference developing a new strategic plan. It is noted that the strengths of the Conference include its rich mix of members with range of skills and ability to speak out on issues affecting the judiciary that judges cannot address because of ethical restraints. The major weakness of the Conference is its need to develop a more defined role within the JD.

Lawyers Conference holds its Spring Meeting in Tucson, AZ, May 1-4, 1997, with theme of Understanding the Voices in Our Courts, addresses topics including the future of trial by jury, new technology, access to justice and resolving disputes outside the court process. ABA President-elect Philip Anderson delivers keynote address.

Hon. Rebecca Albrecht describes the groundbreaking Understanding Voices in Our Courts, “Where individual rights and liberties are concerned, denial of access to the courts does not solve the problem. Legal and social scholarship suggests that different gender, racial, ethnic, and economic groups face special challenges once they are in the courtroom. Thus, Understanding the Voices in Our Courts moves beyond a discussion of access to providing participants with tools to begin to address the particular needs of the disparate groups in their courts. In particular, conference speaker will focus on the challenges courts face to serving citizens of different racial, gender, and socioeconomic statuses.”

Dean Yegge writes in the Lawyers Letter that “The 1997 Spring Meeting of the Lawyers Conference addressed the mounting dissatisfaction in exploring a contemporary mandate that we must understand the diverse voices that must be heard in our courts. From physical impairment through wider public access to legal information, the conference identified constituencies which the courts are expected to serve, but the voices of which constituencies have not been heard in our courts … the issues explored and solutions proposed at the Spring Meeting must be taken very seriously. In so doing, we will preserve our Constitutional forum for resolution of disputes. Should we ignore these voices, as King John had done, another Magna Carta, rendering our courts irrelevant, might emerge. That option is not satisfactory.”

LC considers possible name change to Amicus Conference.

Edward B. McConnell receives the Robert B. Yegge award for extraordinary achievement in judicial administration at the 1997 Annual Meeting in San
Francisco. McConnell served as New Jersey's Administrative Director of the Courts and was first president of the National Center for State Courts.

LC Image Evaluation Task Force chaired by Alvin Prestwood develops a three year plan to evaluate reasons for distrust of judicial system and propose remedies.

LC releases CD Rom on *Admissibility of Technologically Sophisticated Evidence and Computer Animation in the Courtroom.*

Publications Committee moves forward with the revised edition of *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice* including new changes on judicial performance evaluation, determinate sentencing and alternatives to the courts.

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**1997-1998**

**Leadership**

Hon. Rebecca Albrecht, Phoenix, AZ (chair), Ryan E. Tibbits, Salt Lake City, UT (chair-elect), Maridel C. McQueen, Olympia, WA (vice-chair), Jerome Wolf, Kansas City, MO (secretary), Charles E. Patterson (HOD delegate)


**Major Accomplishments**

JD recommends that the ABA House of Delegates adopt the Lawyers Conference Model Program Outline for State and Local Bar Associations: Suggested Program for
the Appropriate Response to Criticism of Judges and Courts. The Model Program was developed by LC in 1986 and was then titled: Model Program Outline for State and Local Bar Associations: Suggested Program to Meet Inaccurate or Unjust Criticism of Judges and the Courts. Since publication in 1986 many state and local bar associations across the country adopted the program.

Dean Yegge writes in the fall issue of the 1997 Lawyers Letter that, “Lawyers concerned about the effective and efficient administration of justice should educate themselves about their pivotal role in the system. The Lawyers Conference is committed to examining and debating methods by which lawyers can properly perform their function in the administration of the justice system and is a great place where this education can take place.”

At the 1998 ABA Midyear Meeting in Nashville, the ABA HOD adopts the revised version of the Response to Criticism of Judges.

Ernie Friesen is awarded the LC Award of Excellence in Judicial Administration at the ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto. Friesen held the positions of Director of the Administrative Office of the US Courts, Founding Director of the Institute for Court Management, and Dean of the Whittier School of Law.

Chair-elect Ryan Tibbitts identifies completion of the revised edition of The Improvement of the Administration of Justice as a top priority. The compilation was last updated when the sixth edition was published in 1981.

The LC with the Standing Committee on Judicial Independence (SCJI) produces a pamphlet on Response to Criticism of Judges, the focus of a Presidential Showcase Program at the ABA Annual Meeting in Toronto.
Leadership

Ryan E. Tibbits, Salt Lake City, UT (chair), Maridel McQueen, Olympia, WA (chair-elect), Ed Hendricks, Phoenix, AZ (vice-chair), Jerome Wolf, Kansas City, MO (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (ABA HOD delegate)


Major Accomplishments

The Image Evaluation Task Force, led by Alvin Prestwood, completes survey of complaints about the judiciary and justice system, accepts invitation to participate in Annual Meeting Showcase Program, examines impact of courtroom TV shows like Judge Judy, and addresses lack of confidence of health professionals in judiciary.

As joint work product and project the LC Task Force on Reduction of Litigation Cost and Delay, The Justice Management Institute, the NCSC, the NJC and funded by the SJI, A National Agenda for Prompt and Affordable Justice in the 21st Century was produced.

Rick Bien leads the plans to move forward with updating the Improvement of Administration of Justice handbook.

Mary McQueen, Vicki Cashman and Anne Murphy lead two Presidential Showcase Programs at the ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta: The Visual Trial: Using Technology Effectively at Trial and Joint Venture for Judicial Independence: The Bench and Bar Reaching Out for Justice.

LC works with the SCJI to produce a video highlighting the recommendations set forth in the Response to Criticism of Judges pamphlet.


Dr. Barry Mahoney receives the Judicial Division Lawyers Conference Award of Excellence in Judicial Administration at the ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Dr. Mahoney, the founder and president of the Justice Management Institute, also served the Institute for Court Management and as a consultant on judicial administration.
Leadership

Mary Campbell McQueen, Olympia, WA (chair), Richard N. Bien, Kansas City, MO (chair-elect), Charles Vanstrom, Denver, CO (vice-chair), Anne M. Murphy, Redmond, WA (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (ABA HOD delegate)

Executive Committee: James Alfini, DeKalb, IL; Jack Brown, Tulsa, OK; Pamila Brown, Baltimore, MD, Hon. Eli Chernow, Sherman Oaks, CA; Mary Francis Edwards, Reno, NV; Deirdre Smith, Dataw Island, SC; Blake Tartt, Houston, TX; Hon. Roger Warren, Williamsburg, VA

Major Accomplishments

At its leadership meeting in Amelia Island on October 15-17, 1999, LC sets its objectives to include: Community outreach programs targeting junior and high school teachers; educating voters about use of judicial evaluations; and improving experience of litigants who must use the courtroom.

Gordon Griller of Phoenix, AZ, assumes leadership of project to update the handbook on *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice*.

Plans are prepared for community outreach program to send JD volunteers to local junior and senior high schools at ABA Midyear Meeting to conduct open forums with students.
LC Judicial Performance and Conduct Committee cooperates with the Center for Professional Responsibility and American Judicature Society (AJS) on court evaluation.

Vicki Cashman coordinates joint program with the National Conference of Specialized Court judges on drug courts.

The Image Evaluation Task Force drafts a written report for expected release at New York Annual Meeting.

Leadership

Richard N. Bien, Kansas City, MO (chair), Charles Vanstrom, Denver, CO (chair-elect), Anne Kelley, Irvine, CA (vice-chair), Mary Frances Edwards, Reno, NV (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (ABA HOD delegate)


Major Accomplishments

Jack Brown, heads LC Courts and Community Committee, developing the Judges Network, a nationwide program that pairs attorneys and judges to promote and implement judicial outreach.

The Judiciary’s Image Evaluation Task Force, led by Charles Hollenbeck and Jamie
Durham, works to complete the task force final report and develop programs to combat undue criticism of judges including a model public education seminar on judicial independence.

The 7th edition of *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice* is expected to be published prior to 2001 Annual Meeting. Chairs Gordy Griller and Keith Stott developed new chapters on pro se litigation, sentencing standards, technology in the courts, trial court management and others.

LC pairs up with National Judicial College (NJC) to present an Annual Meeting program on how judges can cope with high profile, headline cases.

2001-2002

**Leadership**

Charles Vanstrom (chair), Anne Kelley (chair-elect)

**Major Accomplishments**

The 7th Edition of the *Judicial Administration Handbook* is published.

Douglas Somerlot of Denver, CO, wins the 2002 Excellence in Judicial Administration Award at the ABA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Somerlot serves as Executive VP of the Justice Management Institute and a member of the faculty of the Denver College of Law. He chaired the JD Task Force on Prompt and Affordable Justice.

The Judges Network blossoms and in August 2002 the *Judges Network Survey Report* is published, a report funded by the Lawyers Conference.
Leadership

Anne Kelley, Redmond, WA (chair), Justin Connor, Washington, DC (chair-elect), Jack L. Brown, Tulsa, OK (vice-chair), Daniel Gourash, Cleveland, OH (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (ABA HOD delegate)

Major Accomplishments

Retired Texas Judge Frank Finn and Cheryl Cesario begin work on revision of the 1985 ABA Guidelines for the Evaluation of Judicial Performance; they expect to incorporate best practices among the states.

Jack Brown, Rick Bien, Dan Gourash, and Justin Connor devote efforts to expanding the Judges Network and previous year’s survey and Summit; planning begins for National Conference on Judicial Outreach. Web-based network completed to disseminate judicial outreach programs. Justin Connor assists in design of the Network website. Along with YLD and Litigation Section, Judges Network organizes judges and lawyers at local and state bar levels to deliver Network programs.

The Summit on Judicial Outreach is held on February 7, 2003.
Leadership

Justin O’Connor, Washington, DC (chair), Jack L. Brown, Tulsa, OK (chair-elect), Dan Gourash, Cleveland, OH (vice chair), Cheryl D. Cesario, Chicago, IL (secretary)

Executive Committee: Emily Barnhart, Philadelphia, PA, Daniel Hogan, Boston, MA, Michael B. Hyman, Chicago, IL, Benjamin Longoria, Somerville, MA, Gloria Wilson Shelton, Baltimore, MD

Major Accomplishments

Cheryl Cesario chairs JPE committee and begins work on updating and revising the 1985 ABA guidelines on Judicial Performance Evaluation

The 2003 Excellence in Judicial Administration is presented to Francis Bremson, a former LC chair, Regional Director of the National Center for State Courts, Director of the Alaska Judicial Council, Circuit Executive of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and director of effort on behalf of NCSC International Division to develop judicial system in Kosovo

Dan Gourash co-chairs the JD Judges Network’s first National Judicial Outreach Conference in Memphis, Tennessee on April 30-May 1, 2004

Jack Brown, as co-chair of JD Judges Network presents outreach programs at three high schools in San Antonio at the mid-year meeting

The LC Education Committee chaired by Vicki Cashman puts on the “High-Tech Court: Expectations for the Future” at the ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta
Leadership

Jack L. Brown, Tulsa, OK (chair), Daniel Gourash, Cleveland, OH (chair-elect), Cheryl D. Cesario, Chicago, IL (vice-chair), Gloria Wilson Shelton, Baltimore, MD (secretary), Charles E. Patterson, Los Angeles, CA (ABA HOD delegate)

Executive Committee: Emily Barnhart, Philadelphia, PA, Rachelle Desvaux Bedke, Tampa, FL, David Horowitz, Los Angeles, CA, Michael B. Hyman, Chicago, IL, Benjamin Longoria, San Francisco, CA, Patricia Smith, Chicago, IL, Blake Tartt, Houston, TX

Major Accomplishments

JD presents to ABA HOD the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Judicial Performance. Chaired by Cheryl Cesario, the guidelines account for changes in judicial roles and responsibilities and the legal practice since 1985, including increased specialization in the practice of law, growth of specialized courts, expansion of Alternative Dispute Resolution, growth of pro se litigation, new technologies and greater sensitivity to issues of bias in the justice system.

Benjamin Longoria chairs the LC Judicial Clerkship Project featuring web-based information on clerkship opportunities.

Dan Gourash co-chairs the Judges Network delivering judicial outreach programming. LC awards grant money in support of programs that can be replicated throughout the country.

LC co-sponsors the inaugural Bench-Bar Bankruptcy Conference in Washington, DC, on March 10-12, 2005.

Gloria Wilson Shelton chairs bench-bar program at the ABA Annual Meeting highlighting the “CSI effect” on juries.
Leadership

Daniel F. Gourash, Cleveland, OH (chair), Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario, Chicago, IL (chair-elect), Gloria Wilson Shelton, Baltimore, MD (vice-chair), Michael Hyman, Chicago, IL (secretary)

Executive Committee: Rachelle Desvaux Bedke, David Horowitz, William K. Olivier, Keith Roberts, Richik Sarkar, Patricia Smith, Blake Tartt

Major Accomplishments

LC updates the *Response to Criticism of Judges* pamphlet originally published in 1998.

With funds budgeted to publish the *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Performance*, LC disseminates the guidelines to offices of court administrators in all fifty states.

Blake Tartt leads development of a new mission statement for the Conference. The new Mission Statement approved by the EC states, “The Lawyers Conference of the Judicial Division provides a forum for attorneys and law students to interact with members of the judiciary and the community; to improve the administration of justice; to advance confidence in the judiciary; and to promote a diverse and adequately funded justice system.”

Groundwork is established to create a speaker network for placement of judges on program panels sponsored by ABA entities.

Research begins on handling of pro se litigants in the justice system with the prospect of publishing a best practices manual for courts.

LC sponsors “Courage to Live” program with NCSCJ at ABA Annual Meeting in Hawaii.
2006-2007

Leadership

Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario, Chicago, IL (chair), Gloria Wilson Shelton, Baltimore, MD (chair-elect), Hon. Michael B. Hyman, Chicago, IL (vice-chair), Rachelle Desvaux Bedke, Tampa, FL (resigned)/Neal Ellis, Raleigh, NC (secretary)

Executive Committee: Ernest Calderon, Renee Hildebrant, David Horowitz, William K. Olivier, Keith Roberts, Richik Sarkar, Peter Schulte, Patricia Smith and Blake Tartt

Major Accomplishments

The Lawyers Conference in collaboration with the Young Lawyers Division, presents a program at the YLD Fall Leadership Meeting in Baltimore, MD, entitled Behavior Before the Bench.

Led by Chair Cesario and with the assistance of Professor David Brody, work continues on development of behavioral questionnaire instruments to complement and support the implementation of the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Judicial Performance. A webpage is created for Judicial Performance Evaluation Guidelines.

At the ABA Midyear Meeting in Miami, LC co-sponsors program with the JD Joint Committee on Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution titled Dispute Resolution Principles and Techniques for the Bench.

Gloria Wilson Shelton works with leadership of the Standing Committee on Minorities to develop a program which deals with issues facing minority lawyers seeking judicial positions.

Justice Martin and Judge Wynn address the LC Executive Committee on upcoming Rule of Law Program at ABA San Francisco meeting
Leadership

Gloria Wilson Shelton, Annapolis, MD (chair), Hon. Michael B. Hyman, Chicago, IL (chair-elect), L. Neal Ellis, Raleigh, NC (vice-chair), David Horowitz, Studio City, CA (secretary)

Executive Committee: Michael Bergmann, Hon. Joan Davenport, Renee Hildebrant, William K. Olivier, Keith Roberts, Richik Sarkar, Peter Schulte, Judy Becker Sloan, Patricia Smith, Blake Tartt

Major Accomplishments

In collaboration with the ABA YLD, the LC presents *Ethical Responsibilities Between Judges and Lawyers* at the YLD Fall Leadership Conference in Charlotte, NC on October 5, 2007.

Two Network with Experience outreach programs to law students are put on at George Washington University Law School on October 20, 2007 and at Duke University Law School on October 13, 2007.

The Robert B. Yegge Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Judicial Administration is created by an estate gift in honor of the late Dean Yegge, a longtime Lawyers Conference leader.

LC co-sponsors a program, *Partners to History: A Personal Perspective on the Rule of Law During the Civil Rights Movement*, featuring Donzaleigh Abernathy, the daughter of civil rights activist Dr. Ralph Abernathy at the ABA Midyear meeting.

ABA Young Lawyers Division liaison position is established on the LC Executive Committee.

LC jointly sponsors with the ABA Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary, a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) teleconference on achieving diversity in the judiciary.

LC hosts a diversity recruitment reception at the 2008 ABA Annual Meeting in New York City.
2008-2009

Leadership

Hon. Michael B. Hyman, Chicago, IL (chair), L. Neal Ellis, Raleigh, NC (chair-elect), David Horowitz, Studio City, CA (vice-chair), William K. Olivier, Golden, CO (secretary)

Executive Committee: Michael Bergmann, Hon. Joan Davenport, Hon. Patrick Flanagan, Shaunda Patterson-Strachan, Phyllis Pickett, Keith Roberts, Peter Schulte, Blake Tartt

Major Accomplishments

With chair Michael Hyman’s vision and leadership, LC initiates its Perceptions of Justice program, a dialogue among judges, lawyers, and the community about bias in the courts.

At the ABA Midyear meeting in Boston, LC puts on a program entitled The Assumption of Justice: A Dialogue on Color, Ethnicity and the Courts, geared to assist lawyers to better understand institutional racism and disparities in charging and sentencing of minorities.

On April 7, 2009, LC sponsors a full-day program entitled Justice for All? Perceptions of Racial and Ethnic Bias in our Courts at the Dedman School of Law in Dallas, TX.

Hon. Rebecca Kourlis, former Colorado Supreme Court justice and Executive Director of the Institute for Advancement of the American Legal System in Denver, CO, is the 2009 recipient of the Robert B. Yegge Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Judicial Administration.

At the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, chair Michael Hyman and Chicago journalist John Davis moderate a Perceptions of Justice town hall with an enthusiastic audience at Northwestern University School of Law.

Chicago, IL - Judge Michael Hyman moderating The Assumption of Justice program at Northwestern University Law School.
Leadership

L. Neal Ellis, Raleigh, NC (chair), David Horowitz, Studio City, CA (chair-elect), William K. Olivier, Golden, CO (vice-chair), Phyllis Pickett, Raleigh, NC (secretary)

Executive Committee: Hon. Patrick Flanagan, Christina Plum, Blake Tartt, Hon. Joan Davenport, Shaunda Patterson-Strachan, Keith Roberts, Michael Bergmann, Alyson Oswald, Phenise Poole

Major Accomplishments

LC initiates with JD Council approval of the Teaching the Constitution project, a civics education outreach program, aimed at teaching middle and high school students about constitutional principles and the rule of law.

William Olivier develops a comprehensive long-range plan for the Conference which is approved by the EC.

Alan Carlson the Chief Executive Officer and Clerk of Court for the Orange County, California, Superior Court, is announced as the 2010 recipient of the Robert B. Yegge Award.

In conjunction with ABA Day, Judge Joan Davenport leads the third Perceptions of Justice program at the Old Town Hall in Washington, DC. Judge Alan Webster and Professor Michael Higginbotham moderate the Town Hall dialogue.

At the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, LC offers the fourth installment of its Perceptions of Justice program on August 5, 2010 at the Golden Gate University School of Law. Led by Keith Roberts, the program is moderated by Judge Ken Kawaichi, Judge Gordon Baranco and former California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso.

Partnering with the JD Ethics Committee and Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, the LC presents the program at the ABA Annual Meeting entitled Off the Bench: The Ethics of Engaging in Extrajudicial Activity While Advancing Pro Bono (A Two Part Workshop) on August 7, 2010.

Collaborating once again with the ABA YLD, LC puts on an ethics program for young lawyers entitled Ethical Responsibilities Between Judges and Lawyers in Litigation; Michael Bergmann and Mark O’Halloran lead the effort at the 2010 YLD Fall Leadership meeting in Birmingham, AL.

The Lawyers Conference holds its 35th anniversary celebration at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.
2009–2010 Continued

Lawyers Conference 2009–2010 Executive Committee

And more great things to come ...