AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
JUDICIAL DIVISION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
STATE TRIAL JUDGES

50TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

1959-2009
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FOREWORD

The 50th Anniversary of the National Conference of State Trial Judges of the American Bar Association Judicial Division occurs well into the 21st Century. In this age, judges around the nation are working in a society driven by some forces which are dramatically different than those existing 25 let alone 50 years ago. This Book acknowledges the results of contributions by many dedicated members of the judiciary over the past years to meet the challenge of continuing to improve the administration of justice. By chronicling the results of their efforts and energy, this Conference can envision the manner of meeting the challenges of the future. With a changing judiciary reflecting the progress of our increasingly diverse society, the future looks bright for years to come.

“[The changes in the last 50 years] have been enormous. Formerly a judge was the king of the heap. Now judges are team members. There is much more due process. Procedure is much more detailed and more extensive. Litigation is more complex. ADR is now an important factor. There are fewer trials.”

Judge Thomas H. Barland
Eau Claire County Circuit Court
Eau Claire, WI

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“On the very first day that I sat as a trial judge I thought that I had the best job in the world and after 26 years, it still is.”

Judge Carolyn Temin
Court of Common Pleas
Philadelphia, PA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

Mission

The National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) of the American Bar Association (ABA) Judicial Division is the oldest organization of judges in continuous existence in the nation. The mission of the Conference is to improve the administration of justice; promote judicial independence; increase public understanding of the judicial system; provide a national forum to exchange information on common issues; and represent the interest of the nation’s general jurisdiction trial judges in building a stronger, more effective system to resolve disputes.

Establishment of the National Conference of State Trial Judges

The Conference began as ad hoc meetings of judges from each state, selected as delegates by their chief justices for leadership potential. After several national meetings, the concept of encouraging judges to participate in court reform efforts was validated by the decision to form a continuing organization.

The Conference was established in 1958 by the ABA Section on Judicial Administration which included Associate United States Supreme Court Justice Thomas C. Clark and Illinois State Court Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.

The objective of the Conference at that time was to provide information and assistance to state trial judges throughout the United States on problems relating to their daily work and the organization of their courts.

“T he NCSTJ has allowed me to share the challenges and concerns of a state trial judge with members of the judiciary across this nation. The forum for this has not only been in the midst of the ABA, the premier legal organization in the world, but also in a setting that provides an unequalled opportunity for joint social activities and adventures.”

Judge James E. Lockemy
Former member NCSTJ Executive Committee
South Carolina Court of Appeals
Dillon, SC

ABA Establishes the Judicial Division

The American Bar Association’s interest in court reform began in 1906 when Roscoe Pound challenged the bar to improve the administration of justice. In 1913, the Association had a “Judicial Section” which by 1928 had three committees, Jurisprudence and Law Reform, Criminal Law and Criminology, and Uniform Judicial Procedure.

During the Association presidency of Arthur T. Vanderbilt (1937-1938) more action was taken to increase the activities and visibility of work for improving the administration of justice. In 1937, the Judicial Section was called the Judicial Administration Section, which was the only ABA unit focused on trials, until the formation of the Litigation Section in 1973. The Judicial Administration Section was, then, the home for lawyers and judges interested in courts, trial process and procedure.

An example of the concerns of the ABA is that in 1959 at the ABA Annual Meeting in Miami, a Special Association Committee on Court Congestion filed a report entitled Ten Cures for Court Congestion.

The Joint Committee for the Effective Administration of Justice was the vehicle that helped establish entities such as the National Conference of State Trial Judges in 1958, as well as the National Judicial College in 1963 (originally the National College of the State Trial Judges, then the National College of the State Judiciary), the National Center for State Courts in 1971 and the Institute for Court Management (an initiative of the National Center for State Courts).

The Judicial Administration Division was established in 1972 as a result of a report to the ABA by Oregon’s Chief Justice William M. McAllister, thus, replacing the Judicial Administration Section. The ABA, thereafter, increased staffing and support for the Division. The Division dropped the “Administration” part of the name in 1996 and became the Judicial Division.
After the NCSTJ the Judicial Division established other Conferences including the Appellate Judges Conference, 1964, the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges, 1968 (formerly the National Conference of Special Court Judges), and the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary, 1971 (formerly the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges). In 1972, the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges was formed, and the Lawyers Conference was established, thereafter, in 1975. These six Conferences now constitute the Judicial Division of the ABA.

**NCSTJ Staff**

Wantland L. Sandel, Jr. served as the original staff person for the Conference. Steven Goldspiel served as the Staff Director for the Conference from 1972 to 1996. The Conference Staff that followed included Cindy D. Reicin, Amy Donoghue, Rebecca (King) DeSalvo, Amanda Raible, Elizabeth (Strouthides) Hurley and Jo Ann Saringer.

**25th Anniversary of the National Conference of State Trial Judges**

The 25th Anniversary Celebration of the National Conference of State Trial Judges was held in Chicago, Illinois in 1984. Edward B. McConnell, then the Executive Director of the National Center for State Courts, gave a speech on August 4, 1984 titled “The Golden Future.” He forecasted areas where changes in the administration of justice would occur, such as in court organization and administration, the pretrial and trial process, the control of the volume of litigation, and public accountability.

> “The National Conference of State Trial Judges empowers judges with big-picture perspective on the modern delivery of justice. My own work style is more efficient and better informed by the collective wisdom of colleagues nationwide, who contribute ideas and feedback on those judicial practices that best serve the public.”

judge Annette J. Scieszinski
Iowa District Court
Albia, IA
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

In 1962, an American Bar Association Commission chaired by then United States Supreme Court Justice Thomas C. Clark, determined that while judges are a part of the legal profession, sufficient differences existed between being a lawyer and being a judge, that there was a need for judicial education. The National College of the State Trial Judges was created in 1963. Sessions were initially held at the University of Colorado. Its successor, the National Judicial College, which is located on the campus of the University of Nevada in Reno, was incorporated in 1977.

In 1964 the NCSTJ had 20 active committees addressing concerns such as the relationship between fair trial and free press, sociopathic offenders and the Code of Judicial Decorum. The Conference also published quarterly, the Trial Judges Journal (later called the Trial Judges News). A “Judges’ Manual” was brought to publication level and was used in mimeograph form at the 1964 session of the National Judicial College.

In the past 50 years, the NCSTJ has led and been involved in vigorous debates, and contributed to and drafted numerous standards and guidelines, which have been published, to suggest improvements of the administration of justice.

1970s:
Standards Relating to Court Organization, 1974
Standards Relating to Trial Courts, 1976

“Over the last thirty years on the bench I have seen the judges’ role evolve from a stance of ‘sit back and wait’ for the case to be ready for trial to that of an active manager to insure that the case is resolved timely and fairly.”

Judge Joel D. Medd
Northeast Central Judicial District
Grand Forks, ND

1980s:
The Conference addressed 1) court delay reduction 2) improvement of the Model Code of Judicial Conduct 3) creation of a death penalty handbook 4) implementation of standards for case management 5) definition and ABA adoption of trial management standards.

Standards for Judicial Education and Training for State Trial Judges, 1984
Standards Relating to Court Delay Reduction, 1984
Standards Relating to Juror Use and Management, 1985
Bench Book Planning Manual with Civil and Criminal Law Model Outlines, 1985
The Judges Book, 1989

In 1984, the United States Supreme Court decided Pulliam v. Allen 456 U.S. 522, which made judicial officers subject to suit for injunctive relief and attorney fees under Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act. This created concern among judges. The NCSTJ along with other judges from around the country joined and advocated for Congress to address the decision. On October 4, 1996 as a part of the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996 Section 18847 was enacted providing that judges would be immune from attorney fees in 1983 actions.

1990s:
Standards Relating to Court Organization, 1990 amendment of 1974 publication
ABA Trial Management Standards, 1992
The Judges Book, 1994 update of 1989 publication
Litigation Control: The Trial Judge’s Key to Avoiding Delay, 1996
Discovery Guidelines Reducing Cost and Delay, Judges Journal, Spring 1997
Focus Groups of trial judges were held in the mid 1990s and identified 10 areas of impending changes as 2020 approached. The ten were published in the *Trial Judges News* Vol. 12 Issue 2, Winter 1997/1998:

1. Privacy -“Totally Visible Citizen”
2. DNA Technology and Genetic Engineering
3. Medical Issues and Issues of the Aging
4. Internet and Other Computer Issues
5. Equity of Access to Technology and Justice
6. Artificial Intelligence and Issues from the “Virtual Office” and “Virtual Courtroom”
7. Environmental Concerns
8. Globalization and Jurisdictional Issues
9. Forms of Dispute Resolution
10. Issues of Family and Children

2000s:
*Discovery Guidelines,* 2001
*Standard 1.65: Court Use of Electronic-Filing Processes,* 2001
*Standard 2.77: Procedures in Drug Treatment Courts,* 2001
*Standards 1.60 - 1.64 Relating to Court System Automation,* 2005

With the introduction of modern technological aids, “[t]he rate at which I can exchange information has accelerated exponentially.”

Judge Carol L. McCoy
Chancery Court of Davidson County
Nashville, TN

“Problem solving and collaborative courts are embraced by court systems today because experience in the judging profession has proven that our role can not always be a referee of armed combatants to avenge a wrong, but on occasion must be a facilitator to achieve an acceptable result in an imperfect world.”

Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr.
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

“Trial judges have always been at the forefront of the criminal justice system. The emergence of startling new developments in forensic science and the assignment of ‘gatekeeper’ duty for such evidence have made a hard job a lot harder. On the other hand, the beauty of these new forensic science developments is that the trial judge now has the opportunity to play a pivotal and primary role in a system that - more than ever before - is capable of finding the truth and separating fact from fiction.”

Judge Donald E. Shelton
22nd Circuit Court of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

Publications

The Judges’ Journal
A Quarterly of the American Bar Association Judicial Division
The Art of Judging in the 21st Century
Volume 48, Issue 1, Winter 2009

Crystal Ball with Rearview Mirror: Perspectives on the Art of Judging in the 21st Century
Judge William F. Dressel, President, National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada

In the Pursuit of Justice: Reflections on Changes in the Judicial Role after Three Decades as a State Court Judge
Judge Sophia H. Hall, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois

An Interview with Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye
Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Supreme Court of North Carolina

Practical Tips for New Judges Making the Transition to the Bench
Judge Douglas S. Lavine, Connecticut Appellate Court

Neuroscience and the Law: Cutting-Edge Issues for 21st Century Judges as Gatekeepers
Judge Stephanie Domitrovich, Erie County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania
Dr. Mara L. Merlino, Research Associate, Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies

Fairness and Public Confidence in Sentencing: A Novel Approach
Stephen A. Gerst, Associate Professor of Law, Phoenix School of Law

A Jury Reform Pilot Project: The Michigan Experience
Judge William J. Caprathe, Michigan’s 18th Judicial Circuit Court

A Black Robe and Healing Words: Constraints in a Changing World
Sallie Thieme Sanford, Acting Assistant Professor of Law, University of Washington Law School
Present

The Courtroom of the Future: The Bare Essentials for a Technologically Competent Courtroom
Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Judicial Ethics in the 21st Century
Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
Of Law and Economics: A Special Issue
Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Supreme Court of North Carolina

Economic Regulation and the Rule of Law: Minimum Standards for the Legal Framework of a Free and Democratic Society
Joseph W. Singer, Bussey Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

An Interview with Judge Richard A. Posner
Keith Roberts, Attorney, Roberts Proprietaries, Inc., New York City, New York
Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Supreme Court of North Carolina

The View from South Tucson: How the Economic Crisis Affects Defendants in My Courtroom
Judge Ronald A. Wilson, Municipal Court of South Tucson, Arizona

The View from Southern Manhattan: An Interview with Bankruptcy Judge James M. Peck
Keith Roberts, Attorney, Roberts Proprietaries, Inc., New York City, New York

Judicial Disqualification and Recusal: A Call for Commentary
Senior Associate Judge James A. Wynn, Jr., Court of Appeals of North Carolina

Tips for Facilitating Problem-Solving Court Teams
Nancy Neal Yeend, National Mediation and Dispute Management Specialist, Los Altos, California

The Third Branch of Government: Weathering Political and Ideological Attacks
Judge Ramona G. See, Los Angeles Superior Court, California

Judicial Outreach in the Twenty-First Century: The Reason Why
Judge Richard L. Fruin, Los Angeles Superior Court, California

The National Conference of State Trial Judges: Recollections of the Last Forty Years
Judge Frederic B. Rodgers, Chair, National Judicial College Board of Trustees, Black Hawk, Colorado

I Never Meta Data I Didn't Like
Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Maintaining Public Confidence in the Integrity and Impartiality of the Courts
Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

The following article was accepted for the 50th Anniversary commemoration by The Judges’ Journal and will appear in a later issue:

50 Years of Alternative Dispute Resolution
Judge Arthur M. Ahalt (Ret.), CEO, VirtualCourthouse.com
Judicial Independence
Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Supreme Court of Delaware

Twenty-First Century Forensic Science Challenges for Trial Judges in Criminal Cases: Where the “Polybutadiene” Meets the “Bitumen”
Judge Donald E. Shelton, Circuit Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Evolution of the Trial Judge From Counting Case Dispositions to a Commitment to Fairness
Judge Kevin Burke, District Court, Hennepin County, Minnesota
Judge Steve Leben, Kansas Court of Appeals

Trial By Jury: A Crap Shoot or a Well Reasoned Factual Determination – It All Depends on You
Judge Michael J. Brown, (Ret.), Superior Court of Arizona, Pima County

Improving Pennsylvania’s Justice System Through Jury System Innovations
Judge Jeannine Turgeon, Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
Elizabeth A. Francis, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

The Relationship Between Method of Judicial Selection and Judicial Misconduct
Jona Goldschmidt, Associate Professor, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois
David Olson, Associate Professor, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois
Margaret Ekman, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois

Prison Overcrowding: The Sentencing Judge as Social Worker
Judge Michael T. Jones, Circuit Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Alabama

The Trial Judge as the CEO
Judge Paul P. Panepinto, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Futures and Trial Courts
James A. Dator, Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Educational Programs

At the 2008 ABA Annual Meeting in New York, two educational programs were presented on Thursday, August 7, 2008 regarding the work of the 21st Century Judge.

*Technology: Changing How Judges Do Their Work:* A panel of judges discussed how technology has impacted the management of trials and the performance of their work.

*Successful Collaborative Courts and How to Develop Them:* Judges presented their experiences with successful collaborative courts, such as drug courts, community courts and family courts, and the attendees were taught skills to use in facilitating the collaborations necessary for success.

At the 2009 ABA Annual Meeting Chicago, two educational programs were presented looking at two historical events regarding trials.

*Clarence Darrow's Judicial Perspective* was presented on Friday July 31, 2009. The program discussed Clarence Darrow’s experience from a judicial perspective, performed by nationally renowned Gary Anderson. Four ABA Judicial Division judges interacted with Mr. Anderson on Darrow’s famous cases. In addition, Clarence Darrow’s great granddaughter presented never-before published Darrow letters.

*The Trials of Darryl Hunt* was presented on Saturday, August 1, 2009. The program screened the HBO docudrama “The Trials of Darryl Hunt” about a young man from North Carolina who spent 19 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit. After the presentation Mr. Hunt and his attorney were present to answer questions and discuss the case.

Video Archive

In preparation for this celebration, the 50th Anniversary Committee undertook the video recording of former chairs and other members of the NCSTJ and gathering of photographs for archival and recruitment purposes. Also, the committee is planning to include these materials in a DVD that will be available for public distribution.

50th Anniversary Gala Luncheon

On Friday, July 31, 2009, at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, the NCSTJ held a gala luncheon at the Signature Room Restaurant in the John Hancock Building. The keynote speaker was Chief Justice Thomas R. Fitzgerald of the Illinois Supreme Court, who was elected to the Court in 2000 having served on the trial bench for 24 years, including a term as the Supervising Judge of the Traffic Court and a term as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was presented a memento recognizing him as an inspirational "21st Century Judge."
A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The First 25 Years

Past Chairman—National Conference of State Trial Judges

Along with the late Justice Tom Clark, Judge Marovitz and a small number of state trial judges created the National Conference of State Trial Judges. He was the guiding force in its early years and will always be remembered as the first chairman. Judge Marovitz is presently Senior United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

One of the organizers of the Conference, Justice Reardon is also past Chairman of the ABA Judicial Administration Division and served on numerous committees of the Conference, JAD and ABA. He was the first President of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. He served as Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts for many years and retired as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for the Commonwealth. He is still carrying out the work of the National Center and has been serving as a Master for the U.S. Supreme Court, most recently in a case between Arkansas and Mississippi.

Also one of the organizing forces in the Conference, Judge Starley was requested by Justice Clark to serve on the Organizational Committee of the Conference. He retired from the 143rd Judicial District Court of Texas in 1976, but accepted judicial assignments until the fall of 1983. (He presided over the Lower Rio Grande Water Suit involving 200 attorneys and 3,000 parties from 1982 to 1967.)

Judge Pharr was present at the Conference’s first organizational meeting in 1956. He was chairman of many committees during his long service to the Conference. In 1960 he was appointed by then Chairman Paul Reardon to chair a Committee on the Agenda and, with Justice Reardon, did much to set the future direction and long range goals of the Conference. He helped originate and was a co-editor of the State Trial Judges’ Journal. He has retired as Chief Judge and Senior Judge of the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial District of Georgia.
A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The First 25 Years

Justice McDonald brought his distinguished background (Chairman of the National Conference on Crime and Delinquency, Co-founder and Past Chairman of the National Association of District Attorneys, recipient of the 1951 Knickerbocker Award, etc.) to aid the development of the NCSTJ. Stories are told of Judge McDonald, at the birth of the Conference, standing in the hallway drafting the first constitution and bylaws. Some believe that the original documents still have plaster on them from having been written on the hotel walls. He resigned as Justice of the New York Supreme Court in 1971 and is now of counsel to the firm of Shea & Gould in New York City.

Judge Parnell participated in NCSTJ’s organizational meeting. He appeared at seminars on behalf of NCSTJ all over the U.S. He was Chairman of the State Trial Judge’s Book Committee and a member of the first Board of Directors of the National College of State Trial Judges, now the National Judicial College. He was on the first faculty of the Judges’ College in Boulder and continued teaching for many years in Reno. The author of many legal articles, he taught at Wisconsin and Marquette Law Schools. After 20 years on the 10th Judicial Circuit in Wisconsin, he retired in 1972 and continued to work on assignments throughout the state for many years.

Judge Murray’s name is closely linked to the National Judicial College, as one of the judges most responsible for its organization and continuation. He was an incorporator, and he was Interim Dean in 1965 and a member of the Board of Directors acting as chairman from 1971 to 1980. He taught at the College on the first faculty in Boulder and continued teaching from 1964 to 1977. He served as chairman of many committees and was especially active in preparing The State Trial Judge’s Book, authoring many articles. He later became Chairman of the Administration Division. He presently is Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court in Boston, Massachusetts.

Judge Murphree attended the first meeting of the State Trial Judges Conference. He was a member of the faculty at its first session of the Judges’ College in Boulder and also served on the College’s Board of Directors. He was a co-author of The State Trial Judge’s Book, and was active in the JAD and ABA, serving on the Advisory Committee on “The Function of the Trial Judge.” He retired from the bench in December, 1978, after serving thirty-five years as circuit judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida.


At its organizational meeting, Judge Suimonetti participated in discussions as to whether the Conference should be independent or affiliated with the ABA. He served on the faculty at the National Judicial College and represented the Conference at various seminars. He was a contributing editor to the second edition of The State Trial Judge’s Book. In 1974 he was appointed by the President of the U.S. to the Commission on the revision of the Federal Appellate Court System, the only state trial judge to serve. He taught at Whittier College of Law and presently is the Senior Judge of the Circuit Court at Portland. He is a consultant to state courts seeking to reduce delay and costs.

Judge Waugh was a founder of the Conference, having been asked by Justice Tom Clark to attend the first organizational meeting. He lectured at many judicial seminars throughout the country for the National Conference, was on the faculty of the first session of the Judges’ College at Boulder and continued on the faculty for many years. After over 24 years on the trial bench, he retired in 1972 to become of counsel to the law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer & Hyland. He is still working on the improvement of the judiciary, having served “pro bono” as special counsel
A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The First 25 Years

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Judge John T. Reardon on March 16, 1984. Judge Reardon had been very active in the Conference’s work, both before and after serving as its chairman. He was a guiding force in its formative years. He chaired the Judicial Administration Division in 1974-75. After many years on the trial bench, Judge Reardon served on the Appellate Court in Illinois for three and one-half years before his retirement on December 1, 1979.

Judge Meyer was an active member of the Conference Board both before and after he served as chairman. He served as Chairman of the Committee on Fair Trial and Free Press and a member of the Reardon Committee. He developed the plan for state representation at the conference and was on the Board of Directors of the National College in 1974 and on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. Since 1979, Judge Meyer has been on the Court of Appeals in the State of New York.

Judge McKenzie was on the faculty of the National Judicial College and participated in over 20 seminars sponsored by the Conference all over the United States. He co-authored the 1969 State Trial Judge’s Book. He was President and later Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts. He served on many Conference, JAD and ABA committees. He was on the Advisory Committee “On the Function of the Judge,” and was a Chairman of the Judges’ Advisory Committee to the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility. He has served on the Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit in Georgia since 1962.

Judge Foster was a Director of the National Judicial College and served on various committees throughout his long and distinguished service to the Conference where his wisdom and experience on the bench was of tremendous assistance. Judge Foster retired on August 31, 1975 after having served as Judge and later as Chief Judge of the Orphans Court and then as Judge and Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, for a total of 27 years of judicial service.

Judge Foote did much to strengthen the Conference during his term of service. He was one of the few Chairmen from a smaller community and the only Judge from the state where the Judges’ College began. He brought the Conference common sense and his homespun philosophy which did much to strengthen it. Judge Foote retired from full service on the trial bench in January of 1979, but continues to sit as a Senior Judge throughout the State of Colorado on assignment by the Chief Justice.

Judge Richards has been active in the Conference almost since its inception. He was a graduate of the first College at Boulder and has been a member of the faculty for many years. Described by his fellow judges as a human dynamo, he is immediate past Chairman of the Judicial Administration Division and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Judicial College. He was a member and chairman of many committees of the Conference, the JAD and ABA. He was an adjunct Professor of Law at Indiana Law School, and a faculty member for the American Academy of Judicial Education. He presently serves on the Superior Court of Lake County, Indiana.

Judge Revelle has served in about every capacity possible in the Conference. He was Chairman of the Editorial Board of The Judges’ Journal and did much to improve it. He worked for many years on the faculty at the Judges’ College and was on its Board of Directors from 1979 to 1982. He served on various committees of the Conference, JAD and ABA. Judge Revelle retired from the Superior Court in 1983 after almost 30 years, and is presently of counsel to the law firm of Revelle, Ries & McDermott. He is promoting the Alternative Dispute Resolution System in the State of Washington, and returns to the bench to serve as Judge and Judicial Master by appointment.
A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRS OF THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The First 25 Years

Judge Warren served the Conference in many capacities. During his term of office it was felt by many that he was instrumental in saving The Judges’ Journal. He brought about independent thinking for the Conference and a better relationship with the ABA, so that NCSTJ could work better for trial judges. He also brought about adequate funding for the Conference and will long be remembered for his strong leadership. Judge Warren retired as a Circuit Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida in January of 1979, but has been regularly assigned back to the bench, usually to sit on long and complicated cases.

Justice Weisberger is fondly referred to as a judge’s judge. The judges have wondered how he could give so much of himself to the Conference, not only serving on the faculty at the Judicial College for years but traveling all over the country lecturing at seminars and judges’ schools, and yet keep his own docket up-to-date. His lectures at JAD annual meetings on “Recent Developments in Criminal Law” became a legend. Justice Weisberger is personally known by more judges (even in England and other foreign countries) than almost any judge in the U.S. After a long and distinguished career as a trial judge, he now sits on the Supreme Court of Rhode Island.

Judge Etheridge has served on many Conference, JAD and ABA Committees. He is a long time member of the faculty of the National Judicial College. He serves as a member of the ABA Law School Accreditation Committee and is not only respected as a judge but as a legal scholar. After becoming a Senior Judge in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in 1977, he joined the faculty of the University of South Carolina, later was a visiting scholar at the Harvard Law School, and is presently a Professor of Law at Emory University Law School. He is to become Associate Dean of the Law School this month.

Judge Gilmore has been chairman of many Conference committees, as well as committees of JAD and ABA. He worked on The State Trial Judge’s Book and was a faculty member at the Judicial College since 1966. Judge Gilmore taught at Wayne State and University of Michigan Law Schools and has been a leader in numerous seminars throughout the U.S. He has spoken at the annual ABA conventions, is author of numerous legal articles and has been considered by his fellow judges as a leading legal scholar. After serving 24 years as a state trial judge, he is presently a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Judge Fretz is a long time member of the Conference and has been a valued member of the faculty of the Judges’ College since 1967. He graduated with the first class of the College at Boulder in 1964. He has been a speaker and section leader at judicial conferences throughout the United States, having appeared in over twenty states, including Hawaii and Alaska. Judge Fretz also chaired the ABA Task Force on Courts and the Public. He is presently a Judge in the Superior Court in California, having been on the bench since 1962.

Judge Noe has served on many committees of the Conference, JAD and ABA. He is presently a member of the Judicial Evaluation Task Force on Criteria and was a member of the Task Force on Jury Standards. He has been active in the Conference, both before and after his service as chairman, and presently holds the important post of Conference delegate to the ABA House of Delegates. He has been editor of the Trial Judges News from its start in 1981. He presently sits on the Superior Court for the State of Washington.

Judge “Red” James, storyteller extraordinary, charming and friendly leader, did much to further the aims of the Conference. He was also a faculty adviser at the National Judicial College. He started many activities in the Conference. He was instrumental in having the Conference file an amicus curiae brief in Pulliam v. Allen in the U.S. Supreme Court. A close personal friend of President Lyndon Johnson, he turned down many offers of federal appointments so that he could remain in
A TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER CHAIRS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The First 25 Years

We honor our former chairmen who through their leadership, time and talent, and while serving full time on their respective courts, shaped and honed a Conference which, for 25 years, has spoken on the national scene for judges, has been responsive to the needs of judges from a national perspective, and has most significantly improved the quality of justice. Each contributed in his own way; collectively they created the oldest organization of judges in continuous existence in the nation.

We owe them a great debt of gratitude and on behalf of this country’s state trial judges we express our deep appreciation for their dedicated service.

Robert C. Broomfield
Chairman, 1983–84
Judge Robert C. Broomfield served on the Superior Court of Arizona (Maricopa County) from 1971 until his appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Arizona in 1985. On the Superior Court, he served as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division and later as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. On the United States District Court, he served as Chief Judge, and also was appointed to the Foreign Intelligence Court. During his judicial career, Judge Broomfield served as Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts.

Judge George H. Revercomb served on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1970 until his appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 1985. He received a Master of Laws in the Judicial Process from the University of Virginia which included a semester at Balliol College, Oxford. Judge Revercomb was born in Charleston, West Virginia. He interrupted his law school education to serve as an officer in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Before appointment to the bench, Judge Revercomb was an Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice. Judge Revercomb passed away August 1, 1993, two days after completing a 250 page opinion in the largest civil case of his judicial career.

Judge Rodney A. Peeples served as the Resident Circuit Judge for the 2nd Judicial Circuit of South Carolina for 30 years and retired in 2004. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the initial Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute, 1985-88. He served as the first trial judge to represent the state judiciary on the ABA Board of Governors, 1988-91; ABA House of Delegates, 1988-93; Judicial Liaison to the ABA Section of Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice, 1994-98; Board of Directors of National Judicial College, 1990-97 and Chairman 1992-94; Recipient of SC Trial Lawyers Association Portrait and Scholarship Fund at the University of South Carolina School of Law, 1985; President of SC Circuit Judge’s Association, Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judicial Conference.

Judge Hilda Gage was elected and served on the Oakland County trial court of Michigan for eighteen years and served as Chief Judge for three years during her tenure. In 1997, she was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals, where she served for nine years. She was the first women judge to chair the National Conference of State Trial Judge. She served in the ABA House of Delegates from 1982 to 1992, first as a Delegate from the State of Michigan and then as the Conference Delegate. She served on the National Judicial College Board of Directors 1987-1994. In 2002, she was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. Judge Hilda Gage retired on January 15, 2006.

Judge Warren Chan was elected as a judge of the King County Superior Court in the State of Washington in 1966. After his initial election, he was re-elected without opposition until he retired in 1992. Judge Chan served as Presiding Judge for six years and also served as President of the Washington Judges Association. After three years of service in the United States Army, Judge Chan entered the University of Washington Law School. Upon graduating from law school, he clerked for Washington State Supreme Court Justice Frederick Hamley. Judge Chan the first Asian-American chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges and served as an instructor for the National College of State Trial Judges Association at the Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.
Judge B.B. Schraub is the Presiding Judge of the 3rd Administrative Judicial Region in Seguin, Texas. He currently serves as Chair of the Conference of Regional Judges, Chair of the State Board of Regional Judges for Title IV-D Account and Chair-Emeritus for the National Judicial College Board of Trustees. Judge Schraub is an active member of the American Bar Association and the Texas Bar Foundation. He previously served as District Judge for the 25th Judicial District, County Judge for Guadalupe County and was former President of the South Central Texas Bar Association. Judge Schraub is a recipient of the Texas Bar Foundation’s Outstanding Jurist Award and is presently a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Judge David Shields was elected as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois in 1978 following service as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County since 1971. He served in various Divisions of the Court until his retirement in 1990 as Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court Chancery Division. He was an officer of the Associate Judges Association and later President of the Illinois Judges Association. He was elected to the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court. He is a graduate of DePaul University Law School in Chicago, Illinois.

Judge Phillip J. Roth served as a circuit court judge of Multnomah County, Oregon for nearly 30 years. During his tenure on the bench, he was elected by fellow judges to two terms as Presiding Judge. Prior to his judicial service, Judge Roth served as an Oregon State representative, Portland Deputy City Attorney, Multnomah County District Attorney, member of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors, and President of the Multnomah County Bar Association. He gained national attention in 1974 as the “reclining judge” when he presided over a complex murder trial while injured and confined to a stretcher. Judge Roth passed away March 4, 2003.

Judge Robert Summitt began practicing law in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1949. During his career, he served as the attorney of Hamilton County, the attorney for the Hamilton County School Board and the World Boxing Association. Although defeated in the general election, Judge Summitt succeeded in winning the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives seat in 1964. Thereafter, he spent twenty years in private practice and in 1968 he was appointed to the bench of the First Division, Eleventh Judicial District. In addition to his service on the bench, Judge Summit held various offices in judicial organizations including: President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, chairman of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, member of the ABA House of Delegates and member of the ABA Nominating Committee.
Judge William Dressel is President of The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, the office he assumed upon retirement from the bench in 2000. Judge Dressel began practicing in the state of Colorado in 1966, where he continued in private practice, specializing in trial practice until 1978. In July of 1978 he was appointed as a judge to the 8th Judicial District of the state of Colorado and retained through 2000. He is the principal author of the Trial Management Standards adopted by the American Bar Association House of Delegates in 1992. In 1998, he received the Justice Management Institute’s Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence, in recognition of his vision, leadership, and sustained commitment to the achievement of excellence in the administration of justice.

Judge John Daffron, Jr. was a judge in Virginia for 30 years and served as Chief Judge of the Chesterfield Circuit Court. By three presidential appointments, he was a member of the board and chaired the State Justice Institute. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society. Active for many years in the American Bar Association, he served on the Boards of the Conferences of Special Court Judges, State Trial Judges, Judicial Division Council, and as a Senior Advisor for Judicial Reform in West Bank and Gaza. He also functioned as a lecturer for many domestic and international colleges/universities. He currently provides mediation services and presents strategic and futures planning concepts to state judicial organizations and international audiences.

Judge James A. “Jim” Wilkinson is an active retired judge of the District Court of the Northwest Oklahoma area. He obtained active retired judge status in 1995 after twenty years of service. As an active member of the American Bar Association, Judge Wilkinson served as delegate to the National Conference of State Trial Judges. He also served on the executive committee and several other committees within the National Conference of State Trial Judges during his tenure. Judge Wilkinson has served as Editor of the Trial Judges News and published several articles in the Judges’ Journal. In 2002, he authored a history book. Judge Wilkinson is a strong community advocate involved in many civic organizations, including Volunteers in Missions and the Lions Clubs International.

Justice Carl O. Bradford is an active retired justice of the Maine Superior Court in Portland. Justice Bradford has served as a justice since 1981. He has been an active member of the American Bar Association for over 45 years. During such time, Justice Bradford has been engaged in various committees including the compensation committee, executive committee, operations committee, and the project 2000 committee. Justice Bradford has been a member of the Maine State Bar Association for the past 45 years in which he has served as former President and Vice-President, a member on the Board of Governors, part of the Continuing Legal Education Committee and as a Fellow for the Maine Bar Foundation.
Judge James R. Case was elected as a Circuit Court Judge for the 6th Judicial Circuit of Florida in 1984. During his active tenure, he served as the Civil Administrative Judge, Chief Judge, and Chairman of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges. He retired in 2006 and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court as a Senior Judge approved for statewide judicial service. Judge Case was active in the Florida Bar Association and the American Bar Association Judicial Division where he was Chairman of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. Most recently, the Clearwater Bar Association named Judge Case the John U. Bird Distinguished Jurist for his “high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service.”
JUDGE LESLIE MILLER
Judge Leslie Miller was appointed to the Superior Court of Arizona in 1985. She has served as Associate Presiding Judge, Criminal Presiding Judge and initiated the Drug Court in Pima County. Judge Miller served on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona, as chair of both the ABA Judicial Division and National Conference of State Trial Judges and President of the Pima County Bar Association, the Arizona Judges Association, and the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals. Judge Miller has been actively involved in additional professional and community organizations including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson, YMCA, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, YWCA and the Tucson International Mariachi Conference. In 2001, she was named Tucson Woman of the Year.

JUDGE JOEL DOUGLAS MEDD
44TH CHAIR, 2001 – 2002, Grand Forks, ND
Judge Joel Douglas Medd was appointed in 1975 by Governor Ark Link as the state’s youngest judge. He is currently the longest serving trial judge in North Dakota, and is the Presiding Judge of the Northeast Central Judicial District. Judge Medd served as Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, the Publications Committee and the Chair of the Judicial Division Publications Committee. He has also chaired the Bylaws Committee and has served on many other committees including Jury Standards, Membership and Technology Committees. During his tenure as Chair he improved the Conference website and for the first time posted NCSTJ minutes on the web. He worked with Judge Carolyn Temin to establish the Judges Network for judges communicating and exchanging ideas.

JUDGE CAROLYN ENGEL TEMIN
45TH CHAIR, 2002 – 2003, Philadelphia, PA
Judge Carolyn Engle Temin was the first woman hired on the staff of the Defender Association of Philadelphia and later served as Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, and as an Assistant District Attorney. She was elected to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County in 1983, 1993, and 2003. She is the principal author of the Pennsylvania Benchbook for Criminal Proceedings. She was the first woman elected as President of the Pennsylvania State Conference of Trial Judges (1992). She is active in many professional and community organizations, including the, ABA, NAWJ, IAWJ, IBA, NCCD, American Law Institute, Jewish Publication Society, and Philadelphia Arts and Education Partnership. She served as President of the National Association of Women Judges from 2003-2004.

JUDGE SOPHIA H. HALL
46TH CHAIR, 2003 – 2004, Chicago, IL
Judge Sophia H. Hall was elected a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1980. She is the Administrative Presiding Judge of the Resource Section of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County and also sits in the Chancery Division. She was appointed by President Clinton to the Board of the State Justice Institute in 1998, and continues in that position. She is a trustee of the National Judicial College. Judge Hall is past Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges, and past President of both the National Association of Women Judges and the Illinois Judges Association. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts.
Judge Elihu M. Berle was appointed to the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles in 1996. He is currently the supervising judge of the civil departments of his court. Judge Berle has served as trustee of the National Judicial College (2002-2008), Chair of the Judicial Council of California Civil & Small Claims Advisory Committee (2002-2006), and President of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (1985-1986). In 2004-2005, Judge Berle served as Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. During his tenure, the conference dealt with the critical issues of judicial independence, trial court funding, revision of the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct, and jury innovations.

Judge Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., a former Chair of the NCSTJ, serves on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He served as Presiding Judge of the Civil Division and the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division of the court and was Chair of the electronic filing pilot project, which received national recognition for its success. Judge Dixon is a member of the ABA House of Delegates, Chair of the Judicial Division's Court Technology Committee, Technology Columnist for The Judges' Journal, and Senior Judicial Advisor to William & Mary Law School’s Courtroom 21 Project. Additionally, Judge Dixon is a member of the American Law Institute – American Bar Association (ALI-ABA) Technology Advisory Panel and the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of the Bar Association of D.C.

Judge William D. Missouri has been a judge in Prince George’s County, Maryland since 1985. He has served as Pr. Geo.'s Co. Administrative Judge since 1992 and as the 7th Circuit (Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and Pr. Geo. County) Administrative Judge since 1997. He is presently Chief Judge of the Circuit. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the Maryland Conference of Circuit Judges; Chair of the Maryland Judiciary’s Legislative Committee; Past Chair of the NCSTJ; and former President of the Maryland Bar Foundation. Judge Missouri is an active participant in a number of Bar Associations, including the ABA. He has served as President of the Marlborough Chapter of the American Inns of Court and as a member of the United States Air Force.

Judge W. Terry Ruckriegle was appointed to the District Court in 1984 and served as Chief Judge, Fifth Judicial District, since 1994. His ABA activities include: Chair of National Conference of State Trial Judges 2007-2008, Executive Committee and Colorado Bar delegate to the House of Delegates since 2002. Ruckriegle chaired NCSTJ Court Services, Nominating and Trial Court Standards Committees. His Colorado Judicial leadership includes: Supreme Court Multi-District Litigation Panel since 1990 and chairing the Chief Judges Committee for Planning and Analysis; President of the Colorado District Judges Association and Trial Judges Council; Chair of the Judicial Legislative Committee and Caseflow Management Committees. Judge Ruckriegle served numerous terms on the Colorado Bar Board of Governors, Legislative Policy Committee and Criminal Law Council.

Judge William J. Caprathe has been a circuit court judge since 1981. In 2006, he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by Michigan State University College of Law. He is past President of the Michigan Judges Association, past-Past-Chair of the Judicial Conference of the State Bar of Michigan, and Chair of the Criminal Jury Instruction Committee. Within the ABA, Judge Caprathe is Chair of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. In 2004/2005, he served on the American Jury Project that paved the way for the ABA’s 2005 Principles for Juries and Jury Trials and is presently on the ABA’s Commission on the American Jury Project. In 2006-2008, he co-chaired the Judicial Division’s Judicial Clerkship Programs.
A TRIBUTE TO DIVERSITY OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES

The NCSTJ is the oldest and largest organization of general jurisdiction state trial judges in the world. Diversity is a core value of this organization and is vitally important to achieving our maximum potential. Mutual respect towards our differences in race, culture, ethnicity, religious belief, geographical location, gender, sexual orientation, physical limitation and ideological and political beliefs is indispensable to the administration of justice and the operation of the NCSTJ.

Included among many are the following trailblazers.

Judge Hilda Gage became the first woman Chair of the Conference in 1986. She was the first woman to chair State Bar of Michigan’s Judicial Conference and the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, and was the first woman elected President of the Michigan Judges Association. Judge Gage was the first recipient of the NCSTJ Award for Judicial Excellence.

Judge Warren Chan became the first Asian-American Chair of the Conference in 1987. He was born in San Francisco to third generation Chinese-American parents. During the term of his judicial service, Judge Chan was listed as one of 36 outstanding Chinese Americans in the United States by The New York Times.

Judge Donald D. Haley became the first African-American Chair of the Conference in 1998. He was President of the Washington State Judges’ Association and recognized as the resident expert on the law of evidence. Before his judicial service, Judge Haley devoted time to numerous community organizations including the NAACP, where he served as Seattle’s Branch President.

“As a newer judge, diversity issues are presented to me daily. Different family constellations must fit into the strictures of present law. Thus, recognizing and respecting litigants with different lifestyles and genders is a continual challenge for managing and deciding cases.”

Judge Cheryl D. Cesario
Circuit Court of Cook County
Chicago, IL

“In the next 50 years and beyond, the NCSTJ must and will continue its important work with trial judges on a national level thereby promoting an independent judiciary armed to face whatever challenges the future presents. The NCSTJ offers individual state trial judges the guidance and support to meet these challenges of the future.”

Judge Stephanie Domitrovich and Professor Michael J. Saks, from “The National Conference of State Trial Judges: Celebrating 50 Golden Years and Forecasting a Platinum Era for the Next 50,” Judicature, Volume 92, Number 6 (May-June 2009 edition)
“We must never forget that the only real source of power that we as judges can tap is the respect of the people.”
--Justice Thurgood Marshall

We congratulate National Conference of State Trial Judges on fifty years of service to the public, the profession, and state court judges throughout the nation.

Judge Sophia H. Hall, Chicago
2003-04 NCSTJ Chair
Adm. Law Judge Ann Breen Greco, Chicago
Judge Cheryl D. Cesario, Chicago
Judge Michael B. Hyman, Chicago
Judge Alexander P. White, Chicago

The American Judicature Society CONGRATULATES THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES ON 50 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING WORK TO IMPROVE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR ALL AMERICANS.

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CONGRATULATIONS NCSTJ ON YOUR 50TH YEAR!

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Thanks for the opportunity to be a member of the ABA Judicial Division and to Chair the oldest, largest, and most prestigious organization of general jurisdiction state trial judges in the world, during the culmination of our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

William J. Caprathe
Chair, NCSTJ
2008/2009

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