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Changing of the Guards

Upcoming summer meetings mark leadership changes for the following court associations: the National Association for Court Management (NACM), the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). August also marks the transition of leadership at the National Center for State Courts, with Roger K. Warren stepping down as president and Mary Campbell McQueen taking over.

CCJ President: Chief Justice of Wisconsin Shirley S. Abrahamson.

Chief Justice Abrahamson has served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court since 1976, and became chief justice in 1996. As part of her role as CCJ president, Chief Justice Abrahamson also will chair the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. "It's an enormous privilege to lead an organization of such great distinction," Chief Justice Abrahamson said of CCJ, which develops and advances policies and programs to improve the administration of state court systems. "The chairmanship of the National Center also carries special meaning for me, as I was privileged to assist in the search for the Center's new president." Chief Justice Abrahamson headed the national search committee that in April selected Washington State Court Administrator Mary McQueen as the new NCSC president.

For years, Chief Justice Abrahamson has been active nationally in state court issues, such as improving interbranch relations, protecting judicial independence, and preserving access to justice. Her access to justice initiative has led Wisconsin to develop programs to train and certify court interpreters; to provide assistance to *pro se* litigants; and to improve the way cases involving children and families are processed.

"Maintaining and improving public trust and confidence in the judicial system is essential to strengthening popular support for judicial independence," she said. "Programs that enable us to reach out to the public are critical to building understanding of,



New CCJ President Shirley Abrahamson (right) and new COSCA President Daniel Becker (left) with outgoing and incoming NCSC presidents Roger Warren and Mary McQueen (center).

and support for, the third branch of government. And equally important are initiatives that allow the public to participate directly in the work of the justice system as volunteers."

A recipient of 14 honorary doctor of laws degrees, Chief Justice Abrahamson serves on the Board of Directors of the New York University School of Law's Institute of Judicial Administration and is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. She is past chair of the National Institute of Justice National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence and has served on the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Program of Research on Mental Health and the Law.

COSCA President: Utah State Court Administrator Daniel Becker. Becker was named Utah state court administrator in 1995, and has more than 26 years experience in court administration. Before joining

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Courting Court Associations

Solutions to problems in the court system are created every day. "It's sharing those solutions that's the problem," said John Ramsey, the new director of the National Center for State Courts Association Management department.

And that's one of the many benefits to membership in court associations, Ramsey said. "Court associations provide training and education — but it's not all necessarily through sitting in classes and attending seminars," he said. "The professional networking of colleagues who are doing the same thing, but doing it somewhere else, is invaluable. Associations provide that forum."

In his new role, Ramsey said he plans to help the 11 eleven court associations managed by his NCSC group increase their membership and enhance benefits.

Each court association has tremendous potential to grow, he said, and he wants to help the associations develop reasons to compel court professionals to join the association that applies to them. Ramsey, who previously was executive director and CEO of a public safety communications association with more than 16,000 members in 34 countries, said he plans to meet with the leadership of each court association at least once this year to learn how the National Center can support them.

The National Center offers associations executive management; membership record processing and assurance of federal and state compliance; meeting and event planning; and strategic planning. "One of the greatest assets, however, is having the connection to the wealth of resources offered by the National Center," Ramsey said, emphasizing the Center's work in research, government relations, knowledge management, and education.

Changing of the Guards

(continued from page 1)

the Utah courts, Becker worked with the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts for nearly 10 years, and in Georgia as a court consultant and assistant director for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

"I'm very proud of my association with COSCA and our work to advance improvements in the administration of justice," Becker said. "COSCA celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2004 and it's an honor to serve as its president the year of this important milestone." For years, Becker has worked with COSCA to improve the justice system. He co-chaired the CCJ/COSCA Joint Task Force on Therapeutic Justice, which called for broad integration of the principles and methods of problem-solving courts into other areas of court operation, and he served on the

CCJ/COSCA Joint Task Force on Self-Represented Litigation. Becker also has helped prepare COSCA position papers on Access to Court Records, Judicial Self-Governance and

Accountability, and Racial and Ethnic Fairness.

As COSCA president, Becker becomes vice-chair of the NCSC Board. He also served on the national search committee for the new NCSC president.

NACM President: Collins E. Ijoma, Trial Court Administrator for the Essex Vicinage of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Ijoma was promoted to trial court administrator (TCA) in 1995, where he is responsible for administrative support in New Jersey's largest trial court with nearly

1,100 employees. Prior to this, Ijoma served as the court's assistant TCA. Throughout his career, he has shared his experience and dedication to the field of court administration nationally and internationally. He was a founding member of the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management (MAACM), and has served on its Board for years. Ijoma served as the NACM representative on the COSCA/CCJ Committee on Problem-Solving Courts. As a member of the NACM Board of Directors, Ijoma has brought new emphasis to international membership recruiting. As president he plans to build the association's strength and membership.

"From its humble beginnings, NACM has always enjoyed a steady stream of excellent leadership both at the board and executive levels," Ijoma said. "My goals are to build on the excellent work that has been done by the various NACM boards and by my predecessors. I will do anything I can to expand our membership base by forging a closer relationship with all other court associations — particularly the state and regional associations. It is important that NACM realizes the key role NCSC has played in its growth and maturity, and it is important to improve NACM's relationship with NCSC through better communication."

Ijoma moved to the United States from Nigeria in 1976 to complete his college education majoring in accounting and business administration. He earned a master's degree in public administration in 1982 from Seton Hall University with a concentration in public budgeting and finance. He is a Fellow of NCSC's Institute for Court Management's Court Executive Development Program.



New NACM President Collins E. Ijoma (left) and NCSC Associations Management Director John Ramsey.

New CCJ members since the 2004 midyear meeting (Jan. 18-21):

Chief Justice Myron Steele, Delaware
 Chief Justice James W. Smith, Jr., Mississippi
 Chief Justice Barbara Pariente, Florida (effective July 1, 2004)

New COSCA members since the 2003 midyear meeting (Jan 30-Feb. 3):

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| J. Baxter Bowman, Rhode Island | Perry Taitano, Guam |
| Frank E. Goodroe, Nebraska | Melinda Wheeler (Acting), Kentucky |
| Lirio Bernal Sanchez, Puerto Rico | |

Innovations to Improve the Jury System Introduced

Increasing the appeal of jury duty and respect for the jury system, in addition to providing jurors with the necessary tools to make informed decisions, are at the core of the new National Program to Increase Citizen Participation in Jury Service Through Jury Innovations, which was introduced May 21 in New York City.

Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals Judith S. Kaye moderated the event held at the law firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell and attended by approximately 75 attorneys from New York City, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va. Chief Judge Kaye, who is a past chair of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Board of Directors and a current Board member, led a panel discussion that focused on the need to improve the U.S. jury system. She outlined the challenges faced by the jury system and introduced the innovations the National Jury Program proposes to improve it. Panelists included G. Thomas Munsterman, executive director of the NCSC's Center for Jury Studies; Robert J. Grey, Jr., president-elect of the American Bar Association; and Mark C. Zauderer, chair of New York's Commission on the Jury.

Discussion ranged from how recent high-profile trials have affected potential jurors — such as the Tyco case in which jurors were publicly identified — to how treatment of jurors' time by the legal system — such as by attorneys who settle cases immediately after subjecting jurors to lengthy voir dire sessions — contributes to a lack of confidence in the jury system and an unwillingness to serve on a jury.

Statistics support the need for change. Citizen participation in juries has declined in recent years, Munsterman said, with people dodging jury service in record numbers — the response rate to jury summons is about 20 percent in many large urban court systems. The National Jury Program will provide courts with methods to improve the public's awareness and understanding of the jury system, as well as technical assistance to help improve the conditions of jury

service. The National Jury Program aims to, among other things:

- Improve citizen response to jury summons
- Improve the comprehensibility of jury instructions
- Create model legislation and rules to anchor jury reforms
- Institute jury management workshops for urban courts

For example, to improve juror comprehension, the National Jury Program supports such innovations as allowing note-taking, improving jury instructions, and making copies of instructions and notebooks available to jurors. One of the National Jury Program's first steps is to develop a "State of the States" compendium to gather comparative data on state jury systems and relevant rules on case law affecting jury innovations. Data will include procedures ranging from ini-



Chief Judge of New York Judith Kaye, standing, leads a panel discussion that outlines the new National Jury Program. Panelists include, from left, Robert J. Grey, Jr., president-elect of the ABA; Mark Zauderer, chair of New York's Commission on the Jury; and G. Thomas Munsterman, executive director of NCSC's Center for Jury Studies.

tial summoning to final dismissal after verdict. The Center for Jury Studies will then develop a best-practices package to describe jury trial innovations that have proven to be effective.

For more information on the National Jury Program, please contact Munsterman at (800) 532-0204, or e-mail tmunsterman@ncsc.dni.us.

Supporting the Nation's Jury System

The National Jury Program came about three years ago in response to the 2001 National Jury Summit held in New York City, led by Chief Judge Judith Kaye and the NCSC. Following the Summit, which highlighted the need for jury reform, members of the NCSC's Lawyers Committee concentrated their efforts on securing the necessary financial support to establish the National Jury Program. The following law firms have made significant contributions to make the National Jury Program a reality.

- Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. (\$100,000 Legacy Donor)
- Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Reed Smith LLP
- The Simmons Firm LLC
- Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, P.L.L.C.
- Susman Godfrey L.L.P.
- Jack H. Olender and Associates, P.C.
- Levin Papantonio Thomas Mitchell Echsner & Proctor P.A.
- Shearman & Sterling LLP
- Gregory P. Joseph Law Offices LLC
- Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP
- Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.

The National Jury Program is a collaboration of the NCSC, the Council for Court Excellence, and the Trial Court Leadership Center of Maricopa County (Arizona).

NCSC Responds to Supreme Court Ruling That Affects State Courts' ADA Compliance

Since the May 17 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Tennessee v. Lane*, court leaders nationwide have been scrambling to learn how this ruling affects their court. Many have turned to the National Center for State Courts for guidance. *Tennessee v. Lane* determined that states are subject to lawsuits for money damages by citizens under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in cases involving access to courts.

In response, the National Center has put together several tools regarding compliance to the ADA, which courts may access from NCSC's Web site.

In the 1990s, the National Center developed an ADA self-evaluation document, which allows courts to check off the areas of compliance they have covered and helps them identify where they need improvement. This document was developed as part of a grant NCSC received shortly after the 1990 passage of the ADA. The National Center is in the process of scanning the self-evalua-

tion document to make it available for download from NCSC's Web site. It is expected to be available in July.

In addition, in 1999, NCSC received another grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to establish an ADA Resource Center for State Courts to educate court leaders about the ADA requirements and to provide technical assistance for implementing the act in courts. Part of this project involved surveying state courts through the Conference of State Court Administrators to collect information about successful practices, policies, and procedures.

The National Center has also compiled a variety of settlement agreements that occurred from 1994 to 2004 that resolved a variety of ADA issues in court settings. "These agreements cover 10 years of compliance and provide a hands-on feel for courts to learn how to meet ADA regulations," said Gerald Kuban, NCSC principal court management consultant. The agreements are available on NCSC Web site in

the **CourTopics** database, which also addresses "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the ADA.

The ADA project team also developed briefing papers on four specific topics to help courts understand and address the issues involved in complying with ADA requirements. The following briefing papers are available in **CourTopics**:

- Communication Accessibility in the Courts
- Implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act in a Trial Court
- Implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the New Jersey Judicial System
- Assisting the Blind and Visually Impaired

Find the information generated from this grant, including the state survey results and the settlement agreements, at www.ncsconline.org, **CourTopics**.

Upcoming Courses Offered by the Institute for Court Management

| | | | |
|------------|--|-------------|--|
| Sept 8-10 | Managing Human Resources Kansas City, MO - Westin Crowne Center | Oct 26 & 28 | Revenue Enhancement: Effectively Collecting Fines and Fees LIVE Webinar |
| Sept 9 | Court Interpretation: Introduction to Issues, Challenges, and Best Practices LIVE Webinar | Nov 4-6 | Library Management Williamsburg, VA |
| Sept 13-15 | Court Performance Standards Kansas City, MO - Westin Crowne Center | Nov 4 & 9 | Introduction to Caseflow Management LIVE Webinar |
| Sept 26 | Revenue Enhancement: Effectively Collecting Fines and Fees LIVE Webinar | Nov 8-10 | Jury Management Phoenix, AZ - Hyatt |
| Oct 13-15 | Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management Jacksonville, FL - Omni Jacksonville | Nov 15-19 | Court Management Program, Concluding Seminar Williamsburg, VA - Springhill Suites |
| Oct 18-20 | Managing Court Financial Resources Jacksonville, FL - Omni Jacksonville | Dec 13-15 | E-Courts Conference Las Vegas, NV - Mirage |

For more information or to register, please call 800-616-6206 or 800-616-6160, e-mail icmregistrations@ncsc.dni.us, or go to ICM's Web site by clicking Education-ICM on NCSC's home page at www.ncsconline.org.

Supporting CCJ/COSCA Resolutions:

NCSC Works to Advance Problem-Solving Principles and Methods

The public looks to the courts to tackle social issues, such as family violence and mental health, that aren't effectively addressed by traditional legal processes. When it is necessary for courts to focus on the underlying causes of these problems, the principles and methods grounded in therapeutic jurisprudence have proven successful.

Problem-solving courts use remedies such as integration of treatment, ongoing intervention, close monitoring, immediate response, multidisciplinary involvement, and collaboration with community and government organizations.

To promote these approaches, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) unanimously approved a resolution in support of problem-solving courts. The 2000 Joint Resolution asked the National Center for State Courts to initiate collaborative examination of the principles and methods of problem-solving courts, to develop standards, and to assist to the courts in related activities.

"NCSC is unique in that our close relationship with CCJ and COSCA drives the content and quality of our services throughout all levels of the state court system," said Kay Farley, NCSC Government Relations director. "When this is combined

with the breadth and depth of our staff's experience, NCSC is positioned to help trial courts integrate problem-solving methods and principles into the administration of justice." Farley chairs NCSC's Problem-Solving Courts Community of Practice, a cross-disciplinary team that shares and disseminates problem-solving approaches.

In addition, NCSC's Outreach Committee is developing a plan to support communication about the resolution to reach the courts, educators, and the public. "Our role is to assist leadership in moving the broad agenda forward," said Pam Casey, NCSC principal court research consultant.

NCSC also provides direct services to the courts. Dan Hall, NCSC vice president for Consulting Services and Outreach Committee chair, said consultants develop toolkits and provide hands-on assistance to the courts. "We use our court management expertise to help state court administrators and trial courts adapt and apply problem-solving principles throughout all court divisions," Hall said.

The NCSC Outreach Committee is composed of other National Center staff responsible for education, research, and information dissemination through knowledge management analysts and publica-

tions. Kent Wagner, NCSC's ICM education program director, noted how programs delivered via Webinars will help participants answer: "What do I have to do in my court to use the problem-solving principles?"

For more information on NCSC initiatives to advance the CCJ/COSCA resolution on problem-solving courts:

- Subscribe to NCSC's e-newsletter, *The Problem-Solving Reporter*, at www.ncsconline.org, click on "Sign up for E-newsletters."
- Visit the [CourTopics](#) database at www.ncsconline.org. Go to the "Specialized and Problem-Solving Courts" topic area.
- Call NCSC's consultants for technical assistance or consulting services at 800-466-3063.
- Call ICM about upcoming courses or special training needs at 800-616-6160.
- Contact NCSC's Problem-Solving Community of Practice at ProblemSolving@ncsc.dni.us or Knowledge and Information Services analysts at KnowledgeServices@ncsc.dni.us.

NCSC Consultant Takes Caseflow Management to Italian Courts

David C. Steelman, principal court management consultant for the National Center for State Courts, recently served as a visiting scholar in Bologna, Italy, where his research focused on caseflow management as a key area of court performance in courts of first instance. Steelman, who has worked with the National Center for 30 years, has written extensively on caseflow management. His book, *Caseflow Management: The Heart of Court Management in the New Millennium* (2000), was the National Center's best-sell-



ing publication in 2003 and recently was revised for its third printing.

"Italy may have the largest backlog and the slowest pace of civil and criminal litigation among all the Western countries," Steelman said. As a result of his research in Italy, Steelman

authored "The Challenge of Trying to Apply the American Approach to Delay Reduction in Italian Courts of First Instance." In this article, he outlines suggestions to improve Italian courts based on the American experience, such as time standards, court con-

trol of case progress, differentiated case management, and limitation of unnecessary continuances.

In Bologna, Steelman worked at the Research Institute on Judicial Systems (IRSIG-CNR), which was established as an arm of Italy's National Research Council in 1992 to promote research activities on the courts in countries with a civil law tradition.

For an English-language overview of the activities of the researchers at IRSIG-CNR, see www.irsig.bo.cnr.it/presentenglish.htm.

Ten Tips for Buying Technology

By James McMillan, NCSC principal court management consultant, and Curt DeClue, an attorney who specializes in technology

This is the first of a two-part article on helping courts purchase technology. This issue outlines tips one through five.

The Fall edition of Center Court will include tips six to ten.

Technology procurement for courts is a subject that has consumed volumes of books and weeks of class time. With that in mind, we want to share a few tips that the NCSC has found useful in streamlining the process and maximizing returns.

1. Consider procurement strategies outside the traditional RFP.

One of the great myths of government procurement: Competitive bidding laws are designed to ensure the best price. Clearly, this is not the case. Competitive bidding laws were passed to eliminate corruption, ensure fairness, and allow equal access among private vendors to government contract opportunities. Saving money was a secondary goal.

The good news is that many state and local governments have moved aggressively to streamline the procurement process. These changes are much more attuned to promoting efficiency and cost savings, while protecting the goals of fairness and equal access.

The bad news is that many government agencies have failed to embrace these changes.

What can you do? Learn what alternatives to the traditional RFP are available. Find out what progressive procurement techniques are being used by other agencies in your jurisdiction. Is the project appropriate for a more informal RFI-type process? Are vendor interviews and sole sourcing permissible? Above all, if you use a central procurement or purchasing office, make sure that the process is tailored to your particular needs and the characteristics of your project. Don't let your project be shoehorned into a "one size fits all" process, RFP or otherwise.

2. Think like a vendor.

As you craft your project and procurement effort, analyze them from the vendor's perspective. Keep in mind two con-

cepts: profit margin, and risk and reward. Vendors must make a reasonable profit on their investment of time, resources, and money. At the same time, not every cost involved in a project can be calculated in advance. Every project contains potential problems. If they develop, the vendor will be expected to resolve them. In addition to analyzing fixed, known costs, a reputable vendor analyzes each proposal to determine its potential exposure to the associated costs. Vendors must make financial provisions for such costs and they expect to be rewarded for assuming the risks of agreeing to fix such problems if they occur.

Two examples of how these concepts, considered from the vendor's perspective, might affect your procurement effort:

Profit margins. Many hardware components have become commodities. As a result, it is possible that a vendor will buy hardware components from the same third-party supplier and at about the same price that is available to you. But the vendor will add a profit margin that will be included in its proposal. By buying these components directly, you eliminate this mark-up.

Risk and reward. Nothing creates more risk for a vendor than the unknown. If the project requirements are vague, if the schedule is uncertain, if the project is dependent on numerous factors that the vendor cannot control, vendors will include these unknowns in their pricing. Reducing the unknowns reduces the risk factors for vendors, allowing them to lower pricing. Not all risk factors can be eliminated, however. In particular, performance guarantees that push the technological envelope represent a major risk factor for a vendor. You may determine that such performance standards are essential to your project. So make sure the performance standards are clear and accept that you will pay more.

3. Limit and phase the project scope.

The biggest problem that almost all RFPs suffer from is the size or scope of the proj-

ect. By the scope we simply mean the list of problems that technology is asked to solve. It's easy to say let's build a paperless court, but it is very difficult to implement. It is better to divide the project into phases that build on each other. This gives the court information on the costs of each phase, informs the judges and staff what is to be accomplished in each phase, provides flexibility in contracting if funding runs short, and creates proper expectations for the total project.

Also, there are often management or organizational problems that a court would like to use technology to solve, but those issues are not detailed in the RFP. It's best to list those issues separately because technology can be adjusted to address them.

4. Longer is not better.

Long RFPs have not proven to be effective. Courts have developed very detailed RFPs only to find they inhibit vendors from competing for their business due to the cost of responding to the request, and they are extremely difficult to administer. Instead, focus on the business problem that your court needs to solve. Let the technology companies do the work of proposing the solution.

5. What do you do best?

Courts often leave vendors in the dark about what they want their staff's role to be in the project. Does your court have a good trainer? Do you have a good project manager or Web master? If so, let it be known in the RFP. Also, courts often do not tell vendors in the RFP what staff is being dedicated to the project. If there is no court or government staff assigned to oversee or work with the project, with requisite reallocation of other duties, then this nearly guarantees project failure. Vendors look for this in RFPs and if this information is not provided then good companies will pass on your project.

Coming next: Steps six to ten for successful IT procurement.

New Editor Team to Guide NCSC Journal in 2005

The National Center for State Courts' *Justice System Journal*, the only refereed, scholarly journal devoted exclusively to judicial administration, has selected a new editor who will take over in 2005. The journal also has taken on a new look—its first redesign in more than 10 years.



Stephen Wasby

Stephen L. Wasby, professor emeritus of political science, University at Albany-SUNY, recently was named the new editor-in-chief beginning with volume 26, issue 1, which will be the first issue published in 2005. Wasby replaces Susette Talarico, Albert Berry Saye Professor of American Government and Constitutional Law and director of the Criminal Justice Studies Program at the University of Georgia, Athens, and *JSJ*'s editor-in-chief for five years. In addition, Luke Bierman, director of the Justice Center of the American Bar Association in Chicago, will serve as associate editor.

Serving as Review editor will be Professor Malia Reddick of the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University and formerly was research director for the American Judicature Society. The new Legal Notes Editor will be Professor Todd Lochner, who joins the Department of Political Science at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, after teaching at Boise State University. He has a J.D. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.

"I have been pleased and honored to serve as editor-in-chief for *Justice System Journal*," said Talarico, who is planning a 25th anniversary retrospective of *JSJ* for the last issue of 2004 (volume 25, number 3). "I think this retrospective will help to usher in a new era for the journal," she said. The retrospective will include a summary article synthesizing the topics taken up by the journal over the years; short comments by past *JSJ* editors, scholars, and practitioners on where the journal has been and where it should or

might go in the future; and a cumulative, topical index. *JSJ* has tackled a diverse group of court-related topics during the last 25 years, including drug courts, judicial decision making, and court budget strategies.

Wasby's name is a familiar one to *JSJ* readers. He has been a member of the journal's editorial board since 1974, and he

served as Review editor and as Legal Notes editor for several years. His research interests focus primarily on the federal courts and on the role of interest groups in litigation, and he currently is engaged in a long-term project on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Wasby has authored a number of books, including *The Supreme Court in the Federal Judicial System* and *Race Relations Litigation in an Age of Complexity*. He has also served on

the editorial boards of *Polity*, *Law and Society Review*, and *Western Legal History*. He received his B.A. from Antioch College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Oregon and held a post-doctoral residency in Law and Social Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He later was director of the National Science Foundation's Law and Science Program.

Bierman joined *JSJ*'s editorial board this

year and has written widely about public law topics, including judicial selection and state constitutional law. He is trained as a lawyer and a political scientist with an M.S. and Ph.D. from State University of New York-Albany; a J.D. from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary; and a B.A. from Colgate University. He has taught at SUNY-Albany, Trinity College, Richard Stockton College, and Northwestern University School of Law.

"We want to introduce court administrators to good scholarly analysis of the court system and to give wider exposure to what practitioners have to say about their interesting projects," Wasby said.

NCSC thanks Susette Talarico for her excellent work on *JSJ* and is looking forward to working with Stephen Wasby and the new editorial team.

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NCSC Loses a Friend

John H. Rockwell, the National Center for State Courts' oldest and longest temporary employee, and one of its most dedicated financial supporters, died in April at his Williamsburg, Va., home at the age of 92.

After practicing law in Chicago for 38 years, Rockwell retired in 1979 and moved with his wife to Williamsburg. But retirement to Rockwell didn't mean slowing down. He applied for a research position at the National Center saying, "I'd like to do anything that is useful." He went to work in NCSC's Information Service and Research Division, becoming the Center's resident expert on court security.

Rockwell not only gave his time, but for 20 years he participated in the

NCSC's Employee Giving Program, becoming one of the Center's long-time staff contributors.

In November 2003, Rockwell was recognized for his dedication to the NCSC when he was inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society by Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist at the NCSC's Annual Recognition Luncheon. The Burger Society honors individuals who have demonstrated the highest commitment to improving the administration of justice through extraordinary contributions of service and support to the National Center.

Rockwell retired because of health issues after celebrating his 90th birthday in 2001.

Database on Race and Ethnic Fairness Available

The Race and Ethnic Fairness Initiative of the National Center recently compiled an electronic database that contains the findings and recommendations issued by 29 judicial branch commissioners and task forces. The database can be searched by state, topic, or both. Topics include access to justice, judicial selection and discipline, juries, and hiring and promotion practices. The database, which is free, is located at www.ncsconline.org/Projects_Initiatives/REFI/reb.htm.

David Rottman, the Initiative's chair and NCSC principal court research consultant, said, "The judicial branches of the majority of state courts have recommended concrete steps that remove racial and ethnic bias from their courtrooms. These recommendations, and the detailed research and analysis that underlie them, are a remarkable resource of insights and practical guidance."

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