The Dog Days of Summer Are Upon Us!

by Judge Melanie G. May

It's hot, and for once it seems that South Florida is cooler than much of the nation. That’s a first! Try to stay cool and enjoy what's left of the summer.

Your committees continue to shine and work diligently to improve everything about the Council. Thank you to everyone who serves on them.

This month, I would like to highlight your Annual Conference Committee, chaired by Judge Glenn Acree (Kentucky), and vice-chaired by Judge David Gratton (Idaho). Other members include Cory Ciklin (Florida), Susan Gantman (Pennsylvania), Alan Loeb (Colorado), Judith M. McConnell (California), Manuel Ramirez (California), Carmen Messano (New Jersey), William Palmer (Florida), Jack Sabatino (New Jersey), Larry Vaught (Arkansas), and Carolyn Wright (Texas). They have done a spectacular job of bringing you innovative, relevant, and interesting programming. Our hosts (Justices McConnell and Ramirez, along with Kevin Lane) have been outstanding. A great big thank you!

The planning for the education and social programs is complete. Our keynote speaker will be Professor Geoffrey Cowan, who served as dean of the USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and is currently a university professor (one of 21) and the inaugural holder of the Annenberg Family Chair in Communication Leadership and director of USC Annenberg's Center on Communication Leadership and Policy. We are thrilled to have him set the tone for our conference with his talk: “How Can Courts Maintain Trust and Credibility in an Era When Facts and Truth Are Under Assault?”

He holds a joint appointment in the USC Gould School of Law and teaches courses in communication and journalism. We welcome Professor Cowan to our conference and look forward to his words of wisdom. I won't give you more details about the other programming because Judge Acree is doing that in his article.

The RFP for our website redesign is out to vendors. We are awaiting responses and look forward to some great ideas to take the wonderful work that has been done on our current website and bring it into the next generation. Our website will include all of the current features,
add new features, and become more user friendly. We are also looking into an app for your mobile devices (in case you don’t have enough of them already).

It has been some time since the Council produced a “White Paper” or other valuable report on the future of appellate courts. A special task force is being formed to be our “think tank,” from which we will form the basis for informative and helpful reports and recommendations for the future of our intermediate appellate courts.

We again ask for your assistance with putting some books in the hands of great kids. Justice Judith McConnell has identified Monarch School in San Diego as the recipient of your generous gift. The target students are in grades K-6. CCJSCA hopes to gift one book per student in these seven grades. Please help us accomplish this goal by bringing a suitable book with you to San Diego. More details in our program brochure, which you should be receiving in early August.

This will be the last newsletter published under my watch, so I want to take a moment to give special thanks to Justice Rogelio Valdez (Texas) and Judge Frankie Moore (Nebraska), the chair and vice-chair of our Newsletter Committee, and all of its members: Judges Karen Arnold-Burger (Kansas), Susan M. Chehardy (Louisiana), Sylvia Cooks (Louisiana), Larry J. Eisenhauer (Iowa), Clarkson S. Fisher, Jr. (New Jersey), John M. Melanson (Idaho), Carmen Messano (New Jersey), Jeff Rose (Texas), and Jonathan Sutin (New Mexico). They work tirelessly to bring you the latest and greatest happenings within and without the Council.

San Diego is just a few months away. I look forward to seeing you all there!

2018 Annual Conference in San Diego, California
by Judge Glenn E. Acree

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego for the 39th Annual Conference of the CCJSCA, November 13-17, 2018. The week kicks off with the New Chief Judge and First-Time Attendee Orientation with our biggest group of initiates yet. Our community outreach project, the fifth annual book drive, will benefit students of the Monarch School, where homeless youth have been educated for the past 30 years. So, throw a couple of children’s books (K-6) in your suitcase as you pack.

For the conference proper, once again, we have stellar speakers who will inform and entertain. We’ll flesh out the theme, California Dreamin’—Perfecting the Art of Communication as Chief, starting with our keynote speaker, Geoffrey Cowan, Dean Emeritus of the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, and director, USC Annenberg Center of Communication Leadership and Policy. His address is titled, “How Can Courts Maintain Trust and Credibility in an Era When Facts and Truth Are Under Assault?”

We will continue the communication theme, starting with how we think. Hall of Fame trial lawyer Lisa Blue will cover the latest research on dementia, how mindfulness and meditation can help alleviate cognitive impairment, and proven methods a chief judge can implement when a colleague exhibits signs of diminished capacity for the job.
Judge Margaret McKeown of the Ninth Circuit will highlight the latest ethics issues facing chief judges nationally from the perspective of drafters of judicial codes of conduct. We will have a short session about a new artificial intelligence before taking a unique look at opinion writing and editing that, thanks to the Internet, is subject to worldwide critique, challenging us to bear in mind issues of privacy, security, clarity, and, of course, the Oxford comma.

Highlighting historical perspective, “Mendez v. Westminster: Using the 14th Amendment 7 Years Before Brown” will address the significance of a school-desegregation case that arose in California well before its more famous successor, Brown v. Board of Education. That will transition us into “Immigration Law for State Courts of Appeal—What Jurists Need to Know,” a study of the challenges faced by courts in dealing with litigants, criminal defendants, and other parties who are not citizens. In a session titled “Breaking Barriers,” Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson of the Supreme Court of Connecticut will present his personal experience with racism, implicit bias, racial anxiety, and diversity.

Rounding out our communications theme, we will be treated to a presentation by Barbara Tanenbaum, Brown University senior lecturer in theatre arts and performance studies: “Wow Your Audience: Fine-Tuning the Art of Verbal Communication.” Then we’re on to a program on cyber-security, and another on sex-based harassment in the workplace, with Nancy Abell giving us tips on how to protect the court and its employees from misconduct.

We finish up Friday with “Two Views on the Latest Constitutional Law Decisions,” featuring Stanford Law School professor Pamela S. Karlan, and University of San Diego School of Law professor Michael Ramsey. Sandwiched in among it all will be experience-led, round-table discussions about how we communicate with three different audiences—the legislature, the bench and bar, and new judges.

Our social agenda, too, is outstanding. Local guides and volunteers from the spouse group will function as excursion coordinators for Wednesday at the San Diego Zoo, topped off by an evening fiesta at Casa Guadalajara. Thursday afternoon, spouses will join the chiefs when we all board buses for the International Border Tour, and that evening will be free time to explore the city. On Friday, buses will take the spouses to the iconic Hotel de Coronado National Historic landmark and temporary home to presidents, royalty, and celebrities. After lunch at the hotel, they can stroll the shops and entertainment around the corner on Orange Avenue. The Farewell Dinner will take place on the aircraft carrier USS Midway, a floating museum at the San Diego Navy Pier, where we will be entertained by Orange County native Judge Geoffrey Glass and his band, Blues Offenders.

So be sure to register. Your friends simply can’t wait to see you!

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Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow

by Judge Margret G. Robb

Friends,

I hope you are having a great summer. Labor Day will be here soon and then our annual conference in San Diego. Plans are underway, and although it is hard to imagine how our meetings get better every year, somehow, they do. I hope to see you all there in November. The education, networking, and social events are sure to be fabulous.

I’ve begun to think about next year. We are only as good as we can be when everyone is
engaged. To ensure another productive and enjoyable year for CCJSCA, I would like to keep with the tradition of making committee assignments for the coming year in advance of our conference. This will also give you a chance to meet your fellow committee members at our conference, and we usually have time for the committees to meet. Our committees are the foundation of our organization and its important work to provide effective leadership and enhance the administration of justice in the state courts of appeal.

I have included a list of the descriptions of each committee. Please think about where you’d like to be involved. If you know now, feel free to tell me now. But you will have other opportunities to let me know. Don’t worry—I will ask again! If you have been involved, please stay engaged. If you haven’t been on a committee yet, please get involved. Your participation will bring new, fresh ideas to CCJSCA.

Or, if you have an idea for a new committee to address a pertinent subject, please let me know. All ideas are welcome! My email is Margret.robb@courts.in.gov. And if you would cc Lynn Kuderka at the National Center for State Courts, lkuderka@ncsc.org, it will help us to make sure we don’t miss anyone.

I look forward to your responses and working with you next year! And thanks so very much.

Committee Structure
Administration of Justice
The Administration of Justice Committee is responsible for reviewing requests to take formal positions on issues affecting the administration of justice within the judicial systems of member states. It also reviews resolutions adopted by the Conference of Chief Justices on matters relating to public service and the administration of justice and makes recommendations to the Council’s Executive Committee.

Annual Conference
The Annual Conference Committee is responsible for planning the annual conference, a task that includes making recommendations to the Executive Committee of future conference locations, arranging meeting and housing facilities, establishing an education agenda, and planning social activities for members and guests.

Development
The Development Committee is responsible for raising awareness and funding for the annual conference.

Education
The Education Committee is responsible for surveying the educational needs and desires of members and developing an education plan for consideration by the Annual Conference Committee in developing the education curriculum for the annual conference. It explores educational opportunities through collaboration with other organizations and creates year-round education programs for members to bridge the gap between annual conferences.

Finance
The Finance Committee reviews financial reports and recommends operating and annual conference budgets to the Executive Committee. It is responsible for monitoring the sustaining fund and investments made by CCJSCA, as well as providing a report and recommendation to the Executive Committee on the disposition of net assets at the end of each fiscal cycle. It reviews membership dues and reports financial issues to the Executive Committee.
Long-Range Planning (Strategic Planning and Evaluation)

The Long-Range Planning Committee is responsible for the ongoing assessment of the Council’s effectiveness, identifying areas of improvement, making recommendations regarding the future direction of the Council, and monitoring progress in implementing recommendations.

Membership

The Membership Committee is responsible for encouraging states to become members of the Council and for recruiting presiding judges within those states to become active participants in the Council’s programs, including the annual conference. The committee strives to maintain the interest of current and former chiefs in Council activities.

Newsletter

Created in 2008, the Chief Brief is the Council’s newsletter that aims to inspire, educate, and encourage excellence among chief judges by making the membership aware of their colleagues’ amazing work. The Newsletter Committee is responsible for creating and disseminating the newsletter to the membership at least three times per year.

Nominating

The Nominating Committee makes recommendations to fill offices and positions on the Council of Chief Judges Executive Committee.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee is responsible for composing resolutions that express appreciation and recognize individuals and organizations for their worthy efforts on behalf of the Council. It also composes resolutions that formally declare the Council’s views and policies on issues and events affecting its work and the administration of justice.

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is responsible for the award of scholarships to attend the CCJSCA Annual Conference from funds allocated for that purpose by the Executive Committee. That responsibility includes the development of application procedures and establishment of criteria for the award.

Website

The Website Committee is responsible for developing quality content that meets the needs and expectations of the Council’s membership, as reflected in periodic analytic surveys and questionnaires, and updating the content by regularly adding new information.

Committee News

Scholarship

by Judge Dave Gratton

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to assist new and existing members with finances to attend the annual conference in San Diego, November 13-17. The scholarship application period is July 30 through August 24 (PLEASE do not miss this deadline). Members will be sent an email regarding the application. Please visit the website for the application form and other news. Notice of scholarship awards will be sent September 7. We hope we can help you attend a fabulous conference in sunny San Diego!
Membership
by Judge Mark D. Pfeiffer

Though all good organizations need great leadership, which we have, and an energetic existing membership base, which we also have, the future of a healthy organization depends on an injection of new members into the organization, which the Membership Committee is happy to report has been accomplished at record levels in 2018! Though we expect this number to grow before our San Diego annual conference, the Membership Committee is happy to report the following 19 new chief judge or chief judge-elect members from 12 different states who have committed to joining us at our annual conference this November:

- Arizona—Pete Eckerstrom
- California—Elwood Lui, Mary Greenwood
- Florida—Leslie Rothenberg, Spencer Levine, Brad Thomas, Ed LaRose
- Hawaii—Lisa Ginoza
- Kentucky—Denise Clayton
- Massachusetts—Mark Green
- Michigan—Chris Murray
- Missouri—Lisa Page, Karen Mitchell, Colleen Dolan
- New Mexico—Linda Vanzi
- Oregon—Jim Egan
- Texas—Bonnie Sudderth, John Bailey
- Washington—Brad Maxa

And we’re not done! We expect this number to grow even larger before we depart for the conference in San Diego, making this new membership class the largest ever since CCJSCA was first founded. I feel certain that the CCJSCA new member class of 2018 will bring with it future leaders of this outstanding organization, and I know that we all look forward to welcoming these new members to our CCJSCA family in November! We also want to extend a welcome to Michael Gibbons, who was previously a chief justice at the Nevada Court of Appeals. In addition, in Texas, we shall have more than one new chief justice by our November conference.

Annual Conference
by Presiding Judge Susan Peikes Gantman

The Annual Conference Committee has been working hard to develop a great education program for the 2018 meeting in San Diego, November 13-17. I hope you plan to attend not only to take in all the great education but to also network with our colleagues. For the second year, the annual meeting will start with a New Chief Judges and First-Time Attendees Orientation on Tuesday afternoon. Through interactive discussions with the CCJSCA leadership and other new judges, this orientation will familiarize new chiefs and first-time attendees with the multitude of skills and tasks required of their newfound position and teach methods for encouraging effective communication and collegiality with others on the court. Mark Pfeiffer and Sandee Marion have canvassed the nation, and because of their efforts, 19+ new members have been identified. Well done, Mark and Sandee!

Nominating
by Judge William B. Murphy

The Nominating Committee of CCJSCA is charged with recommending officers and Executive Committee members to the membership at the annual meeting, to be held this year in San Diego, California, November 13-17. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the Council by
serving in any of these positions, or desire to put forth the name of a member for consideration by the Nominating Committee, please forward your recommendations to Lynn Kuderka (lkuderka@ncsc.org). The Nominating Committee is interested in the input of our members before making its recommendations.

Education
by Judge Margret G. Robb

Friends, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

One of the important goals of the Education Committee is to help provide information that helps our members do their jobs better and, therefore, help make all our courts better.

A few years ago, with a grant from SJI, we created learning modules that asked and answered questions we face as chiefs. This year, we embarked on several new additions to our website. But to make these new columns really do what we hope, we need the input and participation of ALL our members. The columns only work in giving our members current, up-to-date information if we get that information from all our states.

So, what did we add to our website? It is a column titled “Emerging Issues.” Current Issues often start in one state or court and travel across the land. So eventually we all deal with similar issues. When those interesting issues arise in your state, PLEASE share them. These issues may come in many forms—it might be legislative, procedural, or substantive, impacting judges, our courts, or people in our state. It might also be a case that raises a new issue or a new solution that you’d like to share. Another aspect may be an HR or employment conundrum that you have had to grapple with. Additionally, it may be a social-media matter or an ethical resolution you’d like to share.

The other addition to the website is a new way to post a speech—or, actually, not post a speech but a summary of a speech you have given. If you are reluctant to post an entire speech, you can post information about a speech you have given so that if someone is interested, they may contact you directly for more information. We will post an easy-to-fill-out template.

So, the long and short of this is, WE NEED YOUR HELP. Can you imagine the valuable information we could share if everyone sent in at least one idea?

Send to:
Vance Raye—Vance.Raye@jud.ca.gov
Kem Frost—kem@frost.cc
Maggie Robb—Margret.Robb@courts.in.gov

Judges Inbody and Talbot Retire
by Chief Judge Frankie Moore
After 32 years as a Nebraska judge, Everett O. Inbody retired from the Nebraska Court of Appeals on January 1, 2018. Judge Inbody graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1970 and entered private practice in Wahoo, Nebraska. In 1986 he was appointed as a county court judge in the fifth judicial district, with his primary office remaining in Wahoo. Inbody served as county court judge until 1991, when he was appointed to the district court bench. In 1995 he was appointed to the Court of Appeals, where he remained until his retirement. He served as chief judge from 2004 through 2014.

During Inbody's tenure as Chief Judge, he helped refine and streamline the court's case processing toward the goal of completing the majority of appeals within one year. In 2011 Judge Inbody began the court's outreach program, known as the College Campus Initiative, where the court hears oral arguments at various college campuses across the state, helping to educate students and the public on the appellate process and the judiciary in general.

Throughout his career, Judge Inbody had a special interest in helping children. He served as co-chair of the Commission on Children in the Courts since its inception in 2005. He worked tirelessly to improve the experiences and treatment of children in the court system. As chief judge, he developed a system of expediting juvenile cases, giving them priority over all other appeals. In 2010 Judge Inbody received the Nebraska Supreme Court Outstanding Judge for Service to the Judiciary Award, which is the highest honor given by the chief justice to a member of the judiciary for meritorious projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the vision of justice within Nebraska communities.

Judge Inbody has served this Council for several years in many different capacities. He serves on the Administration of Justice Committee (2007-2018), Executive Committee (2015-2018), Finance Committee (2016-2018), Resolutions Committee and Historian (2013-2018), and the Website Committee (2012-2018).

Inbody looks forward to spending more time with his family, which includes his wife Patti, their two sons and daughter and their spouses, as well as their five grandchildren. They plan to travel, enjoy time at their lake cabin, and, of course, keep up with live and fantasy sports.
Michael J. Talbot retired in April as chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals. Judge Talbot served the people of Michigan on the bench for 40 years, beginning his judicial career in 1978 on the Detroit Common Pleas Court. During his tenure, Talbot presided in nearly all levels of Michigan courts. He joined the Court of Appeals in 1998, serving as chief judge from 2015 until his retirement. Talbot created the Court of Claims within the Court of Appeals to hear claims against the state.

Talbot received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and his J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He was in private practice before ascending to the bench, focusing primarily on criminal law.

One of Judge Talbot’s many notable accomplishments during his judicial career was heading an intervention in 2013 into Detroit’s 36th District Court in the midst of the city’s historic bankruptcy. Talbot was able to transform the district into a more efficient, customer-focused high-volume urban court while at the same time balancing its budget. Talbot has received numerous awards, including from the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan, the State Bar of Michigan, and the Michigan Corrections Association.

Judge Talbot has been a member of the Council’s Annual Conference Committee (2014-2015), and he currently serves on the Administration of Justice Committee (2014-2018) and the Finance Committee (2015-2018). Talbot’s retirement plans include travel, education through course auditing, and the pursuit of more opportunities for service.

Both Judges Inbody and Talbot plan to attend the CCJSCA conference in San Diego this November. Please join us there in congratulating them on their outstanding careers and combined 72 years of judicial service.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please remember to bring children’s books to donate to the Monarch School in San Diego, California.

Books for readers from Pre-K through sixth grade will be greatly appreciated.
CCJSCA Executive Committee

Melanie G. May, President, Florida Court of Appeal, Fourth District
Margret G. Robb, President-elect, Indiana Court of Appeals
Brad R. Hill, Vice President, California Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District
Stephen W. Powell, Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio Court of Appeals, Twelfth District
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Everett O. Inbody, Nebraska Court of Appeals
Susan Peikes Gantman, Pennsylvania Superior Court
Josh R. Morriss III, Texas Court of Appeals, Sixth District
Morris Silberman, Florida Court of Appeal, Second District
Rogelio Valdez, Texas Court of Appeals, Thirteenth District

CCJSCA Newsletter Committee

Rogelio Valdez, Chair, Texas Court of Appeals, Thirteenth District
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John M. Melanson, Idaho Court of Appeals
Carmen Messano, New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division
Jeff Rose, Texas Court of Appeals, Third District
Jonathan Sutin, New Mexico Court of Appeals