



## MEET THE NEWLY ELECTED NACM LEADERSHIP

The following officers and board members were elected at the 2005 NACM annual conference in San Francisco; their bios follow.

### OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	Richelle "Chelle" Uecker
PRESIDENT ELECT:	Howard "Skip" Chesshire
VICE PRESIDENT:	Paul Burke
SECRETARY/TREASURER:	Marcus Reinkensmeyer

### BOARD MEMBERS:

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIRECTOR	Kevin Bowling
APPOINTED DIRECTOR	Michael L. Bridenback
AT LARGE (1) DIRECTOR	Carol L. Ortman
LARGE COURT DIRECTOR	Yolande Williams

### Richelle "Chelle" Uecker, *PRESIDENT*



Chelle Uecker has worked in courts for 32 years. In 2003, she was appointed assistant chief executive officer, Superior Court of California, County of Orange, California. Previously, Uecker worked for the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for 29 years, most recently as the deputy district court administrator. She actively developed quality and achievement programs and was a key member of the Hennepin County district's strategic planning and Baldrige initiatives, as well as the NACM Strategic Planning Committee. Uecker has served on the Joint Technology Committee as a National Association for Court Management member for several years. This is a collaborative group of NACM and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) members that develops standards and technology project priorities for the courts. She currently serves on the Global Justice Information Network and (Global)

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 4*

### A WORD *From Your Editor:*

It is my goal that *Court Communique* reach the membership quarterly – March, June, September, and December. In order to meet that goal, I need your help. Please send items to me for the next issue by Oct. 21. I'm always on the lookout for interesting tidbits, so don't be shy and don't delay, send me something today!! I'm also looking for a co-editor, so all you would-be editors, this is your big chance — let me know of your interest.

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## THE RESULTS ARE IN

The results are in for the 12th annual NACM 5K Fun Run/Walk, July 13, 2005, San Francisco, California.

### RUNNERS

#### MEN

1 <sup>st</sup>	Skip Chesshire	15:54
2 <sup>nd</sup>	T.J. BeMent	16:07
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Ramsey	17:06

#### WOMEN

1 <sup>st</sup>	Zelda DeBoyes	18:44
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Halli McFetridge	19:14
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Teresa Risi	19:42

### WALKERS

#### MEN

1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Burke	27:51
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Cable	28:59
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kent Batty	29:58

#### WOMEN

1 <sup>st</sup>	Danielle Beaulieu	28:04
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ruth Ann Newcomer	28:59
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Suzanne Stinson	30:16

Special thanks to Catalina Caballero, Karen Gee, Leslie Haradon, Tina Payne, and Anita Reinkensmeyer, who helped run the event. ♦

## Bill & Mary Chesshire Award

**N**ACM president-elect Howard "Skip" Chesshire established the Bill & Mary Chesshire Award to honor his parents' life-long commitment to young people in their community. His father passed away in July 2003, and this \$1,000 annual cash award honors the positive impact that his dad and mom had on young people. This first award, to be used at the recipient's discretion, was presented to Rick Thompson, court clerk at the municipal court in Springfield, Missouri.

Thompson has been instrumental in the success of numerous youth activities in the Springfield area, including working with the Shrine Temple in raising more than \$640 million annually to continue free medical service to indigent families at 19 children's hospitals and two burn centers located throughout the United States. He also raised more than \$1,000 for a middle school in Strafford, Missouri, for school supplies, coats, haircuts, backpacks, and other items for low-income children. Other efforts include fundraising for CASA, the Children's Miracle Network, and Missouri Shrine Hospital services. Thompson plans to donate a portion of his award to a deserving children's charity in his area. ♦

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF JULY 15, 2005

**B**oard members and guests shared the following visions, goals, and objectives for NACM in the year ahead:

- Bring to fruition the work of the Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) and training materials for the Core Curriculum Competency Guidelines.
- Expand the membership of NACM through active recruitment of new court managers, collaboration with state court management associations, the online store and memorabilia, and a white paper on member retention.
- Establish a national agenda for NACM and the court management field for the year 2010.
- Develop court-community outreach programs, white papers on best practices, and town hall meetings via the Web.
- Establish an advanced executive development track for senior court managers, exposing court managers to strategic leadership training.
- Promulgate the Core Curriculum Competency Guidelines and NACM educational programs through state associations, Web-based services, and scholarships.
- Expand online Internet services to the NACM membership, e.g., publications, surveys, job postings, etc.
- Enhance communications to the NACM membership, with board members serving as ambassadors to state and local courts.
- Expand the financial resources of NACM through further grant funding and establishment of an association foundation fund.
- Create partnerships between NACM and other professional associations.

The board unanimously approved establishment of the NACM online store, under the direction of the membership committee.

The architect's association (AIA) is proposing a partnership with NACM. Ventures could include joint educational programs and/or conferences regarding court facilities planning.

Marcus Reinkensmeyer, secretary/treasurer, presented a proposal to add two judicial officer posts (limited and general jurisdiction courts) to the NACM Board. The proposal is intended to 1) expand the NACM membership, 2) establish partnerships with judicial officer organizations, 3) foster the judge/manager

executive component of the court and, 4) enhance NACM educational programming. President Uecker established a study committee, chaired by Collins Ijoma, to examine the viability of this proposal.

The following committee assignments were made:

## PUBLICATIONS

Chair: Marcus Reinkensmeyer  
Vice Chair: Jude Del Preore  
Virlynn Tinnell, Pam DeVault, Mike Bridenback  
Historian: Larry Myers

## MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Pam DeVault  
Vice Chair: Virlynn Tinnell  
Collins Ijoma, Paul Burke, Ron Truss, Carol Ortman

## CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Skip Chesshire  
Vice Chair: Paul Burke  
Vendor Coordinator: Suzanne Stinson  
Virlynn Tinnell, Carol Ortman, T.J. BeMent,  
Kevin Bowling

## WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Chair: Mike Bridenback  
Vice Chair: T.J. BeMent  
Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Jude Del Preore,  
Yolande Williams  
Historian: Larry Myers

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Ron Truss  
Vice Chair: Jude Del Preore  
Suzanne Stinson, Paul Burke, Pam DeVault,  
Kevin Bowling

## Education/Appointed Ad Hoc

Chair: T.J. BeMent  
Vice Chair: Suzanne Stinson  
Skip Chesshire, Paul Burke, Yolande Williams,  
Ron Truss

Marcus Reinkensmeyer reported on the panel presentation at the annual conference: "Toward a National Organization of Jury System Professionals: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?" The panelists advocated that any new professional organization on jury management be established as a part of NACM as opposed to a stand-alone organization. There was audience support for this approach. Reinkensmeyer will have Professor David McCord of the American Judicature Society send a proposal for the board's review. ♦

Advisory Committee (GAC) and its executive committee and chairs the Security Working Group. Uecker is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management (1995) and serves as faculty for the Institute for Court Management. She serves as a consultant and trainer on customer service, the quality process, and trial court leadership to court systems nationally.

### HOWARD "SKIP" CHESHIRE, PRESIDENT ELECT



Howard "Skip" Chesshire is court administrator of Cobb County Superior Court in Marietta, Georgia. A 1976 graduate of Georgia Southern University, he holds a B.S. in education and is a 1990 ICM Fellow. He has authored "*The Jury Management Process – A Time Efficiency Study*" and "*A Study of the Discriminatory Effect of the*

*Delphi and Ratio Weighted Caseload System Concerning Death Penalty Cases in Georgia.*" Chesshire's professional and civic activities and accomplishments include the 1986 NACLO Distinguished Leadership Award; the Georgia Jaycees' Outstanding Young Georgian (one of five honored); president, Metro Marietta Kiwanis Club, 1989; chairperson, Cobb County Heart Ball, 1993; advisory board member, Channel 11's "Keeping Kids First," 1995; Cobb Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, 1996; chairperson, Swordsmen's Ball, 1996; president, Georgia Council of Court Administrators, 1997; GCCA's Outstanding Court Manager of the Year, 1997; named one of the Most Influential Public Officials in Georgia for 1998 by *Georgia Trend*. Chesshire currently is a YMCA board member, board member of The Walker School, chairperson of Wellstar Kennestone Hospital Authority, and a board of trustees member for Kennesaw State University.

### PAUL J. BURKE, VICE PRESIDENT



Paul J. Burke is clerk-magistrate of the Northeast Housing Court, trial court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He has held this office since his appointment by the governor in January 1991. Prior to that, he was a performance analyst in the administrative office of the district court from 1988 to 1991 and court

administrator and deputy clerk at the Woburn District Court from 1974 to 1988. Burke received his bachelor's degree in management from Boston College in 1973. He has attended and instructed various annual continuing education programs conducted by the trial court. He is immediate past president of the Association of Magistrates and Assistant Clerk-Magistrates of the Trial Court. Burke is vice president of NACM and will serve

as vice chair of the Conference Development Committee and chair of the Site Selection Committee.

### MARCUS W. REINKENSMAYER, SECRETARY/TREASURER



Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer is court administrator for the trial courts of Arizona in Maricopa County (Phoenix), serving a jurisdiction of 3.6 million residents. Previously, he served as superior court administrator, chief deputy court administrator, and director of judicial information systems (JIS), Superior Court in Maricopa

County. Prior to moving to Arizona in 1991, Reinkensmeyer served as assistant director of the administrative office of the courts (court services), court administrator (17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit), assistant superintendent of juvenile detention and probation officer in Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University Honors College and a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts, the 1989 recipient of the Institute for Court Management's Award of Merit, and the 2003 Supreme Court of Arizona's Distinguished Service Award recipient. Currently, Reinkensmeyer serves as secretary/treasurer for NACM and editor for the association's quarterly journal, *The Court Manager*. He has served as adjunct faculty for Arizona State University College of Public Affairs, past president of the Arizona Courts Association, and a consultant/presenter for state and local court improvement projects. His articles on court management have appeared in *Judicature*, *The Judges' Journal*, *Government Computer News*, *The Court Manager*, *The Handbook on Court Management and Administration*, and *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice*.

### KEVIN J. BOWLING



Kevin J. Bowling, JD, MSJA, is trial court administrator and attorney referee for the 20th Judicial Circuit Court and the Ottawa County Probate Court in Ottawa County, Michigan. His work in the judicial system spans 27 years, with time spent as a court manager, an attorney, a judicial educator, and a court consultant, including service

in western Africa as deputy chief of party for the Nigeria Justice Sector Assistance Project. Bowling also served the Michigan Supreme Court for 20 years, including time as the state judicial educator and as a regional court administrator. In Michigan he also served as staff

administrator for the Legislative Commission on Courts. Bowling received his B.A. in political science/public administration from Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island; an M.S. in judicial administration from the University of Denver College of Law; and a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the National Association of State Judicial Educators, the American Judicature Society, and the Ottawa County Bar Association. He has served on the National Association of State Judicial Educators Board of Directors; the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education Advisory Council, University of Memphis; the Advisory Board of the National Judicial College Courage to Live Program; and the Technology Law Advisory Board, Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Bowling is also a trained mediator and serves on the Ottawa/Allegan Center for Dispute Resolution Board of Directors. In addition to his service on the NACM Board of Directors as the general jurisdiction director, he is vice president of the Michigan Association of Circuit Court Administrators.

### Mike Bridenback



Mike Bridenback has served as trial court administrator of the 13th Judicial Circuit since 1994. Originally from Bonifay, Florida, his career has always been in the criminal justice field. After graduating from Florida State University with a B.A. in criminology, he worked with Gov. Askew's office and subsequently with the Office

of State Court Administrators. Bridenback also earned a master's degree in public administration from Florida State University. During his 17-year tenure with OSCA, he devoted time to the development of mediation services throughout the state that are now an integral part of the court system. After several promotions within OSCA, he served as chief of court services until his appointment in Tampa as trial court administrator. Bridenback's focus as court administrator has been devoted to increasing public access to the courts. Through his leadership, the 13th Judicial Circuit has developed innovative programs targeted at specific populations within Hillsborough County, including the Elder Justice Center.

### Carol Lee Ortman



Carol Lee Ortman, trial court administrator in Broward County, 17th Judicial Circuit, state of Florida, has more than 30 years of experience working as a court administrator, the last 22 years in the 17th Circuit and 10 years prior in New Jersey's Atlantic and Cape May Counties. She manages a large, complex metropolitan court

operation, which is the second largest circuit in Florida, with a population of 1.6 million. It includes a \$21 million-plus budget, 79 full-time judges, 79 full-time judicial assistants, and more than 250 staff members. Her personnel provide support services to the judiciary and staff more than 16 court-related programs. Most notably, Ortman has successfully petitioned the legislature for passage of a variety of bills, including protection of children as victims of criminal acts and the Model Dependency Court Initiative in Florida. She has also served on many supreme court committees addressing statewide issues and has served as adjunct faculty advisor at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. As the 17th Circuit representative on the Trial Court Budget Commission, she serves as chair of the Funding & Methodology Committee and lobbies for trial court issues in the Florida legislature and serves on the Trial Court Performance and Accountability Committee.

### Yolande E. Williams



Yolande E. Williams has been court administrator for the Municipal Court of Seattle since October 1999. She served as executive officer for the Yolo County Superior Court, Woodland, California, from 1994 until 1999. Prior to this, she held the positions of assistant executive officer and director of administrative ser-

vices for the Sacramento Superior and Municipal Court. From 1980 until 1988, she worked for the King County Department of Judicial Administration in Seattle, Washington. Williams holds a B.S. degree in business administration from City University, Bellevue, Washington, and an MBA from Golden Gate University. She is a Fellow of the National Center for State Courts, Institute for Court Management (1994).

The following board members will continue their service this year; their biographies as well as the others can all be found on the NACM Web site.

PAST PRESIDENT	Collins E. Ijoma
URBAN DIRECTOR	Jude Del Preore
RURAL DIRECTOR	Pamela S. DeVault
AT LARGE (2) DIRECTOR	Suzanne H. Stinson
ELECTED DIRECTOR	Virlynn Tinnell
LIMITED JURISDICTION DIRECTOR	Tracy J. BeMent
SMALL COURT DIRECTOR	Ronald E. Truss ♦

*One's mind, once stretched  
by a new idea, never returns to  
its original dimensions.*

# MSU Update

## NACM AND MSU SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCH THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

By MAUREEN E. CONNER, DIRECTOR, JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The 2005 annual NACM conference was the event that launched the Judicial Administration Program credential-building opportunities for NACM members and conferees through Michigan State University. Under the leadership of the NASJE Board and with the education planning skills of Chelle Uecker and Geoff Gallas, the 2005 conference schedule included two core courses of the noncredit certificate program: Resource, Budget, and Finance and Information Technology Management.

The Resource, Budget, and Finance course was taught in four conference sessions. The instructors were John Hudzik, Carl Baar, Dan Hall, Alan Carlson, and Tom Hodson. The MSU evaluations submitted by the 49 attendees who took the course for credit indicated that the course met its stated objectives to a high degree, as the mean averages for the various objectives were in the 4.00 range out of a possible 5.00.

The Information Technology Management course was also viewed positively by the attendees. The mean averages for the objectives across the four sessions that comprised this course were also in the 4.00 range. Forty-one attendees participated in this course for credit. The instructors were Chris Crawford, Dale Kasperek, Curt DeClue, Larry Webster, Mike Stein, and Tim Dibble.

In addition to the written evaluation results, attendees offered excellent verbal feedback, which will be used when planning the 2006 offerings. For more information on the 2006 NACM annual conference, interested individuals should continue to visit the NACM and Judicial Administration Program Web sites. *The Court Communique* will host an MSU column where updates and announcements will also be published. ◆

## Would This Work in Your Court? So, You Want to Get Ahead

By TRAVIS PRUITT AND LISA GURTLE, SCOTTSDALE (ARIZONA) CITY COURT

Scottsdale City Court recently hosted a pilot training course titled, "So, You Want to Get Ahead ...". The class consisted of four management panel members who answered commonly asked staff questions about how to position themselves for promotion and career development. The intent of the class was to provide staff with feedback, opinions, and suggestions from managers outside their normal reporting line.

The session was created and facilitated by Lisa Gurtler, court analyst, and Travis Pruitt, court services supervisor, of the Scottsdale City Court. Panel members included Janet G. Cornell, Scottsdale City Court administrator; Raymond Schultz, former Scottsdale deputy chief of police; Debora Johnson, Scottsdale customer services director; and Rick Rager, Tempe City Court deputy court administrator.

Examples of the questions addressed by panel members included:

- What's more important, my skills and abilities or the perception others have about me?
- How much does punctuality and absenteeism affect performance evaluations and potential promotional opportunities?
- What's the best advice you can give me to get ahead in my current position? How much of this is my responsibility as opposed to management's responsibility?

Response from attendees and panel members was very positive. As a result, Scottsdale City Court plans to conduct a similar session in the future.

## GUARDIAN APPRECIATION DAY

Guardian Appreciation Day, the first of its kind at the Steuban County (New York) Family Court, was

created to honor law guardians for their untiring efforts and ability to handle difficult cases. ◆

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**A**s of July 31, NACM membership was 2,510 strong. If you enjoy the benefits of NACM and have not renewed your membership, please do so. If you know of someone who would enjoy the benefits, recommend a member today! Regular membership in NACM is open to anyone who works in a court or government setting serving as clerk of court, court administrator, or in any court management, court education, court research, or judicial officer capacity. Additional membership categories include associate (consultant or vendor), student, honorary, retired, and sustaining members.

**Remember! You get one year of free membership dues for bringing in 10 new members!** You can obtain more membership information by contacting NACM: National Association for Court Management, c/o NCSC, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147, Attention: Administrative Services, or call (757) 259-1841. You can also visit the NACM Web site at [www.nacmnet.org](http://www.nacmnet.org).

NACM will soon present an online store that will offer handbags, clothing, and other memorabilia items bearing the NACM logo. Watch for more information in the near future! ♦

## WHAT'S UP AT F.A.C.T.?

By CHRIS CRAWFORD, FACT CHAIR

**T**he Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology (<http://fact.ncsc.dni.us>) is having a good year. At the NACM annual conference in San Francisco in July 2005, we honored outgoing co-chairs Ron Warfield and Bob Wessels, gave away two free registrations for the NACM 2006 annual conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the vendor show, kicked off a new ongoing article in the *Court Manager* called "Technology FACTs," and provided faculty for several well-attended technology-related training sessions.

What else is on the horizon? FACT will be a sponsor of CTC9 ([www.CTC9.org](http://www.CTC9.org)) in Seattle Sept. 13-15, and we're participating in the National Center for State Courts Joint Standards Committee that is trying to

develop modeling solutions for the functional standards that have been drafted for several case management system processing types.

How can you help? Join FACT as a public sector member and your \$35 annual dues will be doubled and returned to NACM in conference sponsorships and improved education. Just go online and fill out the simple application form, and you'll receive regular updates on court technology issues. It's a good way to stay informed and promote healthy public-private dialogue in the important field of court technology.

*Crawford is chair of FACT (<http://fact.ncsc.dni.us>) and can be reached at [crawford@justiceserved.com](mailto:crawford@justiceserved.com). ♦*

## MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDAR & PLAN TO ATTEND

### JANUARY 29-31, 2006

2006 NACM midyear conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at The Broadmoor.  
Theme: "The Court Executive Leadership Team"

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### July 9-13, 2006

2006 NACM annual conference, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort. Theme: "Leadership of the Nation's Trial Courts"



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE COURT MANAGERS

**Yvonne Pettus** began as court administrator for the Tacoma (Washington) Municipal Court in April. Prior to assuming that new position, Yvonne worked at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Washington for 20 years.

**Suzanne James** (former NACM president) will be retiring from Prince George's County (Maryland) Seventh Circuit Court in October and will begin work with the Howard County (Maryland) Fifth Circuit Court — a mere four miles from her home.

**John Sleeter** (former NACM Board member) recently retired from his position as the Thurston County (Washington) Superior Court administrator. He worked in the Los Angeles Superior Court for several years prior to his move to Washington.

**Matt Sorensen** recently joined the Fulton County (Georgia) Superior Court as deputy court administrator.

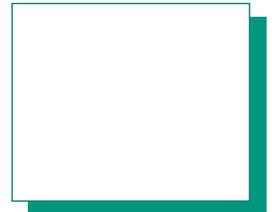
**Eric Silverberg** (former NACM Board member) recently became deputy court administrator for the Pima County (Arizona) Superior Court in September. He worked with the Department of Justice Immigration Court for four years, serving two years each in Lancaster, California, and Dallas, Texas. Prior to DOJ, he worked for 10 years in the Florida courts.

**Chuck Ramey** became the new Pierce County (Washington) District Court administrator in July. He had been the court manager in Solano, California, for 21 years. Ramey fills the vacancy created by **Mike Kilborn**'s retirement in June after many years as the Pierce County District Court administrator.

Good luck to all these court managers! ♦

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