



# NCBC Impact Newsletter

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## President's Message by Mark Hatcher

The 2009 NCBC Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida is now only days away and the Florida Middle court is putting the finishing touches on what promises to be a great conference. Since everyone will not be in attendance when we recognize the NCBC members who will be graduating with their certificate in judicial administration from Michigan State University, I would like to acknowledge the graduates in this message. Please join me in congratulating Laura Brundage (NYSB), April Colling (NMXB), Tracey Couling (TNMB), Paul Dickson (NYEB), Ronald Hayward (ILCB), Rhonda Hylton (OHNB), Crystal Lightfoot (OHSB), Laurie Maldonado (ILNB), Kathryn Noel (CASB), Haley Poindexter (ILNB), Patricia Reed (ILNB), Effia Casenia Stripling (OHSB), and Monette Warren (CASB). About five years ago, these individuals made a commitment to the program and to themselves and their hard work and perseverance has earned them this honor.

Best Regards,

Mark

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## Innovation Bay Update by Kathy Grzybowski

### What do the following have in common?

- Tennessee Middle Bankruptcy Court
- Bankruptcy Best Practices Group
- Utah Bankruptcy Court
- Administrative Offices of the U.S. Courts
- California Northern Bankruptcy Court
- The Federal Judicial Center
- Arizona Bankruptcy Court
- North Carolina Eastern Bankruptcy Court
- Wisconsin Western Bankruptcy Court
- Automation Trainers' Community of Practice (ATCoP)
- Illinois Northern Bankruptcy Court
- The National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks
- New York District Court/New York Probation
- California Southern Bankruptcy Court
- Missouri Eastern Bankruptcy Court
- Administrative Offices of the U.S. Courts/The Federal Judicial Center or U.S. Courts collaboration

## Innovation Bay Update (continued) by Kathy Grzybowski



These are your destination specialists who will dazzle you with their innovative offerings as you visit the magnificent Port of Call - Innovation Bay.

Plan to fill your itineraries with visits to these popular tourist attractions including: The ATCoP website; AO/Court Exchange Program; Bankruptcy Best Practices; HRMIS-ePerformance, Leave Tracking, Remote Data Entry, eService, eOPF & EOD; Bankruptcy Education & Public Outreach Programs; vCal Courtroom Management System; Bounced E-Mail Processing; Staff Training Program; My Training Plan; Chambers-Centered IT Training & Education Program; Balanced Scorecard; Naturalization Ceremonies; NCBC IMPACT Staff; NCBC Circuit Liaison & Local Representative Positions; Inventory/Property Management; CourtTalk; National Registry of Barred Filers; CHAP (Chambers Automation Program); and Overview/Usage of RSS. The FJC plans to showcase their schooner filled with a myriad of eLearning and traditional education programs. In fact, their offerings are so vast; they advise all travelers to be prepared to "Catch the Wave".

There will be plenty of time for you to scour the beaches for demos, to embark in discussions with subject matter experts and to chat with your fellow travelers. Don your flip flops and don't forget your sunscreen as you venture along the pristine shores of Innovation Bay.

## CALLING ALL PACKRATS

by Mary Lynn Wilson, NCBC Historian

Yes, you know who you are.....you save everything: receipts, ticket stubs, photos. You can't bear to throw out a magazine. You've probably saved your childrens' report cards for years. Your motto is: "I'm going to need that someday." I know the signs well because I am a packrat myself. Now, the one thing I didn't keep, I need, and so I'm asking for your help.

It just recently came to my attention that our wonderful newsletter, NCBC IMPACT, has not been archived through all its years in digital format. Since I KNOW you all read every single word in the IMPACT, I'm asking all of you to help me in gathering copies. I need all issues, beginning in 2000, up to the present. I'll be glad to take hard copies, but would prefer to have e-mails, or even CDs or flashdrives. It would be very helpful if you could e-mail me and let me know which issues you have, so that I can avoid duplication if possible.

As I have exhorted you in the past, I'll just mention once again that I'm still looking for any materials you might have from past NCBC Conferences (if you just can't bear to part with all that great stuff, I'll even take copies!). Let me also suggest that you contact former colleagues who are now enjoying retirement, and who might not have gotten around to "cleaning out" yet, and ask them if they still have any Conference materials or memorabilia. It's a great way to keep in touch, anyway, and it might yield a real treasure trove (for me). Again, please e-mail me to let me know what you have, to avoid duplication. Just type my name in the "To" line and my address should automatically populate. My number is 423-752-5104, ext. 2, if you'd like to call me.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in beautiful St. Petersburg. I'll have the historical booth set up, so please come by, introduce yourself, and feel free to look through the materials I have. And, of course, you're welcome to bring materials to me at the Conference. Thanks for any and all help you can give.

## NCBC Conference Reminders

by Leslie Taylor

Visit the conference website:

<http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/ncbc2009> . You can surf the agenda, cruise the social events and sail through the registration.

Need help? Have questions? Our peers at the Middle District of Florida have answers about hotels, registration (including updates), social events, and any other conference stuff floating about in your mind. If the conference website does not answer your questions, send an e-mail to [NCBC\\_registration@flmb.uscourts.gov](mailto:NCBC_registration@flmb.uscourts.gov).

## Getting Around in St. Petersburg

By: Laura Whitehead

The best way to get around the downtown area is on the Looper Trolley. The Looper links hotels, shopping, restaurants, museums, The Pier and BayWalk. The fare is only \$0.25 each time you board (exact change required). Click on the link below for schedule and route information.



<http://www.looptrolley.com/>

The downtown area is also pedestrian friendly. The following link contains a downtown St. Petersburg guide and map.

<http://www.discoverdowntown.com/>

## OFFBEAT IN ST PETE

By Carol Thompson

Awaiting your arrival in St. Pete are two “wonderful parks,” Boyd Hill Nature Preserve along the shores of Lake Maggiore, and Weedon Island Preserve.

Boyd Park is a “hidden treasure” with lots of native plants and animals in a family learning environment. Three miles of trails and boardwalks meandering through five unique ecosystems will keep environmentalists and nature lovers busy at Boyd!



Weeden Island started as a wildlife preserve and is an “all time favorite.” Work off the goodies you’ve been chowing down on by walking the natural hiking trails and climbing the observation tower for a spectacular view. Visit Weeden Island with its fish, dolphins, sea turtles, alligators and Indian exhibits at 1800 Weedon Drive Northeast.

The seabird sanctuary at Indian Rocks Beach is another unique opportunity for natural wildlife observers. Free by donation, the sanctuary is a donated property for rescued birds, including owls. You can walk among and feed the brown pelicans and other water birds in a natural setting.

Enjoy flamingos and pelicans at the very beautiful Sunken Gardens. The four-acre garden shows off 50,000-plus types of tropical trees and flowering plants. More formal and contrived than the wildlife preserves, the Sunken Garden drops fifteen feet below street level. We hear the pelicans here are really cute and fun to feed!

Treasure Island and St. John’s Pass offer some of the best fresh right-off-the-boats seafood - try Scully’s – served up with lots of local history. In the same area, you’ll find the very casual Gator’s Café. True to its name, it offers gator bites. At Gator’s, you can sit on the dock Otis Redding style and enjoy a great view of the bridge moving up and down to let the boats pass through. Scully’s Boardwalk Restaurant/The Hut is located at 190 John’s Pass Boardwalk. Scully’s is dressier (steaks on the menu) and The Hut is dress down (wing, wraps and burgers.) You’ll find Gator’s at 12754 Kingfish Drive in Treasure Island.

Shoppers will discover their take-home treasures on Historic Corey Avenue Shopping District in St. Pete Beach, right next to Treasure Island. Sounds like everyone should make at least one Corey Avenue stop to check out the antiques, craft and hobby shops, clothing stores, gift shops and art galleries featuring local artists.

After all that shopping, a good hamburger may be the next thing on your list! (Maybe you weren’t brave enough to try the gator bites!) The best burgers are found at the old baseball-themed El Cap Restaurant, declares Florida Middle Deputy-In-Charge Raymond Waguespack. The nomination is seconded by Nita Balames, Florida Middle Case Manager, with an added option: Biff-Burgers. Biff’s serves great burgers and sponsors classic car shows, bike night and live entertainment, depending on the day of the week. El Cap is located at 3500 4<sup>th</sup> St. North and Biff-Burgers at 3939 49<sup>th</sup> St., both in St. Pete.

Finally, appreciate the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets ever on the beaches of St. Pete - great for photographers and those who enjoy a breezy evening walk!

**(Many thanks to our local guide, Nita Balames, Florida Middle Case Manager, for taking us off the beaten path while visiting St. Pete!)**



**Editor's Note:** I hope that you have enjoyed this newsletter and that it has proven to be resourceful to you as a member of the NCBC. I would be grateful to receive your comments on the newsletter, both on its content as well as on its structure, and ways to improve it further. Looking forward to seeing you at the 2009 Conference in St. Petersburg, FL. (13 days — from the date of this newsletter — until the conference !!!)

We are also welcoming ideas on how to improve membership. All suggestions are welcome. Happy reading!

Yvonne Cherokee

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**All newsletter requests should be submitted to the editor.**

#### Ask The Editorial Committee

The new NCBC Impact Editorial Committee is here to serve you. Additionally, this is our 'always open' invitation to share your questions, comments, and suggestions for articles that will provide helpful information to NCBC members. Material should be emailed to [Yvonne\\_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Yvonne_cherokee@nceb.uscourts.gov).

***This is your newsletter -- let your voice be heard!***

When submitting material for publication, please include your name, work telephone number, and email address. All publication material is based on the decision of the Editorial Committee. All accepted material may undergo editorial revision to conform to the standards of the newsletter and/or improve clarity.