



The NAALJ News

NAALJ Mid-Year Conference

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Special Point of Interest:

- NAALJ 2013 Mid-Year Conference April 14-16, 2013 Williamsburg, VA
- NAALJ 2013 Annual Conference Sept. 15-18, 2013 Chicago, IL

By Robert O'Neal

Spring is fast approaching and so is the 2013 NAALJ Mid-Year Conference to be held in wonderful, historic Williamsburg, Virginia April 14-16, 2013! The conference is being hosted by the Virginia Association of Administrative Law Judges and Hearings Officers (VAALJHO) and our destination is the beautifully appointed Williamsburg Hospitality House, located just blocks from Historic Colonial Williamsburg. The conference rate is \$96 for single/double/king rooms and is valid for the two days prior to and one day after the conference, so plan your stay accordingly without a major hit to your wallet! Early registration is \$350. Check NAALJ website for further registration information.

Rooms are still available and reservations can be made at the discounted rate by mentioning our group name, *The National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary*, when making your reservations (1-757-229-4020 or www.williamsburghospouse.com).

About the Hotel / Conference site

Williamsburg Hospitality House is an independent luxury hotel within walking distance to the historic area of Colonial Williamsburg and is across the street from The College of William and Mary. Featuring a lovely blend of 18th century tranquility and modern convenience, the hotel amenities include a laptop lounge, pool, WiFi, complimentary underground parking, two restaurants and tavern, meeting and banquet facilities, a fully equipped fitness center, and the best location in Williamsburg.

On Sunday, April 14, registration is 1 pm until 5 pm in the upstairs meeting center.

A NAALJ Board Meeting will be held 2- 4:30 pm on the same hotel level in the Board Room across from the registration area.



NAALJ Mid-Year Conference

From 6 pm until 7:30 pm, a welcome reception will be held in the hotel central courtyard.

The conference begins on Monday morning, April 15 and ends Tuesday afternoon, April 16.

Close to local attractions, guests at Williamsburg Hospitality House may visit nearby Jamestown, the Governor's Palace, and many other historical attractions in Colonial Williamsburg. This hotel is also a member of Stash Hotel Rewards, a premium hotel rewards program. You may enroll in the program by going to www.stashrewards.com/invite/DXGPGH. If you enroll in Stash Rewards, you may accrue rewards at this and other premium properties.

What to do in Williamsburg

Discover the birthplace of American Democracy at America's Historic Triangle: Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. Special passes can be obtained from a unique website (AmericasHistoricTriangle.com) for unlimited admissions to five of the most visited historical attractions in the area. Packages include three premier living history museums and two National Parks, including Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement and Museum, Yorktown Victory Center, Historic Jamestowne, and Yorktown Battlefield. The first permanent English settlers arrived at Jamestown. The flames of revolution were fanned at Williamsburg. Independence was won in the final victory at Yorktown. Create family memories by attending this conference and taking in the wonderful historic opportunities within minutes of the conference site.



About the Conference Content

Stay tuned to www.naalj.org for more updates on the 2013 Mid-Year NAALJ conference registration, content, speakers, and excursions. An electronic survey was administered earlier this fall and has been used to help drive the content and presentations. A walking tour of Historic Williamsburg is being planned for early afternoon Sunday, April 14. There will be a dinner excursion to Chownings Tavern on Monday evening, April 15. For questions, please check the NAALJ website or contact Jim Murray at james.murray@nad.usda.gov.



President's Message

By Jim Murray

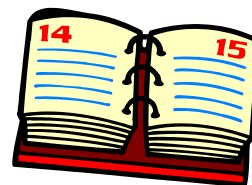
Although I have been a NAALJ member for many years, I was apprehensive about stepping into the President's shoes in New Orleans. Mainly, I was afraid that at the time of my swearing-in they would be wet. Less than 10 days before the 38th Annual NAALJ Conference was about to begin, on the seventh anniversary of Katrina no less, Hurricane Isaac pounded the Big Easy. What would happen to the sold-out conference?

As might be expected, Isaac caused some wind damage and flooding but, fortunately for NAALJ and the people of New Orleans, Isaac was no Katrina. In fact, Isaac apparently blew all of the heat and humidity out of the city for our stay. The weather was great for the approximately 210 attendees! It was a perfect complement to a great conference in a unique city. Besides the food, weather, educational programs, social activities, and abundance of great food, the New Orleans conference was notable for many other reasons: it was the first joint conference between NAALJ and the Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference (FALJC); it coincided with the Central Panel States Directors Conference; it was sold out; and the all important silent auction raised a new record amount for the National Administrative Law Judiciary Foundation, over \$5,400. Further, NAALJ realized a profit of over \$19,000!

The all-around success of the 2012 NAALJ Annual Conference was no accident. It required the work of a lot of people over many months. The Conference planning effort was coordinated by Maggie Anderson, along with Jim Gilbert of FALJC, with, as described by Maggie, the ever-positive and fun Valerie Meiners (a description with which I concur) of the Louisiana Association of Administrative Law Judges (LAALJ) as the main point person in New Orleans. With the help of many others, particularly LAALJ members, these three made the Conference the unqualified success that it was. I could go on and on but won't. Space is limited and my writing more words would not do justice to the great job Maggie, Valerie, Jim, and all the others did getting together the New Orleans Conference.

Speaking of conferences, one of the things I hope to accomplish as President is to have NAALJ conferences scheduled (tentatively, at least) out 18 months. I believe this will make long-range NAALJ planning easier, make conference planning less hectic, and allow NAALJ members plenty of notice to be able to avoid schedule conflicts and plan for conference attendance. It will also do the same for our all-important sponsors. So far, with the help of NAALJ affiliates, President-Elect June McKinney, and other Board members, we have made great strides in projecting our conference schedule well into the future.

Save your dates now! This year's mid-year NAALJ Conference, spearheaded by Robert O'Neal of the Virginia Association of Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers, will be in Williamsburg, Virginia, in April 14-16, 2013. Thanks to Camela Gardner and the Illinois Association of Administrative Law Judges, the 2013 NAALJ Annual Conference will be in Chicago on September 15-18, 2013 (see the articles elsewhere in this newsletter for details on the 2013 conferences). NAALJ's most recent affiliate, the Indiana Association of Administrative Law Judges has stepped up to be our host for the NAALJ Mid-Year Conference in the spring of 2014. Finally, thanks to the Maryland Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, NAALJ will have its annual conference in Baltimore in the fall of 2015. Stay tuned for details.



As you can see, there are still gaps in our conference schedule; we need venues for our 2014 NAALJ Annual Conference and would like to get some locations nailed down for future conferences. That's where you come in. We need individuals, groups of individuals or affiliates to step up. We need you to help us to help you. If you step up, NAALJ will step in to make sure that you get the information and assistance you need to host a conference. Besides, there are many benefits to your affiliate, state or area in hosting a conference. Administrative adjudicators in your immediate area will have access to high quality, low cost educational and CLE programs that you cannot get anywhere else. This is important to in-

dividuals and agencies in this time of austerity. You can play a major role in designing the program; some presentations can be geared primarily for local administrative adjudicators or for particular hearing types in your area. It is a chance to create public awareness of your agency or other organizations in your area, such as universities, law firms, or legal education providers who participate in the conference. There's also the great feeling you get after bringing a good conference to fruition. Additionally, the conference host shares in the profits from the conference. Finally, helping to host a conference is a good way to contribute to NAALJ on a relatively short-term basis and to decide if you would like to get more involved in determining the future of NAALJ. Of course, the benefits I mentioned above do not include important but more generalized benefits like meeting ALJs from all over the USA and other countries, hearing about how others with your job approach their own jobs, and the positive economic impact to your area. Please consider the possibility of hosting a NAALJ conference – NAALJ will benefit, you will benefit, and your agency or organization will benefit.



As you certainly know, in the last few years the economy has been terrible, with high unemployment and few new jobs. The current economic situation has affected government agencies as well with RIFs, higher workloads due to unfilled positions, frozen salaries, and furloughs. Despite this, NAALJ has managed to keep its financial picture quite stable even though our dues have been extremely low (\$50 per year) for many years. While that will inevitably have to change, the Board wants to try to keep the dues as low as possible for as long as possible.



I realize that, unfortunately, many NAALJ members cannot make it to our conferences, primarily due to cost. Something that most members do not know is that NAALJ subsidizes the cost of the conference for attendees in order to try to get more members to attend. For the New Orleans Conference that amounted to nearly \$100 per attendee. As President Farrell pointed out in his last President's message, you can help to minimize your conference costs by encouraging your agency to grant leave for conference attendance or pay per diem, etc. if they will not pay other expenses. Further, employee unions or associations may be helpful in this regard.

How does NAALJ earn a profit from conferences when costs exceed income? Simple, it's magic! Actually, it is thanks to the hard work (and magic) of the Sponsorship Committee Co-Chairs, Cathy Bennett and Peter Loomis (they are the whole committee) that we have been able to do this in recent years. They work very hard to cultivate sponsors and to keep the sponsors on board. Our sponsors are very important to us and we want them to continue to partner with us. For that reason, we include them in our conference programs so that they can get their message out. I would ask that during these brief presentations you give them your attention and courtesy. You might learn some valuable information that you can take back to your agency that could save money and ultimately make your job easier.

If it seems that theme of my message has a familiar ring, it is because it does. The NAALJ Board wants to meet you, hear what you have to say, and get some new ideas. New ideas and new people inject vitality into NAALJ and vitality keeps NAALJ relevant, interesting, and a leader in our chosen field. If you have any questions or suggestions, or just want to discuss an idea you have for NAALJ, please contact me or another Board member. We'd love to hear from you! Our email addresses are on the last page of this newsletter. Hope to hear from you soon and to see you at a conference in the near future!

NEWS FROM THE STATES

Maryland Affiliate News

Attending the NAALJ New Orleans Conference

By David Norken



I was the Maryland Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (MAALJ) challenge grant winner for 2012 and attended the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary conference in New Orleans September 9-12. I won in the most serendipitous manner possible.

For the last fifteen years, I have been an Administrative Judge with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) deciding employment discrimination cases that federal employees file against their agencies. I got an invitation in the mail at work to come to the May meeting and to join MAALJ. This was the first time I had heard of MAALJ or NAALJ. As a Treasurer of my Union Local at work and as Vice President of the EEOC Administrative Judges Association (AJA), I thought it would be a good idea to check out MAALJ. On the day of the May meeting, I traveled to it at Hunt Valley and got there about 20 minutes before it started. I wrote and gave the people at the welcoming table a \$50.00 check to join. That entered me into the drawing for the challenge grant. By the end of the meeting I had won the challenge grant by having my name drawn from a total of thirteen names entered in the drawing.

Despite the odd circumstances of being chosen the challenge grant winner, I will be an active member of MAALJ and the national organization. I am on the MAALJ Presentations Committee, will attend meetings and enjoyed attending the NAALJ conference. At the conference, I attended part of both NAALJ Board meetings on September 9 and 13 in order to get a good idea on how the organization worked. I learned that NAALJ exists, as it should, mostly to provide education, training and collegial and social support to administrative law judges. The meetings and conferences are the main point of the organization. I also learned about the problems of any on-going organization of many hundreds of members, including funding and administration.

I attended all three days of the conference. I was most impressed by the technology in the courtroom presentations. EEOC has video conference equipment but it is now sadly out of date. Learning that the field of video conferencing has advanced in screen resolution and flexibility leads me to hope that when the old equipment is replaced we can replace it with a much more useful system that will make us more productive by reducing travel time. I am also on a subcommittee designing a case management protocol and EEOC is designing an in-house web-based e-filing system. Thus, the information presented on case management was timely and I will pass it on to other committee members working on the technology.

I found Professor Michael Fontham's presentation on Applying the Evidence Rules in Administrative Proceedings provocative. He advocated that the best way to get better presentations and better evidence from parties was to exclude hearsay evidence. That would be very difficult since almost all administrative proceedings, including those at EEOC, relax the rules of evidence by making hearsay admissible. Nonetheless, I follow the proposition that admitted hearsay evidence should be analyzed for reliability according to the hearsay rules. Unless the hearsay falls within an exception, it is usually entitled to little weight. Further, I completely agree with Professor Fontham in one respect; documents and affidavits created in anticipation of litigation (as opposed to during the investigative process) should be excluded. Why bother with holding a hearing otherwise?

I was also very favorably impressed with Professor Alain Levasseur's comparative presentation on Civil and Common law. Such a presentation was timely since Louisiana is the only Civil Law jurisdiction in the United States and, of course, our conference was in New Orleans. I had a pretty good background regarding ancient Roman history but knew little about Roman Civil law. Professor Levasseur provided a good introduction into its history of development. I also did not know that southern France retained Roman Civil Law and northern France followed the law of the Germanic conquerors until Napoleon's time. As the Professor described it, Civil Law is a bare bones code with cases and commentary filling in the rest. Professor Levasseur made this concept much easier to understand by saying that Civil Law works exactly the same as Constitutional Law in this country; there is a relatively short constitution with relatively few amendments and the rest is cases and commentary.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

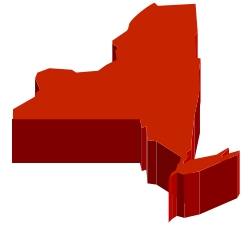
The presentation on Aikido was fun to watch. The message, deflect and redirect conflict in the courtroom, was a good one. However, there is not more to say than to think about the message.

Overall, it was a very good conference and I plan to attend next year as well as attend the mid-year conference in Williamsburg, even if it is on my own dime.

New York Affiliate News

By Ruth B. Kraft

A record breaking contingent of ALJs from the Big Apple descended on the Big Easy in September for the NAALJ conference and their presence did not go unnoticed. Our tradition of awarding not only NAALJ co-sponsored challenge grants but, this year, two additional NYSALJA grants, has afforded many ALJs the opportunity to attend national meetings and to further their professional development. New Yorkers participated in many panels, most notably an extraordinary presentation on Aikido for ALJs under the direction of our own Ray Kramer, director of the NYC Administrative Judicial Institute. We gave a bittersweet sendoff in New Orleans to state and national past president John Farrell on his departure from the ranks of the state administrative judiciary to move into the federal sector. New York has long maintained a strong presence at the national level and this is reflected not only by the active participation of our leadership, including Cathy Bennett, Ann Murphy, and Marc Zylberberg, among others so we are delighted that John, as immediate past president, and Peter Loomis are serving on the NAALJ executive board.



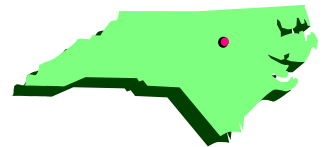
Our focus on continuing judicial education has been fostered by associations with the Administrative Judicial Institute, with which we co-sponsor a multitude of programs throughout the year, as well as by our recent memorandum of understanding with Pace University School of Law. We continue to explore alternate methods of disseminating topical information to our membership, particularly via our internet presence. Most recently, we co-sponsored a highly provocative program on issues in human trafficking and their intersection with the work of the administrative law judiciary with the Institute.

We are committed to bringing our efforts to the attention of the public. This culminated, on June 20, 2012, with the declaration of NYSALJA Day by the New York City Council, for “bringing attention to the work and character of the members of the organization and its groundbreaking work in promoting access to justice and the highest standards of administrative adjudication”.

North Carolina News

By Selina M. Brooks

Effective January 1, 2012, final authority was given to administrative law judge decisions in almost all types of contested cases. Over the course of the year, final authority was approved for environmental cases, effective October 1, 2012, and for Medicaid cases, effective July 1, 2012. Besides professional and occupational licensing, special education due process hearings remain the primary area where final authority does not apply. Like South Carolina, the North Carolina legislature is contemplating appeals from NCOAH contested cases to be filed directly in the Court of Appeals. The use of mediated settlement conferences, particularly in Medicaid recipient appeals, has increased and shown the efficacy of this form of dispute resolution.



Recent regulatory reform measures have focused primarily on agency rulemaking that emphasizes regulatory clarity, authority, necessity and costs. Legislation will be introduced in the coming session to require the NCOAH Rules Division to review all existing rules in the Administrative Code, a number that approaches 25,000 rules.

At the annual meeting in New Orleans, the NCOAH was awarded a Challenge Grant to begin the process to create a Southeastern Regional Affiliate to the NAALJ composed of NC, South Carolina (SC) and Tennessee (TN). Initial efforts to create this affiliate have begun and will be ongoing this winter.

The NCOAH installed a new computer system with increased capabilities for electronic filing, and remote retrieval and reviewing of electronically filed documents.

2012 Challenge Grant Winners

By John G. Farrell

In 2012, NAALJ and its public interest arm (the National Administrative Law Judiciary Foundation) offered a Challenge Grant to affiliates for the 2012 Annual Conference in New Orleans. We also offered a Challenge Grant to a NAALJ member from a state with no affiliate. Affiliate Challenge Grant winners were chosen by their local Affiliates and the Non-affiliate Challenge Grant winner was chosen by the NAALJ membership committee.

The Challenge Grant Program is made possible in part by generous donations made by Charter Mentors and Charter Life Mentors to the Foundation (NALJF), and from the proceeds from our annual Silent Auction, which takes place during every annual conference.

The purpose of these Grants is to encourage recipients to increase their active participation in NAALJ or their local affiliates, including participation on committees and consideration of taking on other leadership roles in NAALJ, as well as to encourage the formation of new local affiliates.

The grants included reimbursement of the conference registration fee and recipients were also presented with a \$500 grant check at a luncheon ceremony during the 2012 Conference in New Orleans in September. During the conference, Grant recipients had an opportunity to meet in-person with NAALJ officers, and other long time supporters of NAALJ who shared their experience of active involvement in NAALJ.

The following is a list of the 2012 Challenge Grant recipients:

Arkansas - Teri Hays

DC - Mararet Mangan

Illinois - Camela Gardener

Indiana - Noell Allen

Iowa - Karen Doland

Kentucky - Matt Mooney

Louisiana - Pam Moses-Laramore

Maryland - David Norken

New York - Eric Zaidins

Oregon - Alison Webster

Virginia - Michael Oglesby

Selina Brooks (NC) (*Non-Affiliate Challenge Grant*)



Congratulations 2012 Winners! We welcome your continued active participation with and support of your local affiliates and NAALJ. It is our hope that some of you will become the future officers and leaders of our organizations.



National Administrative Law Judiciary Foundation

The National Administrative Law Judiciary Foundation (NALJF) is the public interest arm of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (NAALJ). One of the Foundation's major purposes is to promote the study and research of administrative law and distribute this knowledge to the administrative judiciary and the public. To further this purpose, a Fellowship was endowed to encourage research and scholarship for improving administrative justice.

2013 FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

NALJF is currently requesting applications for the 2013 Fellowship. The topic for 2013 is:

“The history of the Federal Administrative Procedure Act”

To be considered, each submission should propose, for approval by the Fellowship Committee, a scholarly review of the law on the above Topic.

ONLY ONE fellowship proposal will be chosen for the Fellowship.

All applications for the 2013 Fellowship must be in electronic format (*WORD Format preferred*) and must include the following documents: (1) an abstract or an introduction to the proposed article, (2) a detailed outline for the proposed article, (3) a writing sample, (4) curriculum vitae, and (5) a list of publications. All submissions must be sent by e-mail to naalj@naalj.org, with a CC to julian.mann@oah.nc.gov.

The deadline for all submissions is April 30, 2013.

The Fellowship Committee will review the submissions and select the Fellowship Winner by May 31, 2013.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *Prior Fellowship winners, current members of the Fellowship Committee, current members of the NAALJ Journal Board of Advisors, and current members and officers of the NAALJ Board MAY NOT APPLY for the Fellowship.*

The Fellow will prepare an original article for publication in the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, and will deliver an oral presentation at the 2013 NAALJ Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, September 15-18, 2013. The final draft of the paper will be due January 1, 2014.

The Fellow will receive a \$1500.00 cash stipend, as well as transportation, accommodations, and meals, at the 2013 NAALJ Annual Meeting and Educational Conference.

Applications and inquiries regarding the Fellowship should be submitted by e-mail to naalj@naalj.org, with CC to Hon. Julian Mann, Fellowship Committee Chair julian.mann@oah.nc.gov.

Educational Opportunities Available at the International Academy for Judges

By Denis Guest

The International Academy for Judges (Academy) will be holding their annual three-week workshop at The University of Haifa Faculty of Law, one of Israel's leading law schools, in the summer of 2013. The workshop offers three courses that are geared toward judges from different nations. All members of the law faculty of the University of Haifa will teach at the academy, as well as guest lecturers from around the world.

The Academy was established to support the professional development of the judiciary and to engage in research related to judging and the judiciary. This three-week workshop will offer judges, including administrative law judges, the rare opportunity to get a taste of contemporary academic legal discourse and analysis, and to meet with judges of all types from all over the world.

The Academy offers judges the opportunity to follow a Certificate track or a LL.M. degree track. The cost for the summer program is \$5,500, which includes tuition, accommodations and lunches in the school cafeteria. The David Berg Foundation of New York provides scholarships to students based on need to cover the cost of tuition.

ALJ Denis Guest attended the Academy last year and would be very happy to answer any questions. He can be reached via email (cardenguest@hotmail.com).

New Orleans - 2012 Annual Conference



New Orleans - 2012 Annual Conference



New Orleans - 2012 Annual Conference



Larry Craddock, Dick Goodwin, Julian Mann and spouses



Clay Guthridge and Erin Wirth, Federal Maritime Commission



Maggie Anderson and John Farrell



Valerie and Vaughn Meiners



Jennifer Gee, Richard Clark and Robert Rae, US DOL



Cathy Bennett enjoying the band



Julian Mann, Errol Powell, and Selina Brooks



Sabina Matheny, Tracy Taylor, Esther Redmann and Jocelyn Elmore



Lynnette Donner and Spouse



Jim Gilbert

Many of the photos in this newsletter were submitted by Marc Zylberberg

New Orleans - 2012 Annual Conference

By Richard Boulanger

En Banc in New Orleans. NAALJ and the Federal Administrative Law Judiciary Conference (“FALJC) all together in New Orleans. First time both organizations met together. First NAALJ meeting in New Orleans. What a list of firsts! Printed programs, no less! And when was the last time a NAALJ annual meeting sold out a month before it convened! Beginning with Monday morning’s keynote address, delivered by Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne, through to the Wednesday night silent auction and dinner, this conference delivered.

From its inception, this annual meeting promised to be different. For one, NAALJ had never before held a conference with its Federal counterpart FALJC, and our hosts, the Louisiana Association of Administrative Law Judges (LAALJ,) had never hosted an event of this size and complexity. En Banc New Orleans is a tale of putting together a conference for two organizations with similar members and goals but very different jurisdictions. Size also mattered; the conference attracted some 211 registered attendees, including 91 from FALJC, 114 from NAALJ, and six Canadian ALJs. Literally, every seat was filled! That the conference sold out so early is a tribute to the great job performed by the various conference committees.

Their recipe? Let’s start with Location. Few cities in North America can compete with “the big easy” as a party town. The chosen conference site and hotel, the Ritz-Carlton, is located on the edge of the French Quarter. This assured quick access to great dining, great music, and the opportunity to observe new lows in drunken debauchery – try Bourbon Street at night, especially after a Saints home game. The Ritz-Carlton’s conference space was fine, the opening reception was nice, and my room was up to previous conference standards. Good food, great music, lots to experience, along with plenty of people to meet and hear, guaranteed a pleasant experience, all in all. “Laissez les bon temps rouler” is taken to heart in New Orleans.

I liked the number of opportunities made available by conference planners for attendees to participate in group events, tours, and meals. These are great people-meeting opportunities, and I’m always glad to see them built into conference schedules. En Banc New Orleans offered abundant choices appealing to music lovers, tourists, gourmands, and more. For an additional fee you could catch a guided tour of the Garden District or the French Quarter, opt to eat Cajun food at the Court of Two Sisters for lunch on Monday, enjoy more Cajun food, music, and dancing that night at Mulate’s, dine Tuesday night at one of five gourmet restaurants (I signed up for Commander’s Palace), or take a walking ghost tour/pub crawl Wednesday night after the banquet. The social committee planned well.

Let’s face it; money helps. This conference had plenty of that to work with, thanks to the hard work put in by the conference committees and especially NAALJ’s Sponsorship Committee – specifically Cathy Bennett, John Choate, Kurt Gronau, Peter Loomis, and Richard Pearson. Their efforts set new standards for sponsorship money and gave attendees free breakfasts Monday and Tuesday in exchange for listening to the bronze and silver vendor sponsors, Caseload Software and Infocom Systems Services respectively, tell us about their products.



New Orleans - 2012 Annual Conference

Programming presented a challenge with different organizations and different conference timetables (FALJC's annual meeting ended Tuesday evening) taken into account. The En Banc New Orleans Program Committee, comprised of Louisiana affiliate members Michelle Finnegan, Valerie Meiners, and Pam Moses-Laramore, along with Past President Steve Wise of course, and FALJC members Peter Davenport, J. Jeremiah Mahoney, Margaret Miller, and Daniel Solomon, came through in a big way. They developed a schedule featuring quality presenters on topics of interest to all attendees.

The first day began with morning sessions devoted to familiar topics. The Honorable Jay Zainey, a U.S. District Court Judge from the Eastern District of Louisiana, addressed professionalism. Later, we heard about recent developments in administrative law from Jerome Nelson, a retired ALJ, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at American University and the University of Maryland. Afternoon sessions consisted of breakout sessions on Mediation in Workers Compensation cases and panel discussions on high volume case management and special education due process hearings. The panel discussions were noteworthy in that NAALJ and FALJC members sat on both panels. Monday's program ended with an offbeat session entitled "Courtroom Skills: Aikido, Mindfulness, and the Art of Judicial Conflict Management", presented by Raymond E. Kramer, Director of the Administrative Judicial Institute at the New York City Office of Administrative Hearings (OATH), Charles Colten, Director/Chief Instructor of Aikido in the Schools and Aiki Extensions, and New Orleans Aikido Director and Chief Instructor Robert Brian Levy. A most relaxing way to end day one, I say.



After our technology-empowered breakfast, Tuesday's sessions continued at the same pace. Much of the morning was devoted to presentations on applying evidence rules and Social Media and Ethics. The rest of the day's program consisted of breakouts covering a spectrum of topics from discovery issues, special education developments, to use of technology in the courtroom. My personal favorite was Illinois Senior Legal Advisor and Hearing Officer and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Judicial Fellow Marc Loso's presentation entitled "Administrative Driver's License Reinstatement Hearings" – great topic! The day ended with a plenary session marking the end of FALJC's meeting.

Wednesday's schedule saw a number of presentations from Louisiana's legal community covering diversity, civil and common law comparisons, use of judicial review as a check on democracy, and, after the membership meeting, "BP Oil Spill Compensation Process" featuring Professor Ronald Scalise from Tulane Law School, who served as the appeals judge for this process. The conference finished with a central panel discussion moderated by Larry Craddock on "Final Decision Authority among Central Panel States (Analysis and Political Implications)". I know, another central panel group discussion – so what? Well, the various central panel chiefs were also meeting in New Orleans that week, so the 11 member panel featured a number of familiar faces, including Past NAALJ Presidents Bob Cohen (FLA), Ann Marshall Young (NRC), Julian Mann (NC) and Larry Craddock (TX). In addition, Ann Wise (LA), Greg Ogden (Pepperdine Univ.), Tom Stovall (TN), Ray Krause (MN), Jeff Masin (NJ), Cathleen Parsley (TX), and Tom Dewberry (MD) participated.

En Banc New Orleans was a special meeting held in a special town, planned and hosted by special people. NAALJ and FALJC members mixed well, and I understand several FALJC members actually joined NAALJ during the conference. Perhaps another joint event can be arranged in the future. Finally, no report of this conference can be complete without further recognition of the hard work put in by the various conference committees, LAALJ's members, and in particular Margaret Anderson, Cathy Bennett, Bob Cohen, Peter Loomis, Valerie Meiners, and Steve Wise. This one will be hard to top, Chicago!

NAALJ Committees and Chairs (2013)

Audit Committee

Chair: Bob Cohen (FL)
Bob_Cohen@doah.state.fl.us

Members: Tom Dewberry (MD)
and Larry Craddock (TX)

Membership and Affiliate Support Committee

Chair: Bob Layton (KY)
Robert.layton@ky.gov

Nominating Committee

Chair: Maggie Anderson (CA)
Maggie.anderson@dgs.ca.gov

Liaison to Central Panel Directors

Chair: Bob Cohen (FL)
Bob_Cohen@doah.state.fl.us

Publications Committee

(includes all publications except the website; currently the NAALJ Newsletter and the Mullins Manual Project)

Chair: Selina Brooks (NC)
Selina.brooks@oah.nc.gov

Special Education Section

Chair: Prof. Jim Rosenfeld (WA)
Rosenfeld@seattleu.edu

Board Liaison: Jim Murray
jmurry@oah.state.md.us

Administrative Adjudication Research Projects

Chair: Maggie Anderson (CA)
Maggie.anderson@dgs.ca.gov

Fellowship Committee

Chair: Julian Mann (NC)
Julian.mann@oah.nc.gov

Future Conference Sites Committee

Chair: Maggie Anderson (CA)
Maggie.anderson@dgs.ca.gov

Roskopf Achievement Award Committee

Chair: Julian Mann (NC)
Julian.mann@oah.nc.gov

Speaker's Bureau Committee

Co-Chairs: Jim Murray (MD)
Jmurray@oah.state.md.us

Mary Kelly (CA)
Maryk@cuiab.ca.gov

Neil Alexander Scholarships Committee

Chair: Joan Davenport (DC)
Joan.davenport@dc.gov

Website Committee

Chair: Steve Wise (IA)
Steve.wise@mchsi.com

Past-Presidents Committee

Chair: Janet Raider (KY)
Janet.raider@gmail.com

NAALJ Journal Board of Advisors

Chair: Larry Craddock (TX)
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