

NCJFCJ Trustee Elections and Meeting Highlights

August 7, 2012

By Cheryl Davidek

NCJFCJ's **Board of Trustees** met on Saturday, July 14, 2012, in conjunction with the 75th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to discussions related to embarking on a strategic planning effort and efforts in Washington, DC to promote continued resources for juvenile and family court systems to address critical issues, the Board considered and adopted **Key Principles for its newest initiative: Project ONE – One family/one judge; No wrong door; Equal access to coordinated justice.** *For more information on Project ONE and to view the Key Principles, [click here](#).* The Board also adopted a resolution for the Council to officially observe October as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. To view the full resolution, [click here](#).

Election of Officers was held, and Trustees elected the following **2012-2013 Officers**:

Judge David Stucki, President-Elect, Brewster, Ohio

Judge Peggy Walker, Treasurer, Douglasville, Georgia

Judge Darlene Byrne, Secretary, Austin, Texas

Pursuant to the Bylaws, **Judge Patricia Martin** assumed the office of Immediate Past President, and **Judge Michael Nash** was sworn in as President during the Installation Banquet held Tuesday evening, July 17.

The following new Trustees were elected to the NCJFCJ Board during the **General Business Meeting** of the NCJFCJ Membership, and also sworn in at the Installation Banquet on Tuesday:

Elected to a first, three-year term is **Judge Ramona Gonzalez** from La Crosse, Wisconsin. Judge Gonzalez has been serving as a State of Wisconsin Circuit Judge since April 1995. She has served on the Family Violence Department Advisory Committee for NCJFCJ, and has been an active speaker and trainer for numerous organizations, including the NCJFCJ. She has participated in or presented during numerous international conferences and meetings, and serves as Liaison Judge with the U.S. Judicial Advisory Council on International Family Abduction. Among her many awards and honors, Judge Gonzalez has received the President Award from the State Bar of Wisconsin. As a Trustee, she will work to help the Council achieve its mission and to raise the profile of NCJFCJ in Wisconsin.

Also elected to a first, three-year term is **Judge John Romero, Jr.** of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Judge Romero began on the bench in 2003, as a District Court Judge, and also serves as a Therapeutic Court Judge over the Program for the Empowerment of Girls. He is a member of the New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium, has served

on the NCJFCJ's Family Violence and Juvenile and Family Law Department Advisory committees, and also served on the Resource Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Revision Committee. He is a frequent trainer on issues related to juvenile justice and child welfare, and as an NCJFCJ Board member, will support efforts for meaningful collaboration with tribal courts and agencies.

Elected to fill an unexpired two-year term is **Judge Jeannie Hong**, Baltimore, Maryland. Judge Hong joined the bench in 2002 for Baltimore City District Court, and now serves on the Circuit Court, hearing family law issues and other civil and criminal cases. She has been a member of the NCJFCJ's Family Violence Department Advisory Committee, and in addition to many other teaching roles, has served as faculty for the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, for both the Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence and the Continuing Legal Education in Domestic Violence programs. As a Board member, Judge Hong will promote membership in NCJFCJ and work for continued positive changes in juvenile and family law.

Elected to fill an unexpired one-year term is **Judge Robert Jenkins**, Greenville, South Carolina. Judge Jenkins was elected to the Circuit Family Court of South Carolina in 1996, where he continues to serve and hears the full range of juvenile and family law cases. He has served on the Alcohol and Other Drugs, International, and Resource Development Committees of the NCJFCJ, and has served in many roles in his community, including advocacy and leadership roles in legal aid programs to increase access to the judicial system. As an NCJFCJ Trustee, Judge Jenkins will promote NCJFCJ membership and continue to work for the Council's vision of equal justice.

Elected to **second, three year terms** were the following Trustees: **Judge Amy Davenport**, Montpelier, Vermont; **Judge Sallyanne Floria**, Newark, New Jersey; **Judge Maxwell Griffin**, Chicago, Illinois; **Judge James Seals**, Fort Myers, Florida; **Judge Katherine Tennyson**, Portland, Oregon; and **Judge Louis Trosch**, Charlotte, North Carolina. *(For more information on the NCJFCJ Leadership and Board and a complete list of Officers and Trustees, [click here](#).)*

The General Business Meeting also highlighted presentations of appreciation to six donors who had reached **\$10,000 in giving** over time to the NCJFCJ. Past Presidents Judge Dale Koch and Judge Sue Carbon presented honors to **Judge Karen Adam** of Tucson, Arizona; **Judge Leonard Edwards** of San Jose, California; **Judge R. Michael Key** of LaGrange, Georgia; **Judge Janice Rosa** of Buffalo, New York; **Maureen (Mo) Sheeran** of Reno, Nevada; and **Judge J. Dean Lewis** of Naples, Florida. **Mr. E. Hunter Hurst, III**, former director of NCJFCJ's National Center for Juvenile Justice had also reached \$10,000 in giving prior to his passing in June. NCJJ Interim Director Melissa Sickmund accepted the award on his behalf and will present the award to Hunter's family. *([Click here](#) for information on becoming a founding member of our Diamond Jubilee multi-year giving circle.)*

An additional highlight of the Installation Banquet was the annual presentation of the President's Award. **Judge Patricia Martin presented the President's Award "... to someone who not only helped her as President, but helped the entire organization..." Chief Executive Officer Mari Kay Bickett**. Mari Kay became NCJFCJ CEO in April 2011, and has worked closely with the Executive Committee and

Board of Trustees to strengthen the organizational infrastructure, grow membership, diversify funding, and improve communications and the ability for the NCJFCJ to serve as a national “voice” in Washington, DC on issues important to our membership.