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April 18, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming 90th Annual Federal Court Clerks Association (FCCA) Training and Education Conference. This year's conference will be held July 30th through August 2nd in the Center City District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The FCCA Board of Directors and the Education Committee have worked diligently to create an agenda full of interesting and informative educational sessions. Registration for the upcoming conference will open next week and the agenda will be posted just prior to registration opening. I would like to provide you with a preview of some of the conference highlights.

On Tuesday morning, July 31st, the formal opening session will include a welcome message from Chief Judge Lawrence F. Stengel and Clerk of Court Kate Barkman of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The keynote speaker on Tuesday will be [Mr. Gian Paul Gonzalez](#). Mr. Gonzalez's "ALL IN" rally cry message served as the inspiration for the New York Giants in their 2011 Super Bowl run. His message to FCCA members will focus on the importance of employees being "ALL IN" with regard to the decisions they face on a daily basis.

We will offer many breakout sessions during this conference. Examples of some of the topics include conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, introduction to SharePoint, and NextGen readiness. We will also offer peer to peer breakout sessions, which proved to be very popular during last year's conference. The educational sessions will be led by local court trainers, as well as Federal Judicial Center trainers and staff from the Administrative Office. In addition to the standard breakout sessions, we will again offer supplemental courses for clerks and chief deputies that are intended to focus on topics specific to court unit executives.

This year, we will be joined by members of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, including Judge Theodore A. McKee and Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo. Judges McKee and Restrepo have agreed to lead a panel discussion regarding the [Supervision to Aid Reentry \(STAR\) Program](#), also known as reentry court. The goal of the STAR program is to ensure the offender is meeting the conditions of supervised release, increasing his or her skills and abilities to become a more productive citizen of the community, and reducing the rate of recidivism with a highly structured support system.



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The opening speaker from last year's conference, [Eric McElvenney](#), has agreed to return this year to lead our Shari Afuso Memorial 5K Run/Walk on Wednesday morning and then serve as the keynote speaker on Thursday, August 2nd. Eric is a true example of what it means to overcome adversity in the face of unsurmountable obstacles.

There are several FCCA members in the process of earning a noncredit certificate in Judicial Administration from Michigan State University (MSU). Unfortunately, MSU has decided to discontinue the noncredit certificate program or the Master of Science in Judicial Administration degree program. Please see my [President's Message](#) on our website for recent updates on this program. However, we intend to offer two noncredit MSU courses at the Annual Conference including, [Visioning & Strategic Planning](#) and [Court and Community Communication](#).

I hope you will consider joining us and will also encourage your staff to attend. Registration will be open to all current FCCA members and the cost is \$385.00. This fee includes breakfast on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and dinner on Thursday evening. We have also scheduled an optional dinner cruise on the [Spirit of Philadelphia](#) on Tuesday evening. The Spirit of Philadelphia provides a unique combination of music, dining, and incredible views. Our private FCCA event will include transportation to/from the hotel, dinner, and admittance to the Spirit of Philadelphia.

Over the past several years, conference enrollment has sold out within days of opening registration. We have arranged for a block of rooms at the main conference hotel and, once members register for the conference, we urge all attendees to book their rooms as soon as possible. The FCCA will again accept purchase orders for the registration fee. Information regarding how to complete a purchase order will be available on our website, www.fcca.ws, along with a list of frequently asked questions.

I truly appreciate your continued support and I look forward to seeing you at the 90th Annual FCCA Training and Education Conference. If you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss the conference in more detail, please feel free to contact myself or President-Elect Karen Mitchell.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Karth
President