

Clerks Association Leadership

Officers

President Laura Hatch
President-Elect Kelly Wiggins
Past President Kimberly McKittrick
Vice President Lauren Jones
Secretary/Treas. Amy Burnham

Regional Representatives

Region 1 Pamela Pringle Region 2 Jill Hall Region 3 Laura Kosinski Region 4 Julie Dobson Region 5 Linda Moore Region 6 Shanna Henry Region 7 Darcie Dunn Region 8 Ginger Webb Region 9 Nikki King Region 10 J. Karen Allison

Inside this issue:

A Thank you to Karl Hade 1
Conference Save the Date! 2

Leadership News 3

Spotlight on Outgoing President 6,8
ICM Reward Program 4,5,7,9

News From Around the State 10-11

New Judicial Learning Center

Check out these great topics/courses in the course catalogue. <u>ilc.vacourts.gov</u>

- Dealing with difficult customers over the phone.
- Get control of e-mail and outlook
- Human Resources
- Professional Development

SAVE THE DATE

NEXT ASSOCIATION VIRTUAL MEETING

DATE: 9/28/2023 TIME: 1:30

THE DOCKET



ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT COURTS OF VIRGINIA

Thank you to Karl Hade from the Association.

June 12, 2023 clerks and deputy clerks across the state received an e-mail from the Executive Secretary, Karl Hade indicating he was authorizing a bonus.

"Thank you for your dedication and hard work over the past three years. Navigating through the COVID pandemic has been very challenging and has had a substantial impact on everyone. We have had to adapt quickly to a changing and often taxing environment, both personally and professionally. Each of you represent the front-line employees of the Judicial System. You are often a citizen's initial contact with the Judicial System and their impression of the Judicial System will likely be based on their interaction with you. In recognition of your service, including, for many of you, the challenges of the pandemic, I am authorizing a bonus for all salaried employees on staff as of May 25, 2023.... Your service is essential to the judiciary and to the people of the Commonwealth. On behalf of the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court of Virginia, I thank you for your service." - Karl Hade

This bonus was authorized in addition to the 5% raise effective July 1,2023 and 4% raise effective December 10, 2023. All were very well received and could not come at a better time. We appreciate all that you have done and continue to do to fight for our hardworking workforce. Below is a letter e-mailed to Mr. Hade in response to the additional bonus.



June 15, 2023

Karl,

On behalf of the Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia, we wish to thank you. Staff from across the state have been uplifted and encouraged by the bonus received this week.

We appreciate the time you spent discussing and considering the possibilities and impacts the bonus has on our valued staff.

The urgent timing, tiered fair breakdown based on tenure, and message all affirm that you recognize your valued employees - exactly what was needed.

We appreciate your partnership and leadership. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Humberly Mckettak

Kimberly McKittrick, President

Laura Hatch, President-Elect

Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia

Follow Up: Would you like to share thanks on behalf of your office? Address your thank you to Karl Hade and e-mail via Sharon Abernathy <u>sabernathy@vacourts.gov</u>.





Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia -

2024 Conference

Save the Date!





HILTON RICHMOND HOTEL & SPA/SHORT PUMP 12042 West Broad Street | Richmond VA 23233 | USA Hiltonrichmond.com

Helpful Conference Information:

Conference Registration Reimbursement:

You can apply for approval to utilize the \$600 per fiscal year (as funds are available) to reimburse for conference registration fees in <u>eEducation</u>. Once your supervisor approves it, it will be sent to supreme court education department for pre-approval. Additional conference registration details will be coming, visit <u>vadistrictclerks.com</u> for updates!

<u>Local Budget</u>: Clerks, be sure to verify if you have funding in your local budget for education and conferences. Local money could be used for staff membership dues, conference attendees hotel stay, mileage and meals as approved and authorized by your locality. If you do not have enough funding, consider asking for funding during the next budget cycle.

Still have questions? Reach out to your Region Representative and they will be happy to assist you! (See back page)



ICM Fellows

Making history daily.



Clerk of Court earns national recognition from Institute for Court Management

Ginger L. Webb, Clerk of Court with the Buena Vista Combined District Courts in Buena Vista, VA, has been certified as a fellow of the Institute for Court Management

(ICM) at the National Center for State Courts. ICM Fellows complete a rigorous four-step process that measures an individual's aptitude in court management, research, and executive leadership through three levels of certification. Webb joins eighteen other recent program graduates from the 52nd Class and more than 1,300 alumni who represent 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and 13 foreign countries. Since 1970, the Institute has delivered training and education to judicial branch personnel in emerging areas of court leadership and management concepts, case management, human resources management, court performance standards, and other areas deemed critical to professional development. The ICM Fellows program offers the only intensive educational program for court professionals in the U.S. For more information, visit www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/icm-fellows. Graduation was held at the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC on July 21, 2023.

About the National Center for State Courts

Headquartered in Williamsburg, VA, the National Center for State Courts is a nonprofit court organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts. National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147





Pictured far left, Fellow Ginger Webb (right) stands in front of the US Supreme Court building with her advisor, Allison Trochesset (left).

Trio picture on left, Ginger's daughter Milea, husband Steve and herself.

CONGRATULATIONS Ginger!!

(Continued next page and page 9)

(ICM Article previously published in Feb 2021 Issue pg. 8 of THE DOCKET has been updated)

Institute for Court Management (ICM)

Certified Court Executive (CCE) and Fellows Education Reward Program. ICM offers three certification programs – CCM (Certified Court Manager), CCE (Certified Court Executive) and ICM Fellows.

It is ICM's policy that participants seeking program certification from ICM complete their course of study within a 7-year timeframe for each of the following two levels of certification – Level One (CCM) and Level Two (CCE). Though courses may be taken in any order, all CCM and CCE courses must be completed in order to earn the Certified Court Executive credential. The ICM Fellows program is not part of the Licensing Agreement and is only offered directly through the NCSC. Curricula, course descriptions and class formats are explained on its website. Attendees of courses offered through the NCSC register through its website. When OES offers ICM courses through its partnership with the NCSC, they are advertised with registration made available through the Judicial Learning Center. Tuition reimbursement may be requested for classes offered through NCSC and through OES.

The ICM Program through the NCSC is the only court-specific educational program in existence. We are extremely grateful to OES for bringing a licensee program to Virginia whereby we can become certified court managers and executives. We are also extremely grateful to have a tuition reimbursement program to help offset the costs, which have been greatly reduced through the licensee program.

To every clerk, supervisor, and deputy clerk who wants to be involved in the next generation of change and impactful initiatives: please join the Association; become a part of the leadership; and, think of new and innovative ideas to make the district court system better for our current and future employees. We would love to have you join our efforts, help us create new pathways for new opportunities, and identify the disparities amongst our soon-to-be almost 1,700 colleagues. For more information about the ICM Program, please see their website. For more information on the purpose of the Association, see the last page of this publication.

(Continued on page 7)



52nd Fellows Class

Mr. James N. Bauer *Michigan* Ms. Kristi Cox *Michigan* Ms. Shannon Crabtree Ohio Mr. Jason Dudish-Poulsen, Ph.D. Illinois Ms. Wendy Hosch Pennsylvania

Ms. Crystal Lozano

Texas

Mr. Andrew Misiak Ohio Ms. Teri E. Munn Arizona Ms. Ana R. Parrack California Mr. Jarrett B. Perlow Washington, D. C. Ms. Emily B. Reed Nevada Mr. Josh Sattler Washington Ms. Dennise Suarez Florida Ms. Tiffany Totah Texas Ms. Ana Maria Veiga California Ms. Jessica Wallace Ohio Ms. Ginger L. Webb Virginia Ms. Anjanette A. Whitman Ohio



Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia Spotlight on our Outgoing President Kimberly McKittrick

The President of the Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia, Kimberly McKittrick, rotated into the Immediate Past President role when her term ended on June 30, 2023. The Association would like to thank Kim for her service as our President, and we look forward to serving with her as an important advisor to our Executive Council over the next two years. Thank you, Kim!

How long have you been Clerk in Montgomery County General District court, and what is your favorite part of being a court administrator?

I was hired as a Deputy Clerk in Montgomery County Combined Court in 1988. In 1995 the Court

split, and I was sworn in as the Clerk in Montgomery J&DR. After having my 3rd (and last) child I decided to take some time off. I returned to the GDC court several years later as a Deputy Clerk and was promoted in 2008 to Clerk.

My favorite part of being an administrator is the challenges it presents. As crazy as it sounds, I really love it! I also feel like being an administrator allows me to promote change in many areas. While I have learned you cannot force change, it's nice when you are in a position to encourage it and see things come together.

What did you do before joining the Judicial Branch?

I was a cashier/front end Manager for Harris Teeter Grocery Store. I learned quickly I HAD to come out of my shell, the public can be tough and that the bread does not go on the bottom of a grocery bag! Later, I tried my hand at Banking and held various positions there.

What has been the most rewarding part of your service to the Clerk's Association?



I have had personal and professional rewards. First, professionally I'm proud of the progress the Association has made and continues to make by expressing our needs for fair compensation. I am confident that the Association will continue its efforts to foster relationships and fight for a "living wage" and solutions to compression and retention issues.

Personally, I have been rewarded with greater self-confidence which has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and speak up. The Clerk's Association was the 1st "Group" that I joined. Since then, I have been asked to serve on several committees. Speaking up can be very intimidating when you feel that you are likely the least educated person in the room. I have learned, however, that many times there is no other person in the room that understands the work and struggles of a Clerk but ME! A very kind man came up to me after I spoke at our most recent Conference, he said "Kim, people love to hear you speak, you are so relatable, and you are just yourself". I was like shewwww, thank God because I really suck at being anyone else. Thanks to my experiences on the Association, I have many rewards!

Current District Court Employees Who Are ICM Program CCM, CCE or Fellows Graduates

| First Name | Last Name | ССМ | CCE | Fellow | Employment Title | Court |
|-------------|-----------------|-----|-----|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sherri | Allen | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Clarke J&DR |
| C. Eric | Barr | | CCE | | Deputy Clerk | Fairfax County GDC |
| Wanda | Barron | | CCE | | Chief Deputy Clerk, Supervisor | Chesterfield GDC |
| Sabrina | Baucom | | CCE | | PC Tech/Judicial Admin Asst. | Norfolk J&DR |
| Sandra | Brooks | ССМ | | | Deputy Clerk | Chesapeake GDC |
| Shea | Bruno | | CCE | | Clerk | Williamsburg/James City J&DR |
| Amy | Burnham | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Virginia Beach J&DR |
| Joan | Butt | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Norfolk J&DR |
| Bonnie | Coffey | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Chesapeake J&DR |
| Yvette | Council | | CCE | | Supervising Deputy Clerk | Norfolk J&DR |
| Kelly | Douglas Wiggins | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | New Kent JDR |
| Darcie | Dunn | | CCE | | Chief Deputy Clerk | Fairfax County GDC |
| Jill | Hall | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | King Wm/King & Queen GDC |
| Laura | Hatch | | | Fellow | Clerk of Court | Fredericksburg GDC |
| Brenda | Hunt | | CCE | | Chief Supervising Deputy Clerk | Roanoke City GDC |
| Selina | Irving | ССМ | | | Supervising Deputy Clerk | Henrico GDC |
| Donna | Israel Hale | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Russell CMB |
| Sherri | Jones | ССМ | | | Clerk of Court | Charlotte J&DR |
| Rick | Kahl | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Roanoke City GDC |
| Amanda | Knighting | CCM | | | Clerk of Court | Staunton GDC |
| Amy | Leftwich | CCM | | | Clerk of Court | Lynchburg GDC |
| Laura | Litz | | CCE | | Deputy Clerk | Fairfax County GDC |
| Kim | Mattia | ССМ | | | Court Operations Admin. | Chesterfield GDC |
| Deanna | McKinnon | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Gloucester/Mathews/Middlesex J&DR |
| Shannon | Meadowcroft | | CCE | | Clerk | Henrico County JDR |
| Linda | Moore | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Chesterfield GDC |
| Bonnie | Camp | ССМ | | | Clerk of Court | Stafford GDC |
| Ashley | Schley | | CCE | | Clerk | Bedford GDC |
| Colleen | Skelly | | CCE | | Deputy Clerk | Gloucester/Mathews/Middlesex J & DR |
| Anna | Smythers-Stitt | | CCE | | Deputy Clerk | Pulaski GDC |
| Jessica | Spade | | CCE | | Supervising Deputy Clerk | Fairfax County GDC |
| Mary | Trimble | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Charlottesville GDC |
| Kathryn | Turner | CCM | | | Clerk of Court | Alexandria J&DR |
| Ginger | Webb | | | Fellow | Clerk of Court | Buena Vista CMB |
| Margienette | Whitfield | | 20- | Fellow | Clerk of Court | York/Poquoson J&DR |
| Charlene | Weed (Colomon) | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Mecklenburg J&DR |
| Veresia | Wood (Coleman) | | CCE | | Clerk of Court | Halifax GDC |

VA state clerks that are ICM Fellows Graduates (Listed in bold - current VA State Positions)

| Mrs. Laura Griffin, Chief Deputy Clerk U.S. Eastern District Court of Virginia (formerly Clerk of Chesterfield Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court) | Graduation Year: 2019 |
|--|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Laura Hatch Clerk of Fredericksburg General District Court | Graduation Year: 2018 |
| Mr. J. Kennedy , Jr., Esquire Clerk of Wise Circuit Court | Graduation Year: 1999 |
| Ms. Ginger Webb Clerk of Buena Vista Combined Court | Graduation Year: 2023 |
| Ms. Margienette Whitfield Clerk of York Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court | Graduation Year: 2022 |

CONGRATULATIONS Graduates!



Kim McKittrick and Rick Kahl at the 2023 Clerk's Association Annual Spring Conference in Roanoke.

Looking for a gift for your staff? A treat for yourself? Check out Clerk's Association merchandise on our website www.vadistrictclerks.com. Checks and credit cards accepted for all orders placed. Have ideas for merchandise you would like? E-mail Shanna Henry at shenry@vacourts.gov.

Why would you urge a district court employee to serve in the Association?

Why not? The Association is "yours". Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone, it can be so freeing! We all have talents, find yours. Serving does not have to be consuming, do what you can do, every little bit helps. The bonus is, you will meet so many great people along the way!

What would you like the Association's legacy to be?

One of Empowerment. A group that were experts at getting things done! An Association that gathered their talented people from all over the State of Virginia and gave them a "voice". A powerful voice, a respected voice, a positive voice! All with the common goal of making the judicial system better for those they employ and for those that we serve.

If you were a legislator for a day, what would you "fix" about the judicial system?

This one is easy! I would set up a time to meet with the members of the Clerks Association. What better group to partner up with to get an honest assessment of what is needed or what needs changed in the Courts?

What is one piece of advice you would offer to every new court employee?

Don't be too hard on yourself. Be patient, there is going to be a lot to learn in the judicial system and it is everchanging. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Many, many questions. This work and the people you work with can be intimidating. The most successful people that I have come across are those that humble themselves and admit when they don't know something.

When do you think you'll know it's time to retire, and how do you plan on spending it?

I will retire when the job is no longer fun or becomes too challenging for me. My dream is to leave this place better than I found it, ride off in my convertible to a sandy destination with NO SCHEDULED RETURN DATE! I promise I will stop at every single interesting thrift shop along the way and return home (eventually) with lots of JUNK IN MY TRUNK! I OCCASIONALLY may take my family along for the ride. Just kidding, I love my family and I'm sure we will be spending much more quality time together.

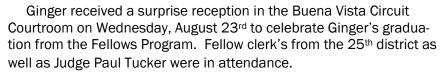
IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO SERVE AS YOUR PRESIDENT.

I WISH THE CLERK'S ASSOCIATION MUCH SUCCESS FOR

YEARS AND YEARS TO COME!

Clerks from the 25th Judicial District gather to congratulate Ginger Webb for her accomplishment





We are all very proud of Ginger's accomplishment.







Campbell County JDR Court

Campbell County JDR Court shares the following news. **Carrie Tomlinson**, Deputy Clerk just welcomed her first grandchild, Jesse born 4/18/23. *Congratulations!*

Colonial Heights JDR Court

Colonial Heights JDR shares its congratulations to Jessica Lindsey on 10 years of service.

Congratulations!

Danville GD Court

Julie Carlisle, Clerk of the Danville General District Court, was awarded the 2023 Liberty Bell Award from the Danville Bar Association on Law Day, May 1, 2023. The Liberty Bell Award is presented annually to a non-lawyer citizen in recognition of lifelong service to the judiciary and legal profession. This award acknowledges the critical contributions such person makes toward the pursuit of justice by maintaining judicial efficiency and ensuring access to justice for all.



This award was given to Mrs. Carlisle at a perfect time as she will celebrate her retirement from the court system, August 31, 2023. The staff of the Danville General District Court thanks Mrs. Carlisle for her many years of service and dedication.

Congratulations on your achievement!

<u>Fredericksburg GD Court</u>The Fredericksburg General District Court welcomes 2 new hires **Lori Sissy Bennett** 9/10/23 and **Barbara VanSchoor** 9/25/23.

Stephanie Lussier welcomed into the world her first grandchild, Adalynn born June 2. Happy Birthday little one! *Welcome and Congratulations Stephanie!*

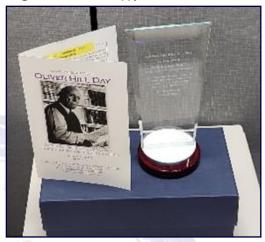
New Kent JDR Court

New Kent JDR welcomes **Mackenzie** as our new deputy clerk. She has no court experience, but is already picking up quickly on entering casework and court processes. She is amazing! *Welcome!*

Richmond JDR Court

Welcome to the Richmond J&DR Team, and Happy Retirements, Congratulations to the Richmond J&DR office for winning the "Unsung Hero" to my staff (pictured next page).

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to:



Robin Mercer 42 years of service.



Congratulations Ann Slusser for 40 years of service- (Above)

Welcome to Richmond J&DR:

Ndea Williams-Post Court

Carmen Bradshaw-Pre-Court

Aaliyah Cole-Pre-Court

Diamond Thompson-Post Court

N'Kaia Cobbs-Post Court

Branson Williams-Customer Service

Tabia Blair-Post Court

Ashley Perkins-Pre-Court



Congratulations to the Richmond J&DR Clerk's Office for receiving the "Unsung Hero".



Angela Cutright—Lead Post Court Clerk

Ke'Vonia Cousins-Accounting Assistant

Tiara Hunt-Post Court

Casey Novelle-Brister-Judges Administrative Assistant

Valentina Arriage Rangel-Court Interpreter

Tazewell J &DR Court

Clerk **Karen Allison** wanted to share the baby reveal news-my 2nd Grandbaby- It's a boy!

Update from Region 10:

The Clerk's Association Conference was attended well by Region 10 and we enjoyed the conference and of course Donna Israel loved the Region 10 basket that she won.

(Pictured bottom left)

Wythe County JDR Court

Wythe County JDR Court is pleased to welcome:

Mrs. **Domonique Mabe** to our team! Domonique is married and has two small daughters. She comes to us from Virginia Tech. She started her career with us on April 10, 2023. Karen L. Akers, Clerk states "We are very pleased to have her!" Welcome!

York County/City of Poquoson JDR Court

York County/City of Poquoson Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Welcomes The Honorable Richard G. Collins, Judge

Margienette Whitfield celebrated 17 years as the Clerk of Court on May 1. (York-Poquoson JDR Court) On July 8, she will be celebrating 27 years with the Judicial System. (3)

Congratulations to **Sharene McClenney** she will be celebrating 1 year as Deputy Clerk. She has worked as a wage employee for several years. Welcome and congratulations!



Have News or Ideas you would like to share?! We would love to hear all about it. Don't miss out on the next issue! E-mail lhatch@vacourts.gov



Thank you to our Association volunteers!



Clerks' Association Mission

◆ To foster a closer relationship among the district courts of Virginia

 To improve proficiency and professionalism of court personnel

- ◆ To promote uniformity of procedure
- ◆ To recommend improved techniques and procedures to more efficiently perform the duties of the Clerk's Office
- ◆ To provide educational and training opportunities for all district court employees
 - To foster cooperation and understanding between court personnel, judges, the legal community, and others involved with or interested in courts.

Serving Virginia's District Courts since 1962.

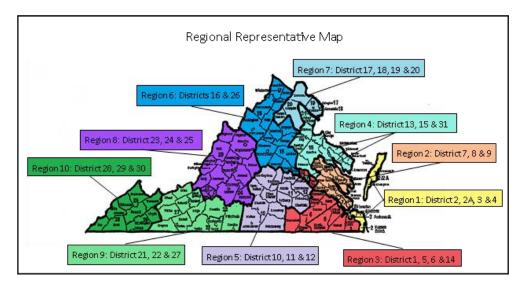
Committee Chairs

Budget & Finance
CATS Manual
Historian
Legislative
Membership
Mentorship
Nominating
Parliamentarian
Programs
Publications
Resolutions
Special Issues
Technology

Ways & Means

Amy Burnham
Laura Hatch
Heather Stevens
Pamela Jarvis & Cecelia Garner
Kelly Wiggins
Laura Hatch
Kimberly McKittrick
Christina Davis
Lauren Jones & Lindsey Short
Laura Hatch
Vickie King
Amy Burnham
Laura Hatch & Nikki King

Shanna Henry



Regional Representatives

| Region 1 | Pamela Pringle |
|-----------|------------------|
| Region 2 | Jill Hall |
| Region 3 | Laura Kosinski |
| Region 4 | Julie Dobson |
| Region 5 | Linda Moore |
| Region 6 | Shanna Henry |
| Region 7 | Darcie Dunn |
| Region 8 | Ginger Webb |
| Region 9 | Nikki King |
| Region 10 | J. Karen Allison |
| | |



For News and Current Events, please see our website. If you have interest in joining any of our committees, please contact your Regional Representative! Our organization is entirely volunteer-led and requires the participation of any district court employee! Please consider lending your time to your Association!



Please visit our webpage at www.vadistrictclerks.com