

MACA REPORTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

VOLUME XVIII

SPRING 1994

NEW COURT CLERK'S TRAINING

The New Clerks Training was held on September 17, 1993, at the Jefferson City Police Department with 65 clerks attending. We also had Judge Polly Shelton, President of the Judges Association in attendance. A Police Chief from Lone Jack and a Lieutenant from Branson West also attended.

Board members evaluated the program upon completion and only had a few minor suggestions.

Program was a success -- probably needs to be a longer day.

Need to include a Judge and Prosecutor for the day.

Panel discussion by clerks who have held position for a period of time.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Wouldn't it be an accomplishment to have all Court Clerks Certified?

It's possible, and that is MACA's goal for all clerks to attend a minimum number of training hours each year to keep certified by law.

The Judges have done it; maybe the Municipal Clerks will be next.



1993 - 1995 MACA OFFICERS

President

Lisa Thomson, Jennings

President Elect

Nancy Morr, Chesterfield

Vice President

Jammy Brandes, Boonville

Secretary

Anna Davis, Florissant

Treasurer

Lisa Westfall, Branson

Past President

Mary Ann McGrail,
Jefferson City

Senior Advisor

Donna Johnson, Overland

Directors:

Region I

Nicole Martin

St. Louis County Circuit

Region II

Rita Bovinett, Dellwood*

Region III

Shara Meyer, Columbia

Region IV

Bonnie Smith, Desloge

Region V

Helen Eidson, Osage Beach

Director at Large

Jenea Stafford,
Cape Girardeau

Historian

Ginny Young, Retired

* Patti Fogal was elected but resigned in June; Rita was appointed to fill the vacancy.

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Call to Conference

Enclosed in this packet is a copy of the Call to Conference from Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Ann Covington.

This information should be shared with your City officials.

Chief Justice Covington is on the Annual conference program for Friday, May 27. This session will be attended by the Judges and the Clerks.

Important Note for All

This year there is a tourism tax that will be added to your room charge. NO ONE IS EXEMPT FROM THIS 3% PER NIGHT TAX.

Take the next step! Join the more than 2,000 NACM members in professional membership.

For further membership information, contact:

National Association for Court Management
c/o National Center for State Courts
Box 8798
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798
Phone: 804-253-2000



Look Back

For the new members of MACA, this is a moment to look back.

Our first conference was held in 1986 with a total of 86 members in attendance. In 1993, 185 members attended. Each year we have added more members. Let's keep those numbers increasing.

Volleyball!

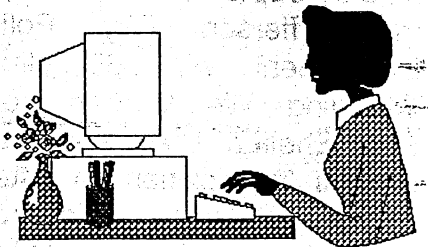
Your help is needed on May 26 to ensure our team wins the volleyball trophy!

TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) invites you to join other court management professionals (from all levels and types of courts) to increase your proficiency and improve the administration of justice.

Regular membership is open to anyone serving in a court management, consulting, educational or research capacity. Dues are \$75 per year. Additional membership classes include associate (dues \$35); student, retired, and sustaining.

Membership benefits include a quarterly journal and newsletter, The Court Manager and Forum Conveniens, reduced NACM and ICM conference and seminar fees and networking and information exchange.



From the Editor's Desk

This is your newsletter!

Send your comments, ideas or articles to:

Rita Bovinett, Editor
MACA Reporter
1415 Chambers Road
Dellwood, MO 63135
(314) 521-4352

* * * * *

Merit Award

Put on your thinking cap! It's time to start thinking about who, in your opinion, should receive a Merit Award. The criteria for this award is as follows:

The individual, either outside or inside, in court administration must demonstrate leadership and excellence in the advancement of the ideals and principals of modern judicial management and professional court administration embodied in the purposes of MACA.

If you desire to submit a nomination, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Awards Committee before March xx, 1994.



The Good Old Days to All Persons Born Before 1950

(You "Kids" Can Read , Too)

We are survivors! I consider the changes that we have witnessed.

We were born before television sets were on the market; before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees, and the Pill.

We were before credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers,

clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes -- and before man walked on the moon.

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were not Volkswagens. We were before daycare centers, group therapy, and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness -- not computers, not condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 Cent stores, where you could actually buy something for five or ten cents. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps for one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00, but who could afford one? A pity, too, since gas was eleven cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, GRASS was cut, COKE a cold drink, and POT was something you cooked in.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

But we survived.

Submitted by Andrea Holland,
Sullivan, MO



Fun for All

This year's Social Committee is planning a fun filled evening at our Annual May Conference. The MACA's hospitality room will be Thursday, May 26, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

The theme will be Mardi Gras. We will be giving out wild hats and beaded necklaces, so start planning your costume now!

In addition to the normal activities, we are adding games. There will be prizes awarded and fun for all! It is the goal of the Social Committee to expand the events to get all involved. So for those of you who usually pass up the social hour, drop by to see what we have up our sleeves!!

If anyone would like to help, call:

Lisa Westfall 417 -335-4578
Rita Lay 314-962-6264.

We will see you at
Mardi Gras!!!!

AWARD OF MERIT

This award includes that the individual, either outside or inside the court administration, must demonstrate leadership and excellence in the advancement of the ideals and principles of modern judicial management and professional court administration embodied in the purposes of the Association.

If you know of someone that meets the criteria above, please fill out the Nomination Application and send it to:

Anna L. Davis
Awards Chairperson
Florissant Municipal Court
955 St. Francois
Florissant, MO 63031

OR

Kathy Davidson
Co-Chairperson
Springfield Circuit Court
Probation Division
940 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

JOB TITLE _____

MAILING ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE IN COURT ADMINISTRATION _____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHY THIS PERSON DEMONSTRATES LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN MODERN JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT AND COURT ADMINISTRATION:

LIST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND/OR PROJECTS _____

NOMINATED BY: _____ DATE SUBMITTED _____



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

FOR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Policy has been adopted by the Board to allocate funds, if available, for one (1) active member of the Missouri Association for Court Administration, (M.A.C.A.), to attend the National Association for Court Management, (N.A.C.M.), Conference each year. The funds will consist of paying the registration fee and one-half of the five (5) nights lodging, both not to exceed \$ 500.00. The remainder of funds needed to attend are to be provided by the applicant's City/Employer or by the applicant.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicant must be a courtclerk/administrator for five (5) or more years.
2. Applicant must be an active member of M.A.C.A. for three (3) or more years.
3. Applicant must have served on at least one (1) committee for the M.A.C.A. Conference and be documented.
4. Applicant must have a Certification Application on file with M.A.C.A. to show an earnest desire to continue their education.

PROCEDURE:

The following procedures are to be followed to apply for the above assistance.

1. Request must be in writing by March 31, 1994. addressed to the M.A.C.A. Board the reason the applicant should be considered for this program.
2. Application form must be filled out completely.
3. Applicant must attend all sessions of the Conference.
4. A written expense record, with receipts, is to be submitted upon return.
5. A written report on all NACM conference sessions is to be submitted to the MACA Board, within one month after the Conference.



APPLICATION FOR
NATIONAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAME _____ DATE _____

COURT _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE () _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

HOME PHONE () _____

COURT CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR FOR _____ YEARS.

MEMBERS OF M.A.C.A. SINCE _____.

SERVED ON _____ COMMITTEE, 19 _____.

SIGNATURE

COMMITTEE DOCUMENTED BY _____

APPROVED BY _____

DATE APPROVED _____

REMARKS: _____

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Quality Management in the Courts in the 1990s

MARCH 13-16, 1994

MARRIOTT PAVILION HOTEL ONE BROADWAY ST. LOUIS, MO 63102 (314) 421-1776

PARTIALLY FUNDED BY



NACM ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CONFERENCE ♦ MARCH 13-16, 1994
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CARD

NAME _____ TITLE _____
COURT/COMPANY _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

Name to appear on name tag if different than above

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NACM Member | \$125 Registration Fee Enclosed | \$ _____ |
| | \$150 (if postmarked after 3/1/94) | \$ _____ |
| | \$60 Daily Fee for Attendance on (day) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-NACM Member | \$150 Registration Fee Enclosed | \$ _____ |
| | \$175 (if postmarked after 3/1/94) | \$ _____ |
| | \$75 Daily Fee for Attendance on (day) | \$ _____ |
| | Total Enclosed | \$ _____ |

Please make check payable to National Center for State Courts (Federal ID No. 52-0914250)

I plan to attend: Sunday Reception Yes _____ No _____
Monday Lunch Yes _____ No _____

Who Should Attend:

Judges, Court Administrators, Managers and Other Court Staff. Justice System Personnel and Personnel from Related Agencies and Organizations.

Conference Hotel:

Marriott Pavilion Downtown One Broadway St. Louis, Missouri (314) 421-1776

Reservations:

Call the Marriott prior to March 1, 1994

Room Rate:

\$74.00 plus tax (13.5%) for single or double room

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

6:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Registration

6:15 - 6:15 p.m.
Welcome
Keynote Address, *John Hudzik*

6:15 - 7:15 p.m.
Reception (Cash bar)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Registration

8:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Quality Management in the Courts,
John Hudzik

10:00 - 12:00 noon
Choose from eight concurrent sessions

- Jury Management
- Managing Cases in General Jurisdiction Courts
- Court Security Management
- Managing Trials
- Public Information and Press Relations
- Managing Budgets for Quality
- Municipal Traffic and DUI Violations Cases
- Forming and Maintaining Strategic Alliances

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Choose from Monday morning's eight concurrent sessions

3:15 - 4:30 p.m.
Choose from two concurrent sessions

- Managing High Profile Trials
- Reengineering Your Court

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Vendor Exhibition

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Reception in Vendor Area

Tuesday, March 15

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Vendor Exhibition

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.
Opening Remarks

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
Transformational Leadership, A Three-Act Play--Act One: Recognizing the Need for Change, *Dale Lefever*

10:30 - 12:00 noon
Choose from eight concurrent sessions

- Facilities Planning from the ADA's Perspective
- Managing Cultural Diversity
- Courts and the Public
- Use and Management of Interpreters
- Pro Se Litigants
- Technology Update
- ADA: Recognizing Persons with Disabilities
- Fines Collection and Enforcement

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch on own

1:30 - 2:15 p.m.
Transformational Leadership, A Three-Act Play--Act Two: Creating the New Vision, *Dale Lefever*

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Choose from Tuesday morning's eight concurrent sessions

4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Transformational Leadership, A Three-Act Play--Act Three: Institutionalizing the Change, *Dale Lefever*

Wednesday, March 16

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Managing and Developing Human Resources: The Manager's Role and Responsibility, *Terry Curry*

9:45 - 11:15 a.m.
Choose from four concurrent sessions

- Moving from Performance Evaluation to Performance Development
- Running a Training Program on a Shoestring
- Education for Development
- Professional Growth and Development

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Motivating Court Workers to Identify with the Successful Delivery of Court Services for Quality Management, *Terry Curry*

12:30 p.m.
Closing

The Missouri Bar Association has approved this program for CLE accreditation (17.4 total credit hours).

**1994 CONFERENCE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS****Monday, May 23**

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Registration in Lobby

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Reception, Bar-B-Que on Outside Patio by the Lake

Tuesday, May 24

7:30 am

Coffee in Lobby (before buses leave for Jefferson City)

12:45 pm

Lunch at Nick's in Jefferson City

Dinner on your own

Buses will return to Lodge at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 25

7:00 - 8:00 am

Continental Breakfast in Marbella

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Lunch in the Toledo Room

Dinner on your own

Judges Social

Time and Location to be announced

Thursday, May 25

Breakfast on your own

12:00 noon - 1:15 pm

Lunch sponsored by Missouri Division of Highway Safety in Granada Rooms

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Volleyball Tournament on the Beach

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Clerks and Judges Reception in Escallo

Dinner on your own

8:00 - Midnight

MACA Hospitality Room in LaSalita

Friday, May 27

Breakfast on your own

MACA BUSINESS CARDS
ORDER FORM

DUE DATE: MARCH 15, 1994

RETURN TO: SHEA (JENEA) STAFFORD
CAPE GIRARDEAU MUNICIPAL COURT
401 INDEPENDENCE
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO 63701

COST: \$8.00 per box of 500 cards
(enclose your \$8.00 for each box with this order)

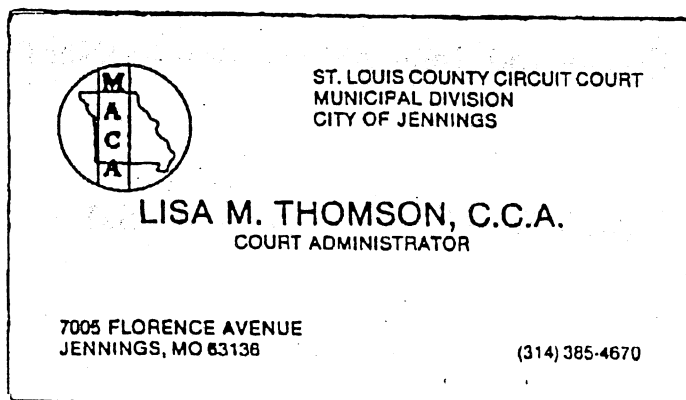
RECEIVING DATE: The cards will be available for your pick-up at the
May Conference. If the cards are not picked up,
they will be mailed to you COD for postage due.

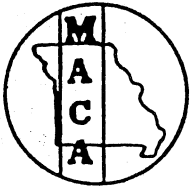
ORDER: NUMBER OF BOXES FOR NAME LISTED BELOW _____ X \$8.00 =
\$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

PLEASE **** TYPE **** THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR
ON YOUR BUSINESS CARD. THE CARDS WILL BE PRINTED ON A LINEN FINISHED
PAPER WITH BLUE INK AND THE MACA LOGO. IF YOU ARE REQUESTING A BUSINESS
CARD FOR EACH EMPLOYEE IN YOUR DEPARTMENT, SIMPLY COPY THIS FORM FOR EACH
EMPLOYEE'S INFORMATION.

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| MACA LOGO | _____ (court info) |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ (name) |
| | _____ (title) |
| | _____ (address info) |
| | _____ (phone#) |
| | _____ (fax#) |

SAMPLE:





MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Court _____ County _____

Job Title _____

I am a member in good standing of MACA _____
I have been a regular member of MACA since _____
I have been an active member of NACM since _____

I am declaring my candidacy for the following position(s):

_____ Director, II _____ Director, IV
_____ Director at large

The Nominations Committee will interview all candidates on
Monday, May 23, 1994, at 3:30 P. M. at the Lodge of the Four
Seasons in Lake Ozark, which is preceding the Annual Court
Conference.

(Please complete the reverse side)

Page Two

Briefly state your court-affiliated duties, experiences, and qualifications for serving on the Board of Directors. (Attach separate sheet if necessary).

State why you would like to serve on the MACA Board of Directors. (Attach separate sheet if necessary).

YES NO

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | I will attend the Annual Court Conference at the Lodge of Four Seasons, May 23rd - May 27th, 1994 |
| ___ | ___ | I will be available for an interview on Monday, 23rd, 1994 at 3:30 P. M. |
| ___ | ___ | I will be able to attend all MACA Board Meetings (5) or any special meetings that may be called. |
| ___ | ___ | I will be willing to serve on or chair committees when asked. |
| ___ | ___ | Have you served previously on any committees? If so, which committee(s) and what was your function on each? (Attach separate sheet if necessary). |

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Please complete and mail to :

MACA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
MARY ANN MCGRAIL
MUNICIPAL COURT
320 E. MCCARTY
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

①

BY-LAW'S COMMITTEE REPORT
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendment No. 1

Replace the word "Chairman" with the word "Chairperson" throughout the entire document.

Amendment No. 2

Eliminate the word "Representative" and use the word "Director" in its place throughout the entire document.

Amendment No. 3

Replace Article II (Purpose) with the following:

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the art and science of Court Administration through:

1. Promoting and developing the Association as an agency for the professional benefit of Court Administrators and/or other officials or persons with the same or similar powers and duties.
2. Promoting a better understanding by the Court Administrator of his/her official duties, obligations and responsibilities.
3. Establishing and improving methods and procedures in record keeping in the field of Court Administration.
4. Promoting mutual cooperation and assistance between members and non-member Court Administrators.
5. Urging Association members to be active participants in the Association and performing services which may best meet the interest and needs of the Association as well as the public we serve as Court personnel.

Amendment No. 4

In Article III (Membership) under section number one, to change the word from "Regular" member to "Active" member.

Amendment No. 5

In Article IV (Officers) under section number three, President, change to read as follows:

②

President:

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at annual or special meetings of the Association and of meetings of the Board of Directors; to appoint committees as set forth in Article VII; and to carry out the purpose of the Association. The President shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees, except the nominating committee. The President shall propose goals for the Association for his/her term of office and render an annual written report each year and at the conclusion of his/her term of office, to be included in the minutes.

Amendment No. 6

In Article IV (Officers) under section number six, Secretary, add the following to the end of this section.

"Shall send minutes, or a synopsis of minutes, of the last Board Meeting held before the annual meeting to all members of the Association prior to the annual meeting. This may be included in the MACA Reporter."

Amendment No. 7

In Article IV (Officers) under section number seven, Treasurer, eliminate the following sentence:

"He/she shall submit a report to the members at each regular meeting designating to whom, date and purpose of expenditures, and to the Executive Board an annual financial report."

Replace the above sentence with the following:

"He/she shall submit a detailed report to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting designating to whom, date and purpose of expenditures and to the Executive Board an annual financial report. This may be included in the MACA Reporter."

Amendment No. 8

In Article IV (Officers) under section number seven, Treasurer, eliminate the following sentences:

"All checks shall have the signature of the Treasurer and the President and on the unavailability of the President, the President-Elect. No check shall be written for more than \$150.00 without approval of the majority of the Executive Board."

Replace the above sentences with the following:

"All checks shall have the signature of the Treasurer and/or the President, in the absence of the Treasurer. No check shall be written for more than \$250.00 without approval of the majority of the Executive Board."

Amendment No. 9

In Article V (Executive Board) under section number two, Number, eliminate the first paragraph and replace with the following:

The Executive Board shall consist of six Officers, at least six Directors and all Past-Presidents; excluding the current Past-President. The Board will be constituted as follows:"

Amendment No. 10

In Article V (Executive Board) under section number two, Number, sub-section B, eliminate the sub-section and replace with the following:

At least six Directors and no more than ten Directors (as defined as one from each Region, which are established by the Executive Board). The Directors will run for office by Region for one year. Odd number Region Directors will run for office in odd number years, even number Region Directors will run for office in even number years."

Amendment No. 11

In Article VI (Meetings) under section number 2, Order of Business, eliminate the entire section and replace with the following:

The Order of Business shall be as follows;

1. Roll Call
2. Program Presentation
3. Approval of Minutes from last Board Meeting
4. Financial Report
5. Unfinished Business
6. Committee Reports
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

At the Approval of Minutes, the minutes of the last board meeting shall be presented to the members for approval at the annual meeting. Providing that copies of the minutes to be approved were made to the membership at least ten days prior to the annual meeting, the minutes may be presented to the membership without reading; however, if they are not provided to the members, the minutes shall be read in full prior to the vote to accept.

Except when otherwise provided for in the By-Laws, all voting of the Association, except for elections of Officers and Directors, shall be via voice. Voting for Officers and Directors shall be by ballot voting. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary for a decision.

Amendment No. 12

In Article VII (Committees) under section B, sub-section number two, Nominations, eliminate the following sentence:

"They shall prepare a slate of officers to be submitted in writing to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting."

Replace with the following sentence:

"They shall prepare the ballot to include all the declarations of candidacy that were submitted in the order that they were received. This ballot will then be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. After the closing date on the declarations, ballots will be final and no other nominations shall be accepted."

Amendment No. 13

In Article VII (Committees) add section nine as follows:

9. Audit Committee. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to conduct an annual audit of the books of the Association and present a report at the annual meeting to the membership. This committee shall consist of the Treasurer and one other Board Member (who shall act as chairperson) and up to four active members of the Association. This committee may seek outside professional help for this audit.

Amendment No. 14

In Article VIII (Finances) under section one, fiscal year, eliminate this section and replace with the following:

"The fiscal year of this Association shall be from January 1st through December 31st."

Amendment No. 15

In Article VIII (Finances) under section three, Payment, eliminate the last four words of this section, "or transferring of dues."

Amendment No. 16

In Article IX (Amendments) under section A, replace the two-thirds vote to a majority vote.

Amendment No. 17

In Article X (Effective Date), replace the phrase "two-thirds" with the word "majority."



Supreme Court of Missouri
Jefferson City

65101

CHAMBERS OF

ANN K. COVINGTON, JUDGE

(314) 751-3570

GENERAL CALL TO CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, this Court deems it important to the administration of justice for judges of courts having original jurisdiction of ordinance violations and statutory and ordinance traffic violations to meet to consider Supreme Court rules and case decisions to improve procedures in the courts, and to exchange ideas with respect to the administration of justice and of the courts, and

WHEREAS, this Court has adopted Rule 18, making it mandatory for lawyer judges and nonlawyer judges to complete certain hours of judicial education on an annual basis, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges' Association, in cooperation with the Missouri Division of Highway Safety, will conduct a Missouri Courts Conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, Missouri, on May 25, 26, and 27, 1994, and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Association for Court Administration will conduct its annual conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons between May 23 and May 27, 1994;

NOW THEREFORE, I do support the work of said organizations and encourage the attendance of all judges and court administrators of those courts having original jurisdiction of ordinance violations and statutory and ordinance traffic violations to attend such conference.


ANN K. COVINGTON
Chief Justice

Unhappy Letter to the Editor (published in the November 1993 issue of *Legal Eagle*)

Ms. Helen Eidson, CCA, Court Administrator of Osage Beach Municipal Court, writes the following:

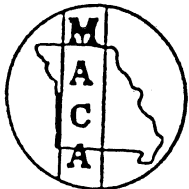
"I am a Director on the board for the Missouri Association for Court Administration for the State of Missouri and I am writing to you with my concerns on your article in the *Legal Eagle*, which I understand you publish.

The article is named, 'Thirty-Fifth Judicial Circuit/Municipal Divisions Audit Released.' Although I am a Municipal Court Administrator/Clerk in the 26th Judicial Circuit, I believe I speak for all honest court personnel in the state.

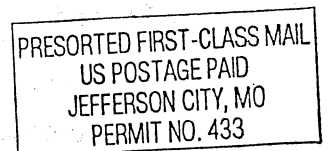
The article and other state auditor's reports make us all look like a bunch of "crooks," and I take offense to that. It is really hard to have the kind of safety and auditing controls that the auditors feel you should when most of the Municipal Courts in the state are a one-person office. I personally utilize the City Treasurer to help me with checks and balances, but that is still not sufficient enough according to the auditors.

I am really tired of negative articles that leave the doubt in people's minds as to court personnel's honesty. I try very hard to make our court a very professional and dignified court and our audit was fine. Of course, I believe the auditor's office does not believe they are doing their jobs unless they find negative results to all court audits; I don't know, maybe they aren't supposed to tell you when you are doing a good job. I realize they did find courts that had some funds taken, but what about the rest of us?"

I have considerable sympathy for the opinion expressed by Ms. Eidson. A large majority (I think well of 99%) of public servants are honest, hard working people. Our suspicion of those who serve usually isn't justified. Today's mail brought two additional audits of municipal courts (the City of Marston, and the cities of the 7th Judicial Circuit). As our correspondent makes clear, a negative audit report can be painful. The best way to avoid such criticism is to anticipate it, and make the needed corrections (if that is possible) before the auditor comes.



Missouri Association for Court Administration
City of Jefferson
320 East McCarty
Jefferson City, MO 65101



Lisa K Westfall
Court Administrator
P.O. Box 1309
Branson, MO 65616