



MACA REPORTER

A Publication of the Missouri Association For Court Administration

VOLUME 46

FALL 2000

2000-2001 MACA OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, I have just learned that Governor Carnahan has been killed in a plane crash. I was privileged to meet Governor Carnahan on a couple of occasions and found him to be a very caring person. I am saddened by his death. It makes me think how fast the circumstances of our lives can change. In our fast paced lives we need to stop and look at the beauty around us and be thankful for family and friends.

I recently received a couple of items in the mail. A copy of the Municipal Court Clerk Handbook was sent out by the Office of State Courts Administrator. The handbook has been completely updated including all Supreme Court rule changes. The handbook is a valuable resource of information. If your court did not receive a copy, please contact Kim Boatright at OSCA. Her phone number is 573-751-4377. The Department of Revenue, Drivers License Bureau, sent a video training tape and manual. They were able to do this tape from money received from a grant. If your court needs a copy, contact Barbara Schaller at 573-526-3656.

Sherri Paschal, Court Services Coordinator, for the Office of State Courts Administrator called in September to let me know that Kim Boatright was a new court specialist and that her only duties would be working with municipal courts. Kim previously worked with the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. Kim was able to attend the professional development seminars that MACA did in September in Columbia. She and Sherri did a presentation on The Judicial Branch of Government.

We are still getting inquiries about new legislation training. There was no new legislation passed this year that requires any procedural changes to the operation of the courts. The decision was made not to have fall training specifically for legislative updates since there were none. There were thirty-five municipal court clerks that did attend the Court Clerk College sponsored by the Court Clerk Education Committee and held in early October in Jefferson City. I have only heard good comments on the programming.

The Board met on Saturday, October 14th. We finalized the budget for 2001 among other things. The Board decided to have a session on "Visioning—Long Range Planning for Education". The idea is to formulate a strategic plan in which specific goals and programming are set out along with a time table for meeting those goals. If you have any ideas you want to contribute, please contact me. If you want to attend the planning session, it will be on Friday, January 21, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room (above the Burger King).

I want to congratulate the nine new certified court administrators on their accomplishment. Good job!!!!

Enjoy the beautiful fall and the holidays that are fast approaching. Remember now is the time to be thankful for family and friends.

Until next time —

Jammy

Submit articles to:

Lisa Westfall
Court Administrator
110 W. Maddux, Suite 205
Branson, MO 65616

fax: 417-335-4354

NACM UPDATE

by Lawrence G. Myers

The Fall Board Meeting of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) was held at the Hilton River Front Hotel in New Orleans, LA on October 7 and 8, 2000. The Board's custom is to hold its Fall Board Meeting at the site of the Annual Conference. I would say that those who are able to attend the annual conference, July 15 -19, 2001 are in for a real treat. Not only is the Hilton a beautiful hotel and in a wonderful location but the conference agenda is full of learning opportunities. **Mark your calendar and plan to attend this professional development conference.**

Before that, also mark your calendar that the mid-year is scheduled for Las Vegas, Nevada March 4-7, 2001. The major theme of the mid-year is centered on Equal Access/Equal Justice.

CORRECTION TO THE *TRAFFIC CONVICTIONS MANUAL*

by Gena Ahlers, Driver's License Bureau

Recently a training video and processing manual was mailed to all the court clerks in Missouri, outlining the proper procedure on processing FACT, NONRESIDENT VIOLATOR COMPACT, LIEU OF BAIL AND CONVICTION REPORTING HELPFUL HINTS. I hope you are finding this information to be helpful and useful in your day to day operations. I would like to take this opportunity to point out a misprint in the CONTACT INFORMATION located in Section (5) of the manual. The telephone number for the following were incorrect. The correct numbers are:

NRVC (Nonresident Violator Compact)	(573) 751-4475
LB (Lieu of Bail)	(573) 751-4475
Convictions	(573) 751-4475

I want to apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused you.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION IX, Vaunda Logan, Director

Region IX's fall meeting was held at the Springfield Municipal Court on October 20, 2000. The theme for this meeting was Fall Harvest and the featured speaker was Judge Todd Thornhill, Springfield Municipal Judge. Judge Thornhill spoke on Court Ethics. In addition to Judge Thornhill's presentation, Kim Boatright, the Municipal Court Services Representative from OSCA provided a session regarding services that OSCA provide to the Municipal Courts. This meeting proved to be informative and thought provoking, as well as a bushel of fun!

INTRODUCING KIM BOATWRIGHT

Hello Everyone! My name is Kim Boatwright, and I am the new Court Specialist with the Office of State Court Administrators assigned to the Municipal Division. I am very excited about my new position and look forward to meeting you all. For the last three years I have worked for the Department of Corrections as a Probation and Parole Officer in Camden, Morgan and Miller counties. Previous to that I worked as a Dispatcher for the Missouri State Water Patrol and then the Highway Patrol. I currently have a Bachelors Degree from Lincoln University in Criminal Justice. I hope to be an asset to the Municipal Division and will try my hardest to accomplish that goal. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me any time at 573-751-4377. Additionally, I would like to remind all courts to keep their addresses current with OSCA. This is very important so that we may be assured that information updating new laws and seminars reach all courts. Please call the number listed above or email me at Kimberly_Boatright@osca.state.mo.us with any address changes. Thanks!

MACA 2001 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MACA's 2001 Annual Conference will be held from May 21-25 at Tan-Tar-A, Lake of the Ozarks. Make your room reservations NOW! Remember first come first to get the Lodge area (versus the Estates!). You can always cancel your reservation within 72 hours of the conference. The number is 1-800-826-8272. Rooms will fill fast, since the Judges will be having their conference at the same time as ours.

DWI: WHEN MUNICIPAL CHARGES CAN ENHANCE A SUBSEQUENT CHARGE

by Kim Boatwright, Court Specialist with OSCA

According to Section 577.023 RSMo, a municipal "intoxicated-related traffic offense" can be used at the Circuit Court level to enhance a subsequent charge, if the Municipal Judge was an attorney and the defendant was represented by counsel or waived the right to an attorney in writing.

An intoxicated-related traffic offense includes:

- driving with excessive blood alcohol content (Section 577.012 RSMo)
- driving while intoxicated (Section 577.010 RSMo)
- involuntary manslaughter (Section 565.024 RSMo)
- assault in the second degree (Section 565.060 RSMo)
- assault on a law enforcement officer in the second degree (Section 565.082 RSMo)

A person who has pleaded guilty to or has been found guilty of two or more intoxication-related traffic offenses, occurring within ten years is a "persistent offender".

A person who has pleaded guilty to or has been found guilty of one intoxication-related traffic offense, occurring within five years is a "prior offender".

In order to ensure that the defendant can be properly charged, the Municipal Court must have reported the conviction to the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Criminal Records Repository, including the Offense Cycle Number (OCN) on the fingerprint card.

MACA MEMBERSHIP

The MACA Board would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join MACA. Our organization is over 400 members strong. It is the goal of MACA to keep our members informed and educated on court related topics. Please consider becoming a member of MACA. If you need additional information on what MACA can do for you, please call Jammey Brandes, MACA President, 660-882-2232.

If you are a current MACA member, THANK YOU for your loyalty and membership in MACA!

Enclosed in this Reporter, find a membership application form to fill out and return with your \$35.00 yearly dues. All memberships expire on December 31, 2000, so please fill out the enclosed form and keep active in MACA!

JUDGES APPOINT NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Judge Thornhill, President of the Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judge's Association (MMACJA), has informed MACA that a new Executive Secretary for their organization has been appointed. Her name is Jean Harminson from Springfield, Missouri. At this time Ms. Harminson is in the process of setting up her new office in Springfield, and we will have additional information as she gets settled. In the meantime you may contact Judge Thornhill at Springfield Municipal Court if you need to get in contact with her. Ms. Harminson takes Polly Shelton's place, but Polly will still be active on the MMACJA Board.

SUCCESSOR STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

The Supreme Court has appointed Michael Buenger as the new State Courts Administrator, replacing Ron Larkin who retired on June 30, 2000. Mike officially began as the State Courts Administrator on June 12, 2000, working alongside Ron Larkin for approximately three weeks to ease the transition.

Mike comes to Missouri from South Dakota, where he served as State Courts Administrator for the past five years. While in South Dakota, Mike oversaw the expanded use of technology, creation of innovative adult and juvenile probation programs, and the reorganization of the state's circuit courts. He is a fervent advocate for a strong independent judiciary. His previous experience includes the Administrator and Legal Counsel for the Second District Court of Appeals, Ohio; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Dayton; Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing and Research at Sinclair Community College; and Law Clerk to the Honorable Thomas Grady, Ohio Court of Appeals. He brings vast knowledge and understanding of the judicial process to his new position, and has a strong commitment to continue to move forward in what is being heralded as one of the best programs in the country.

Mike and his wife, Carolyn, both graduated from St. Louis University School of Law, have family in the St. Louis area, and have two sons.

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2000 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Lawrence G. Myers

On October 11, 2000 at the Court Clerk College the Office of State Court Administrator provided a 2000 Legislative Update that included the following:

HB 1797 & 1948 Traffic

Section 32.055 RSMo - The Director of the Department of Revenue can no longer sell lists of motor vehicle registrations or other personal information for the purposes of bulk distribution for surveys, marketing, or solicitations.

Section 303.025 RSMo - If a vehicle is inoperable or is being stored and is not in operation, the owner **shall not be in violation of failure to maintain financial responsibility.**

Section 303.042 RSMo - The Department of Revenue shall not require proof of insurance in order to terminate suspensions under Section 303.042, excluding cases involving a motor vehicle accident where one or more parties involved in the accident were uninsured.

HB 517 (Passed August 28, 1999)

This legislation extended the Motorcycle Safety Trust Fund termination date found in **Section 302.138, RSMo, of August 28, 1999 to August 28, 2002. Therefore, the \$5.00 surcharge can be collected through August of 2002.**

For your information, I learned at the National Association for Court Management's Fall Board Meeting that on the national level a hot debate is centered on the release of court information containing a defendant's Social Security Number. Many think this information should not be released. The impact, if this becomes the will of the Congress on Municipal Courts where the Social Security Number is the Driver's License Number is that this information would have to be removed from any and all documents released. This is something you may want to watch on a national and state level — if it's hot on the national level, it will become hot in Missouri as well.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following MACA members became Certified Court Administrators in October:

Renee Youngcourt	Joan Updike
Rachel Cary	Shaula McCombs
Kay May	Frieda Hays
Diana Krosnicki	Glenda Collins
Michael Holmes	

CONGRATULATIONS! On a job well done!!

TAKE PART IN THE FUTURE OF MACA ATTEND THE EDUCATIONAL VISIONARY MEETING!

The MACA Board will be holding a special Educational Visionary Meeting on January 19, 2001, from 7-9 p.m., at Tan-Tar-A, all MACA members are invited to attend. It is the goal of the Board at this meeting to set out a vision for the future of MACA's Educational Programming. This year the Advanced Professional Development Seminar was added in the fall. The Board would like to know what types of training you are interested in. Are you interested in more one day seminars, regional training seminars and what specific topics. Are you happy with the conference? What improvements can be made? The Board invites you to attend or submit any suggestions or ideas to MACA's President, Jammey Brandes. If you wish to attend, be sure to ask for government rates so that you may get the lowest room rate available. There will be no reimbursement of expenses by MACA if you attend. Please take part in expanding MACA's future!

THE JUDGES ARE ASKING FOR OUR HELP. . . .

The Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judge's Association (MMACJA) formed an "Access to Court" Committee. The committee is attempting to produce a one-page brochure to help administrators answer most commonly asked questions. The brochure will be in English, Spanish, and Braille. Working with MACA, we are hoping that the brochure will be a helpful tool for court personnel; however, we need your help. Please forward to Bill Buchholz your most common questions asked by defendants (i.e. Do I need a lawyer?). You may email Mr. Buchholz at Buchatty@aol.com or fax your questions to 314-863-7521. Thanks.

In addition, Judge Vince Garufi, also a board member of MMACJA is asking that each court forward him a copy of their "Violations Bureau" schedule which should include the type of violation and the fine payable on the conviction. MMACJA is trying to produce a Violations Bureau booklet for all municipalities in the state so that there can be some consistency. Please forward a copy of your VB schedule to: Judge Vince Garufi, 1098 N. Hwy 19, Wellsville, MO 63384, 573-684-2440 (fax) or email: vegarufi@juno.com. Thank you for your assistance.



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Missouri Association for Court Administration provides financial assistance to a member of our association to attend the 2001 Annual Conference of the Missouri Association for Court Administration. This conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake Ozark, Missouri, May 21-25th, 2001. This award will cover 4 nights lodging and the conference registration fee. This would leave meals, mileage and incidental expenses to be covered by the City or Court Administrator. The Financial Assistance Program is a needs based scholarship.

DEADLINE: All applications must be received by January 1, 2001. The individual will be selected at the January Board Meeting. Send your completed application with a synopsis on why you should be considered for this grant and a copy of your City budget to:

Vaunda Logan
Springfield Municipal Court
625 N. Benton
Springfield, MO 65805

Reverse must be completed before application is considered.



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAME _____

COURT _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

BUSINESS PHONE () _____

* * * * *

COURT CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR FOR _____ YEARS/MONTHS

MEMBER OF MACA SINCE _____

POPULATION: _____ 10,000 & under _____ Over 10,000

* * * * *

AMOUNT BUDGETED BY CITY FOR TRAVEL/EDUCATION FOR MUNICIPAL COURT
EMPLOYEES: \$ _____

NUMBER OF COURT EMPLOYEES: _____

ARE ANY TRAVEL EXPENSES ASSUMED BY CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR REIMBURSED BY CITY?

(Circle One) YES NO

DOES COURT COLLECT \$1.00 FROM COURT COSTS FOR JUDICIAL EDUCATION FUND?

(Circle One) YES NO

IF YES, AMOUNT COLLECTED FOR 2000: \$ _____

* * * * *

Please attach a copy of your budget for the last fiscal year.

SIGNATURE

DATE

*** MACA USE ONLY ***

PAID: Check # _____ Date: _____

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR WRAP-UP

*Robin Ausmus, Chairperson
Professional Development Seminar Committee*

The Professional Development Seminars, which MACA held in Columbia on September 14th and 15th, were a success according to evaluation calculations.

Thursday morning's agenda included speakers from the Office of State Courts Administrator and the Missouri Department of Revenue. As usual, both were very well received and provided a wealth of information to the attendees. The afternoon was dedicated to a curriculum that Lisa Westfall, Branson, researched, developed and presented entitled "Clerk 101". During this session the clerks were taken through the Municipal Clerk Manual covering the daily aspects of their job from A to Z. With a 4.5 rating this session was a hit! (Based on a 1-5 scale, 1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being excellent.) The overall rating for Thursday's seminar was 4.5.

Friday started off with Shara Meyer, Columbia, presenting a one-hour session on Bonds and Bond Forfeitures. Shara was followed by Rick Thompson's, Springfield, presentation on Legal Advice vs. Court Access and the Missouri Sunshine Law, which was presented by the Attorney General's Office. The day concluded with a presentation on Cash Collections by Larry Myers, Joplin. Due to these outstanding sessions and speakers Friday's seminar received an overall rating of 4.3.

Thank you to those that took the time to complete the seminars' evaluations, they are very helpful in knowing what you want and need and what you don't. While reviewing the evaluations I found one question that I feel is very important and therefore, I would like to address it, not only to the individual that asked the question, but to all of MACA's members.

The question was, "How is the Professional Development Committee chosen?" The Standing Committee is formed from the Regional

Directors, (even year, odd regional directors — odd year, even regional directors), with those members voting for a Chairperson. The remaining members of the committee are from those signing up as volunteers for that committee. Committee sign up sheets for this committee, as well as many other committees, are always available at the Annual Conference. If, however, you missed the sign up or are unable to attend the Annual Conference, you may contact any Board Member for assistance in finding a committee that you would like to serve on.

With that in mind, I conclude with a big **Thank You** to all the committee members and speakers who worked so hard to bring this educational opportunity to MACA's members. *Well Done!*

"With a 4.5 rating this session was a hit! (Based on a 1-5 scale, 1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being excellent.)"

CCA MAINTENANCE FORMS ARE DUE

In order to maintain your CCA certification you must have your maintenance forms into the University by December 31, 2000. Each year you must complete 10 hours of CEU's to keep your certification. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Reed, Missouri Training Institute, 573-882-7331.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 31, 2000:	CCA Maintenance forms due
January 1, 2001:	Scholarship Applications deadline
January 20, 2001:	MACA Board Meeting, Tan-Tar-A
January 31, 2001:	Membership applications due
March 1, 2001:	Deadline for CCA applications
March 1, 2001:	Award of Merit applications deadline
March 4-7, 2001:	NACM Midyear Conference, Las Vegas
March 17, 2001:	MACA Board Meeting, Tan-Tar-A
March 30, 2001:	Declaration of Candidate deadline
May 1, 2001:	MACA Dues Must Be Paid to Vote at Conference
May 21-25, 2001:	MACA Annual Conference, Tan-Tar-A
July 15-19, 2001:	NACM Annual Conference, New Orleans

MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION FINAL BUDGET FOR 2001

CREDITS

10 DUES	\$14,350
20 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES	27,600
20 A - MTI CONTRACT	5,000
20 B - MTI EXPENSES	2,100
20 C - MTI INDIRECT EXPENSES	4,300
30 CONFERENCE GUEST'S FEES	0
40 MACA PROMOTIONAL SALES	500
50 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	6,000
60 INTEREST	800
70 VENDORS FEES	1,200
80 PLAQUE REIMBURSEMENT (CCA)	1,400
90 CONTINGENCY*	26,225
100 MISC. CREDIT	0
TOTAL CREDITS	\$89,475

*Income less expenses from 2000

DEBITS:

10-0100 ASSOCIATION EXPENSES	\$28,800
01-Lodging	\$ 3,350
02-Travel	2,200
03-Meals	500
05-Supplies	4,650
07-Legal/CPA Fees	1,000
10-(A) MTI Contract	5,000
10-(B) MTI Expenses	2,100
10-(C) MTI Indirect Fees	4,300
10-(D) CEU Fee (UMC)	500
16-(A) Presidential Expense	400
16-(B) NACM Dues	100
16-(C) NACM Conference Expenses	3,000
16-(D) NACM Mid Year Expenses	0
18-Postage-Misc.	500
19-Dues Reimbursement	0
32-Facility Fee	0
33-Equipment Maintenance	200
34-Technology Fees	1,000
20-0200 ANNUAL MEETING	\$41,925
01-Lodging	0
03-Meals/Breaks	\$12,500
05-Supplies	2,200
08-Tips/Service Charges/Sales Tax	1,450
14-Printing	3,000
15-Name Tags/Business Cards	0
17-Conference Gift Items	4,000
18-Postage	525
25-Audio/Visual	2,500
26-(A) Speaker Fees 2001	10,000
26-(B) Speaker Fees 2002	5,000
28-Conference Pins	750
29-Contingency	0

DEBITS:

50-0400 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 4,800
01-Lodging	\$ 400
02-Travel	400
03-Meals	2,500
05-Supplies	100
14-Printing	1,000
18-Postage	400
10-0500 NEWSLETTER/PUBLICATIONS	\$ 5,950
14-Typesetting	\$ 4,500
18-Postage	500
30-Membership Directory	950
10-0700 REGIONAL TRAINING/ DEVELOPMENT	\$ 1,350
41-Region 1	\$ 150
42-Region 2	150
43-Region 3	150
44-Region 4	150
45-Region 5	150
46-Region 6	150
47-Region 7	150
48-Region 8	150
49-Region 9	150
50-Region 10	0
40-0600 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	\$ 500
07-Promotional Items	\$ 500
10-0800 COMMITTEES	\$ 4,050
01-Lodging	600
02-Travel	700
03-Meals	200
04-Historian	300
05-Supplies	50
18-Postage	200
23-Social	1,500
31-Membership Dues	500
80-0900 PLAQUES	\$ 1,800
06-Officers Plaques	\$ 300
20-Presidential Presentation	100
21-Plaques	1,400
70-1000 VENDORS	\$ 300
05-Supplies	\$ 50
18-Postage	100
22-Table Fees	150
90-000 CONTINGENCY	\$ 0
TOTAL DEBITS	\$89,475



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION FOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

Established 1986

AWARD OF MERIT APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

JOB TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION (Attach a separate sheet if needed) _____

NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE IN COURT ADMINISTRATION: _____

PREVIOUS AWARDS/RECOGNITION: _____

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

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND/OR PROJECTS: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____ TITLE: _____

Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2001

Mail to: Vaunda Logan, 625 N. Benton, Springfield, MO 65806

SGI GRANT NEARS COMPLETION

Lawrence G. Myers

On May 1, 1999, the Missouri Association for Court Administration received funding from the State Justice Institute in order to develop a plan for the Association's professional development. Many of you have taken part in this grant by filling out surveys and questionnaires relating to the specific knowledge, skills and abilities and the relevant core competencies you thought were needed to do your job. Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator for the State of Maryland and currently the President of the National Association of Court Management was hired as the consultant for the grant.

A year ago, 590 surveys were mailed to MACA members. Due to the low response (only 11% returned the survey), the MACA leadership identified 60 MACA members, who represented a cross-section of the association, to receive the second survey. Again the response was disappointing. Thirty-five or 56% returned the second survey. However, it was enough to tabulate and on which to make recommendations. The following recommendations are taken directly out of Mr. Broccolina's Final Report:

"These recommendations depart from the traditional approach MACA has taken in its training efforts and offers a plan for an ambitious program of professional development for its members. While not all members may be interested in pursuing this level of professional development, such a program may be offered as an optional part of the annual meetings with an additional day at the beginning of the conference.

The learning needs of the sample population, while rather diverse seem to reflect the desire for greater knowledge in a number of fundamental areas in court administration. More specifically, a fuller knowledge of the Trial Court Performance Standards and their application within the representative courts of the MACA membership could serve as a point of organization and unification for professional development within the association and the courts representing its membership. Following the experience of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) in its adoption of the Trial Court Performance Standards as a theme for its mid-year conferences, MACA could adopt a similar approach which is scaled down to one day of programming annually and made specific to the court environment(s) of the MACA membership. Within the context of this then, program development will integrate the curriculum guideline areas identified in the first survey and the specific knowledge, skills and abilities identified by the second survey.

Not only would such a structure for professional development enable MACA to take advantage of NACM curricula development with limited adaptation, but it would serve as a means to establish a stronger executive relationship with respective presiding judges and create a plan for the improvement for individual trial courts and their respective court systems. The following represents a multi-year plan targeted to professional development within MACA with the collateral potential for a court system improvement.

Many of you have taken part in this grant by filling out surveys and questionnaires relating to the specific knowledge, skills and abilities and the relevant core competencies you thought were needed to do your job.

YEAR ONE: TRIAL COURT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

An intense one-day presentation directed to MACA members together with their presiding judges. The program will describe the Standards and how they can be used to improve individual court performance. The present Institute for court Management program could be customized for this purpose and serve not only as a professional development opportunity but also as a bridge to develop court executive teams, court improvement, and the adoption of court values and goals. If this fuller approach is realized, the participants at this session will contribute in how the professional development plan is to be implemented. This session will include the findings from the Leadership Core Competency, specifically as it relates to the Diagnostic and interdependencies Curriculum Guidelines as described in the MACA survey results.

YEAR TWO: INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This initial one-day program will establish the foundation for the subsequent professional development programming centering on the remaining Trial Court Performance Standards. It will discuss how the Judiciary must assert and maintain its distinctiveness as a separate branch of government and how trial courts must establish their legal and organizational boundaries, monitor and control their operations. It will stress that independence is not

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

likely to be sustained if trial courts are unwilling to manage themselves effectively. Accordingly, trial courts must establish and support executive team leadership, operate efficiently within the State Court System, develop plans of action, obtain resources necessary to implement those plans, measure its performance, and account publicly for its performance. This session will include the Resources, Budget and Finance Core Competency, specifically as it relates to the Court Purposes, Organizations and Relationships; Vision and Leadership; Court Budgeting; and Technology Curriculum Guidelines as identified in the MACA survey results.

YEAR THREE: EXPEDITION AND TIMELINESS

This one-day program would focus on issues surrounding caseload management, specifically differentiated case management and alternative dispute resolution and its application in a limited jurisdiction setting. It would include the collection and use of data to improve performance, as well as appropriate technologies to support caseload management. It further would emphasize practical ways of forming collaborative partnerships with the bench and bar to gain support for caseload improvement. This session will include the Caseload Management Core Competency, specifically as it relates to the Caseload Fundamentals; Change Identification and Diagnosis; and Executive Teams and Leadership Curriculum Guidelines as identified in the MACA survey results.

YEAR FOUR: PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

Within the context of the National Action plan undertaken by the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, this one-day program will relate the national and state findings in the area and use the session more like a planning meeting on how to improve trust and confidence in individual courts. This program would benefit by the attendance of presiding judges and demonstrate the importance of this issue. What individual courts and court systems are doing to improve trust and confidence and how they do it will be the basis of the session. This session will include the Visioning and Stra-

tegic Planning Core Competency, specifically as it relates to the Organizational Foundations and to Planning Fundamentals Curriculum Guidelines as identified in the MACA survey results.

YEAR FIVE: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Within the pervasive context of the purposes of courts as an institutional dispenser of justice and the resolver of disputes, this one-day program would address the issues relating to access of our system of justice: including physical, language, procedural and economic barriers. It would present specific program responses by other courts and provide participants with the means of developing partnerships both internal and external to the Judiciary to improve current conditions. Much of the curriculum could be

adapted from prior NACM mid-year conferences in this area.

YEAR SIX: EQUALITY, FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY

This one-day program will examine how trial courts provide due process and equal protection of the law as guaranteed by Federal and State Constitutions. The program will be characterized by a discussion of the nature and substance of trial court procedures and decisions, and the consequences of those decisions. Specifically it will demonstrate how trial court performance is diminished when its mechanisms and procedures for enforcing its orders are

ineffective such as when payments of fines or restitution are routinely ignored. How courts have addressed these issues will be the basis of the program and offered as a means of improvement within this standard area.

CONCLUSION:

Within the theme context of the Trial Court Performance Standards, MACA will realize not only a plan for continuing professional development within its association of clerks and administrators, but lead a challenging initiative of court improvement within its system of courts. As the least, it has acquired a multi-year professional development plan; at the most, it has the outline of an action plan for court improvement. Implementation of the latter will involve the commitment of the association and a partnership with their presiding judges in support of the initiative."

Please let me know what your thoughts are regarding this plan. Would you like to see MACA implement this plan? Would you attend? Would you prefer this be a one-day pre annual conference session, at the experience Clerk Training or at a one-day training session in your own region? Your thoughts will help us with planning. Please let me know by contacting me by mail at 303 East Third Street, Joplin, Missouri 64801 or by phone at 417/624-0820 ext. 236 or email at Lmyers@joplinmo.org. I appreciate and value your input.

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