

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Most of you may know that I have decided to step down as Chair of the Judicial Family Institute. As a new decade opens in this new century, it is time to give another person an opportunity to helm this wonderful and essential institution.

These past two years represent a remarkable learning experience for me, an experience that I will always treasure. I have worked with extraordinary men and women whose interests and goals, like mine, have always been the welfare of the Judicial Family Institute.

We worked well together. Bridging a generational gap, we set JFI firmly on an extended technological track, one that keeps moving forward. We started a newsletter to keep our members across the nation informed and current about events and articles and new resources on health, education and security.

Driven by the mandate of JFI to keep open the lines of communication among judicial neighborhoods, we held countless meetings and made umpteen telephone calls. The communities that comprise the U.S., the commonwealths and the territories remain firmly connected.

We welcomed the responsibility of advancing the mandate of the Judicial Family Institute to provide relevant information and education to judicial households and their extended families.

In early February, we previewed our newly redesigned website at the mid-year meeting in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The redesigned website is the child of many parents, from content providers to designers, and we thank each one for breathing life into this collective endeavor. The latest technological advances are incorporated into this unprecedented effort.

A new chapter in JFI's evolution begins with electing a new Chair and officers. Several tasks are waiting for them as they approach their duties.

The first is to fine-tune the new website, supported by the Puerto Rico IT Group and hosted by the National Center for State Courts. Next, it is important to maintain and update the new website. Our newsletter Online with the Judicial Family Institute has been welcomed and an effort ought to be made to continue publication.

Finally, JFI must maintain its participation in JAI Committee meetings sponsored by the ABA and retain its role in developing a model program for Judicial Assistance Programs.

*As outgoing Chair of the Judicial Family Institute, I thank you sincerely for the privilege of serving as Chair and recognize your support at every step of the way. Be assured I will return the favor as I transition into my new role as past Chair. As we say in Puerto Rico, *estoy siempre a sus órdenes*, I am always at your service.*

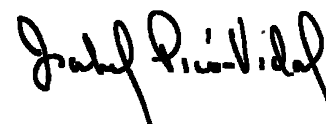


Table Talk

Colorado Chief Justice to open JFI Book Program



Colorado Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey will introduce history professor Thomas G. Andrews at the Law and Literature program sponsored by the Judicial Family Institute as part of the Conference of Chief Justices and Court Administrators. The conference will take place in late July in Colorado.

Andrews authored the acclaimed book "Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War," which takes a bold and intriguing look into the devastating conflict between coal miners and industry barons in 1914 Colorado known as the Ludlow Massacre.

"We are overjoyed that Chief Justice Mullarkey has accepted our invitation to present our guest speaker," said Isabel Picó-Vidal, chair of the Judicial Family Institute. "The session promises to be exciting and I urge all of our members to attend."

The Judicial Family Institute is also affiliated with the National Center for State Courts, host server for the JFI website.

Save these Dates!

In addition to the Law and Literature session—to take place Saturday July 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.—the agenda of the Judicial Family Institute includes important meetings for members to become better acquainted with JFI goals, efforts and endeavors.

On Sunday, July 25, JFI will host an orientation luncheon for spouses of new members of the Conference of Chief Justices and Court Administrators.

On Monday, July 26, the JFI Executive Committee will hold a morning meeting, beginning at 7:30.

On Tuesday, July 27, JFI will hold its annual business meeting, starting at 2:30 p.m. JFI's business meetings take place twice a year.

Election of JFI officers and voting members will also take place during the meeting.

Redesigned Website Gets Green Light

Five questions for Claudia



1. What is the primary reason for updating and redesigning the JFI website?

It was noted that the current website was not as user friendly as newer sites. It had wonderful content and was a useful resource for judicial officers and their spouses, but the ability to access the information was not as easy or intuitive for members as newer sites. We wanted to bring the JFI site up to the standards of today. So with the help and suggestions of many it was agreed and approved to move forward and provide a new site with not only the current information but much more.

2. What did the process entail and what challenges did you encounter?

Once Lindsey, Jan and their committee finalized a new design, and presented it at the August 2009 meeting, JFI members voted on the new design and logo and also approved the Website Committee to move forward on the development of the website with new content along with suggested changes for additional tools to its design based on the needs of JFI members and colleagues statewide.

At the August 2009 meeting the Board met and discussed additions they would like to see included in the new website. I held a website committee meeting with the section chairs, committee members and other interested JFI members, to review all the material that was currently on the site under their respective sections, and to discuss additional areas that were relevant but missing on the current site. Once I had collected all these comments, Isabel Picó and I had a meeting with Jesse Rutledge to learn more about the issues and obstacles he encountered in the development of the new NCSC website. We learned much from their challenges and his suggestions of what to look for in reviewing, adding, deleting, and reformatting materials.

3. What have you learned about website design from your visit to the Court Technology Conference hosted by the NCSC?

Once we met with Jesse, we agreed that learning more about website design was important as we moved forward with the Puerto Rico IT group. So I attended this meeting along with Isabel Picó to discuss and review our site in more detail. We met

The revamped JFI website was officially unveiled and unanimously adopted in early February during the midyear meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Attendees applauded the work of the Puerto Rico information technology (IT) team and the support of Chief Justices Federico Hernández Denton (PR) and Ron George (CA) who allowed court staff, especially California judicial educator Claudia Fernandes, to contribute to this remarkable project.

JFI Chair Isabel Picó-Vidal introduced Felix Bajandas, chief information officer for the Puerto Courts Administration, who presented the redesigned website. New features include a RSS section where users sign up to be notified when new items are published on the site. A rotating gallery of photos, which will not be captioned and only used with permission of those photographed, is also a part of the package. The gallery currently boasts five rotating photographs.

Some background:

At the dawn of the year 2009, the JFI website was in dire need of change. Technically, it was behind the times and visually, it was hardly appealing. A group of like-minded collaborators decided it was time to bring the website into the 21st century. They created a bridge for court specialists from Puerto

with the designer of NCSC's site and learned about site mapping. Isabel and I spent several hours at the meeting reviewing all segments of the site and discussing how it flowed, and what materials were pertinent or missing, how easy were they to access. We asked questions of many of the technology gurus there to determine the best tools for JFI.

It was an important turning point for our work on finalizing the site over the coming months. It was also a help in relating our needs to the IT professionals in Puerto Rico, who I met and worked with while on vacation there. They were wonderful in their support and ideas and their responses to our suggestions. They were outstanding in the work they did on the development and additions to the design over the many months of meetings and reviews.

4. How did you and will you integrate the input of JFI section heads into the website?

As I had mentioned earlier the website committee met to review the site and, based on suggestions and comments that came from that meeting, I made changes to the sections and sent it to the respective section chair for review and approval. Isabel Pico and I also worked on and developed some of the newer sections that did not currently have a section chair. Throughout the year these chairs will send new articles and tools and we will post them to the existing site and also note them

Rico, California and Indiana to transport information, knowledge and ideas which simmered in a common pot.

Comments and suggestions from past chairs, the board and interested members also seasoned the stew.



The website committee (above), chaired by California's judicial educator Claudia Fernandes, debated content while Indiana Courts webmaster Lindsey Borschel worked on digital design with Jan Aikman handling graphic design. Meanwhile, the IT Group of the Puerto Rico Courts Administration, chaired by Courts Administrator Hon. Sonia I. Vélez Colón, tackled the development of the site.

The exceptional collaboration of the courts of California, Indiana and Puerto Rico with the Judicial Family Institute has paid off. Today, the JFI website is lively, current and relevant.

<http://jfi.ncsconline.org>

under "What's New" so that members and others are aware of any new materials. Periodically during the year we will continue to communicate via e-mail and try to meet at each of the annual meetings to discuss and review the current site. The section chairs are vitally important to the relevancy of materials posted to the site.

5. Why is updating the website so important? How will you keep website current?

Updating the website is so important because it is a resource for JFI members and judicial officers nationwide. It was built by JFI members because there was a need for such a resource for judicial officers, spouses, and children within the judicial family.

As mentioned earlier section chairs, the JFI board, state contacts, and members are those that will keep it relevant and help to keep it current. We will periodically ask for reviews of the site, and meet whenever possible to assess the sections, the materials and to identify areas that may need to be added or changed based on the world today. Keeping it current will be a job for all!

Website Chair Claudia J. Fernandes is senior education specialist of the Judicial Council of California

Q and A with Lindsey

In designing the new logo and JFI home page, what concepts did you take into account and help develop? What are your preferred elements: font, layout, color?

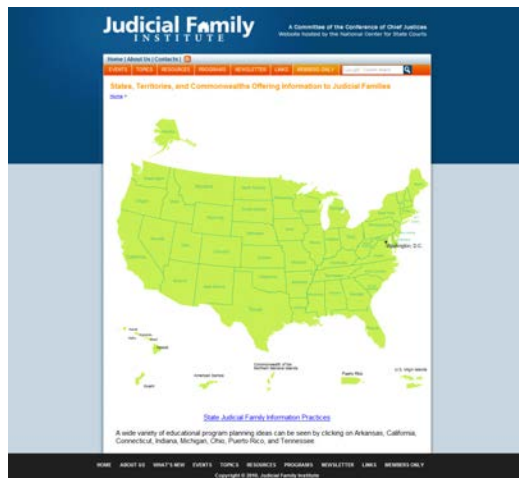
With regard to the logo design, I had a good idea of JFI's mission, ethos, and audience going into the project, because I spent time talking with Jan Dickson about the organization and reviewing some of the materials on the website. As a designer who's worked in the courts for nine years, I really wanted to stay away from the clichéd legal symbols that are used over and over in law firm logos and on publication covers. And because of what the JFI stands for, I tried creating a logo that put more emphasis on the concept of "family" than "judicial." This logo is really about as simple as it gets, and I think it functions well.

What criteria did you bring to the table in designing the logo and home page?

The criteria for designing any logo always starts with some basic principles: it should be simple; it should communicate in one color; it should be memorable. In terms of what it should communicate, well that's ultimately up to the organization. The body of judges around the country is very

small, and the families of judges deal with some unique challenges that come with that position. But families come in many forms—traditional and otherwise—so my idea going in was to make sure that it portrayed the JFI as being more inclusive than exclusive.

I only designed the look and feel of the website—as opposed to the functional



interface—and the goal there was basically the same as with the logo. I chose simple typography; a bold, inviting, and complementary color palette; and a simple organization that would hopefully allow people to find what they are looking for on the home page. The layout I created served as a basic model for the site, but I can't take any credit for the final product.

When were you satisfied with the web-design? Why?

I am never satisfied with a web design! As soon as I finish a project, I want to start over again and redo it; I suppose that's the plight of web designers everywhere.

How often should a website be revamped?

As often as it needs it. Better than revamping, it's important to keep a site well-maintained on a regular basis. The old JFI website seemed fairly abandoned, and I hope that will not be the case with the new site. The content needs to be refreshed on a regular basis, and it's a good idea to have someone available who can add new features, fix bugs, and even make a few tweaks from time to time that are based more on advancing technology than anything else.

Does the same frequency apply to logos?

Absolutely not. Once you have a good logo, you should stick with it and not make unnecessary changes. You can definitely dress it up or down, change the color or add effects depending on the medium, but the basic bones shouldn't change. The CBS logo is a great example – it has evolved over the decades, but it's still the CBS eye.

Web designer Lindsey Borschel is the webmaster of Indiana's courts



Félix Bajandas
Chief Information
Officer



José Rafael Martínez
Infrastructure & System
Director



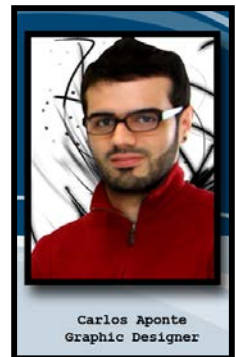
Hon. Sonia I. Vélez Colón
Administrative Director Puerto Rico
Courts Administration Office



José Román
Puerto Rico
Administrative Courts
Webmaster



Jorge Negrón
System Information
Specialist



Carlos Aponte
Graphic Designer

The work of the Puerto Rico Information and Technology Group was divided into four phases. First, design and develop web pages requested by JFI. Second, to ensure flexibility in positioning and sizing content. Third, to update content as test site developed and finally, to plan and transfer new design and development to host server at NCSC. The web-building's motto: "We are always willing to do the work".

Table Talk (continued)



Planning Ahead

The upcoming board has to devise a plan to recruit new members and needs to consider a regular rotation of officers. Our membership should take advantage of the fact that each of us has the capacity to fill a leadership role and that teamwork makes things happen. When members see themselves as officers and leaders, the changing of the guard becomes a piece of cake.

Welcome to the Fold

With the resignations of voting members Mary Torres (Guam) and George Durham (UT) expected after the summer meeting, the Judicial Family Institute is seeking to fill these important positions and is encouraging JFI members to take an active role in suggesting candidates.

Meanwhile, Roslyn L. Smith (MD), a human resources and electronic systems manager with Northrop Grumman, a major U.S. defense contractor, will complete the three-year term of Deb Gilbertson who resigned. Roslyn earned degrees in science and education and is also an executive coach.

Congratulations also to Jan Johnson (OK), new chair of the Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Committee and to Don Newman (MI) who replaces Sandra Chavez (NM) as a voting member of JFI.


The Judicial Family Institute is pleased to welcome Roslyn, Jan and Don into the fold, and a hearty farewell to Christine Alexander (WA), longtime Treasurer and Chair of the JFI and Literature Program

How are we doing?

Have you reviewed the new website yet? We are waiting to hear from you.

One of the rewards of working as a team is that we welcome your comments and suggestions on our work as a whole. We want your feedback.

Is the revamped website working for you?

New features include a RSS feed, where readers will automatically receive frequent notifications of new and updated items on the site. 

Let us know what you think.

Just log on to <http://www.ncsonline.org/SelectSurveyNET/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=92L1912> and fill out the "How are We Doing" evaluation. And, thanks for your attention.

A Chat with Pat Hannah



You have long been associated with the Judicial Family Institute in positions of leadership such as Chair of Ethics and Political Life Committees and as secretary and Vice Chair. What role does JFI play in your state?

I started the JFI program in Arkansas with the approval and help of my husband, after attending my first JFI meeting in Salt Lake City, to which I was invited by then Chair, Seymour Abrahamson. My husband had been elected Chief but had not yet taken office as Chief when we were in Salt Lake City, therefore I could not start the JFI program until the following spring. I asked my husband to send a letter, which I drafted, to all the Circuit Judges in the state informing them about JFI and giving them the JFI website link and asking them to please share the information with their spouse or significant other and also inviting anyone interested in JFI to attend a tea at the upcoming spring Judicial conference.

As to my involvement in JFI, I have always found that anyone who is willing to serve in any capacity is more than welcome and I have never been able to say no to Seymour.

Since that first meeting where I told the attendees about JFI, shared with them handouts on security from our website, and asked if they were interested in starting a JFI program, we have had informational lunches, shopping excursions in downtown historic districts, educational tours of facilities in cities where the Judicial conferences are being held, and special programs on security, self-defense (which was quite popular), internet security (another popular program), etc. I have also held meetings at the Judicial District Court conferences regarding JFI. However, as our Judicial conferences are held in the spring and fall of each year our attendance is low as most spouses/significant others work and/or have children in school. Therefore, I am currently attempting to collect email addresses of spouses/

significant others in order to start an informational network so we can stay in contact with not only those that are able to attend Judicial conferences but also those that are unable to attend.

You are an attorney and the spouse of the Chief Justice of Arkansas. How do you juggle your public and private roles?

Very carefully. I am a very private person and because of my husband's position I am often pushed into a public role that infringes upon my private life. I am constantly aware that any and everything that I do or say or that a member of our family does can and often will be scrutinized. And to make matters more difficult we have two sons in politics. Both sons are currently serving as Judges in the same county, one as a Circuit Judge and one as a District Court Judge.

What field of law most interests you? Why?

Family Law. Although, I do not practice in this field, family law has always been my favorite area of the law. I grew up on a small farm with five siblings, one who had cerebral palsy and was completely helpless. I was a teacher in a rural district in Arkansas and in that position I taught children from every socioeconomic level. Also, I was a single parent of two children for many years and often struggled to make ends meet. Jim and I have five children and thirteen grandchildren soon to be fifteen as one of our sons is expecting twin boys in November. All of the above experiences I believe have made me a very family oriented person and more sensitive to the issues that affect families.

Arkansas recently approved a new code of judicial ethics. Is the code stricter than before? What are the principal changes in the code? Why were those changes made?

The code is less strict than before regarding Judicial candidates, who can now talk about issues that might come before them. The changes were made as a result of the "White Case". Also, the code was changed regarding the involvement of Judicial spouses, family members and staff in elections. For example, prior to the change in the code I, as the spouse of a judge was forbidden by the code from participating in our sons' elections. I worked discretely behind the scenes and openly in the last son's election daring the Judicial Conduct Committee to sanction me as I felt

the code needed to be changed. As a result of my experience as the spouse of a Judge and the mother of a candidate the code was changed. Also, the staff of a judge was prohibited from working in other judicial elections. This was also changed.

How does the ethics code of your state compare with that of Ohio (or any other State), for example?

I believe our code is more restrictive than other states, especially relating to judges running for office.

What are some of the main issues facing judicial families in Arkansas?

We face the same issues as judicial families everywhere, such as running for office, security, stress, balancing public and private life, and financial issues due to pay cuts that judges often take in order to serve.

How can JFI help address those issues?

JFI offers information regarding the issues judicial families face and is a support system that helps judicial families deal with these issues.

How important is the next CCJ/COSCA conference for the future of JFI?

It is important just as every meeting is important to the future of JFI. As usual we will do everything possible to encourage attendance and participation by all CCJ/COSCA attendees. At this meeting we will be launching the new website and we have a lot of vacant positions, which we will fill with qualified, devoted CCJ/COSCA members.

What does the future hold for JFI?

I hope to see JFI grow both in attendance as well in the number of state programs. We will make every effort to gain new members not only at our meetings but also at statesponsored meetings. I believe the success and involvement of a state JFI program depends upon the interest and involvement of the current state Chief Justice and their spouse or significant other. Also, JFI will continue to update the wonderful new website that has been created under the Chairmanship of Isabel Picó with the help of her husband Chief Federico Hernández Denton and many others.

Pat Hannah is Vice Chair of the Judicial Family Institute. She has also served as Chair of the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Committee and the Political Life Committee. For further information on the Arkansas Judicial Family Program check out our new website at <http://jfi.ncsonline.org>.

Law and Literature

Camille Pissarro: A Great Native Son



The Law and Literature program at JFI's midyear meeting in St. Thomas took a gaze of appreciation at the Caribbean canvas of Camille Pissarro, one of the world's great artists and a native son of St. Thomas. Utah Chief Justice Christine Durham, outgoing president of the Conference of Chief Justices, gave welcoming remarks.

Mina Orenstein, herself a creative artist and a longtime resident of the Virgin Islands treated the audience of judges, judicial educators and their spouses to a lively presentation of the catalogue of the breakthrough Pissarro exhibit.

Virgin Islands Chief Justice Hodge introduced Ms. Orenstein.

Born in 1830, in St. Thomas, Pissarro spent his early childhood

sketching daily life on the islands. Many of those works were lost to the world for more than a century. In 1994, Mina Orenstein began work on the exhibit "Camille Pissarro and the Caribbean, 1850-1855, Drawings from the Collection at Olana." Partly funded by the Chase Manhattan Bank as part of the Bicentennial of the Hebrew Congregation in St. Thomas, the event took the Virgin Islands by storm.

"Camille Pissarro and the Caribbean, 1850-1855..." was also presented at the Jewish Museum in Manhattan and the state museum in Albany, New York.

Known as the Father of French Impressionism, Pissarro died in 1903 in Le Havre, France.



JFI Deals with Denial in Judiciary

Clinical psychologist Mirelsa Modestti at our mid-year meeting presented a thorough report on the Judicial Assistance Initiative, a comprehensive national program to help judges handle health and mental conditions that could impair their work on the bench.

Directed by the American Bar Association where Dr. Modestti represents the Judicial Family Institute, the Judicial Assistance Initiative is proposing guidelines, among other

measures, to help judges reach out and deal with their problems before it is too late, either for the judge or for the judiciary.

Measures include peer-to-peer counseling and networking, education about addiction and mental health and breaking down barriers judges face in getting help. "The Many Faces of Denial," by Dr. Modestti, is among the most downloaded articles on the JFI website.



JFI laments loss of Ohio's Chief Justice



The Judicial Family Institute joined the nation's judicial communities in mourning the death of Chief Justice Tom Moyer.

In a letter to his widow Mary, JFI chair Isabel Pico-Vidal expressed the sorrow of the Institute as follows:

"Everyone who knew and worked with Tom recognized his special qualities as a judge and as a friend. We will miss him... You and Tom developed the nation's best judicial family program and inspired the Judicial Family Institute to foster Ohio's example in every state, commonwealth and territory.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you... In the days ahead, may you find some comfort in the rich memories of a life committed to family, community and justice."

JFI Plans Pre-Election Review

The election process of the Judicial Family Institute will soon come under review by the JFI Committee, according to outgoing chair Isabel Pico-Vidal. The review, she said, is motivated by the need to promote wider representation on the board from the states, territories and commonwealths that make up JFI and to establish a rotation system for the election of officers.

As Past Chair, Picó-Vidal will lead the committee on JFI policy and procedures.

According to JFI bylaws, expired terms are filled at the summer meeting, which this year opens July 25 in Colorado. Conference of State Courts and the Conference of Chief Justices spouses and other parties can be nominated for vacancies on the board, Pico-Vidal emphasized.

JFI needs more participation from the Northeast and the territories, she said, adding that diversity is essential to strengthening the organization. Founded in 1987, the mission of the Judicial Family Institute is to provide key information on education, health and security issues to judicial families throughout the U.S., commonwealths and territories.

The JFI Committee consists of 12 members who are elected to serve three-year terms. The framework of a rotation system that the JFI Committee will consider is akin to squad rotations frequently used in sports to facilitate teamwork and reduce fatigue in the players or, in the case of JFI, the board.

At the request of the JFI Committee Chair, National Center for State Courts staff reviewed the JFI

Policies and Procedures for applicability and relevance to current JFI operating procedures and structure. The proposed amendments are intended to: (1) simplify and define the succession of officer positions on the JFI Committee; (2) provide an operating and governance structure that will allow for efficient and effective conduct of JFI business; and (3) clarify responsibilities and operating procedures in relation to its status as a subcommittee, reporting to the CCJ Past Presidents Committee

For further information see Proposed Amendments to the Judicial Family Institute (JFI) Policy and Procedures (Adopted 2004, updated 2006) at Members Only section of JFI website <http://jfi.ncsconline.org>

Mid-Year Meeting Snapshots

