

REPORT OF THE NCBC LIAISON COMMITTEE

August 13, 2024

Between July 29 and August 1, 2024, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks celebrated its 44th year in existence at their annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts. I had the honor of attending this meeting as the NCBJ liaison, as I have since 2017 (with the exception of the COVID years when the meetings were cancelled).

The meeting is aimed at not only bringing bankruptcy clerks and staff together for educational reasons; but like the NCBJ, it presents an opportunity for those who work in our bankruptcy world to socialize and exchange ideas on how to make their respective courts more productive and efficient.

One of the primary and most important reasons for our attendance at this meeting is to not only show our support to those with whom we work; but also, to establish a relationship with them so that they know we do not hold ourselves out as superiors to them. We are all working together toward common goals, and we just have different roles to play in that effort.

I was given the opportunity to address the 500+ attendees at the opening plenary session, following a report from Judge Bill Osteen, the current chair of the Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. Bill outlined current topics being discussed at the CABS level, particularly with respect to the recent consolidation proposals being floated as part of the Court Budget Initiatives.

When it was my turn to speak, I thanked the group for all they do to assist us in doing our job and in keeping the wheels running in a perfect storm of increasing filings and decreasing staffing numbers due to budgetary cuts. I discussed all the various projects undertaken by the NCBJ, including legislative participation, diversity initiatives, and of course our upcoming convention.

Following the plenary session, there were several plenary and breakout sessions offered for attendees on numerous aspects of bankruptcy operations. I was honored to be given the opportunity to speak at two of the breakouts on AI and its affect on our operations. I was joined in this endeavor with the Chief Judge of my court, Kim Tyson. We were pleased and honored to find out that the sessions in which we presented were the most attended of all at the meeting.

I am pleased to have been asked to attend next years meeting in Ft Worth. I strongly believe this is a critical relationship to foster and hope the rest of our NCBJ family agrees.

Mike Romero