



Council for Court Excellence

**Annual Report
2009**

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Our Mission

The Council for Court Excellence is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization that since 1982 has worked to improve the administration of justice in the local and federal courts and related agencies in the Washington, DC area.

The Council for Court Excellence (CCE) accomplishes this goal by identifying and promoting justice system reforms, improving public access to justice, and increasing public understanding of and support for our justice system.

History of CCE

After the DC Bar released the ground-breaking "Horsky Report" in 1982 calling for improvements in the local justice system, community leaders identified the need for an independent group to promote policy improvements and to engage our community in these justice initiatives. To address these concerns, leading members of the city's civic, legal, government and business sectors founded CCE in order to help local and federal courts respond to increasing demands and escalating community expectations.



CCE founders **Charles A. Horsky** (left) and **Samuel F. Harahan** (right), with founding Board member **William K. Slate II**

Under the leadership of founding Board Chair Charles A. Horsky and Executive Director Sam Harahan, the Council set an ambitious agenda of identifying, developing and advocating needed justice-system reforms, and programs to improve the public's understanding of and support for the justice system.

The Council for Court Excellence has built a substantial record of success in the major justice system reform initiatives it has undertaken. CCE has been the moving force behind adoption of the one day/one trial jury system in the DC Superior Court, modernization of trial jury and grand jury systems, reform of the District of Columbia probate laws and procedures, reform of the DC administrative adjudication system, improvement in court handling of child neglect and abuse cases, expansion of crime victim rights, proposing solutions to speed resolution of criminal cases and to speed resolution of civil cases by the DC trial and appellate courts.

To improve the public's access to justice and increase their understanding of our justice system, the Council over the years has published and disseminated over 350,000 copies of plain-language booklets and other materials explaining a wide variety of court systems.

Governance Activities

Our major accomplishments in 2009

- Published the *Guide to the DC Juvenile Justice* (read more on page 4);
- Published *Journalists' Guide to the DC Courts* and held a release reception at The Pew Center for the States (read more on page 10);
- The Reentry Committee advanced their work to identify systemic barriers to employment for ex-offenders (read more on page 7);
- Hosted a public discussion of custody GALs which launched a project to convene stakeholders and develop practice standards (read more on page 6);
- Partnered with the DC Police Foundation to conduct a pre-and post-survey of the Trinidad neighborhood's perception of crime (read more on page 8);
- Conducted six School Jury Education Programs in the fall semester of 2009 (read more on page 12);
- Redesigned *When Someone Dies* and *Personal Affairs Record Book* with generous underwriting from GEICO (read more on page 13);
- Testified or submitted statements at eight DC Council hearings; and
- Met with a variety of international delegations to discuss our model of civic engagement with groups who are advancing justice system reforms in their countries (read more on page 13).



Those who were able to attend the July 21 New Board Member Orientation included: (counter-clockwise from bottom left): **Magistrate Judge Diane Brenneman**, **Norma Hutcheson**, **Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson**, **Peggy Zimmer**, **Jenny Shtipelman**, **Craig Hoover** and **Scott Bolden**, joined by CCE President **Earl Silbert** and Nominating Committee Chair **Ron Jessamy**.



Some of the generous underwriters of our Holiday Reception (from left): **Joe Gardemal** (Alvarez & Marsal), **Kate Carr** (Cardinal Bank) and **Ben Bunin** (LexisNexis), joined by CCE President **Earl Silbert**.

During 2009, a number of key changes occurred with respect to CCE's governance. Rod Page stepped down as President and turned over leadership responsibilities to incoming President Earl Silbert who was elected formally at the June Board meeting. In addition, several members of the Board were elected to leadership positions on the Executive Committee: Greg Castanias, Laura Handman, Peter Kolker, Pat McGlone, and Kathy Patterson. For their valuable service, the Board thanks the following members who rotated off the Executive Committee in 2009: Beverly Burke, Marcia Calhoun, Stephen Hut, and Deborah Luxenberg. We are pleased they remain active on the Board.

Special thanks go to Ron Jessamy, chair of CCE's Nominating Committee, and the members of his committee, Jim Berry, David Cynamon, Steve Hut, Jim Lee, Carolyn Lerner, Eric Lieberman, Tim May, Dwight Murray, Rod Page, Kathy Patterson, and Earl Silbert.

In addition, CCE reconstituted its Governance Committee to undertake a review of the by-laws, last amended in 2007, and to develop corporate policies that will provide for greater transparency and accountability on CCE's part. Thanks to Greg Castanias, who chairs the committee, along with Elliott Adler, Tracy Roman, Earl Silbert, and Steuart Thomsen.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of CCE:

This annual report's web-based publication reflects our commitment to apply technology in support of the Council's mission and to leverage our organizational resources. With the recession upon us, 2009 proved to be a challenging yet productive year, marked by proactive steps – at the end of 2008 – to create and adhere to a budget that reduced expenses yet maintained our existing staffing pattern. This strategy proved to be the right one as the year progressed and we met each and every challenge.



The year saw a significant change in CCE leadership. We thank Rodney Page for his robust four-year term and welcome Earl Silbert as the new President of CCE's Board of Directors.

The year was also marked by significant substantive work focused on timely priorities outlined in our long-range plan. We released two important publications: the *Guide to the DC Juvenile Justice System* and the *Journalists' Handbook to the Courts in the District of Columbia*. The former was rolled out at a substantive panel of juvenile justice system experts held at the National Press Club, and the latter was introduced at an evening reception at The Pew Charitable Trusts for Board members and key justice system stakeholders.

CCE Board members and staff testified at several DC Council performance oversight hearings, and we made many inroads with the on-going Reentry Initiative, including the creation and dissemination of a research instrument directed to employers and to previously-incarcerated persons that will provide important data for an eventual action plan.

The focus on community education also continued. CCE convened six school jury education programs in partnership with Georgetown University's Street Law Program, a collaboration that began in 2008 that has greatly reinvigorated this activity. Our international visitors program saw quite a bit of activity, with CCE hosting a 20-person delegation of journalists and judges from Russia and a number of visiting jurists throughout the course of the year. We also released updated versions of our probate guides, our most popular community publications.

Other program highlights this year included testimony before the DC Council Judiciary Committee by members of CCE's Pedestrian Safety Committee, the receipt of a contract from the Police Foundation to conduct a pre- and post-survey of the Trinidad neighborhood's perception of crime, and – I'm very happy to say – the hiring of our Development Director Lauren Hines in September.

In between this hard work, CCE Board members and guests celebrated at the 13th Annual Justice Potter Stewart Dinner, and in June the Executive Committee presented outgoing President Rod Page with a Horsky Award followed by Horsky Awards to Steve Hut and Deborah Luxenberg in September.

All in all, 2009 was a busy year in which CCE met financial challenges, produced well-researched publications, and cultivated important partnerships and relationships as we advanced our mission to improve the administration of justice.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June".

June B. Kress
Executive Director

Children in the Courts

Guide to the DC Juvenile Justice System

The Council for Court Excellence's Board chair Marie Johns and project committee chair Robert Spagnoletti led a press conference June 29, 2009, at which CCE released its *Guide to the DC Juvenile Justice System*. The guide, in English and Spanish editions, is the first written roadmap for the general public about how the DC juvenile justice system operates. CCE distributed 5,600 English and 1,250 Spanish copies of the guide during the remainder of 2009; and both versions of the guide are also downloadable from CCE's website, www.courtexcellence.org.

the community to understand how the system works. The goal was to put together a guide that would answer the questions people have about the system."

Other speakers at the press conference echoed those sentiments. "The guide is a wonderful gem," said Judge William Jackson of the Family Court. Robert Hildum of the Office of the DC Attorney General remarked, "Any time we can give transparency to the process, it is better for everyone. This guide will be a useful tool to assist victims and witnesses – and to train new attorneys." Vincent Schiraldi of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services joined in the praise, saying "it is basically disempowering for kids and families and the community not to understand the system," and the guide "shifts the power from the system players to community members by putting it in writing."

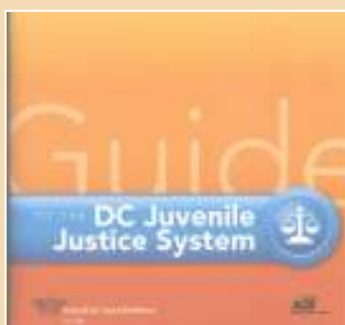
Robert Spagnoletti chaired the project committee, and CCE Board members Cliff Keenan, Judge Richard Levie, Ray Sczudlo, Arabella Teal, and Andy Wise served on the committee. They were joined by Margaret Duval,

Any time we can give transparency to the process, it is better for everyone. This guide will be a useful tool to assist victims and witnesses – and to train new attorneys.

Robert Hildum,
Office of the DC
Attorney General

Explaining the system

Johns told those attending, "When our Board decided to focus on improving juvenile justice, we found quickly that almost no one could explain to us how the system works. That convinced us that our first major juvenile justice project should be this guide – to bring some transparency to the system." Spagnoletti added, "it's a confidential system as to the identities of the youth, but that makes it even more important for



The Guide to the Juvenile Justice System is available in a downloadable version on the CCE website, and free copies may be ordered by calling or emailing our office.

Improving justice for the youngest members of our community



The publication release press conference. From left: **Judge William Jackson** (DC Superior Court Family Court), **Robert Hildum** (Public Safety Division, Office of the DC Attorney General), **Michael Satin** (Juvenile Section, Public Defender Service) and **Vincent Schiraldi** (DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services)

formerly of the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, Bonnie Hannan, formerly of the Office of the Attorney General for DC, Judge William Jackson of the DC Superior Court Family Court, Hannah McElhinny of the Public Defender Service for DC, Jessica Sandoval of the Campaign for Youth Justice, and Vincent Schiraldi of the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services.

Empowering communities

In addition to making the juvenile justice guide widely available, the committee began a follow-on project to use the guide as a training tool in presentations to organizations that provide direct service to the youths and families who are involved in the juvenile system. Two presentations occurred in fall 2009. One was for staff members of the two organiz-

ations selected by the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services to be the Lead Entities in the DYRS community supervision network, the East of the River Clergy-Police Community Partnership, and Progressive Life Center. The second presentation was for staff members of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, an organization that provides a variety of services to youth and families involved in all phases of that system. CCE thanks Terri Odom of Family Court Social Services, Dave Rosenthal of the Office of the DC Attorney General, and Jamie Rodriquez of the Public Defender Service for participating in those trainings.

Such training programs will continue in 2010 and will include a special focus on outreach to Latino organizations and community groups in Washington, DC neighborhoods.



CCE President **Earl Silbert** (left) and project chair **Bob Spagnoletti** with the Guide

Children in the Courts Committee

Child Custody GAL Project

On the child welfare front, the committee met in February, March, and April to discuss and plan an educational panel on issues related to how Family Court judges can get the information they need to make decisions in contested custody cases, especially when the parties are unrepresented. The committee met again in October and decided the event would focus on the role of court-appointed guardians *ad litem* (GALs) for the children in such cases. They then hosted a well-attended public

A guardian ad litem is a special guardian appointed by the court ...to represent an infant, ward or unborn person.

Black's Law Dictionary

discussion of custody GALs in November, moderated by Arabella Teal. That program led to the committee's decision to undertake a 2010 project to convene stakeholders to develop practice standards for custody GALs.

CCE thanks Board members Arabella Teal, Bruce Berger, Barbara Kagan, Deborah Luxenberg, and Joan Strand, and stakeholders Valerie Grab, Robin Murphy, Vanessa Batters, Avi Sickel, and Rebecca Segal for their leadership in framing and planning the November event and the ongoing work in 2010.



Board member and new Committee chair, Arabella Teal



Board member and long-time Committee chair Deborah Luxenberg

Deborah Luxenberg welcomes Arabella Teal as new Committee Chair

CCE's Children in the Courts Committee had a leadership transition in mid-2009, with Deborah Luxenberg stepping aside in June after eight years of dedicated and very productive service as the committee chair.

Outgoing Board president

Rodney Page appointed committee member Arabella Teal as the committee's new chair, with Debby continuing to serve actively on the committee.

The committee was active on both juvenile justice and child welfare issues in 2009.

Criminal Justice

Protecting safety, building neighborhoods

The committee, chaired by Steve Gordon, engaged in three areas of focus during 2009.

DC Prisoner Reentry Initiative

Thanks to the efforts of the DC Prisoner Reentry Initiative committee and its subcommittees, the Initiative developed surveys for employers, previously incarcerated persons (PIPs) and nonprofit service providers and began to collect information about the experiences of these groups with employing PIPs. In addition, the Initiative has begun to review barriers to employment for PIPs in the DC Code and municipal regulations. This effort is being led by CCE Board member Susan Lynch, supervising a group of volunteer law students from George Washington University School of Law.

Employer Research: Exploring job opportunities

The project has encountered challenges in garnering response rates for the three surveys, but preliminary findings from the DC employer survey suggest that companies:

- do not have a policy regarding hiring previously incarcerated persons;
- have application forms that inquire about criminal history; and
- have not hired a previously incarcerated person.

From their anonymous survey responses, employers open to hiring a previously incarcerated person report that factors which would significantly increase or influence their hiring decision include: a state-issued certificate of rehabilitation, legal liability protection, and industry-specific skill training.

The Initiative will continue to conduct outreach to the CCE Board, DC Chamber of Commerce and the DC Office on Ex-Offender Affairs to increase response rates.

Thanks to Ted Whitehouse for chairing this important effort and to his committee: Judge Mary Ellen Abrecht, Avis Buchanan, John Clark, Steve Gordon, Leslie McAdoo Gordon, Cliff Keenan, Ann Cuninghame Keep, Susan Lynch, Tyrone Parker, Phil Fornaci (DC Prisoners' Project), Judi Garrett (Federal Bureau of Prisons), Cedric Hendricks (Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency), Tom Hutchison (US Parole Commission), Robert Okun (US Attorney's Office for DC), and Ted Sweet (DC Office on Ex-Offender Affairs).



DC Superior Court, the H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse of the District of Columbia

Criminal Justice Committee

Pedestrian Safety Committee

During 2009, the Pedestrian Safety Committee focused its attention in particular on the issue of enforcement of laws governing drivers of vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Committee members met with key members of the Metropolitan Police Department and with the head and staff of the DC Department of Transportation. The purpose in each case was to

review records of incidents and accidents, plans and programs underway, and to consider with each of these agencies what actions might usefully be taken to further the goal of effective enforcement.

Thanks to Dr. Edward Burger and his committee for their important, ongoing work.

The CCE Pedestrian Safety

Committee members are: Susan Brinkerhoff, Magistrate Judge Evelyn Coburn (ret.), Ellen Eager, Sam Harahan, Larry Hobart, Cliff Keenan, Victor Long, Jim Mercurio, Jim Nathanson, Paul Pearlstein, Judge Richard Roberts, and Arabella Teal. The committee is joined in its work by the AARP and the Medical Society of DC.

Crime and Safety in DC's Trinidad Neighborhood

What is the Trinidad (Washington, DC) neighborhood's perception of crime? Will that perception change following the installation of closed-circuit television "crime cameras?"

These are the questions that CCE began to address as the result of a fee-for-service contract received from the Washington DC Police Foundation, as part of a larger effort – called the Trinidad Safe City Program – by Mayor Fenty and the Metropolitan Police Department to address significant crime issues in that neighborhood. In 2009, CCE surveyed the Trinidad community about its views and issued preliminary findings. The follow-up survey will be conducted in Spring 2010, with a final report expected in the Summer.

Most respondents reported that they feel somewhat safe to unsafe in Trinidad, that they're "very concerned" with most types of crime,

and that they're not familiar with the Safe City Program, sponsored by Target Corporation.

CCE distributed several hundred copies of the preliminary survey to the Trinidad and Joseph Cole Recreation Centers in the Trinidad neighborhood, as well as 150 copies each to the four Trinidad ANC commissioners for their distribution, and made the survey available on-line through the Trinidad Neighborhood Association and the MPD 5-D listserv.

It is important to note that CCE will not address the larger issues sometimes associated with crime cameras, such as their long-term effectiveness on crime reduction and civil liberties issues.



Court Improvements

Finding solutions to provide the best justice

During 2009, the Court Improvements Committee, chaired by Jay Hulme, sponsored two projects.

Business and the Courts

The project surveyed DC businesses, in-house and outside counsel about their comparative experience with commercial litigation matters in DC and elsewhere, reaching out to CCE's Board of Directors and the membership of the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association. In addition, a project subcommittee conducted interviews of attorneys who practice in the Maryland Business & Technology Court as well as of members of an American Bar Association committee that addresses business litigation matters.

In addition, 2009 saw the introduction of the "DC Official Code Title 29 (Business Organizations) Enactment Act of 2009," B18-0500, before the DC Council. The bill, referred to the DC Council's Public Services and

Consumer Affairs Committee, proposes an updated revision of the DC Corporate Code, based on model uniform state legislation. A public hearing on the legislation is scheduled for March 31, 2010.

Thanks to Marc Sherman for chairing this important project and to his committee for their continuing work: Bruce Berger, David Bergman, Julienne Bramesco, David Cynamon, Leslye Givarz, Roy Goldberg, Jay Hulme, Barbara Johnson, Jim Lee, Curtis Lu, Andrew Marks, Pat McGlone, Marianne Niles, John Oberdorfer, Rodney Page, Stephen Price, Tracy Roman, Brian Schwalb, and Jim Tuite. Special thanks to Bruce Berger and Pat McGlone for chairing, respectively, the Best Practices and Choice-of-Jurisdiction subcommittees.



The Handbook publication reception at the Pew Center for the States

Court Improvements Committee

Journalists' Handbook

The Council for Court Excellence celebrated the publication of the *Journalists' Handbook to the Courts in the District of Columbia* in September with a special reception at The Pew Center for the States. Nearly fifty Board members, committee members and project supporters attended the event and received the very first copies of the publication.

Covering the Courts

The *Journalists' Handbook* is the result of a two-year effort by a diverse and highly experienced cross-section of journalists, judges and court public information officers, media attorneys and the civic community to develop the first guide for members of the press who cover the local and federal courts in DC. The *Journalists' Handbook* discusses observing court proceedings, accessing court records, technology, gag orders, interviewing judges, and other topics. The *Journalists' Handbook* contains key court and agency contact information, journalist FAQs, and a glossary of legal and court terminology.

Special thanks to Laura Handman of Davis Wright Tremaine and Eric Lieberman of The Washington Post for leading this important effort, and to their committee, Ron Jessamy, Lee

Levine of Levine Sullivan, Arabella Teal, Kurt Wimmer of Covington & Burling, Lucy Dalglish of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Jerald Fritz of Allbritton Communications Co., Leah Gurowitz of the DC Courts, Chief Judge Lee Satterfield of the DC Superior Court, and Sheldon Snook of the US District Court. We thank Andy Glass of Politico and Jack Murphy of the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association for

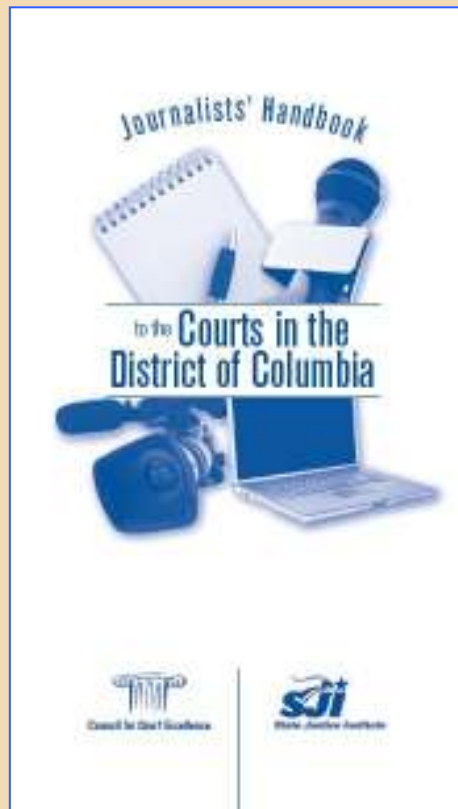
editing the Handbook. Many thanks to CCE Executive Committee member Kathy Patterson for suggesting The Pew Center.

Generous support for the *Journalists' Handbook* was provided by the State Justice Institute, the Philip L. Graham Fund, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP, Williams & Connolly LLP, Troutman Sanders LLP, and Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP.

Interest in the topic of journalism,

The Handbook highlights the truly unique nature of the DC local and federal courts.

**Laura Handman,
Handbook co-chair,
Davis Wright Tremaine**



*Board members and Handbook co-chairs
Eric Lieberman and Laura Handman*

Court Improvements Committee

the law, and the courts is so great that the *Journalists' Handbook* project committee will continue to convene, but with a different purpose. The DC Bench-Bar-Media Dialogue Project is an educational program series, designed to foster discussion on issues of current interest to the bench, bar and media and, by so doing, to promote a better understanding between them.

The project will plan and convene four programs on topics of interest to the bench, bar and media. CCE staff will organize and support committee meetings, provide logistics for organizing the four programs, and develop a program synopsis for each of the four programs. The planned audience for these programs will include the judges and staff of the local and federal courts in DC, the media bar, and representatives of the media, with program content, structure and target audience at the committee's discretion.

“**Reporters have to keep abreast of everything that is happening in the courthouse so they can decide what to cover.**

They have to grasp complicated facts and legal issues quickly and write clear and engaging stories under tight deadlines and with limited space.

They also have to keep an eye out for larger trends in the overall administration of justice and report on them as well.”

Eric Lieberman,
Handbook co-chair,
The Washington Post

The Handbook publication reception. From left: Chief Judge Lee Satterfield, Chief Judge Royce Lamberth, Board member Ron Jessamy, Board president Earl Silbert, and Sheldon Snook



Public Service Committee

The Public Service Committee, chaired by Hon. Noël Kramer, undertook three initiatives in 2009.

School Jury Education Project

Reaching the Next Generation of Jurors

In January and December 2009, CCE presented six School Jury Education programs in DC high schools. The jury education project partners with the Street Law program, in which Georgetown University Law Center students teach an elective civics education class in DC's public and charter schools. CCE uses its video-mock-trial, *Guilty or Not Guilty? You Decide*, to have students learn directly about the jury system by challenging them to become the jurors in the case and try to reach a unanimous verdict. CCE brings a judge to each session to offer introductory remarks, provide jury instructions, assist the jury's deliberation, and engage in a question and answer session with the students after their verdict.



Board member **Judge Ricardo Urbina** (center) with a teacher and students at Ballou Senior High School

This experience is great. When it's my turn to be summoned [for jury duty] I am sure I will be ready, not confused.

A DC student from Woodrow Wilson High School

CCE thanks Charisma Howell of the Street Law program at Georgetown Law Center for partnering with the committee on this initiative, and also thanks the following schools, judges and Board members who participated in the program in 2009:

- Ballou High School - Judge Ricardo Urbina
- Maya Angelou Public Charter School - Judge Reggie Walton and Marjorie Fargo
- Dunbar High School - Judge Rhonda Reid Winston
- Cardozo High School - Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson
- School Without Walls - Judge Ann Keary
- Banneker High School - Judge Rufus King

Thanks also go to U.S. District Court Judge Richard Roberts and his colleagues for providing financial support for this civic education partnership. The jury education project will continue in 2010.



Board member **Magistrate Judge Deborah Robinson** (fourth from left) with students at Cardozo Senior High School

Connecting neighbors with the Third Branch

Visiting International Delegations

The committee continued to host visiting international delegations which have a special interest in learning more about CCE's role as a non-governmental organization that works to improve a public function, the administration of justice.

In March 2009, Board member Craig Hoover and his firm Hogan & Hartson hosted a CCE-developed, day-long symposium on jury-related issues for a 20-person delegation of journalists and judges from Russia. The event was co-sponsored with the National Center for State Courts and included representatives from the NCSC staff, most notably Judge Gregory Mize, who moderated.

In May, Board member Judge Craig Iscoe hosted the Deputy Secretary General of the Judiciary of Thailand.

In November, Board member Kurt Wimmer and his firm Covington



*Board members and staff at the meeting with the Russian Delegation in March. From left: CCE staff **Peter Willner** and Board members **Linda Bostick**, **Margaret Hines**, **Tyrone Parker** and **Jenny Shtipelman***

& Burling hosted a UN-sponsored delegation of 11 journalists and judges from the Republic of Georgia regarding jury trial issues.

In addition to those already mentioned above, CCE thanks the following Board members for participating in one or more of these meetings with international visitors: Julia Alanen, Linda Bostick, Avis Buchanan, Gordon Forester, Laura Handman, Sam Harahan, Margaret

Hines, Ron Jessamy, Judge Noël Kramer, Susan Lynch, Dan Margolis, Judge Gregory Mize, Rod Page, Tyrone Parker, Marc Sherman, Jenny Shtipelman, and Peggy Zimmer.

CCE also thanks DC Superior Court public information officer Leah Guowitz and US District Court public information officer Sheldon Snook for attending the Georgian meeting.

Probate Guides Update

Our most popular community guides released in new editions

Finally, CCE updated the content and redesigned its most-requested community education booklets, *When Someone Dies* and *Personal Affairs Record Book*, which had been out of print for over a year, and published them by the end of the year.

CCE thanks the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation for underwriting this valuable outreach resource.



*New editions of *When Someone Dies* and *the Personal Affairs Record Book* are available on the CCE website or by calling our offices.*

CCE Honors Stewart Award Winners

A sold-out crowd gathered at the US Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, May 8, 2009 to celebrate the Council for Court Excellence's 13th Annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner.

Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the US District Court for the District of Columbia presented the Justice Potter Stewart Award to Earl Silbert, long recognized as one of the premier members of the white collar bar in DC, for his exemplary contributions to the District's justice system through his leadership and mentoring of generations of lawyers at the U.S. Attorney's Office for DC.

Also honored with the Justice Potter Stewart Award was Commander Lillian Overton of the Metropolitan Police Department, for dedicating the majority of her 25-year career to preventing and responding to crimes committed against and by children, and improving the administration of justice on behalf of youth. Special thanks to Board member and former DC Council member Kathy Patterson for presenting the award in lieu of Chief Cathy Lanier who was called away on official business.

CCE proudly congratulates both of our 2009 honorees. The Council for Court Excellence is grateful to Mrs. Potter Stewart for her continued support and guidance. We also thank Peter Kolker of Zuckerman Spaeder for chairing the Award Selection Committee and Steve Hut of WilmerHale for chairing the Dinner Committee.



Honorees **Earl J. Silbert** and **Commander Lillian Overton**



Board members **Eric Lieberman** and **Kathy Patterson**



Left: Board members (from left) **Doug Spaulding**, **Dwight Murray** and **Jim Lee**

Below: Board members (from left) **Steve Hut**, **Sam Harahan** and **Jim Nathanson**



13th Annual Justice Potter Stewart Dinner



Board members (from left) **Barbara Johnson**, **John Clark** and **Debby Luxenberg**



Linda Shea (LexisNexis) and Board member **Vicky Cashman** (right)

Below: Board members **Judge Craig Iscoe** (left) and **Tyrone Parker** (right) with honoree **Commander Lillian Overton**



Award presenter **Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth** with honoree **Earl Silbert**, CCE Board President **Rod Page** and CCE Board Chair **Marie Johns**

The Council thanks all of our generous contributors to the 13th Annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner:

Leadership

**Wilmer Cutler Pickering
Hale and Dorr LLP**

Benefactors

Alvarez & Marsal, Arent Fox LLP, Baker Botts LLP, Bryan Cave LLP, DLA Piper LLP (US), GEICO, Hogan & Hartson LLP, Jones Day, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP, Miller & Chevalier Chtd., Patton Boggs LLP, Paul Hastings, PNC Bank, PEPCO, and Hollingsworth LLP

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Board Members Honored with Horsky Awards

“By any measure, Steve and Debby meet the award’s standard of going above and beyond in serving the mission of the Council for Court Excellence”

Rod Page

Immediate Past President
of CCE Board

At the June 11, 2009 Board meeting, outgoing President Rodney Page was presented with a Charles A. Horsky Award for his exemplary contributions to the Council for Court Excellence. Established in 1998, the award is named after CCE’s founder. At the meeting, Chair Marie Johns introduced Rod as the keynote speaker and reminded everyone of his many accomplishments. Rod had been a member of the CCE Board of Directors for nearly 20 years, and had served as CCE’s President since 2005 and before that as Vice President. Rod presided over 20 Executive Committee meetings and many other CCE events. He provided wise counsel and showed complete dedication to CCE’s mission throughout his tenure. Rod also led by securing generous financial support for much of CCE’s work from his law firm Bryan Cave LLP. In addition, Rod served on the

Long-Range Planning Committee, and hosted numerous orientations and special meetings for new members, committee chairs, and other interested groups of stakeholders. At the conclusion of her introduction, Marie turned over the podium to Tim May, former CCE President, who made heartfelt remarks about his long association with Rod, and presented him with the Horsky Award.

At its September 17 meeting, CCE’s Executive Committee presented Horsky Awards to Steve Hut and Deborah Luxenberg, two longtime Board members and former members of the Executive Committee, also for their exemplary contributions to the Council for Court Excellence. Former Board President Rod Page presented the awards to Steve and Debby, remarking “by any measure, Steve and Debby meet the award’s standard of going above and beyond in serving the mission of the Council for Court Excellence.”



*Immediate Past President
Rod Page (right) presents the
Horsky Award to **Steve Hut** at the
September 2009 Executive
Committee meeting*

The Charles A. Horsky Awards

Steve Hut served as CCE's Vice President from 2005-2009, and he served a remarkable total of 14 years on our Executive Committee during two separate long terms. During all of that time, he was actively engaged in all we do and provided consistently wise counsel. Steve also was a leader of several development efforts for CCE, from Public Forums, to the capital campaign, to the Stewart Awards Dinner, and he led by example with both his personal generosity and by arranging for his firm WilmerHale to be the most generous law firm supporter of CCE in its history.

Deborah Luxenberg served as chair of CCE's Children in the

Courts Committee for eight years, 2001-2009, and she served on the Executive Committee for seven of those years, 2002-2009. Under her leadership and wise counsel, the Children in the Courts Committee was remarkably active and productive throughout that period, beginning with the early efforts surrounding passage of the then-controversial Family Court Act, through the Act's highly successful implementation, and more recent activities in the child custody and juvenile justice fields. Debby and her small firm have also been consistent supporters of our Stewart Award Dinners.



Board member and former President **Tim May** presents the Horsky Award to Immediate Past President **Rod Page** at the June 2009 Board meeting



Immediate Past President **Rod Page** (left) presents the Horsky Award to **Debby Luxenberg** at the September 2009 Executive Committee meeting

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Voluntary Membership Dues	241,480	34.1%
Donations	234,973	33.2%
Grants & Foundation Funding	186,500	26.4%
Other Income*	44,668	6.3%
Total Support and Revenue	707,621	
Expenses:		
Program	579,750	82.6%
Administrative	65,275	9.3%
Resource Development	57,554	8.2%
Total Expenses	701,877	
Excess (deficiency)	5,744	

* Other income includes contract work (mission-related fees for service), interest income, publication sales.

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