




Council for  
Court Excellence

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REFINING  
OUR  
FOCUS

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Board Members,

This 2007 Annual Report summarizes the final year of the Council for Court Excellence's first quarter century, in which we looked backward in celebration of the first 25 years, and looked forward to refine our focus for the future. We hope you will review this report carefully and share it with colleagues and friends who are committed to improving the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.



One of the report's central themes is "improving public understanding of our justice system," and over the course of the year, CCE engaged in public education through a series of events, to commemorate the 25th anniversary, on the local justice system, access to justice, and jury service. Each event was well-attended, with diverse audiences representing the legal, business, judicial and civic communities of our city.

The first forum made transparent how the Third Branch of DC government is a unique patchwork of local and federal agencies and functions, in terms of how judges are selected, the court is structured and funded, and crime is prosecuted in the District of Columbia. This Third Branch project was part of a larger DC Democracy Initiative, from the Trellis Fund, with generous assistance from other foundations and the David A. Clarke School of Law that published the project's white papers in its Spring 2008 law review.

CCE's second forum was sponsored by the Court Improvements Committee, chaired by David Cynamon, whose firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman hosted an enthusiastic audience eager to improve access to justice in the District, especially for communities where civil legal services are minimal at best. Speakers included DC Superior Court judges, DC Bar leadership, exemplary legal service providers, with a keynote address by Access to Justice Commission Chair Peter Edelman. All were impressive and informative.

The last of the 2007 public forums hearkened back to a CCE evergreen issue, promoting jury service in the District of Columbia. It featured a panel of former jurors and court officials who inspired the audience with personal stories about jury duty and informed the community about civic responsibility. CCE is grateful to the Public Service Committee, its co-chairs Linda Bostick and Michael Waldman, and the Olender Foundation for making this event possible.

In addition to public education, the Council spent 2007 celebrating our 25th anniversary. This began with the Justice Potter Stewart Awards Dinner where we recognized long-time CCE Board member company GEICO, along with Rod Boggs of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, for their many contributions, and ended with the December Board meeting and special 25th anniversary report, *The First Twenty-Five Years*.

This has been an extraordinary year in the life of a "remarkable local organization," to quote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in the report's introductory remarks. We echo her appreciation for the Council's many accomplishments to date, and hope that this report and the activities it summarizes follow in the footsteps of the last quarter century of accomplishments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Rogers".

Michael C. Rogers  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney F. Page".

Rodney F. Page  
President

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear CCE Board Members,

Following the setting of CCE's agenda for 2007-2011, we spent this year sharpening our programmatic priorities under the broad categories of business and the courts, juvenile justice, court effectiveness, and criminal justice. Beyond the celebratory activities for our 25th anniversary, CCE took the year to refine our focus by developing concrete projects, establishing committees, and raising financial support.

We began with the idea of creating a Community Guide to DC's Juvenile Justice System, to explain the current system that is neither transparent nor well-known and to pave the way for a multi-year reform effort. Chaired by former DC Attorney General Bob Spagnoletti, this committee outlined the project, raised the funds, and began work on the guide to be finished by fall 2008.

CCE also began exploring another theme of the long-range plan, Business and the Courts, which will see more developments in 2008. A committee formed, chaired by Marc Sherman, and spent time determining the best way to approach a subject that has regional implications.

Another 2007 CCE project, the Journalists' Handbook, is an example of what I call "the stars in alignment," with the DC Superior Court having indicated a need for the project, interest and expertise identified among the CCE Board, and a funding source - the State Justice Institute - interested in this very subject. The handbook will be completed by the end of 2008.

CCE also devoted time to examining the nexus between the court and corrections. We continued to explore the Board's interest in mental illness and substance abuse among chronic offenders, and the subject of offender reentry in general. Another public forum in early 2008 on the impact of the Revitalization Act on offender reentry will identify opportunities for our Criminal Justice Committee to pursue in the future.

We also engaged in important internal work such as updating CCE's by-laws to ensure we are well positioned to govern ourselves for the next 25 years. We leaped technologically by publishing electronically CCE's board newsletter, *Sidebar*, and external newsletter, *Court Excellence*, and switched to an e-mail system that allows us to provide more interesting and timely coverage of CCE news. Watch for the next set of changes in our website, as we strive to make it more attractive and relevant. And, we established CCE's Resource Development Committee, co-chaired by Caryl Bernstein and Jim Lee, to coordinate all of our income generation and member recruitment activities.

Recently, I re-read a 2002 interview with CCE founder and former Executive Director Sam Harahan, who described his three biggest challenges: the nature of CCE's work that typically takes years to achieve; the importance of financial sustainability; and the difficulty in getting policy-makers to recognize the value of CCE's independence. Those remain challenges which I welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "June B. Kress". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

June B. Kress  
Executive Director

# RECONSIDERING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 3RD BRANCH

Last year's annual report described a Council for Court Excellence study then underway of the unique governance structure of the DC Courts and the DC prosecution function, with particular attention to the history of how the following came to be:

- That the DC judicial function is outside the DC government, being funded and overseen solely by the United States Congress, with local judges appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate; and
- That the DC prosecution function is nearly completely outside the DC government, with the United States Attorney rather than the DC Attorney General prosecuting nearly all local DC Code violations in the DC Superior Court.

Because the principal goal of the DC Third Branch project was to increase the community's civic knowledge and understanding, CCE's project committee produced and widely distributed draft reports on all of the governance issues and presented the reports for public discussion at a symposium on April 20.

The committee members recruited a corps of prominent and engaging symposium speakers with different perspectives and opinions on each of the issues to be discussed. The full-day symposium was quite successful, and it drew a strong and engaged audience from remarkably diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. The day's discussions among the panels and the audience were animated, substantive, thought-provoking, and occasionally quite surprising.

After having spent a year educating themselves on the issues, following the symposium the committee members decided that their published articles would recommend the following:

- that the DC Home Rule Act be revised to empower the Mayor to appoint DC judges, with confirmation

by the DC Council (rather than the President and Senate, currently);

- that the Home Rule Act be revised to permit DC's local prosecutor to prosecute criminal offenses under the DC Code, while recognizing that, because this function has never been included in the local budget, determining how to implement and fund such a new function requires further study.

As to the organization, funding, and oversight of the court system, the committee's consensus was that, because of both the restrictions now placed by Congress on the District's ability to raise revenues and the additional costs the District bears because it is the Nation's Capital, the committee made no recommendation to change the current system of federal funding for the courts.

The articles, authored by Steven Schneebaum, Charles Miller, John Payton, and Peter Kolker, have been published in the Winter 2008 edition of the law review of the University of the District of Columbia David A.

*CCE Board members Peter Kolker, Steve Harlan, and Sam Haraban discuss who controls the organization and funding of the DC Courts.*





Clarke School of Law. The Third Branch committee's recommendations obviously are not self-executing; they would require substantial support and advocacy by the public and then Congressional action to amend the Home Rule Act. The Third Branch committee had presented their findings and recommendations in July 2007 to CCE's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee expressed great appreciation for the Third Branch committee's work and deferred consideration of further action until publication of the articles. Now that the project's articles have been published, CCE hopes to distribute the articles broadly and promote continued public discussion in 2008 and beyond of these important and fundamental public policy issues.

CCE's DC 3<sup>rd</sup> Branch project committee was co-chaired by Timothy May and John Nields. In addition to the co-chairs, committee members from the CCE Board were Jim Bishop, Steve Harlan, Peter Kolker, Charles Miller, Jim Nathanson, and Steven Schneebaum. The additional committee members were Jon Bouker, Dean Shelley Broderick, Eric Holder, Lorie Masters, John Payton, Jo-Ann Wallace, and Lois Williams. The project was funded by the Trellis Fund, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and the Litigation Section of the DC Bar, with substantial in-kind support from the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. CCE thanks them all.

## INCREASING PUBLIC ACCESS TO JUSTICE

On May 24, CCE's Court Improvements Committee presented a program entitled *Toward a Civil Gideon? Improving Access to Justice in the District of Columbia*. Over sixty people were in attendance, representing various sectors of the community: CCE Board member law firms, government agencies, legal service providers, judges and members of the civic community.

The attendees heard three speakers address the current and future states of access to justice issues in the District of Columbia, as well as a panel discussion among on-the-street practitioners who provide free legal representation to low income people in civil matters. The three speakers were Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters of the DC Superior Court, who spoke about the slowly improving state of access to justice in the DC Superior Court; Peter Edelman, Chair of the DC Access to Justice Commission, whose keynote speech addressed the need to eliminate poverty, and the need to support civil legal services through increased funding and pro bono help; and James Sandman, President of the DC Bar, whose closing remarks echoed Mr. Edelman's, and included the need to express gratitude for the contributions made by civil legal service providers.

The panel of legal service providers was moderated by Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of the DC Legal Aid Society. The panelists were: Patty Mullahy Fugere, Executive Director of the Washington Legal

Clinic for the Homeless; Judith Sandalow, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center; and Vytas Vergeer, Legal Clinic Director of Bread for the City. The panelists spoke about concrete ways that pro bono attorneys have made a

difference: policy assistance for the Washington Legal Clinic to enact the Homeless Services Reform Act, legal support and advice on a condominium conversion case, and direct representation of a foster family to adopt children of a troubled DC home.

The program was conceived, planned and conducted by a small planning group of the Court Improvements Committee and its chair, David Cynamon. Special thanks are due to him, to his law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP for hosting the event, and to planning committee members Bill Carter, Barbara Johnson, Carolyn Lerner and Michelle Parfitt. We are very thankful to the speakers and to the panelists for their willingness to participate in the program and for their inspirational remarks.



Senior Policy Analyst Peter Willner (left) and Executive Director June Kress (3rd from right) with the Court Improvements Event Planning Committee and Board members: Carolyn Lerner, Bill Carter, Michelle Parfitt, David Cynamon, and Barbara Johnson.

## PROMOTING JURY SERVICE

On October 18, CCE's Public Service Committee held a public forum, *In Your Hands: Perspectives on Jury Duty*, at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. CCE President Rodney Page welcomed the attendees and introduced the program that focused on the importance of serving on a jury.

Public Service Committee Co-chairs Michael Waldman and Linda Bostick then spoke about the genesis of the forum as part of a series of substantive public programs to commemorate CCE's 25th anniversary. The distinguished panel, which was moderated by WPFW-FM "Metro Watch" host Gloria Minott, consisted of The Washington Post Chairman Donald Graham; syndicated columnist Robert Novak; US District Judge Emmet Sullivan; DC resident Stella Henderson—all former jurors—and from the DC Superior Court, Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III and Juror Officer Suzanne Bailey-Jones.

Gloria Minott asked each former juror on the panel to describe their experiences when they served. "I was very impressed by my fellow jurors," said Robert Novak, who quipped that in an effort to be passed over for service, he "wore a three-piece suit," but to no avail, and he was selected to serve on a robbery and assault trial. Mr. Novak also said he was impressed at how twelve people could judge facts without bias, "in sharp contrast to what I observe daily in the function of our government."

When asked whether being chairman of a company such as The Washington Post helped him with the task of serving on a jury, Chairman Donald Graham responded that serving eighteen months as a police officer in the late 1960s was a greater influence on his respect for jury service. He also said that he came away with an appreciation of the process, thinking how every jury is crucially important in our system of justice.

Judge Emmet Sullivan was selected to serve seventeen years ago on a civil case when he was a



*Panelists at the public forum on jury duty included: US District Judge Emmet Sullivan, Syndicated Columnist Robert Novak, DC resident Stella Henderson, DC Superior Court Juror Officer Suzanne Bailey-Jones, DC Superior Court Chief Judge Rufus King, and Washington Post Chairman Donald Graham.*

Superior Court judge. He said that back then, like today, he was very impressed with the jurors and the seriousness with which they approached their work. "It's every citizen's responsibility to serve," added Judge Sullivan. "We should have a voice in how our system of justice is administered."

Stella Henderson, a government employee for more than 20 years, mentioned that she had been a juror many times, most recently last year. She recounted that one of the experiences she remembers most was a murder trial when the verdict was announced. Supporters of the defendant "tried to intimidate you with their stares" said Ms. Henderson. "You felt their stares after you left the courtroom," she added.

Chief Judge Rufus King and Juror Officer Suzanne Bailey-Jones discussed the need to improve juror response rates. They also addressed the fact that the court is purchasing new software to upgrade their systems to improve the court's jury list management.

In addition to Co-chairs Linda Bostick and Michael Waldman, planning committee members included Judge Mary Ellen Abrecht, Judge Arthur Burnett, Judge Craig Iscoe, Barbara Kagan, Judge Noel Kramer, Rhett Krulla, Lynn Mattucci, Jack Olender, and John Steren. CCE also thanks The Olender Foundation for its generous support of this event.

# IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

## COMMUNITY GUIDE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Last year's annual report noted that the Council for Court Excellence board identified juvenile justice as one of the priority areas for CCE during the 2007-2011 period. The first half of 2007 was spent exploring how best to begin our efforts in the juvenile field. That exploration made it clear that few people understand how the District's juvenile justice system works, so our first project will be a community education publication.

Though thousands of people each year become directly entangled in the District of Columbia's juvenile justice system, there is currently no written guidance readily available to the public about how the DC juvenile justice system operates or how a case moves from arrest of a juvenile until his or her exit from the system. CCE's *Community Guide to the DC Juvenile Justice System*, to be published in late 2008 in both English and Spanish, will fill this service gap.

*Board members Steve Gordon and Leslie McAdoo helped CCE recognize Councilmember Phil Mendelson for his oversight of the Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2006.*

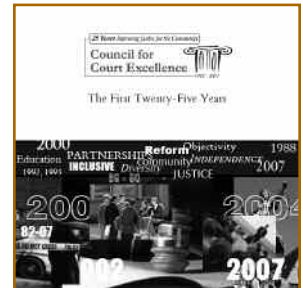


The DC juvenile justice system is complex and involves at various stages of the process numerous agencies of the judicial and executive branches of local government, as well as public defenders who are part of neither branch. By statute, the system is also completely confidential.

While confidentiality about individual cases supports the rehabilitative goal of the system, the system itself should not be shrouded in mystery, because the mystery reduces the community's understanding of and confidence in this important portion of the District's justice system.

Once CCE had designed the Juvenile Justice Guide project, we were fortunate to gather strong expressions of support from the DC Superior Court, the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Juvenile Justice Clinic of Georgetown University Law Center, and two community advocacy groups. We enlisted former DC Attorney General Robert Spagnoletti, now a CCE board member, to lead the project committee. The broad range of policy support for the project enabled CCE to raise, during the second half of 2007, nearly all the grant funding needed for the project. CCE thanks the State Justice Institute, the Women's Bar Association Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, the Moriah Fund, the George Preston Marshall Foundation, and the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation for investing in this effort.

Bob Spagnoletti recruited a strong committee to oversee the project. Other CCE board members on the committee include J.R. Clark, Cliff Keenan, Judge Richard Levie (Ret.), Kathy Ruemmler, Ray Sczudlo,



*CCE published a 25th Anniversary Report in 2007. See page 10 for more information.*



Arabella Teal, and Andy Wise. Additional committee members are Judge William Jackson of the Family Court, Vincent Schiraldi and Jeff McInnis of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Margaret Duval of the DC Bar, Hannah McElhinny of the Public Defender Service, Bonnie Hannan of the Office of the DC Attorney General, and Jessica Sandoval of the Campaign for Youth Justice.

As the year ended, the committee had formed, had begun its research, and had started recruiting members of a project advisory committee who will help identify the issues the guide must address and will later review the draft guide to ensure it meets its community education purpose.

## JOURNALIST'S HANDBOOK TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

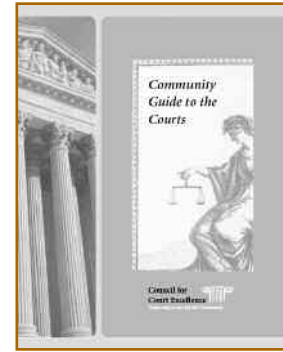
CCE has begun a project to produce a *Journalist's Handbook to the District of Columbia Courts*, which will be published and widely disseminated in September 2008. The Handbook will describe the processes and policies of the local and federal courts in the District of Columbia, as well as legal terminology and general court information. In so doing, the Handbook will assist journalists to report knowledgeably and accurately about the law, trial and appellate proceedings, and other court-related activities. Also, the Handbook will be designed to aid media organizations by serving as a teaching tool for reporters, including students in local area journalism

*Chairman Michael Rogers, Executive Director June Kress (back), and President Rod Page (3rd from right) with the Founders of the Council for Court Excellence: Current CCE Vice President Steve Hut representing WilmerHale; Dr. Edward Burger; Ellen Eager; Judge James Belson; Judge Gregory Mize (Ret.); Sam Haraban; and Nick Fels representing Covington & Burling.*



schools, who need to learn about the District of Columbia court systems.

The committee is co-chaired by CCE Board members Lanny Breuer of Covington & Burling, Laura Handman of Davis Wright Tremaine, and Eric Lieberman of The Washington Post, along with Barry Coburn of Trout Cacheris, Ronald Jessamy, Lee Levine of Levine Sullivan Koch & Schultz, Paul Pearlstein, and Arabella Teal. Additional committee members are Lucy Dalglish of the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press, Jerald Fritz of Allbritton Communications Company, Leah Gurowitz of the DC Courts, Judge Lee Satterfield of the DC Superior Court, Sheldon Snook of the US District Court for DC, and Kurt Wimmer of Gannett Co., Inc.



We are grateful to the following funders for their financial support of this important educational initiative: State Justice Institute, Philip L. Graham Fund, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Williams & Connolly LLP, Proskauer Rose LLP, Troutman Sanders LLP, and Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP.

## COMMUNITY GUIDE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

CCE has updated and also translated the *Community Guide to the Courts* into Spanish. First printed in 1989, this was CCE's first public education booklet describing the local and federal courts of the metropolitan area. Special thanks are due to the following CCE Board members who reviewed and commented on the publication: Susan Brinkerhoff, Cary Feldman, Leslye Givarz, Steven Schneebaum, Kenneth Stallard, Arabella Teal and Ted Whitehouse. Thanks are also due to Victor Salgado and Vicky McEneny for their efforts in helping to translate this guide into Spanish.

## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

In its continuing effort to spread the message of openness in the justice system to visiting delegations of foreign nationals, the Council for Court Excellence hosted Gloria María Borrero Restrepo, Executive Director of Colombia's Corporation for Excellence in Justice (CEJ) (Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia); Mario Córdoba Ordóñez, a Colombian Ministry of



*Communications Coordinator & Policy Analyst Julio Lainez (left), Board member Judge Craig Iscoe of the DC Superior Court (center), and Executive Director June Kress (2nd from left) with the visiting Georgian delegation.*

Justice official; and delegations of judicial officials from Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia.

Ms. Borrero met with CCE Board members Julia Alanen and Victor Salgado, as well as CCE staff members June Kress and Julio Lainez, and interns Rachel Harris, Sierra Neudecker and Olga Grosh, to discuss ways in which successful CCE justice system reform programs may be implemented in Colombia. Likewise, Mr. Ordóñez visited CCE along with Erika Vargas, a research associate and cultural coordinator of Georgetown University's Center for Latin American Studies, to share with CCE the work being done by the ministry in the field of public policy and access to justice, and to identify future collaboration opportunities between CCE and the Colombian Ministry of Justice.

The Ukrainian delegation included a representative from the Ukraine's Center for Political and Legal Studies, a defense attorney, a member of the Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, a judge from the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, and a representative from the Office of the Prosecutor General. Board members Dr. Ed Burger and Judge Craig Iscoe hosted the informative and lively meeting, along with CCE staff, with the visiting delegation from Ukraine. CCE staff, again with Board member Judge Craig Iscoe, hosted another conversation with a visiting delegation from Georgia. Judge Iscoe presented an overview of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on jury trials, a subject of great

interest to the visiting officials. For more information regarding our International Visitors Program please visit our website at [courtexcellence.org](http://courtexcellence.org).

## JURY INITIATIVE IN RUSSIA

CCE met with Tom Firestone, an Assistant US Attorney from the Eastern District of New York, to discuss jury initiatives in Russia. Firestone has been working for the past years with Russian officials to develop programs to increase public understanding and support of the jury system in Russia, and that research brought him to talk to CCE about what activities it has done during the years. He and Russian officials are creating an organization in Russia that would work to improve the public's perception of the jury system, while at the same time creating reforms to improve the jury system systemically. June Kress, Julio Lainez and Peter Willner talked about CCE's past jury appreciation campaigns, the school jury education project and the past court observation studies and handbook. Firestone mentioned that "raising the prestige and status" of the jury system in Russia is one of the goals, and he pledged to continue our relationship.



# CELEBRATING CCE'S FIRST 25 YEARS

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

To plan various ways to recognize and celebrate the Council for Court Excellence's first quarter century, CCE appointed a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, co-chaired by Cary Feldman and Nancy Lesser, along with Sam Harahan, Marcia Calhoun, and Gordon Forester. Throughout 2007, this committee provided leadership to CCE by having input into the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in May, convening a panel of CCE Board members at our December Board meeting, and planning for and then publishing in December a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report that revisits CCE's achievements over the last twenty five years. We thank the entire committee for guiding CCE through a memorable year.



## DINNER

The 25th Anniversary Dinner was held on Thursday, May 3 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Judge David S. Tatel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit presented the eleventh annual Justice Potter Stewart Award to Roderic Boggs, Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. Boggs was selected for his dedication to public service and his long-time commitment to reducing discrimination in the District of Columbia.

CCE also honored a long-time supporter of the Council, GEICO, with its 25th Anniversary Appreciation Award, for funding or providing resources for the Council to print and distribute close to 250,000 community education booklets and reports over the past twenty years. The award was presented by DC Court of Appeals Judge Vanessa Ruiz to Dana Proulx, General Counsel of GEICO. In addition, as part of the program, CCE took

1. Executive Committee members Marcia Calhoun and Deborah Luxenburg.
2. Honoree Rod Boggs with Judge David Tatel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and Board member Judge Vanessa Ruiz of the DC Court of Appeals.
3. Honoree Dana Proulx, General Counsel of GEICO.
4. 2005 Stewart Honoree and Board member Ann Cuninghame flanked by Chief Judge Eric Washington of the DC Court of Appeals and Chief Judge Rufus King of the DC Superior Court.

time to pay special tribute to the founding Board members and firms.

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 Bill Jeffress of Baker Botts for his leadership of the Dinner Committee again this year.

## BOARD MEETING PANEL

To celebrate CCE's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the December 6 Board meeting, a lively panel discussion, moderated by Judge James Robertson of the US District Court for the District of Columbia, took place between five long-



time Board members representing the various sectors of CCE's Board: Bill Robinson (business), Judge Vanessa Ruiz (judicial), Rod Page (legal), Jim Berry (civic), and Kathy Patterson (ex-officio).



*Board member Cary Feldman introduces the panel at the December Board meeting: Bill Robinson, Judge Vanessa Ruiz, Rod Page, Jim Berry, and Kathy Patterson.*

The panel discussed how they became involved in CCE originally and why they were still active. In response to the question about the biggest challenge facing CCE over the next 25 years, responses ranged from the need for the organization to stay relevant, to the need to maintain the “delicate balance” among the different sectors of CCE’s membership so that a diverse set of board voices continue to be heard. Other panel members spoke to the importance of vetting issues from a variety of perspectives so that the organization remains trusted by policy-makers, and to retaining the creative tension between CCE and the courts while maintaining our independence.

We thank Judge James Robertson and the US District Court for the District of Columbia for hosting the business meeting and our panelists for a most inspiring discussion.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT “THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS”

This year the Council also saw completion of its anniversary publication, *The First Twenty-Five Years*. This wonderful report, the fruit of so much effort by so many, offers a broad retrospective of CCE’s work and the impact CCE has had on improving the

administration of justice. The publication surveys our accomplishments in civil and criminal justice, to improve the District’s jury system, to maintain a focus on community education and, always, to help children. Our anniversary publication is a testament to not only what we do, but to what we can achieve by working together in common purpose. We are especially gratified by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s introduction, which offers kind affirmation of our organization and the work we do.

We are most grateful to Marcia Calhoun’s firm, Davis Carter Scott, and her staff member Garick Malcom for their pro bono design work, and we thank an anonymous donor and our Board firms Covington & Burling, Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP, and Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP for their generous gifts to cover the printing and dissemination of the report.

*The Council for Court Excellence thanks the following organizations and individuals for making the 25th Anniversary Dinner a success:*

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# 2007 CCE CONTRIBUTIONS LIST

The Council for Court Excellence is pleased to acknowledge and thank the individuals, businesses, law firms, and foundations who contributed to its work in 2007. The Council raises its resources through a variety of means. The amounts noted below represent the aggregate voluntary contributions from each organization and individual throughout 2007. Board membership dues are not included in this list. Your contribution has helped us make a difference in the administration of justice. Please contact us if we have made an error in your listing.

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State Justice Institute

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FINANCIAL YEAR IN SUMMARY**

Total Support and Revenue	765,661
Expenses:	
Program	546,460
Administrative	99,445
Resource Development	114,960
Total Expenses	760,865
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	4,796



1. CCE thanks the underwriters of the 2007 Holiday Reception: Clark Construction, Huron Consulting, and EagleBank. Pictured above with June Kress (second from left) and Michael Rogers (far right) are Frank Baltz, Jacque O'Neil, and Marcie Spivok of Clark Construction, Huron Consulting and EagleBank, respectively.

2. Board members Glenn Reichardt and Melvin White.

3. Executive Committee member Judge Noel Anketell Kramer and Charles Work.

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL FOR COURT EXCELLENCE

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The Council for Court Excellence, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2007, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic organization. The Council works to improve the administration of justice in the local and federal courts and related agencies in the Washington metropolitan area and in the nation. The Council accomplishes this goal by:

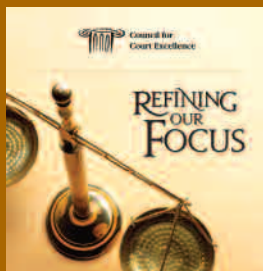
- Identifying and promoting court reform,
- Improving public access to justice, and
- Increasing public understanding and support of our justice system.

The Council is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors composed of members of the legal, business, civic, and judicial communities. The Council is unique in bringing together all of those communities in common purpose to address court reform and access to justice needs. The Board accomplishes the work of the Council through direct participation in Council committees. The Council employs a small staff to assist the Board in meeting the objectives of the organization. Financial support comes from the members of the Board, businesses, law firms, individuals, foundations, and occasionally government.

The Council for Court Excellence has built a substantial record of success in the major court reform initiatives it has undertaken. The Council 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 methods to speed resolution of criminal cases, and proposing methods 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.

In December, 2006, the Council's Board of Directors set the following major program priorities for the 2007-2011 period:

- Criminal Justice
- Business and the Courts
- Court Efficiencies and Effectiveness
- Juvenile Justice



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