



**Welcome Message from Marty Sullivan**

Issue 1, June 2009

Dear Southeast Region Members,

I am pleased to present you with the first edition of our Southeast Regional Newsletter. Its features focus on the work of our membership in the region and provide a glimpse into some of the issue trends in our profession. If you have any ideas or feedback regarding the newsletter's content and format, please respond with your suggestions. It is my hope that the newsletter will become a forum for fostering a new level of collegiality. As you know, countless evaluations have told us that networking is a primary interest of our membership and should be a primary goal of our Association. If you have any new program ideas or would like the region to know about something happening in your state, please submit such items. Through learning about other states, judicial educators in our region will have an opportunity to benefit from your experiences.

As a reminder, the 2009 Annual Conference is scheduled for August 9th-12th in Asheville, North Carolina. I have been listening to what the Education Committee is planning and this conference looks great! I'm excited to see you all there and would encourage everyone to attend. During the Annual Conference's Regional break out meeting, I plan to revisit the idea of a bi-monthly conference call and the possibility of a regional, midyear meeting in 2010. It would very helpful if members give some serious consideration to these ideas and bring any other ideas about stimulating networking in the Southeast.

I hope you enjoy the interviews and profiles contained in this first newsletter. We are already hard at work on a second, which should find its way to you next month. Best wishes on a successful and productive summer!

Sincerely,

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Southeast Regional Director  
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**2009 NASJE Conference**  
August 9-12, 2009  
Asheville Renaissance Hotel  
Asheville, North Carolina

*For more information on the 2009 Conference including registration and hotel rates visit:*

<http://nasje.org/annualConference/>

*Cutoff date for hotel reservations is July 17, 2009. Registrations rates increase after July 11, 2009.*



**Interview with Wally Lowery**

*What is the history of your state's program?*

Traditionally and before unification, our program was located under the University of Alabama in the early 1970s. After unification, the Judicial College has since operated under the umbrella of the Alabama Administrative Office of the Courts.

*Who does your office serve?*

We do the CLE programs for Judges, Circuit Clerks, Court Specialists, Judicial Assistants, and all attorneys in our state.

*What are some of the interesting programs your office has held?*

Our office puts on CLE programs on a variety of topics. Some of the interesting programs we have put on were on capital murder. We worked with the National Judicial College to put that program on. Also, we've done programs on best practices. Our Chief Justice, Sue Bell Cobb, is very big on trying to get all three branches of government in Alabama to work together.

*What is your office's participation in NASJE?*

I am currently serving as the chairman of Fundraising.

*How many staff members are in your office?*

Our office has six staff members. Our website is [www.alacourt.gov](http://www.alacourt.gov). We are located under the Judicial College Division. Our site has a picture directory with our names, titles, emails, and phone numbers next to our individual pictures because it's nice to know who you are talking to if you have to contact us.

*What are some challenges your office faces?*

Our number one challenge is money. With the economy the way it is, prices have risen, but our budget has pretty much stayed the same. As a nonprofit organization, we receive funding from the Judiciary fund. So, we try to get the biggest bang for our buck. We try to plan the best conferences, etc with the money we do have, and try not to waste things. This means lots of consideration goes into the fine details of planning a conference like how much food to order, where to hold the conference, and how much to pay our speakers.

*What are some of your office's future plans and goals?*

Our number one long term goal is to push training via video teleconference. We work heavily with our IT department to provide live, interactive feeds to about 20 courthouses in the state. By doing this with the courthouses who have this capability, we can hold the meeting here in our office, but the participants don't have to travel far to attend the conference. Our second goal is using credit cards online to pay for all services. This is better for auditing purposes, and helps us to keep track of things more easily than trying to keep track of a bunch of checks and money orders. We expect to have this system up and running by June.



Wally Lowery  
Assistant Director of the  
Alabama Judicial College



*If you want to learn more about Alabama court system structure visit:*

[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/Ct\\_Struct/](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/Ct_Struct/)

*Select Alabama for a court system flow chart.*





**Interview with James Drennan**

*What is the history of your state's program?*

The program started at the NC School of Government around the 1930s out of a professor's classes. We started working with judges in the 1940s through the UNC School of Government, about 20 years before NC had an AOC.

*Who does your office serve?*

We serve all judges (mostly trial), clerks of court, magistrates, and court administrators. Our program maintains a close relationship with the state government and other state departments.

*What are some of the interesting programs your office has held?*

We hold about 40-50 programs each year. These vary in length from one day to two weeks. We have three kinds of programs: new official orientation, continuing education conferences, and judicial college programs. The judicial college programs are small group subject intensive programs. Some of the more interesting programs we have are on child development, sentencing (which is an interesting program because of all the different people it involves), and advance evidence (which is a four day long, very intensive course). In particular, sentencing and advanced evidence are very interesting because they involve the exercising of judges' discretion.

*What is your office's participation in NASJE?*

Currently, I serve on the Nominating committee, Education committee, and Membership committee. I've served on many different committees over the years.

*How many staff members are in your office?*

We have 45 faculty members in the School of Government. Each faculty member has their own area of expertise and own group of public officials that they serve as the primary contact person for. Faculty members work in research, writing, and consulting. We answer thousands of phone calls every year. Specifically, 12 members of the faculty work with people in the justice system. The time each of the 12 works varies, and lines are blurred as far as who does what.

*What are some challenges your office faces?*

We are facing serious budget cuts next year. Traditionally, we've had very stable funding, but the recent cuts have been the worst in decades. Also, we are working on how to better provide education using distance learning tools. We've developed 6-8 modules this year, and we know we'll have to use this method more often because of upcoming budget cuts.

*What are some of your office's future plans and goals?*

It is very hard to establish goals right now because of budget cuts. These cuts will especially be hard on funding for travel, and we hope we get to keep our current personnel. We had hoped to grow our program, but it looks like we will stay about the same size for awhile due to the money issues. We want to deliver the most we can with our current staff, but every member of our staff is involved in other activities too such as teaching. We would also like to further develop our computer based learning/education tools and to help our staff to further develop the skill sets necessary to deal with this new technology.



James Drennan  
Director of the North Carolina  
Judicial College



*If you want to learn more about North Carolina court system structure visit:*

[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/Ct\\_Struct/](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/Ct_Struct/)

*Select North Carolina for a court system flow chart.*

