

**NACM ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**2010-2011 Report of Projects and Results**

**Committee Chair:** Paul DeLosh

**Committee Members:** Lynn Epps  
Scott Griffith  
Pam Harris  
Stephanie Hess  
Peter Kiefer  
Mary Koontz  
Frank Maiocco, Jr.  
Norman Meyer  
Michele Oken  
Timothy Palmatier  
Will Simmons  
David Slayton  
Carla Smith  
Dean Stanzione  
Karl Thoennes

**Staff:** Linda Perkins  
Amy McDowell

**1. Project Title: Ethics Articles**

In 1994 Peter Kiefer began writing the regular column "A Question of Ethics" in The Court Manager. Karl Thoennes joined Peter Kiefer in writing the columns in 1999. Frank Maiocco, Superior Court in Washington State, began contributing articles in 2010. The articles generally present both hypothetical and real-life ethics scenarios in courts and legal settings along with commentary from court managers in the field.

In 2011, Ethics Committee Member, Norma Meyer, authored an article, *Social Media and the Ethical Court Employee*, exploring how social media use intersects with ethical restrictions and posing several fact situations and providing tips on how a court can proactively enable proper social media use. Extensive references and a sample social media use policy were included. The article will be used as the framework for the July 12, 2011 annual conference educational program of the same name.

**Results:** *Online Education*, Peter Kiefer - - Spring 2011  
*Social Media and the Ethical Court Employee*, Norman Meyer - -  
Spring 2011  
*Nightmare in the Blogoshere*, Peter Kiefer - - Fall 2010  
*I Found it on Facebook*, Peter Kiefer - - Summer 2010

## **2. Project Title: Ethics Website**

In 2009, the NACM website was redesigned with the exception of the Ethics page.

Results: Ethics webpage has been updated to comport with the updated NACM website. Specific emphasis was placed linking Ethics articles to the canons of the Model Code of Conduct for Court Employees.

## **3. Project Title: Ethics Hotline**

The NACM Ethics Committee offers an informal service where any court professional can pose ethics questions or scenarios using a simple message submission box. The messages initially go Paul DeLosh, Peter Kiefer and Karl Thoennes. As use of this service has not been greatly utilized, the Ethics Committee focused this past year on marketing efforts.

Results: Karl Thoennes authored the article, *NACM offers Ethics Hotline*, which appeared in the Summer 2010 Vol. 11, No. 3 issue of the Court Express.

## **4. Project Title: Education**

The NACM Ethics Committee has provided focus for delivering ethics-centered educational offerings at conferences and through distance learning initiatives.

Results: Ethics committee members Norman Meyer and Karl Thoennes will lead the July 12, 2011 educational program, Social Media and the Ethical Court Employee.

Ethics committee member Peter Kiefer is developing an ethics-related educational webinar for delivery in late August to NACM members.

## **Acknowledgement:**

Through NACM's continued partnership with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), a staff member was assigned to each NACM committee as an Advisor and resource agent. Ms. Amy McDowell joined her first Ethics Committee meeting on March 3, 2011 as the NCSC Advisor. She will participate in conference calls and will work with the committee chair to further the mission and goals of the committee.

The Ethics Committee Chair would like to thank the members of the Ethics Committee for their important contribution over the past year.