

## **Kansas City, Missouri, Hosts the Eighth Annual Court Technology Conference**

The H. Roe Bartle Hall Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri, encompasses eight downtown city blocks and is the home of the Eighth Annual Court Technology Conference (CTC8), to be held October 28-30, 2003. Noted for being the only conference exclusively dedicated to court technology, the CTC8 presents wide and diverse educational programs, internationally known keynote speakers, discussion and special interest group sessions, and court technology vendor exhibitions, bringing together the essential information, people, and tools needed to learn about the very latest in courtroom technology. The conference is sponsored by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), a nonprofit organization that promotes justice through leadership and service to the state courts.

In the early 1980s, the idea of holding a national conference on court technology had been discussed among several court management organizations. During this time, the NCSC conducted several surveys through its Institute for Court Management and found the results of each survey to be consistent in one area - technology. Court technology training and the need to learn more about technology and its impact on the administration of justice repeatedly ranked high as priorities for court and legal professionals.

Since 1984, judges, court administrators, and information technologists have gathered at the conferences to learn about the latest information and trends in court technology. Held every two to three years, attendance has grown by an average of 25 percent each conference. Over 3,000 attendees and more than 100 vendors are expected at this year's event.

Three keynote speakers will be featured. The Honorable Jean Hoefler Toal, Chief Justice of the state of South Carolina, will discuss South Carolina's efforts to create a new judicial automation system by the use of technology through reengineering, reorganizing, and applying Baldrige award quality concepts. Dr. Jerry Mechling, director of the E-government Executive Education Project and lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, will present strategies that leaders should consider when investing in technology during difficult times for government. He will also address successful ways to control costs and improve services. Peter Bensinger, Esquire, described as "the most wired lawyer in America," and partner in the law firm of Bartlit, Beck, Herman, Palenchar, and Scott, completes the trio of presenters with his discussion on the "High-Tech Attorney," sharing the technology toolkit he takes to trial.

Educational sessions on current topics in court technology will be taught by key industry leaders and will provide updates on the progress and future of important new technologies. International faculty will supplement the educational sessions with new ideas and approaches from around the world. The variety of topics range from case management standards, financing and resources, decision support, and reengineering strategies, to techno-savvy subjects such as Internet access, Web casting, court automation, and wireless technology. One session of particular interest, labeled the "National Perspective on Information Sharing Policies, Programs and Actions," will discuss the policy and technical issues involved in information sharing among justice agencies. A panel of local, state, and federal officials will report on the efforts of the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC)—

an advisory body to the U.S. Department of Justice—to coordinate several initiatives designed to address both the policy and technical issues. In addition, Global products that assist developers and court managers in designing and implementing information sharing systems will be presented.

Part of the CTC8 experience is the Top Ten Court Web Site Competition. Official court Web sites are judged in three categories: Best Overall, Best Educational, and Best Public Access. Last year's top winners included the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida (Orlando) and Arizona Supreme Court's "LawForKids.org" Web sites. Winners will be honored at the CTC8 Cyber Café and will be featured in the Court Technology Bulletin and the NCSC and CTC8 Web sites. Winning sites will also receive a prize of nominal value.

For more information on the Eighth Annual Court Technology Conference, go to the CTC8 Web site at <http://www.ctc8.net/> or e-mail questions to [CTCInformation@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:CTCInformation@ncsc.dni.us).