RACSS Business Meeting

2014 NCSL Legislative Summit
Friday, Aug. 22, 2014
9:00-10:15 a.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center Room 205 AB
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Remarks by RACSS Chair, 2013-2014
   Sabrina N. Lewellen, Deputy Director and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Arkansas

3. Presentation of 2014 Legislative Staff Achievement Awards
   Walker Reagan, Division Director
   Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly
   Estella Smith, Administrator of Committee Staff Services
   Research Services Division, Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research

   for Vice-Chair:
   Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director
   Legislative Reference Bureau, Hawaii

   for Directors:
   Cindy Ellison, Senior Research Associate
   Policy Issue Research, Texas Legislative Council

   Kristin Sullivan, Chief Analyst
   Office of Legislative Research, Connecticut General Assembly

   Bradley K. Krehely, Staff Attorney
   Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly

5. Remarks by Incoming RACSS Chair, 2014-2015
   Bryant Howe, Assistant Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Utah

6. Remarks by NCSL Staff Officers

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment
2014 Slate of Candidates

Under the RACSS Bylaws, the slate of candidates is presented as a whole to the membership in attendance at the annual RACSS Business Meeting. The slate is approved or disapproved in its entirety.

for Vice-Chair:

Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director, Legislative Reference Bureau, Hawaii

Charlotte is the Acting Director of the Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau and has served in the Legislative Reference Bureau since 1987. She just completed serving her second term as a Director on the RACSS Executive Committee. Charlotte has served as a speaker for RACSS session and planned numerous programs for the staff section. Prior to working for the Hawaii legislature, she worked for the National Center for State Courts for 6 ½ years and as a prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. Charlotte is a member of the Virginia and Hawaii Bars.

for Directors:

Cindy Ellison, Senior Research Associate, Policy Issue Research, Texas Legislative Council

Cindy is a Senior Research Associate with the Texas Legislative Council, working on Economic Development and Transportation issues. She has worked for the Texas Legislature since 1987, staffing two lieutenant governors and a state senator representing the Texas-Mexico border. Cindy has swapped business cards with RACSS members at every opportunity and reports that you probably have her card. Cindy was appointed to the RACSS Executive Committee in 2011 to fill out an unexpired term as Director and just completed her first full term as a director.

Kristin Sullivan, Chief Analyst, Office of Legislative Research, Connecticut General Assembly

Kristin has worked for the Office of Legislative Research for ten years, first as an analyst and currently as a manager during a period of transition for the OLR. Her areas of expertise include campaign finance, elections, Freedom of Information Act, government reorganization, ethics, redistricting, and public housing. Kristin has participated in several NCSL seminars, including staff training and redistricting. Prior to her work for the Connecticut General Assembly, Kristin served as a nonprofit director at Columbia University, organizing forums for leaders and state legislators and researching public policy issues.

Bradley K. Krehely, Staff Attorney, Research Division, North Carolina General Assembly

Brad has worked in state government for 11 years and is a Principal Staff Attorney and legislative analyst for the Research Division in the North Carolina General Assembly. He works in the areas of ethics, local government, labor and civil law and is the lead attorney on the House Judiciary B Committee and the Legislative Ethics Committee. Prior to his work in the Research Division, he worked as a law clerk for the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Brad has been an active member of RACSS and also serves on the NCSL Labor and Economic Development Committee and the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee. He received his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is active in his community, serving as an officer of the Rotary Club of Raleigh and as a volunteer youth basketball coach.
LSSS & RACSS Professional Development Seminar
Oct. 6-8, 2014
Richmond, Virginia

Sunday, Oct. 5
2:30-5:00 Registration

Monday, Oct. 6
7:00-5:00 Registration
7:30-8:30 Continental Breakfast
8:30-10:00 U.S. Supreme Court Update *
10:15-1:00 I Didn’t Sign On For This! Dealing with Constant Change in the Workplace
11:45-1:00 Luncheon
1:00-2:15 Concurrent Sessions
  • Witnesses Before Legislative Committees: Issues and Law *
  • Compiling 50-State Information *
  • I’m Just a Bill … in a State Legislative Drafting Office
2:30-3:45 Concurrent Sessions
  • The Doctrine of the Last Antecedent *
  • Focusing on the Take Away: Powerful Presentations for Public Speakers
4:00-5:00 Concurrent Sessions
  • Legal Thinking for Bill Drafters *
  • The History and Evolution of Legislative Committee Systems
5:00-6:00 Dutch Treat Networking Dinners

Tuesday, Oct. 7
7:30-8:30 Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45 Walk to General Assembly Building
8:45-10:00 Concurrent Sessions
  • Supreme Court Trends: Federalism and States’ Rights *
  • Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission on the Civil War
  • Hiring and Training Seasonal Proofreaders
10:15-12:00 Concurrent Sessions
  • The Bill Drafting Puzzle: Recognizing and Shaping the Pieces *
  • Confronting and Managing Biases
12:00-12:15 Walk to Capitol
12:15-1:30 Luncheon
1:30-2:30 Virginia State Capitol Tour
2:30-3:30 Virginia Legislative Staff Services
3:30-4:45 Concurrent Sessions
  • What is a Person? *
  • Ethics Commissions
  • Editors’ Roundtable: Coping with Deadlines and Other Stressors on the Job
4:45-6:15 Reception at the Virginia State Capitol

Wednesday, Oct. 8
7:30-8:30 Continental Breakfast
8:30-10:00 Defending the Legislature’s Confidences in the Context of Voting Rights Act Litigation *
10:15-11:45 Generations at Work: Collision, Confusion or Collaboration?

* CLE eligible
Estella Smith has provided over three decades of support and service to Arkansas legislators, state agency personnel, colleagues from the Bureau of Legislative Research and constituents.

Over the years, she has worked on behalf of Senators, Representatives and Arkansas citizens in various capacities, including administrative assistant, assistant to the director of the fiscal division, Senate budget clerk, and Senate legislative analyst. Now as administrator of Committee Staff Services, Estella is responsible for nearly every facet of the Bureau’s committee staff structure. Her list of accomplishments have continued to grow as her career advanced and she is held in high regard by both members and staff for her dedication to the legislative institution, tireless energy in fulfilling her duties and professional competence.

Estella's professionalism and personal determination is exemplary in today's political arena. Her energy, work ethic, vast knowledge of the legislative process and the support she provides to every legislator and staff member have been invaluable contributions to the General Assembly and the citizens of Arkansas. Her organizational skills, profound patience and consistent positive attitude have helped solidify the legacy of the Arkansas General Assembly. Without question, Arkansas is a better state because of her willingness to dedicate her life to public service.

Estella has been an active member of the Research and Committee Staff Section since her early days in the legislature and has participated in numerous RACSS programs. Despite her busy schedule and extensive responsibilities with the General Assembly, Estella also faithfully supports her community, especially several elderly citizens in her area.

Her contributions to the Arkansas General Assembly, Bureau of Legislative Research, RACSS and her community have been deeply felt by all who know her, as she exemplifies a true public servant.
Walker Reagan is responsible for the function and fluidity of the nearly 50 employees in the Research Division of the North Carolina General Assembly. He has tirelessly dedicated his talents to the legislators, staff and constituents of North Carolina for over 20 years and is an institution in his own right.

Walker joined the Research Division in 1992, after being in private practice of law for 13 years. His experience and education as an attorney allowed him to serve the North Carolina General Assembly in many capacities, including serving as an expert on legal issues involving the legislature. He served as counsel to legislative ethics and judiciary committees, as well as commerce committees.

Walker is a long-time member of the Research and Committee Staff Section and served as RACSS chair for 2012-2013. He is also a member of the Legal Services Staff Section, and the NCSL standing committee on Labor and Economic Development, and Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce. He has helped planned numerous programs for NCSL meeting and frequently serves as a speaker. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degree from Duke University and his law degree from the University of North Carolina. Walker is a graduate of the Legislative Staff Management Institute, class of 2003.

Walker’s depth of knowledge, diversity of involvement and ceaseless energy is second to none. He has done everything in his professional power to ensure that RACSS has been a positive and productive experience for its members and, without question, he is a tremendous asset for RACSS and the NCSL Executive Committee, to which he was elected in 2013.

Walker is the consummate public servant for the members and citizens of North Carolina and a steadfast ambassador for NCSL and RACSS.
RACSS Officers 2014-2015

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