

National Association for Court Management

2011 AWARD OF MERIT



Chris Crawford - The late Chris Crawford served in many roles as a major contributor to the advancement of the administration of justice nationally and internationally. Chris was President and Founder of Justice Served, a court management consulting firm; Chairman of the Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology (FACT) for the past six years; Faculty member and Fellow of the Institute for Court Management; served as a Court Administrator in California for over 28 years; and was a key contributor to numerous NACM initiatives including conducting insightful workshops at NACM conferences. Chris' varied contributions to the field of court administration included continuously working to increase the proficiency of court managers, extensive writings on resolving common court problems, displaying his own leadership and innovation skills, mentoring fellow court managers and tirelessly working for research and technology application improvements in courts. One of his many accomplishments was his annual listing of the Top 10 court website awards which were anxiously reviewed and referenced by court administrators nationwide. Chris' expertise was universally recognized. He authored numerous studies throughout the country for states as varied as California, Ohio, and Florida on methods to improve judicial efficiency. He was recognized internationally as a leading expert in the field of transitioning court systems to wireless technology for his work in Hong Kong, Rwanda, Costa Rica and Taiwan.

Chris was a vigorous advocate for improving the administration of justice through the application of modern management techniques and extensive research. His expertise included stenographic court reporting, case flow management, streamlining organizational systems and the use of advanced technology in courtrooms. He also established and supported forums for the exchange of practical information regarding court management. His work influenced many throughout his distinguished career. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experiences with all, particularly in the ever changing technical aspect of our business. Most compelling, however, was that he never lost sight of the human nature of our profession. Chris will be remembered as a consummate professional and effective leader in court management who contributed immeasurably to our field.

The **NACM Award of Merit** is presented annually to an individual working in the field of court administration who has demonstrated leadership and excellence in the advancement of the ideals and principles of modern judicial management and professional court management as embodied in the purposes of NACM. Those purposes are to:

- ◆ increase the proficiency of judicial administrators through service and contributions to the field of court administration and to NACM;
- ◆ demonstrate leadership and improve the administration of justice through the application of modern management techniques;
- ◆ support the independence of the judiciary;
- ◆ promote coordination of court research activities and furnish a forum for the interchange of practical information relating to judicial administration; and
- ◆ aid in the improvement of judicial administration in general with particular emphasis on the study, development, and use of scientific and technological methods as well as statistical reporting methods.

Recipients may be any person whose work reflects a dedication to the ideals embodied in NACM and its purposes. This is NACM's most prestigious individual award and nominees are evaluated by the selection committee. Past honorees are:

1986 Geoff Gallas	1995 Thomas J. Ralston	2004 Janet G. Cornell
1987 Edward B. McConnell	1996 Larry P. Polansky	2005 Robert Wessels
1988 Charles H. Starrett	1997 Sheila Calabro (Gonzalez)	2006 Sue K. Dosal
1989 Stanley R. Collis	1998 Barry Mahoney	2007 Andra Motyka
1990 Donald Cullen	1999 John M. Greacen	2008 No Recipient
1991 Albert H. Szal	2000 Gordon M. Griller	2009 Collins E. Ijoma
1992 Maureen Solomon	2001 Kenneth R. Palmer	2010 Pamela Ryder Lahey
1993 John A. Clarke	2002 J. Denis Moran	
1994 Alan Slater	2003 Frank Broccolina	