

Dear NCPJ Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Probate Judges look forward to your visit to Charleston, South Carolina for this year's conference from Sunday, November 7th to Wednesday, November 10th at The Mills House Hotel (www.millshouse.com). This year's conference promises to be an excellent educational and collegial experience in a city known for its living history and southern hospitality.

The educational program developed by Mike Wood, Ponda Caldwell, and Mary Joy Quinn will include informative sessions on Brooke Astor – the New York philanthropist and socialite who was involved in a conservatorship battle which also resulted in a criminal conviction. We also will have a session on the case involving “the godfather of soul,” - James Brown and the battle over his aptly named trust, “The I Feel Good Trust.” Also planned is a session on the future of the federal estate tax. Additionally, Professor Alan Medlin will give us an update on recent probate cases.

Charleston is known for its history, most notably Fort Sumter where the Civil War began (www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm). Within walking distance of the hotel are many historical sites and buildings including the historic courthouse at the Four Corners of Law. The historic courthouse was designed by James Hoban who also designed the White House. Horse-drawn carriage tours provide a relaxing way to learn about Charleston's rich and diverse history. Charleston is home to a number of classic southern plantations that are short drive away. These include Middleton Place (www.middletonplace.org), Boone Hall (www.boonehallplantation.org), and Magnolia (www.magnoliaplantation.com). Just over the Cooper River Bridge you can tour the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, “The Fighting Lady,” and a submarine at Patriots Point Naval Museum (www.patriotspoint.org). Charles Towne Landing located in West Ashley was established in 1670 as the first permanent English settlement in the Carolinas (www.charlestowne.org). The park also includes an animal forest.

Charleston is known for its many fine restaurants, most within walking distance of the Mills House Hotel. The conference also will include a harbor dinner cruise on the Spirit of Carolina. For those who love to shop, King Street borders our hotel. King Street shopping includes many antique shops, boutiques, and upscale stores (www.charlestonfinest.com/sc/shopping.htm).

The conference rate at the hotel is \$193.88 per night which **includes** tax of 12.5 percent and a continental breakfast. The cutoff date is **October 11th** but book early to avoid missing the block of rooms. You can book by calling (800) 874-9000 or (843) 577-2400. Be sure to mention that you are with the NCPJ to get the conference rate.

The Charleston International Airport is located about 12 miles from the hotel. Cabs or rental cars are available at the airport. Note that parking at the garage next to the hotel is \$20 per day. You can enjoy this conference and the city without a rental car unless you desire to take a side trip to one of the plantations or gardens.

We look forward to your visit to Charleston.

With kindest regards,
Irvin Condon
Bill Self
Conference Chairs