

**American Judges Association**  
**Supports Position of Robert J. Grey Jr, President, American Bar Association**

Williamsburg, Va (March 31, 2005) – The American Judges Association announced today that the association concurs and supports the recent statement made by ABA President Robert J. Grey Jr. in reaction to the recent tragic situation surrounding the Terri Schiavo case.

“On behalf of the members of the American Judges Association, I would like to commend President Grey’s statement regarding the recent public attacks on individual judges and the judicial system,” said AJA President, Hon. Gayle A Nachtigal, a circuit court judge in Washington County, Oregon.

“This case is a tragedy for everyone in Terri Shciavo’s family. The social and political implications of this case should be the subject of public debate in both the short and long term. However, personalized attacks on particular judges or on the judicial system as a whole will not advance our understanding of the difficult issues presented by this case. Such attacks only serve to diminish the independence of the judiciary.” said Nachtigal.

With this statement of concurrence and support of ABA President Grey, the AJA does not take a position on the particulars of this or any related case. Instead, the mission of the AJA, as the *Voice of the Judiciary*, is to ensure that judges, justices, and other judicial officials remain unaffected in their role as an independent branch government.

This release is in reaction to a statement that has been posted in the public domain <http://www.abanews.org/statementsletters/sttjudiciary.html>

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The American Judges Association works to improve the effective and impartial administration of justice, to enhance the independence and status of the judiciary, to provide for continuing education of its members, and to promote the interchange of ideas of a judicial nature among judges, court organizations and the public.

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