



## News Release

**American Judges Association**

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### **American Judges Association Expresses Sympathy for Chicago Judge's Tragedy**

**Williamsburg, VA** (March 3, 2005) – Gayle A. Nachtigal, president of the American Judges Association (AJA) and judge of Circuit Court of Washington County, Oregon, released a statement Thursday on behalf of AJA members to express their sympathy and support for Federal Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow whose husband and mother were shot to death in her Chicago home Monday.

“The American Judges Association extends its sincerest sympathies to Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and her family. Judges play a vital role in maintaining the rule of law in our country, and this tragedy highlights the perils judges confront on a daily basis to ensure a civil society for all of us. Such an act of brutality directed at a judge brings home the significance that the judiciary plays in upholding a democracy,” Judge Nachtigal said.

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.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, VA, serves as executive staff for AJA.