

AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN JUDGES FOUNDATION

2018 Midyear Meeting

Guest House at Graceland

April 19-21, 2018

Memphis, Tennessee

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 19

Registration

Rock Room

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

Gospel Room

8:30 – 11:00 AM

Optional Tour of the National Civil Rights Museum (additional fee)

1:00 – 5:00 PM

*Bus will depart the hotel at 1:00 PM – **please do not be late.** Bus will depart for the hotel at 5:00 PM.*

Friday, April 20

Registration

Rock Room

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

AJF Trustees Meeting

Gospel Room

7:30 – 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

Ballroom CD

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Committee Meetings

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Ballroom B

(see schedule in your packet and attend any in which you are interested)

Welcome Remarks

Ballroom CD

9:00 – 9:15 AM

Catherine Shaffer, AJA President

Jeffrey S. Bivins, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Tennessee

Education Session

Ballroom CD

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Topic: Pitfalls and Surprises in the Code of Judicial Conduct

Panelists: Judge Alan E. Glenn, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

This session is designed to provide basic standards and guidance to judges in navigating the codes and policies for judicial conduct.

Education Session

Ballroom CD

10:15 – 10:45 AM

Topic: Judicial Ethics Q&A

Panelists: JoeDae L. Jenkins, Chancellor, Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee

Judge Jennifer Nichols, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee

Judge Gina C. Higgins, Circuit Court of Shelby County, Tennessee

Following the presentation on the code of judicial conduct, a distinguished panel will lead an open discussion and answer questions about judicial ethics.

Break

10:45 – 11:00 AM

Education Session

Ballroom CD

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Topic: Sovereign Citizens and Courthouse Security

Speaker(s): Robert Paudert, Retired Police Chief, West Memphis, Arkansas

How safe are you in and out of the courthouse? This session provides an in-depth look at the sovereign citizens movement and issues that arise in maintaining your safety as a member of the judiciary.

AJA/AJF Luncheon

Ballroom B

12:30 – 1:45 PM

Speaker: Judge John Everett Williams, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals

Education Session

Ballroom CD

2:00 – 3:15 PM

Topic: Judging inside out: The application of reflective practice

Speaker(s): Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich, Juvenile Court, Douglas County, Nebraska

Jennie Cole-Mossman, LIMHP, Co-Director of the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children

Reflective practice helps examine implicit bias, internal working models, and feelings about work in order to help increase confidence in decision making, decrease work stress and increase reflective functioning. A simulation of a reflection practice session will be included to illustrate the impact of this practice in reducing secondary trauma and work stress for judges.

Break

3:15 – 3:30 PM

Education Session

Ballroom CD

3:30 – 4:45 PM

Topic: Cold Case: Justice for Elbert Williams

Speaker: Attorney Jim Emison (ret.), former President, Tennessee Bar Association and Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association

Democracy has not come gently to these southern United States. The south's odious race laws were Hitler's model for his Nuremberg laws that defined Jewishness, and reduced Jews to an inferior class of citizenship. Whites in Haywood County, Tennessee, denied their African American neighbors the right to register to vote since 1888, when white Democrats "redeemed" the county.

In 1939 a group of intrepid African Americans, including Elbert Williams and his wife Annie, formed an NAACP Branch in the county seat of Brownsville, the first in rural Tennessee. Their primary objective, regain the stolen franchise. On May 6, 1940, while the blitzkrieg raged and democracy in western Europe teetered on the brink of the Nazi abyss, five brave black men entered the Haywood County courthouse and demanded to register to vote. Their audacious act was the opening salvo in a strictly American, homegrown, battle for democracy. White threats began the next day. Very soon black aspirations to vote would collide violently with white supremacist intransigence, and in six weeks, on June 20, 1940, as Hitler toured Paris, Elbert Williams would die, the first NAACP member murdered because of his civil rights efforts.

This is the story of Elbert Williams' murder in the battle for American democracy and the failure of American justice.

Barbecue Feast at Alfred's on Beale Street

(cash bar)

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Casual attire

*Buses will depart the hotel at 5:15 PM – **please do not be late.** Buses will return to the hotel promptly at 8:15 PM and will make two trips. You are welcome to stay past the official ending time if you wish to enjoy the live music, but if you miss the last AJA shuttle, you will need to secure your own transportation back to the hotel via taxi, Uber or Lyft, or the hotel shuttle (\$5.00 fee) that departs from 2nd and Beale St at the Hard Rock Café every hour on the half hour – last hotel shuttle departs at **11:30 PM.***

(Sponsored by Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC; Glassman Wyatt Tuttle & Cox, PC; The A C Wharton Group, LLC; Baer and Baer, P.C.; Banks, Finley, White & Co.; Finkelstein, Kern, Steinberg & Cunningham, PC; Stone, Higgs & Drexler; Lucian Pera, Attorney and Julian Bolton, Attorney)

Saturday, April 21

AJA Office

Rock Room

7:30 AM – Noon

Committee Meetings

Ballroom B

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Board of Governors Meeting

Ballroom A

9:00 AM – Noon

Meeting adjourns

Noon

American Judges Association Officers

Catherine Shaffer, President

Robert J. Torres, Jr., President-elect

Pete Sferrazza, Vice President

Yvette Alexander, Secretary

Kevin Burke, Treasurer

Russ Otter, Immediate Past President

American Judges Foundation Officers

Pete Sferrazza, President

Mary Kaye Bozza, President-elect

Elliott Zide, Vice President

Michele Zide, Secretary

Jerrauld C. Jones, Treasurer