

AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN JUDGES FOUNDATION

2018 Midyear Meeting

Guest House at Graceland April 19-21, 2018

Memphis, Tennessee

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 19

Registration

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

8:30 – 11:00 AM

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

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Friday, April 20

Registration

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

AJF Trustees Meeting

7:30 – 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Committee Meetings

8:00 – 9:00 AM

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

Welcome Remarks

9:00 – 9:15 AM

Catherine Shaffer, AJA President

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

Education Session

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Topic: Judicial Ethics

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

10:15 – 10:45 AM

Topic: Judicial Ethics Q&A

Panelists: JoeDae L. Jenkins, Chancellor, Chancery Court, City of Memphis
Judge Earnestine Hunt Dorse, Municipal Court, Shelby County

Judge Jennifer Nichols, Criminal Court of Shelby County

Judge Gina C. Higgins, Circuit Court of Shelby County

Break

10:45 – 11:00 AM

Education Session

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

12:30 – 1:45 PM

Topic: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Courthouse

Speaker: Bill Haltom, Attorney, author, humorist

Education Session

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

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

Stay past the official ending time if you wish, to enjoy the live music!

Saturday, April 21

AJA Office

7:30 AM – Noon

Committee Meetings

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Board of Governors Meeting

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
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