

AJA Benchmark

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Join us at AJA's 2010 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, October 3-8!

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President's Message

Judge James McKay

All eyes are on Denver as we look forward to our 51st AJA Conference. It is hard to believe that we are near the end of my tenure as president. It all seems like a blur. However, we have accomplished some interesting things during this period. First, we have managed to maintain our membership during some difficult economic times, especially considering the impact on state funding for the judiciary. Second, we managed to keep the ball rolling on our federal grant of \$350,000; we have now whittled it down to the "paperwork" status with light at the end of the tunnel.



We are also embarking on a position paper on the subject of judicial selection. This is a first for AJA. As a result, we could be organizing a separate summit, conference, or a symposium to address the many issues concerning the different methods of judicial selection and the historical significance within each state. This certainly will be one of the first of its kind, and I am happy the AJA is at the forefront of this subject.

These are exciting and challenging times to be on the bench. We hope you will all join us in Denver and be the voice of the judiciary. See you in Colorado.



Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws of the American Judges Association that the annual meeting will be held October 3-8 at the Westin Tabor Center in Denver, Colorado. The annual membership meeting will be held Thursday, October 7 at 8:00 AM.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the American Judges Foundation will be held Tuesday, October 5, at 12:15 PM at the Westin Tabor Center.

AJA Has New Website

Have you noticed that the AJA website (<http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>) has undergone a major redesign? Please check it out and let us know if you have any suggestions for additions or changes. This is *your* website, and we want it to reflect the interests and needs of AJA members.

Annual Conference Reminder

You should have received your copy of the AJA 2010 Annual Educational Conference registration brochure, and, we hope, are making plans to be in Denver this fall. AJA is pleased to announce that you may now register online through the [AJA website](#)--check out the great new design of the site while you're there! Simply go to "Conferences," and you'll see a link to the online form. Please note that the online form is ONLY available for those who are paying by credit card. If you are paying by check you will need to use the form that came with your brochure, or click on the "2010 Annual Conference" heading on the website for a printable version of the form.

There is also a link to the Westin Tabor Center's special reservation page for AJA. Click on "Hotel Reservations" and then "Book a Room" to make your reservation. You are strongly encouraged to make your reservation now. This is expected to be a well-attended conference, and it is likely that the AJA block will fill sooner rather than later.

Please contact aja@ncsc.org if you have any questions and give the new online registration form a try!

AJA Member to Join SJI Board

AJA Past President Gayle A. Nachtigal, of the Circuit Court of Washington County in Hillsboro, Oregon, has received notice of her confirmation to the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute (SJI). She is awaiting an official appointment letter from President Obama and was also invited by the president and Mrs. Obama to attend the "Summer Event on the South Lawn" at the White House on Tuesday, June 29. AJA congratulates Judge Nachtigal on this high honor.

The State Justice Institute was established by federal law in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts, facilitate better coordination between state and federal courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is a nonprofit corporation governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

In Memoriam

Joseph A. Zingales, 1924-2010

[Joseph A. Zingales](#), judge of the Bedford (Ohio) Municipal Court and president of AJA from 1972 to 1973, died on Tuesday, June 22, 2010. He was 86 years old.



As a jurist, he was noted for his sense of humor, while being a serious student of the law. After his initial election to the municipal-court bench in 1963, he presided there for 36 years and never had to face an opponent for reelection. He also managed to keep up with an annual caseload that reached 30,000 cases by the time he retired in 2000.

AJA extends condolences to the Zingales family.

NCSC Releases 22nd Edition of *Future Trends in State Courts*

The evaluation and adjustment of court operations to improve processes and save money while increasing efficiency and maintaining service levels to the public--a process known as court reengineering--is the central theme of [Future Trends in State Courts 2010](#), the latest edition of the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) annual "Report on Trends in State Courts" series. This is the 22nd edition of the series, which is dedicated to making courts aware of key trends that affect not only court operations, but also the role of courts in society.

A limited number of free copies of *Future Trends 2010* are available by contacting the National

Center at 1-800-616-6164. In addition, the National Center is offering a CD containing electronic versions of this year's edition as well as the 2000-09 editions. The publication can also be accessed [online](#).

NCSC Launches New Online Resources

The National Center for State Courts has unveiled new resources to assist courts in two very important areas: jury management and cases involving elders.

The [Jury Managers' Toolbox](#) can help courts improve their jury operations and procedures. This online diagnostic tool was developed by NCSC's [Center for Jury Studies](#) with contributions from the judicial systems of Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania and was financed by a grant from the State Justice Institute. Use of the Toolbox is free but restricted to court administrators, clerks of court, jury managers, and other administrative staff of state and local courts in the United States. Users are required to create a user ID and a password for access.

NCSC marked Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) by unveiling the [Center for Elders and the Courts](#). CEC's goal is to increase awareness of judicial issues related to aging by providing tools to improve court response to elder abuse and oversight of adult guardianships. Other features include an online community where judges and court personnel can share information; an interactive map that links to specific state laws related to elder abuse; a database of court technologies; training videos; and an elder-abuse curriculum for state judicial educators.

AJA Future Conferences

2010 Annual Conference: Westin Tabor Center, Denver, Colorado, Westin Tabor Center, October 3-8
\$205 single/double

2011 Midyear Meeting: Westin Hilton Head Island, Hilton Head, South Carolina, April 14-16
\$209 single/double

2011 Annual Conference: Westin Gaslamp, San Diego, California, September 11-16
\$199 single/double

2012 Midyear Meeting: Doubletree Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, May 17-19
\$129 single/double

2012 Annual Conference: New Orleans, Louisiana
Dates and hotel to be determined

2013 Annual Conference: The Fairmont Orchid, Kohala Coast, Hawaii, September 22-27
\$219 single/double

American Judges Association

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