

Note from our President-elect


Judge Francis X. Halligan, Jr.

I am honored to serve as the president-elect of the American Judges Association. My chief duties as the president-elect are to perform such administrative functions as may be directed by the president or the board of governors, assist the president in facilitating and coordinating the activities of the association, and serve as the chairperson of the conference education committee.

During my 26 years of membership, I have watched AJA grow into its present position of prominence within the judicial and legal community. Members are the lifeblood of any organization, and ours is certainly no different. Previous presidents, as well as Judge Sudderth, have repeatedly emphasized the importance of enlisting new members and retaining the present membership. Each member must be encouraged to become an active participant in helping the organization reach our stated goals and objectives.

I have always believed that one of the greatest values of membership in our association is the excellent educational opportunities it provides at the annual and midyear meetings. At a time when many states cannot provide as much educational training as they would like due to a lack of funds and constraints within their budgets, the continuing judicial educational component of these meetings makes the registration fee a real bargain.

In order to sustain its growth and continued vitality, the AJA must serve its members and give each of them a tangible reason to remain with the association. We must continually redefine our uniqueness, which sets us apart from other judicial organizations.

I look forward to assisting our president and serving our members during the year ahead. 

AJA Holds Annual Conference in Reno, *continued*

service. We are grateful to Judge Williams for his leadership, and we wish to acknowledge Chief Justice W. H. "Dub" Arnold of Arkansas for his assistance in making it possible for Judge Williams to undertake the responsibilities of his office, international in its scope, while fulfilling his equally important duties as a local judge.

AJA Annual Awards

AJA members and others were honored for their service to the association and the judiciary at the annual conference. W. H. "Dub" Arnold, the chief justice of Arkansas, received the *Chief Justice Richard W. Holmes Award of Merit*, which is presented

to a judge for outstanding contributions to the judiciary. Steve Leben, district judge, Olathe, Kansas, received the *Judge William H. Burnett Award* for outstanding service to AJA. The *Judge Bob Jones Memorial Award*, which recognizes significant contributions to judicial education, went to Elizabeth Pollard Pines. AJA recognizes laypersons who have made substantial contributions to improving the image of the judiciary with the *Glenn R. Winters Award*, which went to Vernon D. Gleaves. Judge Edward S. Kidd (Virginia) also was recognized for his service as outgoing president of the American Judges Foundation. 