

# AJA BENCHMARK

A Publication of the American Judges Association • Vol. 25, No. 1 • Spring 2002

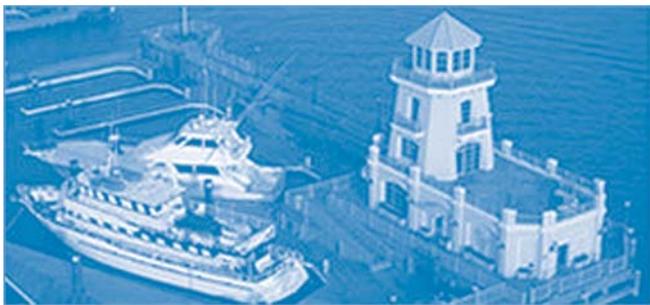
## Come on Down to Biloxi!

**D**on't forget to sign up for AJA's 2002 midyear meeting, April 18–20 at the fabulous Beau Rivage Hotel on the lovely Gulf Coast in Biloxi, Mississippi. Registration fees are \$125.00 for judges and \$75.00 for spouses/guests and include

- a reception at the Walter Anderson Museum
- lunch on Friday at the hotel
- a fish fry on Friday evening—casual attire required!

In addition, Judge Leslie Johnson, director of the Mississippi Judicial College, will address two topics of importance to all judges at an educational session on April 19: "A Review of the Use of Expert Witnesses" and "Honing the Judge's Listening and Note-taking Skills."

Contact the Association Management Office today to receive complete registration information: National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798; (757) 259-1841 or (800) 616-6165. 



## New Web Resource Provides Access to Court Information

**T**he National Center for State Courts has established a new *Court Information Portal* on the World Wide Web (at <http://www.ncsconline.org/CourtInfoPortal/index.html>). This new portal provides a single point of access for court-related information, regardless of where that information resides.

This new portal links the National Center's Web site with those of local courts, state judiciaries, court-related organizations, and other court-related sites (such as the federal Department of Justice). These sites can be searched via a specialized "Web crawler" and search engine, which cuts down on false hits. The information linked to the portal is of two types: *structured* (which is uniform and relatively easy to pull together) and *unstructured* (which is in the form of articles, reports, and other documents). About 98 percent of the existing information about court administration is unstructured.

The portal also features profiles of participating courts. These profiles, which will be maintained by the courts themselves, will provide information on specific topics. The first set of profiles takes up the subject of technology; for example, users can learn which courts have implemented case management, document imaging, or other systems.

The National Center is developing this portal in collaboration with the Joint Technology Committee of the National Association for Court Management and the Conference of State Court Administrators, with funding from the State Justice Institute and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. For more information about the new *Court Information Portal*, contact Doug Walker ([dwalker@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:dwalker@ncsc.dni.us)) of the National Center's Technology Programs division. 

# Aloha!

## The American Judges Association invites You to its 42nd Annual Educational Conference

September 8-13, 2002

The Westin Maui

Watch your mail for the registration brochure, which will provide complete information on the numerous educational sessions (15.75 CLE hours will be offered), the facilities and accommodations at the beautiful Westin Maui, the planned optional tours to see many of Maui's exciting attractions, and the other activities that await you on Hawaii's Valley Island. For the first time ever, the brochure will be available online with multiple links for educational and extracurricular activities. Check out <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>, and join us for an outstanding conference this fall. Discount registration fees by June 30.

Keiki Kamp for Kids  
Beautiful Beaches  
Professor Charles Whitebread

Scuba Diving  
Bike down Haleakala  
Shopping in Old Lahaina

## AJF NEWS

**T**he American Judges Foundation would like to acknowledge the generous contribution made by Blanche Sechrest in honor of her son-in-law, AJF immediate past president Judge Edward S. Kidd, Jr. Ms. Sechrest's contribution will be used to further the educational goals of the foundation. A contribution such as this is an excellent way for others to honor friends and family members. If you are interested, please call Shelley Rockwell at (800) 616-6165, or send your contribution to the American Judges Foundation at

P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798. Be sure to indicate the name and address of the person you are honoring.

Judge Tom Clark, president of AJF, asks everyone who plans to attend the annual conference in Maui in September to bring an item for the AJF Silent Auction. This is a major fund-raising event for AJF, and the more items to bid on, the more fun for the participants and the more money raised for AJF. bm

## Corrections

*Benchmark* needs to correct two misspelled names from our winter 2001 issue. Judge Procter (not "Proctor") Hug, Jr., delivered the Tom C. Clark Lecture, and Elizabeth Pollard Hines (not "Pines")

was honored with the *Judge Bob Jones Memorial Award*, at the 2001 annual conference in Reno.

We apologize for the errors. bm

# NOMINATIONS and ELECTION

**T**he Nominations Committee chair, Judge Chris Williams, requests early nominations for positions to be filled at the annual conference in Maui. In order for the Nominations Committee to give each name full consideration, it is important that nominations be received before **July 15**.

**Officers:** A president-elect, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary need to be nominated for one-year terms.

**Court of Appeals:** There is one five-year term to be filled. In addition, Judge Leon Ruben,

who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Court of Appeals, is eligible for election to a full five-year term.

**Board of Governors:** AJA's bylaws provide that the number of governors representing a district depends on the number of members in that district. Based on the current membership roster, 10 positions on the Board will be up for election. Of these 10 positions, 5 currently are held by incumbent Board members who are eligible for reelection. All positions are for three-year terms.

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Shown below are the states and provinces in the AJA districts. Immediately following is the number of Board positions up for election.

**District I** (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick). One position, no incumbent. A vacancy went unfilled last year, so nominations will be accepted and considered in Maui for a three-year term.

**District II** (NY). One position, no incumbent—Robert Reagan completing service.

**District III** (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA). One position, Mark Bernstein (PA) incumbent.

**District IV** (NC, SC, VA, WV). One position, Eileen Olds (VA) incumbent.

**District V** (AL, GA, FL, VI, PR). One position, no incumbent. A vacancy was created in Kansas City when a governor was removed from the Board of Governors for missing more than two meetings without an excused absence. No appointment was made at the 2001 midyear meeting, and nobody was elected in Reno. Nominations will be accepted and considered in Maui for a three-year term.

**District VI** (AR, LA, MS). One position, no incumbent—Steve Routon (AR) completing service.

**District VII** (OK, TX, Mexico). No vacancies.

**District VIII** (IL, IN, KY, TN). No vacancies.

**District IX** (OH). Two positions, Milt Nuzum incumbent. An additional vacancy was created last year when Judge Cicconetti was elected secretary and nobody was elected to fill his position on the Board of Governors.

**District X** (MI). One position, Gus Cifelli incumbent.

**District XI** (IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI, Ontario). No vacancies.

**District XII** (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan). No vacancies.

**District XIII** (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory). One position, Richard Kayne (WA) incumbent.

**District XIV** (CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, Marshall Islands). No vacancies.

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Please send your nominations and the Declaration of Candidacy form (see pp. 5-6 of this issue of *Benchmark*) to Ms. Shelley Rockwell, American Judges Association, 300 Newport Avenue, P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, (757) 259-1841.

# IMPORTANT EDUCATION SURVEY

**T**he AJA Education Committee would like your input on possible online education courses that could be offered to the members.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below, and return it to the address on the right or answer online at our Web site (<http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>):

Ms. Shelley Rockwell  
American Judges Association  
300 Newport Avenue  
P.O. Box 8798  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798  
(757) 259-1520 – fax

1. Would you be interested in judicial credit courses online in lieu of those offered face-to-face?  
 Yes     No

In addition to those offered face-to-face?

- Yes     No

2. Would you be interested in judicial credit courses online in lieu of those offered through conferences?  
 Yes     No

In addition to those offered at conferences?

- Yes     No

3. If there is no cost associated with the online courses would you prefer them over face-to-face courses?  
 Yes     No

Conferences?

- Yes     No

4. Do you think the association should offer these courses free to its membership?  
 Yes     No

5. Would you be willing to pay for the credit?  
 Yes     No

If so, how much per credit?

- \$25     \$50     \$75     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What topics/subjects would you like to see offered that are not offered through other courses?

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7. What ethical courses would you like to see offered that are not offered through other courses?

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8. Other comments/suggestions?

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# American Judges Association

## 2002-2003 Declaration of Candidacy

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COURT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

*All candidates, including incumbent governors for reelection, must declare their candidacy by this declaration submitted as indicated at the end of the form. The nominations committee will interview all candidates for office including first-time governors, secretary, second vice president, first vice president, and president-elect on September 8 during the conference in Maui; incumbent governors for reelection will not be interviewed.*

I am a member of AJA in good standing.  YES  NO

I have been a regular member of AJA since \_\_\_\_\_.

I have attended the following AJA midyear meetings, district meetings, and/or annual conferences:

I am declaring my candidacy for the following position:

- President-elect
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Secretary
- Governor, representing District \_\_\_\_\_
- Court of Appeals

State briefly your court-affiliated duties and experience and describe your qualifications for serving as an elected official of AJA. The Nominations Committee will pay particular attention to whether each candidate has (1) a knowledge of the duties of the office, (2) a commitment to perform those duties, and (3) a record of prior service and performance to the organization. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

*Please complete reverse side*

State your reasons for wanting to serve as an AJA elected official. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Yes

No

Will you attend the annual conference in Maui?

Will you be available for an interview on September 8, 2002?

Will you be able to attend all AJA board meetings or any special meetings that may be called?

Will you be willing to serve on or chair committees when asked?

Have you served previously on any committees? If so, which committee(s) and what was your function on each? (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form with your résumé to:** Shelley Rockwell  
American Judges Association  
300 Newport Avenue  
P.O. Box 8798  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798

*NOTE: Declarations of Candidacy must be postmarked by **July 15, 2002**. All candidates will receive a written confirmation, which acknowledges receipt of your materials. If you do not receive a confirmation by August 15, 2002, please contact the Association Management Office at (757) 259-1841.*



## AJA MEMBER PROFILE

**Elizabeth ("Libby") Pollard Hines**  
15th Judicial District, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**W**e often hear about "judicial burnout," but this is definitely not the case with Judge Elizabeth ("Libby") Hines of Michigan. "I know a lot of attorneys who hate their jobs," she said. "I have always found law, especially criminal cases, fascinating and feel it's a privilege to be elected judge."

A legal career came naturally to Libby. Her father, John B. Osgood, served as a district judge and as a lawyer in private practice. "I always had an interest in the law," she said. "My favorite TV show was *Perry Mason*, which I used to watch with my Dad. Since his death, I discovered he was a member of AJA, too. My father loved the law, and I do, too."

She received a bachelor of arts degree, with great distinction, from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1974, and worked for 15 years as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Washtenaw County after receiving a juris doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 1977. As first assistant prosecuting attorney in charge of juvenile and probate courts, she specialized in cases involving crimes against children and child protection. She served on the board of directors for the local shelter for battered women and their children, Domestic Violence Project (DVP)/SAFE House, for six years and received DVP's *Distinguished Service Award* in 1991.

Libby's interest in helping the victims of domestic violence continued when she was elected as a judge in 1992. After serving as chief judge of the 15th Judicial District from 1997 to 2001, she requested not to be appointed to that position again so that she could concentrate on her role in a

multimillion-dollar federal grant to reduce domestic violence in Washtenaw County.

"I have the privilege of being the judge appointed by my fellow judges in the seven district courts in the county to represent them on the executive team that manages the grant," she said. "We act as a laboratory of sorts to see what works and what doesn't work in DV (domestic violence) cases when they are closely monitored by judges." Washtenaw County provides a variety of services to counter domestic violence, including a special pretrial and probation unit, with agents that specialize in domestic violence cases; government advocates who help victims get through the court process; and a batterers intervention program for incarcerated defendants.

So, what works and what doesn't in Washtenaw County? The U.S. Department of Justice is evaluating the county's programs. "Are victims safer when the court more closely enforces its orders? Is recidivism lower?" asks Libby. "Those of us on the grant team believe the answer is 'yes' to both questions."

She also believes that AJA has an important role to play in countering domestic violence. Libby has served as chair of AJA's Domestic Violence Committee and has helped arrange for speakers on the topic at AJA's conferences. "This is one of the reasons I'm proud to be a member of AJA," she said. "The AJA has made a commitment to have at least one hour of our annual educational conferences address some issue of family violence. We have heard from some 'cutting edge' speakers. I always learn a great deal from the programs and other AJA members." 

# AJA INSIGNIA WEAR

**Embroidered Patches:** \$3.00 each  
**Membership Certificate Plaques:** \$15.00 each  
 With clear acrylic cover

**Ties:** \$22.50 each  
 gray with navy stripe and logo

***New Items (with Embroidered Logo)***

**Sweatshirts:** \$25.00 each  
 Navy with white AJA logo  
 large extra large XX large

**T-shirts:** \$20.00 each  
 Navy with white AJA logo  
 White with navy AJA logo  
 large extra large XX large

**Lined Windbreakers:** \$40.00 each  
 Navy with white AJA logo  
 large extra large XX large

**Polo Shirts:** \$25.00 each  
 large extra large XX large

***Sale!! Items with stamped logo***

**T-shirts:** \$10.00 each  
 Navy with white AJA logo  
 White with navy AJA logo  
 large extra large XX large

**Lined Windbreakers:** \$30.00 each  
 Navy with white AJA logo  
 medium large extra large XX large

**Juror Certificates:** Box of 100 \$25 each

(preprinted certificates of appreciation for presentation to citizens serving as jurors in your court—not suitable for running through a laser printer)

Please send me

_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
quantity	item—note color or size	cost	Total
_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
quantity	item—note color or size	cost	Total
_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
quantity	item—note color or size	cost	Total
_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
quantity	item—note color or size	cost	Total
_____	_____	x _____	= \$ _____
quantity	item—note color or size	cost	Total
			\$ _____
			TOTAL

Send order form with check or money order to the American Judges Association, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Use Street Address

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Spread the Word about AJA

**W**e need our members to put the word out about the benefits of AJA membership to colleagues on the bench who may not be familiar with our association.

- There are two obvious benefits to joining AJA:
- Four times a year you receive *Court Review*, a journal that focuses specifically on issues important to judges, such as judicial isolation and public trust and confidence in the courts. This is a journal edited by a judge for judges.
- Four times a year, you receive *Benchmark*, a newsletter focused on news about AJA and of interest to AJA members, with important reminders of upcoming events, such as annual conferences and workshops.

But the most important benefit of AJA membership is the opportunity to work with your fellow judges to improve our nation's justice system. Whether it's through broadening your horizons by taking advantage of AJA's educational programs or by participating on one of AJA's committees, our association is about judges working together to improve the administration of justice.

New members are always essential to the vitality of any professional association. New members mean fresh perspectives for AJA and better service to the cause of justice.

So, please share the application form with a colleague. And please note: first-time members receive their first year free. 

## AJA Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of court \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (fax)

Type of jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_

Elected  Appointed

Length of term \_\_\_\_\_ Term expires \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of a bar?  Yes  No

If so, date admitted \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues \$100 (group rates available)

Retired judge \$30

Payment enclosed

Please bill \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** American Judges Association, 300 Newport Ave. (23185), P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798  
Web site: <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/>

# 2002 AJA AWARDS

**T**he AJA Awards Committee welcomes your suggestions for recipients of AJA's 2002 awards. Please look over the form and fill it out with information on any person you would like to nominate. Be sure to fill in your own name so that we know whom to contact if we need further information.

**Award of Merit.** To a judge for outstanding contributions to the judiciary.

**Glenn R. Winters Award.** To a layperson who has made substantial contributions toward improving the image of the judiciary.

**Judge William H. Burnett Award.** To an AJA member for outstanding service to the association.

**Judge Bob Jones Memorial Award.** To an AJA member to recognize significant contributions to judicial education. 

## FORM

Please send your suggestions by **August 15** to Judge Anthony Sciarretta, 7643 Estrella Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33433.

Name of person submitting nomination(s) \_\_\_\_\_

AWARD (Check one):  Merit  Winters  Burnett  Jones

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

# BENCHMARK

## American Judges Association

Association Services  
National Center for State Courts  
300 Newport Ave. (Zip Code 23185)  
P.O. Box 8798  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798

### President

Judge Bonnie Sudderth  
352nd District Court  
401 W. Belknap Street  
Ft. Worth, TX 76196

### Editor

Judge Milt Nuzum  
Marietta Municipal Court  
301 Putnam St.  
Marietta, OH 45750

### President-elect

Judge Francis X. Halligan  
707 Main Street  
P.O. Box 1286  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### Managing Editor

Chuck Campbell  
National Center for State Courts

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