

AJA BENCHMARK

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Midyear Meeting Held in Biloxi

Milt Nuzum

The AJA Board of Governors worked diligently on our association's business and enjoyed the gracious southern hospitality of the Beau Rivage Hotel in beautiful Biloxi, Miss., at the midyear meeting, April 18–April 20, 2002.

President Bonnie Sudderth presided with all officers in attendance. Guests included Justice Irwin Lampert, of the Provincial Court of New Brunswick, who also serves as secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges. Justice Lampert gave us an interesting look at judicial service in Canada, including the function of the Canadian Judicial Compensation Commission. Justice Lampert enjoyed his visit so much that he became the newest member of AJA and will represent District I on our Board of Governors.

Larry Belskis, a judge of the Franklin County, Ohio (Columbus) Probate Court and president-elect of the National College of Probate Judges, extended greetings from our colleagues on the probate bench. Likewise, Lisa



President Bonnie Sudderth (Texas) urges AJA members to come to the 2002 Annual Conference in Maui.

Nagy-Baker, vice-president of the National Court Reporters Association, extended greetings from her colleagues.

Michael Diaz, legal counsel for the Miccosukee Nation (south Florida), and Billy Cypress, chair of the Miccosukee Nation, who also serves as its chief appellate judge, also gave an interesting presentation about the functions of U.S. tribal courts.

Committees attended to business and reported their activities at the business session. The Government Relations Office of the National Center for State Courts provided one particularly noteworthy report regarding the status of the State Justice Institute (SJI). There is a proposal in Congress to cut the funding for SJI, with a proposed appropriation of only enough funds to wind down the organization. The SJI Web site (www.statejustice.org) illustrates the myriad of projects SJI has funded to benefit courts across the United States.

Members are encouraged to contact their representatives

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Billy Cypress, chair and chief appellate judge of the Miccosukee Nation, addresses the midyear 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 September 8-13, 2002, at the Westin Maui in Maui, Hawaii. The annual membership meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, at 8:30 AM.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the American Judges Foundation will be held Thursday, September 12, at 7:00 AM at the Westin Maui in Maui, Hawaii. 