

Court Filings Reach Eight-Year High

State courts received 92 million new cases in 2000—the highest number of cases since 1992—according to the National Center for State Courts' Court Statistics Project in *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2001*, a collection and analysis of data and information relating to the work of courts from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

This report presents accurate, objective, and comparable data across states and provides a relative yardstick against which states can consider their performance, identify emerging trends, and measure the possible impact of legislation. Here are some highlights from this year's report:

- Civil caseloads dropped for the second consecutive year in 2000.
- Felony filings varied from a high of 1,830 in Arkansas to a low of 79 in Massachusetts.
- Growth in criminal appellate cases is noticeably greater than growth in civil appellate cases.

A companion volume, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2001*, contains detailed information and descriptions for individuals requiring more complete information. For more information, contact Melissa Cantrell at the National Center for State Courts (757-259-1526) or e-mail mcantrell@ncsc.dni.us. bm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**Eighth National
Court Technology Conference (CTC8)
October 28-30, 2003
Kansas City Convention Center, Missouri**

Learn how courts are using technology to improve operations, and how electronic filing, information systems and standards, and other technologies are changing the way courts work with the public, attorneys, and other justice professionals, at the National Center for State Courts' CTC8, the only conference devoted exclusively to court technology.

For more information, consult the CTC8 Web site at www.ctc8.net or Valerie Hansford (at vhansford@ncsc.dni.us) for more information.

Midyear Meeting Held in Biloxi, *continued*

in Congress to request that they support SJI as an important source of funds for improving the justice system.

Other noteworthy information concerned the recently enacted federal welfare reform legislation, which provides funds for mediation and divorce education programs. These funds may be useful to AJA members, and you are encouraged to seek more information.

Attending the business sessions reinforces the concept that AJA is vitally important to our judicial profession. The initiatives undertaken by AJA to support our work are amazing in their scope. They include judicial education, alternative dispute resolution, substance

abuse education, court security, domestic violence, ethnic equality, highway safety, juvenile justice, therapeutic jurisprudence, and pro se litigation. AJA's programs and publications enable us to promote membership as being valuable not only to us as individuals but also to our chosen profession.

Although membership in AJA is strong, many of our colleagues have yet to join. We encourage you to invite a colleague to join us for a free year of membership and service to our profession. The educational program at the midyear meeting was outstanding. Take advantage of the opportunities AJA provides. We hope to see you in Maui in September! bm