

# Are You Delegate Material? Join AJA's House of Delegates!

**P**erhaps one of the least known bodies within the governing structure of AJA is the House of Delegates. It is composed of one AJA member from each state, territory, and possession of the United States, including the District of Columbia; each Canadian province; and each state of Mexico. The House of Delegates serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Governors and as a liaison with the membership of AJA.

Three governors represent each district. Most districts encompass several states and provinces. The House of Delegates ensures that there will be an AJA member in direct contact with our fellow AJA members in each state or province, even if that state or province has no direct representative on the Board of Governors.

Unfortunately, nearly half of the available positions on the House of Delegates are vacant, often because the governors who appoint members do not know that a colleague is interested in serving. In

most cases this is not a time-consuming commitment. The following states, territories, and provinces lack delegates: Alaska, Alberta, American Samoa, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Manitoba, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Puerto Rico, Quebec, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Yukon Territory.

If you are willing to serve, please contact Shelly Rockwell at the National Center for State Courts, P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Va., 23187-8798 (e-mail [srockwell@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:srockwell@ncsc.dni.us)) and let her know of your interest. AJA will be in touch. 

## IJC Looking for Trial Observers and Fact Finders

**T**he International Commission of Jurists is expanding its pool of experts to serve as trial observers, members of fact-finding missions, or both. Almost 50 years ago, ICJ pioneered the practice of sending experts to observe trials where there were concerns about the integrity of the proceedings. ICJ also conducts fact-finding missions in countries in which there are prima facie concerns regarding the proper functioning of the administration of justice.

The profile for an ICJ expert would be legal education and training (common- or civil-law systems); experience as a practicing judge or lawyer; ideally, experience in conducting fact-finding missions and trial observations; knowledge of the legal system and preferably knowledge of the language of the country to be visited (in addition to fluency in English or French); human

rights knowledge and experience; ability to work on a team; good and sound judgment; initiative; ability to work impartially and objectively; promptness with deadlines; and willingness to enhance the administration of justice throughout the world.

Trial observers and mission experts work as volunteers. ICJ covers all direct expenses, including travel, accommodations, per diem, interpreters, and visa fees. Generally, trial observations take from several hours to several days, depending on the trial. Fact-finding missions require a minimum of five to six days.

Applications for trial observers and fact finders can be found online at <http://www.icj.org/sections.php?op=viewarticle&artid=94> (trial observation) and <http://www.icj.org/sections.php?op=viewarticle&artid=92> (fact-finding missions). 