

AJA Members in the NEWS

Congratulations to **Steve Leben**, who will be receiving one of the National Center for State Courts' Distinguished Service Awards for 2003. Steve is a district court judge in Olathe, Kansas, who was elected AJA secretary at the last annual conference in Maui. He is also the editor of AJA's journal, *Court Review*.

Congratulations to **Richard Lee Price**, who was inducted as a justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York at a ceremony at the county courthouse in New York City on December 11.

Congratulations to **Roger Warren**, president of the National Center for State Courts, who recently had an award named after him. The *Roger K. Warren Unity Award* recognizes an individual who promotes

collaboration and cooperation among all agencies, public and private, that work with children in the court system. This award will be given annually by juvenile justice agencies in Sacramento, Calif., where Roger previously served as a judge.

Tom Clark, a judge of the municipal court in Seattle, was recently featured in a story in the *Palm Beach Post*. He stepped down as head of the American Judges Foundation, but that wasn't the focus of the article. The focus was gavels or, rather, how gavels are rarely used in court, except for ceremonial occasions. Judge Clark's comment on receiving the customary gift of a gavel on a plaque: "I never really thought about it, but . . . [t]hey're used more like that than they're actually used in court." bm

AJS Releases New Products on Judicial Ethics and Discipline

The American Judicature Society has produced a new curriculum for judicial ethics and a new study of sanctions in judicial discipline cases. Both products were produced with funds provided by the State Justice Institute.

The new, three-part judicial ethics curriculum consists of a presenter's notebook and three separate presentations, which can be used with Microsoft PowerPoint^{CR} software. The three presentations are

- Ethical Standards for Judges
- Ex Parte Communications
- Charitable Fund Raising

The presenter's notebook contains directions for preparing a program, including basic instructions for modifying the presentation to fit time constraints and reflect local

rules. The presentation may also be used as a basis for handouts.

The curriculum will be distributed to each state's chief justice, judicial educator, judicial conduct commission, and judicial ethics advisory committee.

Courts can turn to *A Study of State Judicial Discipline Sanctions* for guidance in how to choose the appropriate sanction in a judicial discipline case. The *Study* provides an overview of state judicial discipline systems, analyzes cases in which there has been disagreement over appropriate sanctions, and makes recommendations for states to consider in pursuing the goal of fair, effective judicial discipline.

Copies of the *Study* are available for \$25 each, plus \$7.50 postage and handling. For further information, see www.ajs.org or contact Rodney Wilson (fax 312-558-9175 or e-mail rwilson@ajs.org). bm

NOTICE

The Self-Help Friendly Court

The National Center for State Courts no longer has printed copies of Richard Zorza's book *The Self-Help Friendly Court: Designed from the Ground Up to Work for People Without Lawyers*. This book was the subject of a brief article in the last issue of *AJA Benchmark*.

The book can now be downloaded as a pdf file on the National Center's Web site (www.ncsconline.org). Just set your browser to the following URL: http://www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_ProSe_SelfHelpFriendlyCtPub.pdf. bm