

AJA BENCHMARK

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AJA Holds Midyear Meeting in Savannah

AJA President Michael R. McAdam

The American Judges Association met in Savannah, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency for its midyear meeting from January 31 to February 3, 2004. This was an important meeting because it marked the first joint meeting between AJA and the National Association for Court Management (NACM).

NACM provided an extensive and valuable education program centered on the theme of "Best Practices in Overcoming Unequal Treatment in the Justice System." The quality and content of the program was impressive. Even more impressive was the warmth and friendliness of the court administrators, clerks, and judges in their interaction with each other. President Larry Myers of NACM and I had discussed the need for such interaction when planning the meeting, and we wondered how it would pan out. We needn't have worried. It was important for the clerks to mingle with judges in a casual setting outside the courthouse, and it was good for the

judges to spend some time learning and discussing the critical issues that face the judicial system in general and court management in particular.

The conference got off to a great start with a keynote address by the Honorable Herbert Phipps of the Georgia Court of Appeals: "Unequal Treatment in the Justice System: Fact or Fiction?" Judge Phipps's speech was delivered with wisdom and passion and made it crystal clear that our mission to provide equal justice under law remains unaccomplished despite our progress toward that goal. Other educational sessions included ways to overcome poverty barriers to equal treatment, service for self-represented defendants, a "Courtroom 21" demonstration, and a discussion of the "wired" courthouse.

The social highlights of the meeting included a tremendous Super Bowl Party hosted by NACM, where

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The American Judges Association Invites You to Its 44th Annual Educational Conference October 24-29, 2004 • San Francisco Grand Hyatt on Union Square

Watch your mail for the registration brochure, which will provide complete information on the education sessions, the facilities and accommodations of the beautiful Grand Hyatt, the planned optional tours to see and experience the lovely and intriguing Bay Area, and the other activities that await you in San Francisco. The brochure also will be available in the "Members Only" section of the AJA Web site. Check out <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us> and join us for an outstanding conference this fall. Discount registration fees are available until July 15.



IN MEMORIAM

Judge Walter A. Carr

Judge Walter A. Carr (Texas) died of complications related to diabetes on January 23, 2004. He was a member of the AJA Board of Governors, representing District VIII from 1973 to 1979.

AJA expresses condolences to his wife, Edie, who currently resides in Nassau Bay, Texas.

Justice Florence K. Murray

Justice Florence K. Murray, Rhode Island Supreme Court, died on March 28, 2004. She was the first woman to serve in the Rhode Island Senate, as well as the first woman to serve as a justice and chief judge of the Rhode Island Superior Court. She was also responsible for the creation of the Rhode Island Family Court.

John A. Mutter, associate justice of the Rhode Island Family Court remembers: "In February of 1957, a young man was sworn in as an attorney in the Rhode Island bar. This young, inexperienced attorney found his way to the courthouse to present his first divorce case. He did not know where to stand in the courtroom, nor where to sit, nor indeed what questions to ask. . . . [I]n nervous tones [he] presented his problems to the Judge, who invited him to sit down and relax. She assured him that she, too, was inexperienced but that together they would get through the case. They did! I was that young attorney and Florence Murray was that Judge. I have loved her ever since."

Justice Murray was also the widow of former U.S. Attorney General Paul Murray. 

AJA Holds Midyear Meeting in Savannah, *continued*

clerks, judges, spouses, and guests enjoyed a hard-fought, exciting game, plenty of good food, and the viewing benefit of a gigantic TV screen, reminiscent of the sports palaces in Las Vegas. However, whether the enhanced viewing afforded by the huge TV screen was beneficial during the half-time show remains the subject of some controversy and discussion. NACM also put on a first-class vendor show with many prizes awarded to those present at the vendors' reception. The conference concluded on a crisp, late winter's evening with a river-boat cruise and dinner on the Savannah River, generously sponsored by the Facility Group.

Finally, I want to thank NACM President Larry Myers, a fellow Missourian, for the leadership and energy he demonstrated in making this joint conference a tremendous success. Especially appreciated was the friendship extended to me by Larry and his wife, Bobbi, and the other NACM officers. I would be remiss if I did not thank AJA Past President Terry Elliott, who served as the AJA liaison on this project going back several years. This was a truly significant and successful midyear conference for AJA. 

AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION Future Conferences

2004 Annual Conference

San Francisco, California
October 24-29, 2004
Grand Hyatt
\$159 single or double

2005 Midyear Meeting

Sanibel Island, Florida
Sundial Beach Resort
May 12-14, 2005
\$125 single or double

2005 Annual Conference

Anchorage, Alaska
September 18-23, 2005
Hotel Captain Cook
\$135 single or double

Announcements from the National Center for State Courts

Washington State Court Executive Named New NCSC President



The National Center for State Courts Board of Directors announced that Mary Campbell McQueen, court administrator of the Washington State Courts, will become the new president of NCSC in August, replacing Roger K. Warren, who announced his retirement last November.

McQueen has worked with the Washington State Courts for 25 years and as the state's court administrator for 17 years. She also has a long relationship with NCSC, having served on the organization's board of directors in the mid-1990s and on the editorial board of NCSC's *Justice System Journal*. She is also a past president of the Conference of State Court Administrators.

"Mary McQueen is a natural for the presidency of the National Center," Roger Warren said. "She is an experienced state court leader and administrator with vision, energy, and determination. The National Center's future will be in good hands."

AJA president-elect Gayle Nachtigal, presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Washington County, Oregon, served on NCSC's presidential search committee. She is also a member of the NCSC's board of directors, as are fellow AJA members Gerald T. Elliott, Tenth Judicial District of Kansas, and Charles R. Cloud, Norfolk, Virginia.

Collaboration on Social Problems Dominates State Court Trends in 2003

Courts faced increasing challenges from numerous social issues, such as divorce, overcrowded prisons, and self-represented litigants, in 2003. Courts responded by collaborating more closely with other institutions, such as legal aid societies and child welfare agencies. Such collaboration was the one dominant trend tracked by the National Center for State Courts' Knowledge and Information Services Office in its annual *Report on Trends in the State Courts*.

The *2003 Report on Trends in the State Courts* is available online at www.ncsconline.org. Print copies can be ordered from the National Center for State Courts' online bookstore for \$10, or by contacting the Knowledge and Information Services Office at (800) 616-6164.

Revised Caseflow Management Coming Soon

The National Center for State Courts' most popular publication, David Steelman's *Caseflow Management: The Heart of Court Management in the New Millennium*, is undergoing a third printing in a revised form and will be available soon.

The text of the third printing remains unchanged. However, Appendix A, which includes the National Association for Court Management's Caseflow Management Curriculum Guidelines, has been revised to reflect the version published by NACM in the *Court Manager* in the summer of 2003.

Mark Your Calendars for the Next CTC!

The National Center for State Courts' Ninth Court Technology Conference (CTC) will be held in Seattle, Washington, September 13-15, 2005. AJA was a proud sponsor of CTC8 in Kansas City, Missouri, last October.

Be sure to mark your calendars for CTC9! 

NOMINATIONS and ELECTION

The Nominations Committee chair, Judge Francis Halligan, requests early nominations for positions to be filled at the annual conference in San Francisco. In order for the Nominations Committee to give each name full consideration, it is important that nominations be received by **July 31**.

Officers: A President-elect, Vice-President, and Secretary need to be nominated for one-year terms.

Court of Appeals: There is one five-year term to be filled; Judge Lidio Rainaldi is completing service.

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, 15 positions on the Board will be up for election. Of these 15 positions, 5 currently are held by incumbent Board members who are eligible for reelection. All positions are for three-year terms.

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

Governors: The following positions on the Board of Governors are up for election. In some instances there is an incumbent; if so, the person's name is noted.

District I (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick). No vacancies.

District II (NY). One position, Anthony Bentley incumbent.

District III (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA). Two positions, no incumbent. Bruce Campbell (NJ) is completing his service on the board. An additional unfilled vacancy also exists.

District IV (NC, SC, VA, WV). Two positions, one incumbent—Ray Dezern (VA). An additional unfilled vacancy also exists.

District V (AL, GA, FL, VI, PR). Two positions, one incumbent. Jerry Fielding (AL) is completing service. Steven Leifman (FL) is eligible for reelection.

District VI (AR, LA, MS). One position, no incumbent. Toni Higginbotham (LA) is completing her service on the Board.

District VII (OK, TX, Mexico). One position, no incumbent. Nathan White (TX) is completing his service on the Board.

District VIII (IL, IN, KY, TN). One position, Lorenzo Arredondo (IN) incumbent.

District IX (OH). No vacancies.

District X (MI). One position, Stephen Cooper incumbent.

District XI (IA, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI, Ontario). One position. Mike McMonigal (WI) is completing his service on the Board.

District XII (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan). One position. Lynda Howell (AZ) is completing her service on the Board.

District XIII (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory). One position, no incumbent. Pedro Hernandez (MT) is completing his service on the Board.

District XIV (CA, HI, NV, Guam, American Samoa, Marshall Islands). One position. Jay Dilworth (NV) is completing his service on the Board.

Please send your nominations and the Declaration of Candidacy form to Ms. Shelley Rockwell, American Judges Association, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147, (757) 259-1841.

American Judges Association

2004-2005 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, VICE-PRESIDENT, AND PRESIDENT-ELECT, ON OCTOBER 24 DURING THE CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO; 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
- Vice-President
- 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 San Francisco?

Will you be available for an interview on October 24, 2004?

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
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147

NOTE: *Declarations of Candidacy must be postmarked by **July 15, 2004**. All candidates will receive a written confirmation, which acknowledges receipt of your materials. If you do not receive a confirmation by August 31, 2004, please contact the Association Management Office at (757) 259-1841.*

AJA INSIGNIA WEAR

Embroidered Patches: \$3.00 each

Membership Certificate Plaques: \$15.00 each
With clear acrylic cover

New Items (with Embroidered Logo)

Canvas Briefcases: \$25.00 each

Hawaiian Shirts, blue with white palm trees:
medium large extra large XX large \$40.00 each

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 XX large

Polo shirts: \$25.00 each
Navy with white AJA logo
large extra large XX large

Sale!! Items with stamped logo

T-shirts: \$10.00 each
White with navy AJA logo
large XX large

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

Juror Certificates: Box of 100 \$25.00 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
				\$	_____
				TOTAL	

Send order form with check or money order to the American Judges Association, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147.

Name _____

Address _____
Use Street Address

Phone _____

2004 AJA AWARDS

The AJA Awards Committee welcomes your suggestions for recipients of AJA's 2004 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 **July 31** to Toni Higginbotham (AJA Awards Committee Chair), Family Court, 222 St. Louis Street, Suite 598, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Name of person submitting nomination(s) _____

AWARD (Check one): Merit Winters Burnett Jones

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Reason for nomination _____

BENCHMARK

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