

# Note from the Editor

Milt Nuzum, Marietta Municipal Court, Ohio

**A**JA membership pays dividends in ways I never expected. I attended an annual AJA meeting 11 years ago. I met some great people and served on a committee. Before I knew it, President Gerald (Terry) Elliott, appointed me editor of this publication. That entailed a trip to Williamsburg to meet with the AJA support staff at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).



Colonial Williamsburg is a delightful place to visit. The trip was made all the more delightful by the wonderful people I met at NCSC. The network of friends I have made through AJA has been invaluable. I have many interests related to our profession. I am able to accomplish tasks that would otherwise be quite daunting to a judge in rural southern Ohio by using my AJA/NCSC connections.

Perhaps my greatest professional interest lies in using technology to make Ohio courts more efficient. I have worked on a series of tasks assigned by the Ohio Supreme Court to write court rules that allow us to use technology. For example, the simple requirement of signing a court document becomes complex when the document is transmitted to a court electronically. Additionally, with over 370 courts in Ohio, it is a complex matter to network these courts to share information. Solving problems like these is much easier when you can call an expert. Fortunately for me, I have been

able to call on Jim McMillan and Dale Kasperek at NCSC for advice. The NCSC national technology standards have been useful for our work in Ohio. I am looking forward to CTC9 ([www.ctc9.org](http://www.ctc9.org)) in Seattle, September 13-15, 2005, where I can gain more ideas from these fine gentlemen and many others.

Building a new courthouse is yet another "outside" interest of mine. We are in the design phase of our project. I had the good fortune to meet the NCSC publications staff at one of our annual AJA conferences. I learned at that conference that NCSC has a very useful publication that describes in great detail just how this building project should proceed. It has been an invaluable resource.

Let me conclude by disclosing two secrets. Shelley Rockwell at NCSC is amazingly efficient. If you have the good fortune to attend an AJA conference, your experience will be memorable because Shelley and her staff have organized it leaving no detail to chance. I urge you to attend a conference and meet some great people. You can form your own network of friends who can help you achieve your goals as a judge. The second is a closely guarded secret; being the editor of *Benchmark* is not as difficult as it may appear. I know you find that hard to believe, as *Benchmark* is truly a fine publication. Fortunately, the heavy work here falls on the capable shoulders of the managing editor, Chuck Campbell. His great sense of humor and ability to make me look good (in print) are AJA dividends that I appreciate.

If AJA has benefited you in a meaningful way, please contact me and we will give you an opportunity to share your story. 

## AJA Invites You to Beautiful Marco Island

**B**e sure to mark your calendars for the 2005 American Judges Association Midyear Meeting at Marriott Marco Island Resort, Golf Club and Spa, Florida, May 12-14. This lovely island should be an ideal backdrop for AJA's business meetings and educational sessions.

Room rates at The Marriott are \$125.00 single/double plus tax. The registration fees are \$150 for judges and \$100 for spouses and guests and in addition to the meeting materials will include a full lunch and dinner on Friday.

For complete information contact the AJA Association Management Office at (800) 616-6165, or [bforrest@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:bforrest@ncsc.dni.us). 

