

# Going, Going . . . We Need Your Donations for the AJF Silent Auction!

**T**he American Judges Foundation will be holding its Annual Silent Auction at the 2005 AJA Annual Conference in Anchorage.

Please donate any items you think conference attendees would like, such as a gift basket of specialties from your state, small electronic items, or jewelry. You can even send a contribution check payable to AJF, with a note that it's for the Silent Auction—we'll take care of buying your contribution for you in Anchorage.

Please send your donated items, with a note indicating their estimated value, or contribution check by **August 15, 2005**, to

Shelley Rockwell

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## CourtTools Now Available Online

**C**ourts looking for a cost-effective, practical way to measure their performance can turn to *CourtTools—Trial Court Performance Measures* at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org). *CourtTools* streamlines the National Center for State Courts' pioneering Trial Court Performance Standards by outlining ten court performance measures and guidelines: Access and Fairness; Clearance Rates; Time to Disposition; Age of Active Pending Caseload; Trial Date Certainty; Reliability and Integrity of Case Files; Collection of Monetary Penalties; Effective Use of Jurors; Court Workforce Strength; and Cost per Case.

*CourtTools* also builds upon the original Standards by providing clear directions and examples of how courts can measure their performance. *CourtTools'* ten measures

- Follow the fundamental mission and vision of the courts in the areas of access and public service, prompt and efficient case administration, and fairness and equality
- Provide a necessary and important balanced perspective
- Are outcome focused
- Are feasible, practical, and manageable

*CourtTools* was developed by NCSC's Court Performance Community of Practice and is available online at [http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CourtTools/tcmp\\_courttools.htm](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtTools/tcmp_courttools.htm). 

## IN MEMORIAM

### *James Joseph Burtell*

James Joseph Burtell, who served as AJA president in 1992 and 1993, died on June 2, 2005. He served three consecutive six-year terms as a judge on the 19th District Court in Dearborn and as a visiting judge for district courts across southeastern Michigan.

Judge Burtell also served on the staff of the Dearborn City Attorney's Office from 1962 to 1967 and as the city's deputy corporation counsel from 1967 to 1974, when he resigned to run for a position on the bench. He earned his bachelor's and law degrees from Wayne State University.

*Benchmark* extends condolences to Judge Burtell's family. 