

during better financial times. Everyone was onboard. As I write this, the architects are finishing the design.

The campaign unfolded and a negative spin was placed on my management style, particularly with the funding of programs and the new court facility. Public support for the project eroded. Negative perceptions are hard to overcome. I am, by nature, a positive person and proud of my record of service to the community and our profession. I did not run away from my record. The voters made a choice. They wanted a change.

Needless to say, I am seeking employment. I just completed my résumé. I have been heavily involved in AJA and the development of court technology policy for our state. These activities are going to open doors for me that would never open for a small-town judge from a rural area. Although it hurts to lose an election, it is also liberating. I can now reach out and aspire to greater opportunities to serve beyond the boundaries of my county. AJA has given me a network of friends and opportunities to demonstrate abilities far beyond any opportunities that would have existed if I had not become involved in AJA. I intend to capitalize on those advantages as I look to the future.

As I close, I have to say that the drug court has been one of the best programs I implemented. Our clients just completed an eight-week challenge course that involved walking on high wires and climbing walls 30 to 50 feet off the ground. I joined them. I am deathly afraid of heights and could not bring myself to go up on the high elements of the course. However, as we prepared to graduate this week, the clients urged me to go up. I put my fear aside and climbed the 53-foot tower and jumped off down a zip line. It was an exhilarating experience. I am at the same point in my career. The voters pushed me out of my comfort zone. Perhaps I would have stayed on the ground in my career all my life if not nudged out. Just as that challenge-course tower had a ladder to the top, AJA is the ladder to greater heights for me in a career that towers before me. I am looking forward to the climb. Right now I have no idea where it leads, but certainly you, my fellow AJA members, inspire me to continue to support this profession that I love. I hope to see all of you in Couer d'Alene. 

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