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AJA Joins Justice at Stake Campaign

Judge Michael R. McAdam
AJA Liaison to Justice at Stake

Last September in Anchorage, the AJA Board of Governors voted to join the Justice at Stake campaign (<http://www.justiceatstake.org/>) as one of its members. Justice at Stake is a national, non-partisan partnership of over 30 judicial, civic, and philanthropic organizations. The campaign's goal is to preserve fair and impartial courts and reduce the impact of special interests and money in judicial campaigns. It serves as a counter to increasing threats to the independence of the judiciary.

Justice at Stake held its winter strategy meeting in Washington, D.C., in January. The working sessions included discussions on polling results about the judiciary, public-education programs on the role of the courts, and the upcoming 2006 election cycle and the increasing role of money in these races. A report from South Dakota about the "J.A.I.L. 4 Judges" ([\[jail4judges.org/\]\(http://www.jail4judges.org/\)\) movement was the most discussed topic at the meeting.](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

J.A.I.L. (Judicial Accountability Initiative Law) is a proposed state constitutional amendment in South Dakota that will be voted on in November of this year. If passed, the amendment would strip the judicial branch of its immunity from civil lawsuits stemming from its decisions and could also lead to criminal indictments for judges for violations of law, including acting without jurisdiction, violations of due process, and deliberate disregard of material facts. The cornerstone of J.A.I.L. is a newly created special grand jury that would hear all complaints against judges and decide whether the claimant could sue the offending judge civilly or even charge the judge with criminal violations. Its decisions are unreviewable by any state court. This special

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AJA Invites You to the "Big Easy"

Annual Conference, Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, October 8-13

On Thursday, September 28, 2005, the AJA General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution confirming its plans to hold the 2006 annual meeting in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The membership was enthusiastic in its support of the people of New Orleans, and we expect a large turnout for the conference's education programs and business meetings.

Watch your mail for the registration brochure, which will provide complete information on the education sessions, the facilities, and accommodations of the beautiful Hotel Monteleone, as well as the other activities that await you in New Orleans. 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. 

