

## IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Campbell, treasurer and trustee of the American Judges Foundation from 2001 to 2005, passed away recently after a courageous battle with cancer. Elizabeth was the wife of Judge Bruce Campbell, an active member of AJA, and a member of the Board of Governors from 1998 to 2004. She rarely missed an AJA/AJF meeting for over ten years before her death.

James Kelly, a past president of the American Judges Association, died last May more than a month after undergoing surgery to remove a brain tumor. He served for 24 years a justice of the peace, then as a municipal judge, in North Las Vegas, Nevada. He was also past president of the Nevada Judges Association (NJA) and a former NJA Judge of the Year. He is survived by his wife, Devra, one son, and one daughter.

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## NJEP Releases DVD Resource for Judges in Sexual Assault Trials

The National Judicial Education Program has released a DVD version of its video curriculum *Understanding Sexual Violence: The Judge's Role in Stranger and Nonstranger Rape and Sexual Assault Cases*, which was funded by the State Justice Institute and the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women.

The DVD focuses on dealing fairly with sexual assault cases, especially nonstranger rape, without undermining defendants' constitutional rights. It is built on a case study featuring interviews with experts and commentary by trial and appellate judges from five states. It covers a wide range of issues relating to the pretrial, trial, and sentencing phases of a sexual assault case, including the counterintuitive behavior of rape victims, such as nonresistance and delayed reporting; nonstranger rapists' premeditation and serial offenders; and how to conduct

a voir dire that is sensitive to the survivors of rape and child sexual abuse. The DVD version is enhanced with a segment on the neurobiology of trauma and a searchable annotated database.

The DVD is being used in judicial colleges and by individual judges across the country. When Oregon presented the live version of the curriculum in May 2005, the chair of the Oregon Judicial Education Committee, Judge John Collins, gave a copy of the DVD to every participant. He announced to the participants, "this is one of the best learn-on-your-own judicial education programs I've ever seen. I used it in a case I had this week and it was directly relevant to decisions I had to make in that case."

A detailed description of the DVD and an order form can be found at [www.njep.org/usvjdvcd](http://www.njep.org/usvjdvcd). Copies are available for \$25 including the cost of shipping.

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## 49 States Develop Plans to Help Children in Foster Care

The *National Call to Action*—a detailed report with specific recommendations to reform the foster care system—was recently released by the National Center for State Courts. This report is the result of the *National Judicial Leadership Summit for the Protection of Children: Changing Lives by Changing Systems*.

Leaders of 49 state court systems (Louisiana was unable to participate due to Hurricane Katrina), the District of Columbia, and four U.S. Territories participated in the summit. Each state developed an action plan to improve its child protection procedures and programs, and NCSC compiled the plans into the *Na-*

*tional Call to Action*, which is available online at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org).

Implementation of the state action plans is currently underway in each of the participating jurisdictions. A one-year progress report will be issued in the fall of 2006 to highlight progress and encourage further reforms to improve the lives of children in foster care.

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