

# AJA Members in the NEWS

**A**JA's immediate past president, **Michael Cicconetti**, was mentioned prominently in a full-page feature on creative sentencing in criminal cases found in the January 2007 issue of the *ABA Journal* (p. 35). The *Journal* noted two of Cicconetti's sentences: having two defendants lead a donkey through city streets before starting jail sentences for defacing a baby Jesus statue stolen from a local church display and having a man spend two hours with a pig for calling a police officer a pig. Cicconetti is the municipal judge in Painesville, Ohio.



AJA president **Steve Leben** has been named to the Kansas Court of Appeals. He began his new position June 15 after nearly 14 years as a general-jurisdiction trial judge. With his appointment, AJA's current officers are evenly split between trial and appellate courts. AJA president-elect **Eileen Olds** is a trial judge on the Chesapeake, Virginia, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court; AJA vice president **Tam No-moto Schumann** is a trial judge on the Superior Court in Orange County, California; and AJA secretary **James McKay** is a judge on the Louisiana Court of Appeal.


Former *Benchmark* editor **Milt Nuzum** has been named the new director of the Ohio Judicial College, a training institute for Ohio judges and court personnel. Nuzum served as judge of the Marietta, Ohio, Municipal Court from 1993 until 2005. In announcing the appointment, Steven C. Hollon, administrator of the Ohio Supreme Court, said



Nuzum was "the consummate professional who places service to the justice system and the state judiciary above personal interests." In addition to his work for several years as *Benchmark* editor, Nuzum served as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Technology and the Courts and has been a regular instructor at the Ohio Judicial College. Nuzum praised Ohio judges as "a very dedicated group of people who are committed to delivering their services to the public in a very efficient and effective manner." He pledged to help in his new job to give those judges the tools needed to do their jobs well.

AJA president-elect **Eileen Olds** was featured in the February 2007 issue of *Ebony* magazine (p. 16 if you're looking). *Ebony* noted that she is the first judge from Virginia elected to lead AJA in its nearly 50-year existence. The magazine also noted that when named to the bench in 1995, she became the first woman and first African-American judge of the First Judicial District of Virginia. Olds is a judge of the Chesapeake, Virginia, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

AJA member **Nathan E. White, Jr.**, a Texas district judge, was installed as president general of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on July 11, 2006, at the National Society's 116th Annual Congress in Dallas. The National Society, which has 27,000 members in the United States, France, and several foreign countries who are descendants from those who supported the American Revolution, promotes patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic education and youth-recognition programs. White served for several years on the AJA Board of Governors representing District VII, and he is a Trustee of the AJA Foundation.

*If you have news or know an AJA member who is in the news, let us know. Send information to Chuck Campbell, managing editor, [ccampbell@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:ccampbell@ncsc.dni.us).* 

## Newport Hosts AJA '07 Midyear Meeting, *continued*

Justice at Stake ([www.justiceatstake.org](http://www.justiceatstake.org)) is a national partnership of more than 40 organizations, including the American Judges Association. It works to maintain fair and impartial courts.

Raftery edits an electronic newsletter, *Gavel to Gavel*, published by the National Center. It covers activities in

state legislatures that might affect the courts, including limits on judicial authority, structural changes, changes in judicial selection, and impacts on salary and budget. To subscribe, send an e-mail to [gaveltogavel@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:gaveltogavel@ncsc.dni.us).

Raftery will have an article in an upcoming *Court Review* on current threats to the courts. 