

BENCHMARK

AJA

A Publication of the American Judges Association ■ Vol. 22, No. 2 ■ Fall 1999

“Cleveland Rocks”

Drew Carey

By Judge Stephen Dahl

There's still time to make arrangements to attend AJA's annual conference in Cleveland. By now, you should have received the conference information materials, so you know that an excellent educational and social program has been planned. Just as important, AJA needs you there, so that we can have your input on matters affecting the association. AJA has not grown so large that someone interested in participating cannot have an immediate impact. My own experience is a good example. I joined about four-and-one-half years ago. I was almost immediately placed on some committees in which I had an interest. Now I am on the board of governors, I am the chair of the Membership Committee, and I get to write this article every quarter. Besides being mostly fun, my work with AJA has given me a voice on important issues that I would not have had anywhere else. If you are looking for a way to get involved, where you can make a difference, active involvement with AJA is a good place to start.

Good news abounds within our membership. First, Judge **Seymore Brown** from Las Vegas was recently recognized for forty years of public service, first as a police officer (fourteen years) and then as a judge (twenty-six years). The mayor and city council declared July 13 “Chief Judge Seymore H. Brown Day.” Next, Judge **Thomas Nurre** from Ohio, a past president of AJA, was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. I should note that the information about Judge Nurre was e-mailed to me by his bailiff. Those of you who are too shy or humble to provide me with information about your achievements or activities, please keep that in mind. Just make sure your staff has my e-mail address. We'll take care of the rest.

Congratulations are also in order for Judge (now Justice) **S. Louis Rathje** of Illinois. He was recently appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court. Justice Rathje is the first Illinois state supreme court justice from DuPage County, where his grandfather and father also served as judges. Judge **Robert D. Marshall** of New Hampshire has been very busy. He recently received an award for distinguished public service (for accomplishments too numerous to mention here). He also received the prestigious Granite State Award from the University of New Hampshire for his many years of “exceptional contributions” to that state.

continued on page 4

Future Conferences

1999 Annual Conference

Cleveland, Ohio • October 10-15
Marriott Downtown
(\$130.00 single or double)

2000 Midyear Meeting

Puerto Rico • May 3-7
Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino
(\$125.00 single or double)

2000 Annual Conference

Kansas City, Missouri • September 10-15
The Westin Crown Center
(\$134.00 single or double)

2001 Midyear Meeting

Hot Springs, Arkansas • March 29-31
Hilton Hot Springs Convention Center
(\$90.00 single or double)

2001 Annual Meeting

Reno, Nevada • September 30-October 5
Silver Legacy Resort
(Room rate to be determined)