

# President's Column

## THANK YOU, SANTA FE! ON TO TORONTO!

John Conery

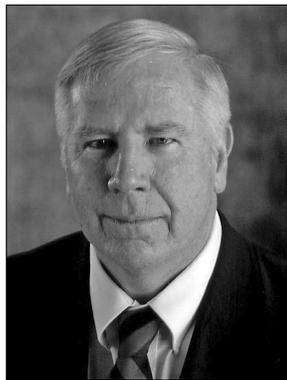
Our 2016 midyear in Santa Fe exceeded all expectations! The Chamber of Commerce “arranged” perfect weather conditions, sunny and cool. The hotel went out of its way to accommodate us, offering complimentary breakfast and complimentary evening cocktails with food. The rooms were spacious and the service top-notch, as was the location near historic Santa Fe Plaza.

Our educational programs were a “bang,” as Gene Lucci and Richard Kayne had a tutorial on gun safety followed by hands-on practice at the Santa Fe Sheriff's gun range. Everyone survived without a scratch, thanks in no small part to our safety-conscious instructors from the Sheriff's office.

Senior Federal Judge James Parker was our luncheon speaker, and he regaled us with tales of early New Mexico “justice.” Judge Parker, along with local celebrity guests Nancy Reynolds and General Bob Kemble (retired), then led us on a guided tour of the historic Santa Fe Federal Courthouse. Federal Court of Appeals Judge Paul J. Kelley, Jr., and Judge Parker took us behind the scenes and explained the historical significance of the magnificent murals that adorned the walls and halls.

The next day, Chief Justice Charles Daniels of the New Mexico Supreme Court then took us on a hilarious PowerPoint journey, explaining the history of the state justice system as he led into his keynote talk on “Pretrial Injustice: The Need for Reform.” Justice Daniels proposed reforms of the money bail system, where “individual release or detention of the accused before trial may depend more on a defendant's financial resources than on individual flight risk or danger to the community.” New Mexico State Judicial Administrator Artie Pepin joined Chief Justice Daniels and presented highlights from a white paper published on this topic. He also discussed proposed reforms he included in a proposed white paper that is expected to be released this fall.

Some of our own AJA stalwarts, Judges Catherine Shaffer, Elizabeth Hines, Richard Kayne, and Gene Lucci, rounded out our educational programs with their timely and insightful presentations. Not to be outdone, newcomers Veronica Alicea-Johnson and Gayle Williams-Byers informed us old “dinosaurs” of the “Perils and Profits of Social Media.” The materials from our Santa Fe conference, as well as past conferences, can be accessed on our website.



I think it can be fairly said that the 2016 Santa Fe Midyear was a huge success! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it possible, and thanks, especially, to Shelley Rockwell and Barry Forrest, who provide us such great staff support. Thanks to all who attended.

Speaking of attendance, Shelley Rockwell recently sent out AJA's registration information for our upcoming Toronto conference, September 25-30, 2016, at the Marriott Eaton Centre.

President-elect Russ Otter, along with education co-chairs Richard Kayne and Catherine Carlson, have put together another top-notch educational program coupled with outstanding social activities for judges and their families. Judge Otter will be the first Canadian judge to become the president of AJA, and we look forward to joining forces with our Canadian counterparts as together we explore a “comparative approach to justice.” The registration brochure and conference registration and information forms are now available at <http://www.amjudges.org/conferences/>.

Please sign up soon, as we'd like to bring a strong contingent of U.S. judges to Toronto to welcome our Canadian colleagues to membership in the AJA! Stronger ties with Canadian judges can only strengthen our organization and our core mission of Making Better Judges®. The “Voice of the Judiciary®” will be that much stronger with a strong Canadian membership!

As we like to say in the deep South, “Y'all come!” We hope to see you in Toronto!