

activities planned by Judge McAdam and his host committee. Certainly the opportunity to meet Bob Hawley and his sons David and Greg at the Steamboat *Arabia* Museum was such an opportunity. It was exciting to listen to these adventurers recount their experiences as they hunted for and salvaged the pre-Civil War steamer *Arabia* from its watery grave 45 feet below the surface of a Missouri farm in an area that was once part of the channel of the mighty Missouri River.

The tour of the 18th and Vine district home of the American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was equally inspiring. Not a single person present will ever forget the opportunity to meet and hear the former Negro League great Buck O'Neill of the Kansas City Monarchs, who was featured so prominently in Ken Burns's award-winning documentary *Baseball*. Mr. O'Neill, at age 89, held the audience riveted as he spoke about life and baseball. Ken Burns said about him, "From the moment I first saw Buck O'Neill, I sensed an electricity about him that made him unlike any person I've ever met. . . . I've heard him speak to groups a hundred times and at the end of every



Prof. Charles H. Whitebread

talk he leaves each listener convinced he is the one person Buck got up to speak to, the one person Buck got up to see." Ken Burns's words could not be more accurate

in describing the experience of hearing Buck O'Neill speak.

### New Officers

AJA inaugurated a new slate of officers at Kansas City. Judge Chris Williams, municipal court, Malvern,

Arkansas, became president, replacing Judge Gerald T. Elliott, Tenth Judicial District of Kansas, who will now serve as immediate past president. Judge Bonnie Sudderth, 352nd Judicial Court, Fort Worth, Texas, became president-elect. Judge Francis X. Halligan, Jr., Ocean County Municipal Court, New Jersey, is first vice-president, and Judge Michael R. McAdam, Kansas City Municipal Court, is second vice-president. Judge Gayle Nachtigal, circuit court, Washington County, Oregon, became secretary. Judge Harold V. Forehlich, Outagamie County Circuit Court, Wisconsin, is AJA's treasurer.

Those who had the good fortune to attend the Kansas City conference had a wonderful experience. If you could not attend, you missed a great deal. But don't worry; more opportunities are on the horizon. The next three annual conferences are being held in Reno, Nevada (September 30-October 5, 2001), Maui, Hawaii (September 8-13, 2002), and Montreal, Quebec (dates to be determined). Do not be left out. Plan now to attend. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these annual events. 



Judge Anthony Schiretta presents Judge John Mutter with the William H. Burnett Award for service to AJA.

### Meet AJA's New President, *continued*

books so that children know as much about the judicial branch as they know about the executive and legislative branches. Not only should we educate ourselves, but we must educate the public so they can have a more knowledgeable and respectful attitude toward the court system."

He also discussed the importance of increasing AJA's membership. "Our membership committee has never been more dedicated to achieve a total membership of 3,800. This is necessary to carry out our goals to be a strong voice in the judiciary and continue our connectional ties to the other major associations," such as the Conference of Chief Justices and the National Association for Court Management.

Chris Williams has served as a municipal court judge in Hot Spring County since 1992, and he was juvenile court judge and a city attorney for the city of Malvern, Arkansas, for four years. He is a member of the Municipal Judges Association of the State of Arkansas and served on the association's board of directors. He has served as chairperson of AJA's State and Federal, Public Relations, and Membership committees and has served on the Highway Safety, Juvenile Justice, Domestic Violence, Law Student Essay, and other committees.

Judge Williams and his wife, Martha, live in Malvern and have two sons, Blair and Landon. 