

AJA BENCHMARK

A Publication of the American Judges Association • Vol. 26, No. 4 • Winter 2003

AJA and CTC8

AJA President Michael R. McAdam

The Eighth Court Technology Conference (CTC8) was held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 28–30, 2003. CTC8 is produced every other year by the National Center for State Courts. The American Judges Association was a participating sponsor of the conference. By all accounts CTC8 was a very successful conference, with over 2,000 court administrators, clerks, and other judicial professionals from all over the world in attendance, including 250 judges.

AJA was very active at CTC8. At the first general session, I welcomed the delegates to Kansas City and spoke about the AJA, its mission, and our upcoming conferences in Savannah and San Francisco. (My speech is available for viewing on the Web at www.ctc8.net. Just click on the streaming video for Chief Justice Toal's keynote address.)

On the second day, AJA cohosted a champagne reception, along with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) at its downtown headquarters for all judges attending CTC8. This wonderful evening event was generously provided by MAXIMUS, one of CTC8's primary exhibitors. A shuttle to and from the reception



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was sponsored by another CTC8 exhibitor, ACS. About 100 judges attended the reception, which featured a minimum of speeches and a maximum of fun. Thanks are due to KCMBA president Sylvester James and KCMBA executive director Rae Jean McCall for allowing AJA to use their beautiful facility.

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Latest Information on Judicial Best Practices Posted Online

Judges looking for successful procedures and policies from other courts to help improve the operations of their own courts can consult the Best Practices Institute online at the National Center for State Courts' Web site at www.ncsconline.org. The institute, which emerged from the National Conference on Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System in 1999, is dedicated to identifying and promoting best practices in courts around the country as part of a broad strategy to improve court performance and service to the public.

The institute's Web site currently contains information in 15 topic areas. Here are the latest additions to the Best Practices Institute's online collection:

- Three new reference lists: Combating Bias in the Courts, Court Recording, and Family Violence

- Three new practice summaries by NCSC staff, which provide a quick overview of key areas in judicial administration: Judicial Management of Cases Involving Self-Represented Litigants, Domestic Violence Workplace Policies, and Appellate Court Best Practices
- The results of an expert panel on Emergency Management

For information on these and other topics covered by NCSC's Best Practices Institute, set your Web browser to www.ncsconline.org, click on "Best Practices Institute," then click on "Topics," or use this URL: www.ncsconline.org/Projects_Initiatives/BPI/Topics.htm. 