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Drake Law Student Wins National Essay Contest

A Drake University Law School student won first prize in the American Judges Association's 2002 Law Student Essay Competition. Rosalind A. Sargent, a third-year law student from Rock Island, Ill., received a \$3,000 prize and a commemorative plaque for her paper, "The Federal Sentencing Guidelines: An Infectious Anecdote."

The essay, which discusses the crack/cocaine disparity that exists within the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and its racial effects and implications, will be published in AJA's journal, *Court Review*.

Iowa District Court Judge Robert Wilson, a member of AJA, presented Sargent with the check and the plaque at a ceremony on October 2 at Drake University attended by United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

"I feel extremely blessed to be recognized for my work," Sargent said. "Especially because the paper covers an issue I feel very strongly about. There are more African-American men enrolled in this country's correctional system than in college, and that both saddens and frustrates me," she explained. "That was my motivation for writing this essay."

The annual competition was open to all full-time law students enrolled in an accredited law school in the



Judge Robert Wilson and Rosalind A. Sargent

United States or Canada. Nearly 100 students participated in the competition. Among other criteria, the papers were evaluated on writing quality, analysis and reasoning, and originality and creativity. **bm**

AJA Invites You to Springtime in Montana

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2003 American Judges Association Midyear Meeting at the Sheraton Billings Hotel in Billings, Montana, May 15-17! The "Big Sky Country" should offer an exciting backdrop for AJA's business meetings and educational sessions.

The meeting's agenda is still being worked out, but the AJA Board of Governors and the American Judges Foundation will meet on Friday, May 16, and the educational session will be held that afternoon (topic to be announced). Committees will meet on Saturday morning, May 17. And there will be an optional tour of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument on Saturday afternoon.

Room rates at the Sheraton Billings are \$65.00 to \$75.00 per night plus tax, depending on the type of room selected. The registration fees will be \$125.00 for judges and \$75.00 for spouses and guests.

We hope to see you in "Big Sky Country" in spring 2003! **bm**

