

# NCSC 2006 Conferences Offer Solutions for Judges

**T**he National Center for State Courts is offering two major, national conferences for judges and other court professionals in 2006—one to address the practical problems of court administration, and the other the courts' use of technology.

**Court Solutions—Solving Court Business Problems** (September 18-20, Baltimore, Maryland) will blend policy, management, and technology perspectives in three parallel tracks:

- Surviving Successfully: Disaster and Business Continuity Planning
- High-Performance Courts: Integrating Knowledge About Workload, Culture, and Performance
- Preserving Judicial Independence: Models and Tactics that Work

Educational sessions will include "Learning from Disaster," "Linking Court Performance and Culture,"

and "Putting it All Together: How State Courts Can Protect Judicial Independence."

## **E-Courts 2006—Digital**

**Opportunity** (December 11-13, Las Vegas, Nevada) will explore new electronic document, communications, and data systems that can transform your court. This year's conference will include:

Find more information and register for these conferences online at [www.courtsolutions.org](http://www.courtsolutions.org) and [www.e-courts.org](http://www.e-courts.org).

- How e-filing has transformed the courts' work and organization
- E-filing standards
- Improving privacy and public access using technology
- Wireless networks

The conference will also feature a WiFi wireless network and conference chat room. 

## **AJA Joins Justice at Stake Campaign, continued**

grand jury would operate statewide and, in essence, constitute a new, fourth branch of government in South Dakota. Judges, lawyers, and law-enforcement personnel, active and retired, are not eligible to serve on this grand jury.

This initiative seems to be a frightening overreaction to the generalized chorus of complaints about judicial rulings of the past 35 years, including decisions about affirmative action, abortion, eminent domain, and the Terry Schiavo case. Unfortunately, if this group is successful in South Dakota (a state with a low-petition-signature threshold for statewide referenda), "J.A.I.L. 4 Judges" may be coming to a state near you. Recently,

the *Las Vegas Sun* reported that the organizers of J.A.I.L. promise a campaign in Nevada will be next if they are successful in South Dakota this November (<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/lv-other/2006/feb/24/566653297.html>). Both houses of the South Dakota legislature passed unanimous resolutions opposing this amendment.

The Justice at Stake campaign takes this threat to a fair and impartial judiciary very seriously and will be working with groups and citizens in South Dakota this year to defeat the proposal. AJA, by joining this campaign, continues its work to preserve an independent and accountable judiciary. 