

# AJA BENCHMARK

A Publication of the American Judges Association • Vol. 30, No. 2 • Summer 2007

## Newport Hosts AJA '07 Midyear Meeting

**A** keynote address by Chief Justice Frank J. Williams of Rhode Island and an educational presentation by Justice at Stake and the National Center for State Courts highlighted the AJA's Midyear Meeting, held in April in Newport, Rhode Island.

Chief Justice Williams, a noted Lincoln scholar, addressed Lincoln, leadership, and judging. Williams said that though the problems of today pale in comparison to those of Lincoln's time, the lessons of Lincoln's leadership remain invaluable.

For example, Williams cited Lincoln's proactive nature, indicated by Lincoln's comment: "If I only had an hour to chop down a tree, I would spend the first 45 minutes sharpening my axe."

"Great leadership requires hope, confidence, and unshakable moral courage," Williams said. "Great leadership requires the ability to stay the course, even when you stand alone, as Lincoln so often did."



*The sea off Newport, R.I.*



*Bert Brandenburg and Jesse Rutledge (Justice at Stake)*



*Chief Justice Frank Williams (R.I.)*



*William Raftery (NCSC)*

Williams's remarks will be reprinted in the next issue of *Court Review*.

The midyear educational program featured Bert Brandenburg and Jesse Rutledge, executive director and director of field operations, respectively, for Justice at Stake, and William Raftery, a researcher at the National Center for State Courts. Their presentation covered current threats to the court system and what may be done about them.

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### Annual Meeting Notice

**N**otice is hereby given pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws of the American Judges Association that the annual meeting will be held September 25-30 at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia. The annual membership meeting will be held Saturday, September 29, at 9:00 a.m.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the American Judges Foundation will be held Thursday, September 27, at noon at the Sheraton Wall Centre. 