

# AJA BENCHMARK

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## AJA Meets in the Great Northwest

**T**he American Judges Association (AJA) held its 2007 annual educational conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, September 25-30, at the Sheraton Wall Centre. This joint conference of AJA, the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges (CAPCJ), and the British Columbia Provincial Court Judges Association (BCPCJA) carried the theme “Judicial Excellence—L’Excellence Judiciaire” and was the largest gathering of judges ever held in North America.

The opening plenary session of the joint conference featured a dialogue between Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Justice Ian Binnie



AJA, CAPCJ, and BCPCJA members enjoy a reception at the Supreme Court of Canada.

of the Supreme Court of the United States and Justice Ian Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada, with Justice Lynn Smith of the Supreme Court of British Columbia acting as moderator. Topics included judicial independence and impartiality.


Judges from Canada and the United States enjoyed a wide variety of joint educational sessions. Topics included a practical approach to problem-solving courts, domestic violence cases, collateral issues in high-profile trials, and a comparison of how the U.S. and Canadian

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## AJA Invites You to Beautiful Amelia Island for the 2008 Midyear Meeting

**C**ome to the Amelia Island Plantation on Amelia Island, Florida (just north of Jacksonville) for the 2008 Midyear Meeting of the American Judges Association, May 1-3. Amelia Island Plantation is Florida’s premier AAA-Four Diamond island resort.

AJA’s midyear meeting will include an afternoon of educational programming (the tentative topic is mental-health challenges for the courts), plus business meetings for the Executive Committee and Board of Governors.

For more information visit AJA’s Web site at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us>, e-mail [aja@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:aja@ncsc.dni.us) or call 1-800-616-6165. We hope to see you in Florida this spring! 




The Amelia Inn at Amelia Island Plantation

# AJA Members in the NEWS


## Judge Makes “Hall of Fame”

**K**evin Burke, chief district judge of Hennepin County, Minn., made “Minnesota’s Legal Hall of Fame,” but don’t look for a plaque or statue in an impressive building to commemorate the occasion. He was featured in an article in *Law and Politics* magazine (August-September 2007) that honored 100 of the state’s brightest legal lights. In particular, the magazine cited his roles in “promoting community outreach by judges” and in creating the Hennepin County Drug Court, the state’s first

drug court and the first “in the country to focus on all felony-level drug cases.” Judge Burke is in very good company, as other members of the Hall of Fame include Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger and former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz of the Minnesota Supreme Court. 



### AJA Meets in the Great Northwest, *continued*

media cover the courts. Presenters included Prof. Charles Whitebread (who gave his annual review of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions); Judge Charles D. Gill of the Connecticut Superior Court and Prof. Roy A. Schotland of Georgetown University Law School on the First Amendment and the judicial selection process; Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield of the Provincial Court of British Columbia and Julius Lang of the Center for Court Innovation on problem-solving v. conventional courts; and Judge Susan Antifaev of the Provincial Court of British Columbia and Judge Chuck Weller of the Washoe County (Nevada) Family Court on judges’ responses to the media. 




*New AJA president Judge Eileen Olds (Virginia), with (l. to r.) Judge Michael Cicconetti (AJA past president, Ohio); Judge Michael McAdam (AJA past president, Kansas); and Judge Larry Allen (AJA Board of Governors, District 9, Ohio).*

## AJA Elects New Officers for 2007-08

**A**JA also installed new officers at the annual conference in Vancouver. Virginia trial court judge Eileen A. Olds was installed at

the inaugural banquet on September 29, 2007. She became AJA’s 46th president. Officers for 2007-08 are:

- President:* Eileen A. Olds (eaolds@courts.state.va.us)
- President-elect:* Tam Nomoto Schumann (tnomoto@occourts.org)
- Vice President:* James McKay (jfm@4thcir-app.state.la.us)
- Secretary:* Mary A. Celeste (mceleste@ci.denver.co.us)
- Treasurer:* Harold Froehlich (Harold.Froelich@wicourts.gov)
- Immediate Past President:* Steve Leben (sleben@ix.netcom.com)

Also elected were Lynda Howell, parliamentarian, and Jay Dilworth, Libby Hines, and Jerrauld Jones, executive board members. 

# American Judges Association

The Voice of the Judiciary®

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*Court Review* (2006)  
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With clear acrylic cover

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Navy or royal with white AJA logo

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**Hawaiian Shirts, blue with white palm trees:** \$40.00 each  
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(preprinted certificates of appreciation for presentation to citizens serving as jurors in your court—not suitable for running through a laser printer)

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# NCSC Publications Look at Courts' Role in Society


**F**our new publications of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) highlight the important role of courts in our society.

*Justice Case Files: The Case of Internet Piracy*, the first in a projected series of graphic novels about how courts affect the lives of ordinary people, provides a detailed, easy-to-digest explanation of how the criminal- and civil-justice systems work. The story traces the experiences of Megan, a college freshman charged with illegally downloading music, and Ellen, Megan's grandmother, who is fighting their city's attempt to seize their home through eminent domain. NCSC underwrote the costs for developing this 24-page, full-color graphic novel, which also received a rigorous review from judges and other legal professionals. To order *The Case of Internet Piracy*, please contact Greg Chadwell at Layne Morgan Media at [gregc@laynemorgan.com](mailto:gregc@laynemorgan.com) or at (417) 887-1233.

The "Free to be Fair" poster series raises public awareness of mission of the justice system. The three posters carry a unified message that the courts are open to everyone, listen to everyone, and protect people's rights. These posters, which measure 17 by 22 inches, can be customized with a court or state seal. Sample posters can be seen online at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org). For

more information, contact Deloris Gager at [dgager@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:dgager@ncsc.dni.us) or (757) 259-1864.

"Judicial Conduct and Ethics" is the theme of a special issue of NCSC's *Justice System Journal* (vol. 28, no. 3 [2007]). This issue brings together prominent judges, attorneys, court administrators, and scholars with many different perspectives on judicial ethics, particularly in the wake of the American Bar Association's recently adopted *Model Code of Judicial Conduct* and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White* (2002). To order, contact NCSC's fulfillment house at (888) 228-6272 toll free or (802) 862-0095; fax (802) 864-7626; or e-mail [ncsc.orders@aidcvr.com](mailto:ncsc.orders@aidcvr.com).

*Future Trends in State Courts 2007* is the latest in NCSC's long-running "Report on Trends in the State Courts" series. The 2007 edition begins with a moderated panel discussion that looks at how courts approach "the future." Brief articles on important developments in three key areas—Technology, Families and Problem-Solving Courts, and Promising Practices—follow this discussion. *Future Trends in State Courts 2007* can be obtained from the Knowledge and Information Service at (800) 616-6164 and can also be found online at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org). 

## NCSC Online Resources Provide Assistance, Data


**T**he National Center for State Courts provides online resources at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org) to aid courts with disaster planning, provide data on court operations and judicial compensation nationwide, and assist courts interested in adopting a problem-solving approach.

The Continuity of Court Operations (COOP) Web site helps courts prepare for disaster. This site takes courts through all the steps necessary to develop, initiate, maintain, and carry out a COOP plan. NCSC prepared this new guide with the assistance of a national coalition of leaders involved in business-continuity planning for the courts, with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

NCSC's Court Statistics Project (CSP) site delivers more than the most accessible, up-to-date analysis of caseload trends in the state courts. Online, interactive features now allow users to download the data

in charts, tables, and graphs and navigate to related references on the Web. Users can also query CSP's database by state or geographic area and download CSP's latest reports.

NCSC's online Judicial Salary Resource Center provides courts with the most up-to-date salary data for judges and court administrators at all levels. State court administrative offices can now enter their salary data into the Resource Center directly, and users can pull up the specific salary information they need and view past issues of the *Survey of Judicial Salaries*, which will still be published.

NCSC's Problem-Solving Court Toolkit provides courts with a blueprint for applying a problem-solving approach to cases that involve recurring social and medical problems. The Toolkit includes a set of assessment questions and a set of steps for implementing a problem-solving approach. 

# AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

## Future Conferences

### 2008 Midyear Meeting

Amelia Island, Florida  
*May 1-3, 2008*  
Amelia Island Plantation  
\$159 single/double standard room  
\$169 single/double deluxe room

### 2008 Annual Conference

Maui, Hawaii  
*September 7-12, 2008*  
Westin Maui  
\$200 single or double

### 2009 Midyear Meeting

Sanibel Island, Florida  
*May 14-16*  
Sundial Beach Resort  
\$145 single/double

### 2009 Annual Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada  
*Dates to be determined*  
Golden Nugget Hotel

### 2010 Midyear Meeting

Tucson, Arizona  
*May 19-21*  
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort  
\$179 single/double

### 2010 Annual Conference

Denver, Colorado  
*October 3-8*  
Westin Tabor Center  
\$205 single/double

# BENCHMARK

## American Judges Association

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