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Jim McKay

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Outgoing President's Column

Jim McKay

Last September, I was sworn in as president of the American Judges Association. This October, in Denver, Colorado, I turned over the reins of this venerable organization to our new president, Judge Mary Celeste. Because of scheduling, I actually got an opportunity to serve 13 months as president of the AJA instead of the normal 12. However, I have to say that it seems like last week I was sworn-in in Las Vegas. I believe the term is "tempus fugit," and never was that expression more appropriate than today. I think one of the reasons why time flew by without any major headaches was because of the extremely competent Executive Committee that I served with; the members of that committee met every crisis head-on and helped make my job easier.

While we are still fighting membership numbers, we seem to have found a way to increase our registration statistics at our annual conferences by cooperating with the state of our conference venue. In Denver, the conference was a success based on the registration statistics. We had attendance from more than 200 judges from all over

the United States and Canada. Those numbers are high because of our cooperation with the state of Colorado, which agreed to co-host their traditional fall conference with our annual conference. We are planning the same configuration in New Orleans in 2012 with the Louisiana Judicial College, which will turn over all of their fall judiciary conference planning to the AJA for a combined meeting.

During these difficult economic times, the AJA is attempting to work along with our states and show them what we do best, which is the education of judges. They have the numbers and we have the expertise, which makes a great marriage. With so many states cutting interstate travel because of funding woes, it only makes sense that the AJA travel where the judges are. While my tenure passed quickly, it was rewarding and fulfilling. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the great judicial minds on the continent. It will not be something I will ever soon forget.

God Bless All.



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Westin Hilton Head Island
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2011 Annual Conference
San Diego, California
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2012 Midyear Meeting
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Doubletree Hotel
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2012 Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
Dates and hotel to be determined



2013 Annual Conference
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