



Columns

The President's Newsletter

www.ajs.org

March 2006

Fryes this year's Justice Award recipients

I am thrilled to announce this year's Justice Award, the highest honor bestowed by the organization, will honor an outstanding husband and wife team, Henry E. Frye and Shirley Frye. This will be only the second time in the history of AJS that the Justice Award will be given to a husband and wife. Fred and Ruth Friendly received the award in 1985.

Letter from the President

Most AJS members are familiar with the Fryes and their wonderful accomplishments. Henry served as AJS Board chair from 1995 to 1997. Their ongoing support for the AJS mission and its activities over decades is unsurpassed. Most recently, the Fryes helped AJS create the newly established Institute of Forensic Science and Public Policy, which opened in Greensboro in January, and the Commission on Forensic Science and Public Policy. Henry's direct involvement dates back to the planning for the Alexandria conference in January, 2003 and his participation at the conference, where the idea for a multi-disciplinary institute first surfaced.

Henry is a man of "firsts." He was the first African-American to be elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives and the first African-American to serve on the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and in 1999, he was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, also a first for an African-American. Henry held public office in North Carolina for more than 30 years. His national contributions to the justice system are numerous, and include many insightful opinions that continue to influence courts around the country.

Shirley is an amazing woman. Many will tell you this, but I have first-hand knowledge. Shirley began her career as a schoolteacher and until recently was vice president of community relations at the local CBS-affiliate in Greensboro, WFMY-TV.

Known for her kind heart, she is a dedicated community leader. She has served the justice system in many, many ways, including her work on the national and local boards of the National Conference of Community and Justice, and the National Board of

the YWCA. She is a former vice president of the Judicial Family Life Institute, a national organization dedicated to informing and offering support to judicial families confronting the unique challenges of public life.

Henry retired from the North Carolina Supreme Court in 2001 and joined Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP in Greensboro. He remains very active in community service roles. He currently chairs the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. Shirley too remains a force of good will in Greensboro. She chairs the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation of Greensboro and is a member of the Board of Directors of the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. There are no two people more deserving of our thanks and gratitude for significant contributions to the administration of justice than Henry and Shirley Frye.

- Allan Sobel
President

Deadline this month for Toni House nominations

AJS is accepting nominations for the eighth annual Toni House Journalism Award. The deadline for entries is March 31, 2006.

The Toni House Award, named after the late U.S. Supreme Court public information officer Toni House, recognizes outstanding news reporting

Awards

that enhances public understanding of the courts and/or significantly improves the administration of justice.

For submission guidelines, please visit www.ajs.org/ajs/awards.

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AJS in the newspapers and journals of America

News Tribune. AJS was cited in a January 16 opinion column regarding judicial elections campaign donations. Washington AJS Chapter member Charlie Wiggins conducted a study on donations to judicial campaigns. "...contributions send a chilling message to judges who must decide cases involving wealthy litigants," Wiggins wrote.

Daily Journal. Former AJS Board Chairs Judith Chirlin and Robert Utter were subjects of a December 20 article on the training of Iraqi judges. Chirlin and Utter were among other American and European judges who ran training seminars during the past 2 years to train 140 Iraqi judges.

Boston Herald. AJS was a source for information on a December 23 article regarding an ethics violation of a Massachusetts judge. Judge Ernest B. Murphy used court stationery to write a letter regarding a libel case he was involved in.

In the News

Greensboro News Record. Allan Sobel, AJS president, was quoted in a January 22 article regarding Americans' views on judges and the new Institute for Forensic Science and Public Policy. Sobel stated in the article that judges are beholden to the rule of law and he criticized media for writing about judicial decisions "as if they were personal decisions."

National Law Journal. Cynthia Gray, director of the Center for Judicial Ethics, was quoted in a February 8 article regarding videotaping of judges on the bench. She said that videotapes could be a useful tool for judiciary review committees investigating misconduct. "I don't know if it would get rid of misconduct or not. But I always think it's good for judges to look at themselves and for commissions to have good evidence to exonerate judges or help prove misconduct."

Montgomery Advertiser. AJS was cited in a February 23 article about its presentation of the Herbert Harley Award to Alabama attorney Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama. "Bryan's work on behalf of people who are not in a position to hire their own counsel...is legendary," said Allan Sobel. A March 1 editorial discussed the AJS program on judicial selection presented in Birmingham and cited AJS as a source for Alabama's rank among partisan judicial election states.

Birmingham News. A February 26 article reported on the AJS Midyear program held in Birmingham, "Rethinking Strategies on Judicial Selection."



Reno receives prestigious Hoeveler Award

Former U.S. Attorney General and AJS Director Janet Reno received the William M. Hoeveler Award at a ceremony at the University of Miami School of Law on March 8. The award is reserved for individuals who show devotion to ethics and leadership in the legal community and the civic community.

Frye receives public service award. Former AJS Board Chair and former North Carolina Chief Justice Henry Frye received the 2006 Citation for Distinguished Public Service award from the North Carolina Citizens for Business & Industry on March 15, 2006.

Freehling receives Laureate Award. AJS member Paul Freehling

Your Colleagues

was chosen for the Illinois State Bar's 2006 class of Laureates. The honor is reserved for attorneys exemplifying greatness in the legal profession. Freehling is partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP law firm in Chicago. He has practiced law for over 40 years and has been an AJS member for 34 years.

Stookey receives lifetime award from AACJ. The Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice gave its John Flynn Career Service Award to Phoenix attorney John Stookey. The award recognizes outstanding career dedication to criminal justice. He has served on the Board of Directors and currently

serves on the National Advisory Council.

Reinert featured in NYT. AJS Director Alex Reinert was quoted in a February 28 article in the New York Times regarding the settlement of a lawsuit involving an Egyptian national who was detained for months then deported after the September 11 terror attacks. "This is a substantial settlement and shows for the first time that the government can be held accountable for the abuses that have occurred in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and in prisons right here in the United States," Reinert said.

AJS completes first series on justice system with program on judicial independence and the media

The last of four programs in the First Annual AJS/Drake Law School Series on the Justice System, "How the Media Impacts Judicial Independence and Accountability," was held at the Drake Legal Clinic on February 28, 2006. More than 80 attendees were treated to superb presentations by Chief Judge Mark Bennett, United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa; Professor Rachel Paine Caufield, Consultant to the AJS Hunter Center for Judicial Selection; and Professor Kathleen Richardson, Drake School of Journalism. The presentations were followed by a lively panel discussion and Q & A session with the audience. Professor Mark Kende, James Madison Chair and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Drake Law School moderat-

Activities

ed the program. DVD copies of the program should be available soon.

Eckley discusses pro se issues. Tim Eckley, AJS Staff Attorney/Publications Associate, presented to the Iowa Fifth Judicial District Court Clerks Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2006. Eckley discussed pro se litigation practices and reform efforts and the challenges presented to court staff resulting from increasing numbers of pro se litigants.

Gray speaks on ethics. Cynthia Gray, director of the Center for Judicial Ethics, participated in a panel on impaired judges for the Utah Judicial Institute's workshop for pre-

siding judges on March 3. On April 11, she will speak in Charlotte, NC on pro se litigants for a group of family court judges. On April 20-21, Gray will be one of two presenters at a CLE program on judicial ethics presented by the Nevada Bar Association, once in Reno, once in Las Vegas.

Hawaii chapter forms committee on court security. The Hawaii chapter of the American Judicature Society has formed a committee to study security in Hawaii courts. The committee will address security issues inside the courthouse and also safety of judges and their families outside the courthouse, and focus awareness among elected officials and the public to the issue of court security.



AJS articles reprinted around the world

A subcommittee on judicial selection and retention of the Boyd-Graves Conference, sponsored by the Virginia Bar Association, used the video "Ensuring Judicial Excellence" and two books, *Research on Judicial Selection 1999 and Research on Judicial Selection, Vol. 2*. The conference is a nearly 30 year old group of non-partisan lawyers and judges dedicated to seeking ways of improving the system of civil jurisprudence in Virginia state courts, and which, when it reaches consensus on an issue, recommends changes to the legislature or supreme court.

Publications

The Justice Project was granted permission to post the *Judicature* editorial "The erosion of the Great Writ" to their Web site, thejusticeproject.org/habeas.

The Santa Clara County Superior Court was granted permission to adapt *Behind Closed Doors: A guide for jury deliberations* for distribution to jurors in its jurisdiction.

Kansas Judge Bob Schmisser was granted permission to use *Reaching Out or Overreaching: Judicial Ethics and Self-Represented Litigants* for judicial education programs regarding ethics and pro se litigants.

The American Academy of Judicial Education was granted permission to reproduce "How are courts handling pro se litigants," by Jona Goldschmidt. The article appeared in the July-August 1998 issue of *Judicature*.

Do you prefer email vs. regular mail?

To save on costs of printing and postage, AJS would like to send Columns via email. If you prefer to receive Columns electronically, please forward your request and email address to Dawn Buzynski at dbuzynski@ajs.org.



Columns

The President's Newsletter

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Calendar

AJS Staff

April 2006

1-2 - Greensboro, NC: Retreat of the Commission on Forensic Science and Public Policy

May 2006

13, Chicago, IL: AJS Board Meeting

September 2006

7-9, Des Moines, IA: Annual Meeting

October 2006

19-21, Chicago, IL: 20th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics

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When you are finished with this issue of Columns, please tear off the form below and give it to a friend or colleague who might be interested in becoming a member.



American Judicature Society
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Des Moines, IA 50311
(515) 271-2281

Membership Application

Application Information *(please print or type)*

Mr/Ms/Hon: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Payment Method:

- My check is enclosed
 Please charge to my credit card
 Mastercard Visa AMX

Card #: _____

Exp: _____

Cardholder name: _____

Membership Level:

- Regular \$75.00
 Sustaining \$200.00
 Leadership \$400.00
 Presidents \$800.00
 Founders \$1,500.00
 Life \$5,000.00
 Judge or Professor \$60.00
 Age 30 or less \$40.00
 Retiree \$30.00
 Student \$20.00

Your membership payment, minus \$24 (value of Judicature), is fully deductible as a charitable contribution. The American Judicature Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.