AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN JUDGES FOUNDATION
2017 Midyear Meeting
Hilton Arlington April 27-29, 2017 Arlington, Virginia

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 27
Registration
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting
8:00 – 11:00 AM

Optional Tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture
Noon to 4:00 PM
(You must purchase tickets for the AJF Fundraiser Reception in order to get tickets to the Museum. You are responsible for your transportation to the museum; the Ballston-MU Metro Station is just outside the hotel. You can take the Metro to the Federal Triangle, Smithsonian or Metro Center stations – they all are about a 10-minute walk from the museum.)

AJF Fundraiser Reception
4:00 – 5:30 PM
University Club of Washington, DC

Friday, April 28
Registration
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

AJF Trustees Meeting
7:30 – 9:00 AM

Committee Meetings
(see schedule in your packet and attend any in which you are interested)
8:00 – 9:00 AM

Welcome Remarks
8:45 – 9:00 AM
Russell Otter, AJA President

Education Session
9:00 – 10:15 AM
Topic: First Shot at Justice: The Power of Legal Representation at the First Appearance
Over six out of ten people in jail are awaiting trial, and nine out of ten are there because they haven't posted bail. We know that when people are held in jail pretrial, they are four times more likely to get a jail sentence and three times more likely to go to prison. Our courts are focused on case resolution, yet in order to have legitimate and fair resolutions, people charged with crimes, no matter the severity, must have counsel from the very beginning of the case. A study by the Baltimore City Lawyers at Bail Project showed that a person charged with a misdemeanor or non-violent crime who has access to counsel at the first appearance is two and a half times more likely to be released when than those without counsel.

Moderated by Kim Ball, the Director of the Justice Programs Office at American University, this panel will feature Brian MacKenzie, former judge for the 52nd District Court in Michigan; George Grasso, Supervising Judge of Bronx County Criminal Court; and Jo-Ann Wallace, President and CEO of National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA). The session will explore the importance of the right to counsel at the first appearance in reducing mass incarceration, its financial toll, and its collateral consequences on the accused. The panelists will compare systems that provide legal representation at the first appearance to systems that don't, and highlight research and data from the Alameda County Public Defender's Office implementing early appointment of counsel through the Smart Defense program.
Moderator: *Kim A. Ball, Esq.*, Research Professor and Director, Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs, American University
Panelists: *Brian MacKenzie*, Judge (retired), 52nd District Court, Michigan
George Grasso, Supervising Judge, Bronx County Criminal Court
Jo-Ann Wallace, President and CEO of National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA).

Break
10:15 – 10:30 AM

Education Session
10:30 - Noon
Topic: Access to Justice Report on Fines, Fees and Bail Practices.
Chief Judge Eric Washington, Chair of the National Advisory Board on Community Engagement in the State Courts, and Tina Vagenas, Director of the

initiative, will provide an update on this important initiative, which is working to develop tools for courts to engage with minority and disadvantaged communities, ensure equal access to justice, and build public trust and confidence in the judiciary. They will share work underway on the listening phase of the initiative, including the televised "Courting Justice" series. Along parallel lines, important questions have arisen over the last several years concerning the imposition and enforcement of legal financial obligations and the ways courts, in coordination with their justice system partners, manage the pretrial release of individuals awaiting trial. As a way of drawing attention to these issues and promoting ongoing improvements, in 2016 the CCJ and COSCA established the National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices to develop recommendations that promote the fair and efficient enforcement of the law. Also discussed will be the work of the National Task Force and progress being made across the country to address fines, fees, and bail practices.
Speakers: *Konstantina Vagenas*, Director/Chief Council, Access to Justice Initiatives, National Center for State Courts
Eric T. Washington, Chief Judge (retired), D.C. Court of Appeals

AJA/AJF Luncheon
Noon – 1:15 PM

Education Session
1:30 – 3:00 PM
Topic: *Technology Trends for Judges*
In the tech field, the only constant is change. In this session, participants will expand their knowledge of various technology trends being used in courts as well as the private sector. These will include low- and no-cost options, tools developed within state and local judiciaries as well as off-the-shelf products. In addition, information about innovative technology education programs for judges and court staff from around the country will be provided.
Speakers: *Margaret Allen*, Director of National Programs, Institute for Court Management, National Center for State Courts
Caroline E. Kirkpatrick, President, National Association of State Judicial Educators

Break
3:00 – 3:15 PM

Education Session
3:15 – 4:30 PM
Topic: *Elder Issues and Guardianships: Resources and Information*
Elder issues and adult guardianship reform efforts are taking center stage as federal and state governments grapple with the aging boom. This session offers an overview of the resources that can be found at the National Center for State Courts' Center for Elders and the Courts. Adult guardianships and conservatorships then take center stage, with a discussion of preliminary findings from a study on conservator exploitation and a presentation on how technology and analytics are being used to identify cases in which a conservator may be exploiting the protected person. The session concludes with a presentation on the collaborative nature of work being carried out by state WINGS (Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders).
Speakers: *Patricia Banks*, Presiding Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois
John E. Conery, Judge, Third Circuit Court of Appeal, New Iberia, Louisiana
Brenda K. Uekert, Principal Court Research Consultant, National Center for State Courts

Reception – cash bar, light hors d'oeuvres
6:00 – 7:00 PM
Business casual attire

<u>Saturday, April 29</u>
AJA Office
7:30 AM – Noon

Committee Meetings
8:00 – 9:00 AM

Board of Governors Meeting
9:00 AM – Noon

Meeting adjourns
Noon

American Judges Association Officers
Russ Otter, *President*
Catherine Shaffer, *President-elect*
Richard Kayne, *Vice President*
Pete Sferrazza, *Secretary*
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