

AJA Supports Increased Retirement Age for Judges

The American Judges Association adopted a resolution during its 2006 annual meeting supporting raising the age for mandatory retirement in states that have such limits. The resolution, proposed by New York trial judge Abraham Gerges, was approved at the AJA's General Assembly meeting, at which all AJA members can participate in decisions made by the association.

The motion prompted some debate among AJA members. Supporters argued that age limits are arbitrary and that many judges have served with distinction into their eighties. Opponents suggested that some limit may be appropriate, since it is difficult to remove a nonperforming judge, and that the policy-making function of courts may require diversity, including generational diversity. After debate, the motion passed with a sizable majority in favor.

RESOLUTION

The American Judges Association hereby resolves to support an increase in the mandatory retirement age; across the country, many states are forcing their most experienced jurists off the bench because of arbitrary age limits;

these age limits are based on outmoded ideas about aging. Individuals are living longer and healthier lives, and working vigorously and productively much longer;

further, some of the brightest and most-respected jurists on the federal bench are well into their seventies and eighties; now, therefore,

Be it known, the American Judges Association commits to support legislation to increase mandatory retirement age limits.

*Adopted by the AJA General Assembly
October 12, 2006*

AJA Announces Winners of 2006 Essay Competition

Law students from Pennsylvania and New York took home the top prizes in AJA's 2006 Annual Law Student Competition. This contest is open to full-time students in accredited law schools in the United States and Canada.

1st Place—\$3,000

"Breaking News: *Miller* Is Distinguishable from *Branzburg*"

Levon Schlichter
Temple University School of Law

2nd Place—\$1,500

"The Dubai Dilemma: Congress' Power to Regulate Critical Infrastructure in the War Time Context"

Michael Nonaka
University of Pennsylvania School of Law



Levon Schlichter (center) receives his first-place certificate from Judge Bruce Campbell (left) and Dean Robert J. Reinstein of Temple University School of Law.

3rd Place—\$1,000

"Jailing Ourselves: Standards Used for Declaring United States Citizens Enemy Combatants"

Joseph Storch
Cornell Law School