

# AJA BENCHMARK

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## Conference in Paradise AJA Holds Annual Conference in Maui

Elliott Zide

**Y**ES WE CAN . . . deliver AJA members highly valued, quality judicial education in paradise. The annual conference at the Westin Resort in Maui, September 7-12, opened with a moving traditional Hawaiian OLE (Chant) offered by Luana Kavaa, an administrator with the Kamahama schools, followed by a warm Aloha welcome by Chief Justice Ronald Moon of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii. The conference ended with a fantastic luau, where Hon. Tam Namoto Schumann of Orange County, California, was sworn in as president in front a spectacular sunset on the run-up year to the 50th anniversary of the founding of AJA.

Here are AJA's officers for 2008-09:

**President:** Tam Nomoto Schumann  
(tnomoto@occourts.org)

**President-elect:** James McKay  
(jfm@la4th.org)

**Vice President:** Mary Celeste  
(mceleste@ci.denver.co.us)

**Secretary:** Kevin S. Burke  
(Kevin.burke@courts.state.mn.us)

**Treasurer:** Harold Froehlich  
(Harold.Froehlich@wicourts.gov)

**Immediate Past President:** Eileen A. Olds  
(eaolds@courts.state.va.us)

William Gorewich (Ontario), Elizabeth Hines (Michigan), and Elliott Zide (Massachusetts) were elected to the AJA Executive Board.

In between, AJA members had the chance to earn 15.50 hours of highly valued continuing judicial education credits. The conference evaluations offer credible evidence that those who attended the 12 education programs, spread over the first three days of the conference, were highly satisfied with their academic experience. Satisfaction rates ranged from a low of 3.70 to a high of 4.63 (out of a perfect score of 5).



*The Westin Maui—site of AJA's 2008 annual conference.*

Kudos to Hon. Greg Mize (Washington, D.C.) for the highest ranked program, "Jury Trials—Recurring Opportunities to Building Public Trust in Courts," and his faculty: Judges Michael Town and Shackly Raffetto of Hawaii and Alan Slater, the CEO of the Orange County (California) Superior Court. Runners up include AJA members Richard B. Kayne (Washington), David S. Gorbaty (Louisiana), and Larry D. Willis, Jr. (Virginia) for their ethics program with a raw score of 4.56 and Kimberly Frankel of Oregon for her fast-paced, in-depth coverage of the "Law of Search and Seizure" (4.50). The education committee reviewed more than 400 separate comments about the 29 faculty and 12 courses over the course of the conference and will carefully consider the participants' many constructive suggestions when planning future education programs.

AJA is fortunate to be able to attract knowledgeable faculty from within our own membership, along with other well-known and respected experts, who work so hard to make conference attendees become more effective judges. AJA also recognizes the significant

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