

President's Column

John Conery

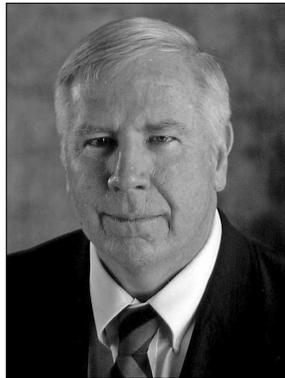
In the last issue of *Court Review*, I challenged our members, as Theodore Roosevelt challenged everyone in his speech, “The Man in the Arena,” to “strive valiantly” to realize the “triumph of high achievement” as you serve in the arena of public service. In this issue, I’m asking those who can to take a step back from the public arena and join your fellow AJA members for our midyear conference in a historic, relaxing, and beautiful setting: Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Those who do the hard work of judging know all too well the toll stress takes on those who toil in the “judicial arena.” Past President Brian MacKenzie highlighted the importance of recognizing and properly dealing with the health risks inherent in our stressful occupation by dedicating a column in *Court Review* (Vol. 51, Issue 1) and last year’s midyear conference in Fort Meyers, Florida, to the issue of “Judicial Stress.” The great programs presented at that conference can be accessed through our website, www.amjudges.org.

At this year’s midyear conference in Santa Fe, April 19-22, 2016, we hope to provide the judges in attendance with some much-needed “stress relief” by combining a top-notch education program with some fun and relaxing activities to share with your fellow judges from throughout the U.S. and Canada.

If you want to learn how to handle guns safely and professionally, especially how to properly handle guns as evidence in a court proceeding, our own Judges Gene Lucci and Richard Kayne will offer an optional tutorial on gun safety. An optional trip to a local gun range following the tutorial is in the planning stages.

In addition to the optional tutorial on gun safety, we have made room in our schedule for at least one afternoon for you to relax with colleagues. If fly fishing is your way to relax, expert guides are available to take you on a scenic trip to one of New Mexico’s finest trout streams. You may schedule your trip through www.thereellife.com or through any of a number of area guide services.



Santa Fe has many beautiful museums and historic buildings to tour, and we will furnish a tour guide familiar with the area to help you select from a variety of options as you plan your personal tour following our education programs. Senior United States District Judge James Parker is also offering a guided tour of the historic Santa Fe Federal Courthouse.

So please invest a few minutes of your time now to visit our website and register for our Santa Fe Midyear meeting: <http://www.amjudges.org/conferences/>. We have a room block at The Drury Plaza Hotel in beautiful downtown Santa Fe, within walking distance of many historic points of interest and museums.

As Will Rogers famously said: “Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.” So spend a little time with AJA in Santa Fe and refresh your mind and your spirit from the rigors and stress of public life as a judge. Then return to your “judicial arena” with renewed vigor to pursue the “triumph of high achievement” in your courtrooms!

We hope to see you in Santa Fe!