

# NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press inquiries contact:  
American Judicature Society  
Seth S. Andersen  
800-626-4089, [sandersen@ajs.org](mailto:sandersen@ajs.org)

## **Senator William J. Raggio to Receive Herbert Harley Award**

Des Moines, Iowa –Senator William J. Raggio has been selected to receive the American Judicature Society’s Herbert Harley Award in recognition of his efforts to improve the administration of justice in Nevada.

Senator Raggio was elected to three terms as district attorney for Washoe Country (Reno), and he is currently in his tenth term as a Nevada Senator. During his time as a public servant, he has been a remarkably strong and effective advocate for judicial reform in the state of Nevada.

Senator Raggio first sponsored a resolution to create a merit selection and retention system in Nevada in 1985. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to build legislative and public support for judicial selection reform. He is the primary sponsor and supporter of SJR2, which will appear on the November 2010 general election ballot. If adopted, SJR2 will amend the Nevada constitution to provide for merit selection of Supreme Court justices and District Court judges, with periodic retention elections informed by a judicial evaluation program.

John P. Sande, III wrote in support of Senator Raggio’s nomination that “it didn’t take long for me to recognize and respect his intelligence, his caring insight, his strong character and his incredible leadership ability.” Sande went on to write that Raggio “has always shown understanding and support of our community.”

Raggio is the third recipient of the Herbert Harley Award from Nevada since the award’s inception. Past recipients include former Judge Elmer M. Gunderson, who received the award in 1977, and former Judge Jerry Carr Whitehead in 1989.

Named after the founder of AJS, the Herbert Harley Award is the Society’s premier state award and is reserved for individuals or entities that make outstanding efforts and contributions that substantially improve the administration of justice in their state.

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Founded in 1913, The American Judicature Society is a nonpartisan organization with a national membership of judges, lawyers and other citizens interested in improving our nation’s courts and the administration of justice. The AJS mission is to ensure a fair, impartial, independent judiciary; improve the criminal justice process; educate the public; and build confidence in the justice system. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ajs.org>.