

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: American Judicature Society
Beth Tigges, (515) 271-2283
btigges@ajs.org

AJS Names New Executive Vice-President



Des Moines, IA — December 14, 2006 — Neal R. Sonnett, President of the American Judicature Society (AJS), has announced that Seth S. Andersen will become its new Executive Vice President. Andersen will take over responsibilities in December.

Andersen will direct the daily operations and staff of the Des Moines-based national headquarters, as well as its Chicago staff and the Society's Institute of Forensic Science and Public Policy located in Greensboro, NC.

He will work to promote the Society's unique engagement of non-lawyer citizens in justice system improvements and to bring together diverse constituencies around the country to safeguard the independence of the judiciary.

"For more than 90 years, the American Judicature Society has been an innovative and leading force in making our system of justice work better for all Americans," says Andersen. "I am eager to work with the outstanding AJS leadership and staff to further the Society's mission with expanded programs, research, and advocacy."

"Seth Andersen possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience in the key areas of concern to the American Judicature Society," remarks AJS President Neal R. Sonnett of Miami. "His commitment to improving the administration of justice will serve the Society and its members very well in the coming years."

Andersen is no stranger to AJS. From 1993 to 2000, he served AJS in numerous capacities, including as Director of the Center on Judicial Independence and Director of the Elmo B. Hunter Citizens Center for Judicial Selection. Most recently, Andersen served as Special Assistant to the President of the American Bar Association, providing advice and counsel on a wide range of policy matters and coordinating the ABA president's speaking engagements, meetings, and special events. He also served previously as Project Manager for the ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence, directing special projects to promote an independent judiciary.

Andersen is a nationally-recognized authority on merit selection of judges and judicial independence. He has directed groundbreaking research projects on judicial performance evaluation systems, diversity in state court judiciaries and citizen response to jury summonses. His expertise has been sought by state legislative committees and national organizations examining judicial selection systems and he has spoken by invitation at numerous conferences on issues central to the administration of justice. He holds a degree in history and American Studies from the University of Kansas.

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Founded in 1913, AJS is a leader in improving our nation's courts. AJS, which brings a public perspective to justice system issues, has the mission to secure and promote an independent and qualified judiciary and a fair system of justice. For more information on AJS, visit our Web site at www.ajs.org.