Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Edward J. Schoenbaum
Letter from the Editor

The previous issue of the Journal of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges was a huge success. Professor Harold Levinson highlighted the articles on State Central Hearing Agencies in his State News section of the Newsletter of the American bar Association - Section of Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice. The resulting requests from attorneys, bar association committees, and administrative law judges unfamiliar with our Journal completely depleted our first printing, and an additional 500 copies were printed. If you need more copies for legislative or bar association committees, please write.

Membership is growing -- many who received complimentary copies are now members. This issue of the journal is also being sent to a select list of non-member Administrative Law Judges, Administrative Law Professors, and leaders of Bar Associations. We invite our readers to sample this scholarly vehicle of theory and practice to professionalize administrative law judges in our country and beyond.

This issue presents some of the excellent presentations at last year's annual educational program. We thank Professor Hugg of Loyola for sharing his excellent materials so that our readers can think through their important roles as professional writers. We administrative law judges write for our living. We can always improve. Carefully read and apply his article -- your readers will be glad you invested the time.

Federal Administrative Law Judge Edd Wheeler’s article is on a topic that all of us deal with daily - Credibility. His analysis in support of reaching and stating findings of credibility are a valuable resource for our daily interactions. Please share your reactions.

We thank Judge Stanley Cygan for his work as Chair of the committee that drafted the Model Code of Judicial Conduct for State Administrative Law Judges. His article describing the development of the Code is followed by the Code as officially adopted at the Mid-year meeting in Baltimore in this issue. This Model Code should assist state associations and agencies to adopt a Code of Judicial Conduct for their administrative law judges. In the meantime the Code can inform and guide our conduct.

Finally, the new Chairperson of the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges, Judge Ronnie Yoder, writes on another important issue, that of evaluating administrative law judges. He presents an excellent overview of the history and recent developments, and announces a new study being conducted. Send him your suggestions:

Judge Edward J. Schoenbaum
1108 South Grand West
Springfield, Illinois 62704-3553
(217) 524-7836 or FAX (217) 524-7824