

3-15-1993

## Letter from the Editor

David J. Agatstein

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### Recommended Citation

David J. Agatstein, *Letter from the Editor*, 13 J. Nat'l Ass'n Admin. L. Judges. (1993)  
*available at* <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/naalj/vol13/iss1/1>

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## Letter from the Editor

With this issue, I conclude my service as Editor-in-Chief of J.NAALJ. The Fall 1993 issue will be edited by the Honorable Edward J. Schoenbaum of Springfield.

J.NAALJ was created to serve as the scholarly voice of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges. "A prime goal of [J.NAALJ] is the publication of original, timely articles having practical or theoretical value for Administrative Law Judges" [Editorial, Vol. I, No.2, 1981] In the early years, original articles of law review quality were not abundant; accordingly, making a virtue of necessity, we began to reprint specialized material which was not otherwise readily available. With our source of supply thus expanded, and a limited number of pages to fill, we were able to concentrate on our goal of publishing text of the highest quality. It was the pursuit of this difficult goal which kept us at the job for so long.

A second goal was to professionalize J.NAALJ itself: to present a readable and attractive format; to publish regularly and reliably; to place the journal in law libraries and in the hands of policy makers and friends of judges; to operate on a self-supporting basis. The Honorable Stanley J. Cygan, who took on the burdens of Managing Editor in 1983, is largely responsible for our successes in those areas. The Association is indebted to Stan for his diligence, hard work, and judicious administration. Stan has agreed to continue as Managing Editor.

Credit for the journal's professional quality also belongs to Editorial Assistant Angelina Babino, who recently retired as our only paid staff member. Angie's competence, intelligence and dedication, and her skill at making order out of chaos, has been a mainstay of J.NAALJ since 1985.

Of course, J.NAALJ has a long way to go before it can challenge West Publishing Company or the Hearst organization. Incoming Editor Schoenbaum is well aware of the areas in which improvement is needed, and will make the necessary changes. Angie, Stan and I can state with some pride, however, that (as readers and subscribers already know) we have not missed an issue in twelve years of publishing.

Our final goal was to institutionalize J.NAALJ: to establish a publication that would continue without the personal involvement of the original editors. In this regard, we may look forward to imminent success.

The Honorable Edward J. Schoenbaum, newly elected to the Board of Governors of NAALJ, has undertaken a long-term commitment as Editor-in-Chief. Ed is extremely well-qualified to serve, as an academic (he is a former assistant professor of law and is published in the law reviews; he holds graduate degrees in Public Administration and Divinity, as well as a J.D.), an administrator (he is a former Chair of the Lawyer's Division of the JAD/ABA, and has experience in Court Administration), a lawyer (he was, among other things, Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois), and an Administrative Law Judge (previously for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; currently for the Illinois Department of Employment Security). He is, moreover, a fine and dedicated person who can be relied upon to carry J.NAALJ to new heights.

A final word as Editor-in-Chief. Apart from my official duties, J.NAALJ has been the single most important source of my professional satisfaction as an Administrative Law Judge. For this, I extend my deep personal thanks to Stan, Angie, and former members of the editorial team, to the Board of Governors (who supported and encouraged my efforts so consistently for so long), and to the contributors, subscribers, advertisers, and members of NAALJ. Most of all, I would like to thank those many people who have told me over the years that they actually *read* the journal. It has been an honor to be a part of this adventure.

On behalf of J.NAALJ, I wish our new Editor-in-Chief the best of luck!

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Published semi-annually by the National Administrative Law Judges Foundation for the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, c/o National Center for the State Courts, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798.

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Distributed without charge to active and associate members of NAALJ. Institutional subscription rate: \$20 per year.

Cite:  
13 *JNAALJ* –

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Entered Third Class Mail, General Post Office, Springfield, Illinois.

L.C. 82-645765  
ISSN 0735-0821  
FEIN 39-1367494

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