

3-15-1987

Administrative Law Judges Honored

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Recommended Citation

David J. Agatstein, *Administrative Law Judges Honored*, 7 J. Nat'l Ass'n Admin. L. Judges. (1987)
available at <http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/naalj/vol7/iss1/1>

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES HONORED

"It is a tribute to the profession and its fidelity to the rule of law that the Social Security ALJs during a period of great systemic strain, continued to insure that the processes they used to hear cases and render decisions were not compromised by pressures to stress "quantity" or to respond to extrajudicial budgetary concerns of SSA in individual case adjudication. ... This was in the best tradition of American judicial officers discharging sworn obligations in times of public clamor and governmental flux. ..."

--John H. Pickering, Esq., Chairman of the ABA Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly, in support of a proposed resolution honoring the Administrative Law Judges of the Social Security Administration. The resolution was adopted by the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, and implemented by ABA President Falsgraf, who presented a special award to the Social Security Administrative Law Judge Corps at the ABA's 1986 Judicial Administration Division Dinner in honor of the Judiciary. In delivering the award, President Falsgraf referred to the ALJs' "outstanding efforts...to protect the integrity of administrative adjudication within their agency, to preserve the public's confidence in the fairness of governmental institutions, and to uphold the rule of law".

The National Association of Administrative Law Judges supported the Social Security ALJs throughout their battle with the administration. See, e.g., 3 J.N.A.A.L.J. 79 (Fall 1983); 5 J.N.A.A.L.J. 67 (Spring 1985). For a more thorough discussion of the SSA Judges' achievement, see "Protecting Administrative Integrity" by the Honorable Victor W. Palmer, Chairman of the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges in The Judge's Journal, Fall 1986, p. 22.