



# THE NAALJ NEWS



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## A Message from the President



Dear fellow NAALJ members,

In our March newsletter, I talked about how I became involved in NAALJ and how important that decision was in affecting both my personal life and my professional career. I remain in touch with colleagues I have met over the years, and those contacts are very important to me. Although I have been “retired” since 2010, I am now a per diem hearing officer for state agencies in New York, working in entirely different subject areas, and continue to benefit in many ways from the conversations I have with my NAALJ friends.

NAALJ presents a unique forum for ALJs to interact with one another, and share experiences, frustrations and ideas about how to improve administrative adjudication generally and deal, in some situations, with difficult procedural matters involving real cases before them. I encourage everyone who reads this newsletter to become more involved with NAALJ, to volunteer for committees or seek leadership positions, and to take advantage of the opportunities involvement in this organization presents to all who show interest. I absolutely guarantee that your effort to become more involved will be very much welcomed and you will immediately feel a sense of community with judges from all around the country.

Now that August has arrived, I will soon end my term as president at our meeting in October, and Judge Selina Malherbe (Brooks), known so well to many of you, will soon be our president. I am excited that Selina will succeed me and I am looking forward to being there to do anything I can to support her presidency. Selina strongly promoted the concept of a renewed NAALJ Strategic Planning Committee this year, has chaired that committee and made great strides, and I think that is strong evidence of her vision for the future of NAALJ. She will be an excellent leader of this association, and we can look forward to a positive and exciting year ahead.

In October, on Columbus Day weekend, we will convene in New York City, at Fordham Law School’s Skadden Conference Center, for our 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference. This promises to be a very exciting conference, and I hope many of you will be able to join us in Manhattan. Past NAALJ president Cathy Bennett and Judge Ray Kramer, the NYSALJA president-elect, have worked tirelessly with our Executive Director, Tina Schott, and we have an excellent educational program scheduled coupled



with fun and exciting social activities, an historic boutique hotel for attendees and a state of the art conference venue. I hope to see many of you there. It promises to be a memorable event.

In closing, I am extraordinarily honored to have served as NAALJ president. It was not a position I sought, but I leave office believing NAALJ has an exciting future full of possibilities. Much of my expectations, however, definitely depend on all of you, and how you step up and participate in our association. Without volunteers, we sadly cannot succeed. With your help, however, we know no bounds. Best wishes and thanks to all of you.

# **NAALJ in Manhattan in October!**

**October 8 – 10, 2017**

**Fordham University School of Law**

**New York, New York**

**With accommodations at The Hotel Belleclaire**



The NAALJ Annual Meeting and Conference, always an exciting time for attendees to experience worthwhile educational programming, have great conversations and take in the best of what our conference locale has to offer, will provide those opportunities once again this year when we convene at Fordham Law School in October. In a change from past annual conferences, our educational programming and meals, including the Banquet and Silent Auction, will not be at a conference hotel, but rather at Fordham's state of the art Skadden Conference Center, at 140 West 62nd Street, in Manhattan, practically next door to Lincoln Center and three blocks from Columbus Circle. This venue gives NAALJ the unique opportunity to present an educational program without the extraordinarily daunting fiscal burdens that a hotel room block and Manhattan hotel catering charges present to conference organizers. By choosing this option, and using the Fordham caterer, Aramark, NAALJ hopes to make attendance at a New York City based conference much more affordable than would have been the case if our programming were hotel based.



At the same time, we have selected a nearby conference hotel that we believe will also offer our attendees a somewhat unique and inviting New York experience, at exceedingly attractive rates, particularly for a fall holiday weekend. The Hotel Belleclaire, at the corner of Broadway and West 77th Street (250 West 77th Street, New York, New York 10024 – [hotelbelleclaire.com](http://hotelbelleclaire.com)) is a relatively small 240 room historic boutique hotel in Manhattan's upper west side neighborhood. Built in 1903, and used continually as a hotel since that time, the hotel has served guests including Babe Ruth and Mark Twain.

The hotel is in walking proximity to Fordham Law School, approximately 20 minutes away, or conference attendees can easily walk to the subway, two blocks away, and take the #1 train one stop to 66th street, or hail a taxi for a short ride. There are a number of cultural sites and museums also in close proximity, including the American Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art. Central Park and all it has to offer on a sunny fall day, is three blocks away. There are a number of fine restaurants, cafes, delis, bars and shopping opportunities in the neighborhood, including the world famous Zabars Delicatessen, at 2245 Broadway (80th Street) and Bloomingdale's Outlet at 2085 Broadway (72nd Street). A listing of dining options in the vicinity of the hotel will be provided to conference registrants.

The Belleclaire is offering NAALJ attendees a choice of rooms. The conference rate for a queen or king room will be \$239, and a double/double, for those who might wish to share, will be offered at \$259, both exclusive of taxes. The rooms feature modern updated baths (some only with a shower) with C.O. Bigelow bath amenities, Frette linens, iPad docking stations and 32" flat screen TVs with cable and pay per view. The hotel also features a 24-hour state of the art complimentary fitness center and a ground floor café, serving outstanding French pastries from nearby Mille-Feuille. Online reservations may be made at [hotelbelleclaire.com](http://hotelbelleclaire.com) by using the group code NAALJ, or you may call 929-257-0120.

The Conference educational committee, headed by ALJ Ray Kramer of New York City's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, is presently hard at work developing the educational program, and other conference committees, including the social committee, are exploring opportunities for attendees. The tentative conference program and details regarding registration will be available soon, but it's never too early to start making travel plans for what is sure to be a memorable conference!



**Hotel Belleclaire, 250 W. 77<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY**

New York can be an overwhelming city to visit, so the host committee is offering visitors some guidance. Even before you leave, you can take advantage of our “Ask a New Yorker” program: we have a native New Yorker ALJ who is also a licensed tour guide ready to answer your questions about the city, from how to get around to what you should see to where to get the best pizza. You can e-mail him at [christopherjstephens@gmail.com](mailto:christopherjstephens@gmail.com).

Before the conference starts on Sunday, we have some events lined up. A group will be walking from the hotel, through Central Park to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the world’s greatest collections. Their “Highlights of the Met” tour starts conveniently after you arrive. Another group will go to the Hudson River to take the Circle Line, a cruise around the island of Manhattan, with historic commentary about the sights and skyline along with photo opportunities in front of the Statue of Liberty. We’re also looking into a dim sum brunch a few blocks from the hotel. Stay tuned!

On Monday evening, most New York theaters are dark, but luckily the conference is across the street from Lincoln Center, where the Metropolitan Opera is showing their spectacular production of *La Bohème*. It is truly an only-in-New-York opportunity, and even if you’ve never been to the opera before, this is one you will fall in love with. We have arranged for some discounted tickets, which include a glass of champagne for the intermission.

For those who love to get to the top, we are also leading a group to the observatory at One World Trade Center. The views are unmatched, and the timing should allow you to see a magic transformation as the sun sets and the city's lights are turned on. Locals and visitors alike should not miss this unique view of the city.

Keep checking the conference website for updates on how to get tickets for these events. There are a million things to do and see in the city, and we hope that these events will enhance your trip.



This year the Annual NAALJ Conference will be co-hosted with NYSALJA in New York City. As always, the conference will end with an exciting silent auction! This year we have a special surprise- we will also be holding a raffle! We are especially excited to present to you the chance to win a week-long stay at a beautiful condo on the ocean in Cape Cod! The stay is valued at over \$2,495 and the winner can choose to stay there within a specified time period during peak season! The best part is that you can still win the raffle without attending the conference but you must buy a ticket to be eligible to win! This is a great prize for a relaxing get-away holiday or even a second honeymoon! The winner will be announced at the banquet dinner that concludes the conference.

If you would like to participate but have not yet donated we are still accepting donations. Please remember, these donations are tax deductible. Any item big or small is most appreciated.

We would like to thank our members who have donated in the past and to our upcoming silent auction. As always, your contributions have made our silent auctions very successful and the proceeds are used to further our missions and provide valuable challenge grants and fellowships.

We are truly grateful for all your support and continue to rely on your donations to help maintain and grow an organization all ALJ's can be proud to call theirs.

On behalf of the Conference Co-Chairs, Judge Peter Loomis, Judge Catherine Bennett and Judge Ray Kramer, I thank you in advance for your participation in this year's event.

Please donate today and continue to be part of something great! Registration is currently open and more information on the conference, silent auction and raffle can be found on [www.naalj.org](http://www.naalj.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference October 8-10, 2107!

# NAALJ Presents its First Webinar!

## By Hon. Steven Wise

### Administrative Law Judge, Montana

On May 12, 2017, NAALJ held its inaugural Midyear Webinar and it was a great success. In the past, NAALJ's midyear conferences have been held in person requiring attendees to travel and incur airfare, lodging, and other travel expenses. Recognizing these budgetary issues, NAALJ leadership decided to do something different this year and offer a free webinar, entitled "Expanding NAALJ's Horizons." We ended up having over 200 attendees from across the country. We had some NAALJ state affiliates that used the webinar as part of their programming for their state affiliate meeting and CLE.

NAALJ partnered with the National Judicial College, which provided us with the web conference platform, distributed course materials, and handled issuing CLE certificates to attendees. We deeply appreciate NJC's support, and particularly want to thank Joseph Sawyer, Director of Distance Learning, and Sarah Dahl and Danielle Harris, Distance Learning Managers for all their help in making the webinar a rousing success.

The webinar began with a 90-minute session from Professor Ron Hofer who educated and entertained attendees on the topic of "Bonehead Grammar for Judge." Next was presentation on the "Nature of the Judicial Process" by Steve Wise, administrative law judge with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, that explored the topics of the elements of legal reasoning and approaches to statutory interpretation, including insight into the newest Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch's interpretive approach. Finally, Jerome Woods, administrative law judge with the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearing concluded the webinar on the timely topic of "The Perils and Pitfalls of Online Social Media in the World of Adjudication" and provided real-life examples of judges who crossed ethic lines in their tweeting, friending and posting on Facebook, and use of other forms of social media. NAALJ has received positive feedback about the 2017 Midyear Webinar and plans to offer more webinars in the future. Please let us know if you have ideas for future topics or presenters by sending an email to [naalj@naalj.org](mailto:naalj@naalj.org).

If you missed the Midyear Webinar or want to see it again, a link to the recording can be found on the NAALJ Members-Only page that can be reached by logging in at <https://naalj.memberclicks.net/members-only>



# ONLINE EDUCATION

Full tuition scholarships available, first come,  
first served. Please contact Rebecca Bluemer for more  
information at [bluemer@judges.org](mailto:bluemer@judges.org) or 775.327.8269



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## ***Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges (\$629)***

**September 18 – November 3, 2017 (Faculty-led, online web course.)**

Are you making evidentiary rulings with confidence? This faculty-led online course will develop the skills needed to rule accurately on issues of hearsay, foundation, privileges and burden of proof, and make correct determinations concerning both expert witness and lay witness observation through real-world examples and interactive tasks.



## ***Ethics for the Administrative Law Judge (\$629)***

**October 2 – November 17, 2017 (Faculty-led, online web course.)**

Rule with confidence, knowing your decisions are ethically appropriate. This faculty-led online course uses hypothetical scenarios, interactive learning activities and online discussion to explore the ethical issues that face the administrative law judge. You'll be able to apply the Model Code of Judicial Conduct for federal administrative law judges and explain the differences between their individual state codes and the Model Code.

Visit <http://www.judges.org/courses/online-learning/web-courses/> for complete descriptions, scholarship applications, and registration.



## Strategic Planning

By Hon. Selina Malherbe  
NAALJ President Elect

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met several times this spring, working through the process of evaluating NAALJ's strengths and weaknesses as an organization. We were reminded of our rich diversity of membership in experience, areas of practice and demographics, combined with an impressive history of accomplishments through volunteers who had a vision for administrative adjudication.

As recipients of that vision, we were impressed by the industry of our colleagues and identified four general subject areas for designing our new future: member benefits and CLE; membership, mentoring and networking; relationships with other professional organizations; and finances.

More ideas and energies are welcome and needed as we develop new objectives, goals and strategies plan for determining our legacy to the profession. Consider how you may be a part of crafting our vision and developing strategies to achieve it. For more information, contact [selina.malherbe@oah.nc.gov](mailto:selina.malherbe@oah.nc.gov).

## JOIN NAALJ!

NAALJ membership is open to federal, state and local attorney and non-attorney hearing officers, administrative law judges, administrative judges, referees, trial examiners, agency chairs and commissioners, as well as higher level appellate authorities.

Member benefits include subscriptions to the NAALJ Journal and newsletter, discounts on NAALJ educational conference registration fees, as well as networking and volunteer opportunities.

Annual dues are \$85, or \$100 for sustaining membership.

To join or learn more about NAALJ, visit our website at [www.naalj.org](http://www.naalj.org), or email us at [naalj@naalj.org](mailto:naalj@naalj.org)

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