

## **Justice Dickinson joins American Judicature Society National Advisory Council**

August 21, 2007

Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Jess H. Dickinson has been appointed to the American Judicature Society's National Advisory Council.

Neal R. Sonnett of Miami, president of the American Judicature Society, said in an Aug. 3 letter informing Justice Dickinson of the appointment, "The Society created the National Advisory Council in 2005 to serve as the 'eyes and ears' of AJS across the country."

More than 60 people nationwide serve on the National Advisory Council.

The American Judicature Society is an independent national nonpartisan organization of judges, lawyers, and other members of the public who seek to improve the justice system. The mission of the American Judicature Society is to secure and promote an independent and qualified judiciary and fair system of justice.

Justice Dickinson this past February delivered the keynote address to the American Judicature Society's South Central Regional Conference on Pro Se Litigation in Houston, Texas. Representatives from Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas gathered at the conference to discuss challenges presented by pro se litigants, people who represent themselves in court without lawyers.

Justice Dickinson, who has served on the Mississippi Supreme Court since January 2004, is involved in efforts to improve access to the courts for poor people at the state and national level. He is the Mississippi Supreme Court's liaison to the state's legal services community. He is a member of the state Access to Justice Commission, which was created by the Mississippi Supreme Court to develop a unified strategy to improve access to the civil courts for the poor.

He was the featured speaker at the national meeting of state Access to Justice Chairs during the annual Equal Justice Conference in Denver this past March. In July, he delivered the keynote address to the Southeast Project Directors Association and Southeast Administrators Association annual summer meeting in St. Pete Beach, Fla.

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