



NATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

Annual Report

2008



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

William R. Sampson

Dear Friends,

We are proud to report on 2008 — another year in which the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence established itself as a leader in judicial education.

2008 Highlights:

- Our Judicial Symposium was a big success. Participants enjoyed the program and the city and loved Judge Alex Sanders, our keynote speaker.
- Feedback from participating judges again praised the high quality, innovative topics, and balance of the program.
- Internally, we created and implemented a fundraising structure. We engaged the services of fundraising counsel and established a development committee and six subcommittees who are spearheading the fundraising effort.
- We have a diversified base of supporters that includes individuals, corporations, professional organizations, and law firms.
- We have made real progress in upgrading our electronic capacity to communicate more frequently and effectively with our donors, our members, and our friends through newsletters, personal email, and soon-to-be online donation capability.

We have been busy. Your officers, board, members, and staff are committed to fulfilling our mission and to building the financial platform that will enable our continued success.

We are deeply grateful to our donors for their support. And we look forward to working with all of you this year as we strive to continue and broaden the success of the NFJE.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Sampson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William R. Sampson
President

OUR MISSION:

To address important legal policy issues affecting the law and civil justice system by providing meaningful support and education to the judiciary, by publishing scholarly works and by engaging in other efforts to continually enhance and ensure judicial excellence and fairness for all engaged in the judicial process.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

Established in 2004, the NFJE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Chicago, dedicated to supporting an independent, well-informed judiciary in order to preserve excellence and fairness in the civil justice system. For each of the past four years, the NFJE has successfully produced a first-rate annual symposium attracting ten (10%) percent of state appellate judges. The symposia have featured an array of nationally distinguished legal experts and scholars discussing contemporary and complex legal issues relevant today in courtrooms across the country. The end result is the top-quality, tuition-free series of educational programs provided by the NFJE, which assist our nation's appellate judges to perform at their highest levels.

- NFJE joins other non-profit groups in making judicial education programs available without tuition.
- NFJE focuses on education for the state appellate judiciary.
- NFJE is a recognized leader in the legal and judicial communities as a reliable source for providing balanced information in its programs.

NFJE is the only organization of its kind led by the Defense Bar.

4th Annual Judicial Symposium
July 11-12, 2008
The Drake Hotel, Chicago

*Justice in Jeopardy:
The Search for Due Process, Statutory Construction and Ethics in New Age Litigation*

From complex mass torts to consumer class actions to complex litigation of every kind, the 2008 NFJE Symposium tackled the question: what is different—what is new—about so-called New Age Litigation?

What is different about New Age Litigation is first, the size and complexity of litigation, and second, the genuine and very real tension between the needs for efficiency and due process.

Number of Judges in attendance: 115

Number of States represented: 33

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Alexander M. Sanders, Jr.

Program Highlights

- ***The Statutes, the Rules—Statutory Construction and Interpretation*** presented by Douglas McFarland, Professor of Law at Hamline University School of Law and Phoenix School of Law;
- ***Appellate Perspectives on Pretrial Motions—In Limine, Daubert and Summary Judgment*** presented by Bernard Taylor, Sr., Chairman of Alston & Bird LLP's Products Liability Group;
- ***Due Process Considerations—Constitutional Perspectives: Procedural and Substantive Due Process and Evidentiary Issues in Complex Multiparty Litigation*** presented by Robert H. Klonoff, Dean and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark Law School;
- ***Ethical Dilemmas in the New Age of Mass Tort and High Tech*** presented by Sheryl J. Willert, Managing Director of Williams Kastner PLLC;
- ***Plaintiffs' Perspectives*** were offered by William C. Cleveland, III of Buist Moore Smythe McGee PA and Edward D. Robertson, Jr. of Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson & Gorny PC;
- ***Does New Age Litigation Require Different and more Focused Guidance from Our Appellate Courts?*** Paper delivered by Mary Kay Kane, Professor of Law, Chancellor and Dean Emeritus at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.





The Honorable Alexander M. Sanders, Jr.

*“All (speakers) were excellent—
informative and first-rate”*

*“I liked the balanced approach—hearing from
different backgrounds and perspectives.”*



*“Good Conversation—thanks for bringing us
together.”*

*“I enjoyed the entire program.
Attorneys run into these cases all
the time while appellate judges
see them rarely. I appreciated the
perspectives.”*



*“Keep up the excellent work to make
presentations balanced. Before the seminar,
I had concerns about this. No more.”*

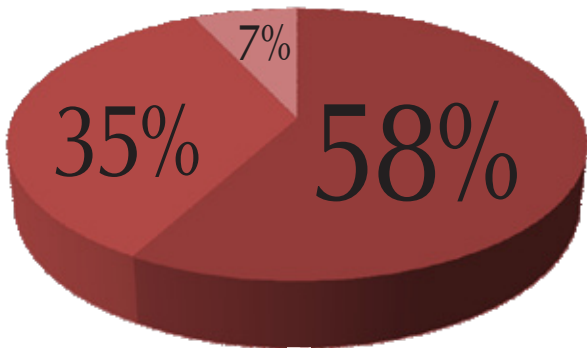
*“Continue as you have over the last four
years—a great symposium!”*

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2008, the NFJE raised over \$283,000 with the generous support of individual attorneys, law firms, corporations, State and Local Defense Organizations, professional organizations, DRI dues renewal checkoff and foundations. The John R. Kouris Endowment Fund was created in the spring of 2008 in honor of Mr. Kouris' 10 years of service to DRI. This fund directly supports keynote speaker honorarium for each annual symposium.

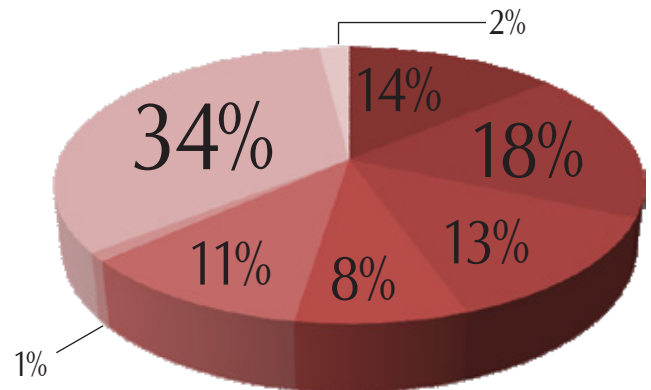
Expenses for 2008 accurately reflect the NFJE mission – education of the judiciary. The annual symposium remains the largest expense for the NFJE at fifty-eight (58%) percent. Management and General expenses reflect the operating costs. Fundraising expenses reflect the printing of materials and travel costs related to fundraising.

2008 Expenses



Program Services (Annual Judicial Symposium): 58%
 Management & General: 35%
 Fundraising: 7%

2008 Revenue



DRI Dues Renewal Checkoff: 34%
 Law Firms: 18%
 Individuals: 14%
 Corporations: 13%
 State and Local Defense Organizations: 11%
 Professional Organizations: 8%
 John R. Kouris Endowment Fund: 2%
 Foundations: less than 1%

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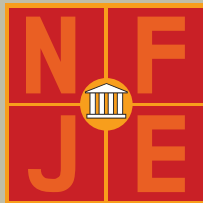
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The NFJE would also like to thank the 3,863 individuals who contributed \$25 through the DRI dues renewal checkoff.



National Foundation for Judicial Excellence

55 West Monroe Street, Suite 2000

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Phone: 312.698.6280

Fax: 312.795.0748

Email: nfje@nfje.net

Website: www.nfje.net