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## Conventions

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## Welcome to the 2006 Seattle Annual Convention Saturday, July 15- Wednesday, July 19

Members attending the AAJ Annual Convention had a full schedule of programs to expand their legal knowledge, of political speeches, and of visiting with colleagues. Many attendees and their families have ventured out into the City of Seattle for good food, tours and rides to the top of the space needle or a hike through Mt. Rainier. Some recent Convention highlights include:

**Civil Justice Foundation Breakfast** - The Civil Justice Foundation awards modest grants to grassroots consumer advocacy groups. Since its inception in 1986, the Foundation has awarded over \$1 million to over 100 organizations. Celebrating 20 years of consumer advocacy the Civil Justice Foundation awarded Dylan Malone for his battle against anti-consumer medical negligence reforms in the State of Washington. This year the Civil Justice Foundation introduced their Humanitarian Award which was given to Carrie Broadus of Woman-Alive for being an advocate for AIDS policy changes ensuring Minority Women have equal access to high quality healthcare. Lastly, guest speaker and award winner Attorney General Eliot Spitzer received the Community Champion Award for his leadership fight against those who commit consumer fraud, as well as his battle against corruption on behalf of all the citizens of the United States.



**Membership Awards Luncheon** - The luncheon was keynoted by former Senator John Edwards. He spoke of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at the University of North Carolina. Numerous awards were given at the luncheon. They included:

1. Leonard M. Ring award to Roxanne Barton Conlin
  2. Partnership Award to Tommy Townsend, Executive Director, Texas TLA
  3. David S. Shrager President's Award to Richard A. Bieder
  4. Paralegal of the Year Award to Julie Hunt
  5. State Delegate of the Year Award to Steven Garver
- The Steven J. Sharp Public Service Award went to AAJ member Carlene Rhodes Lewis and her clients, Louise Bell and Carol Ernst.

**Minority Caucus Reception** - Over 150 people attended this reception to celebrate lawyers of color. The Caucus honored Judge Matthew J. Perry with the Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Soaring Eagles Award. The award symbolizes the struggle of lawyers of color as they travel down the road to personal and professional success. Matthew J. Perry, Jr. was arguably the leading civil rights attorney in South Carolina during the decades of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Perry to the United States District Court in South Carolina. He was appointed senior judge in October 1995 and continues to serve in that capacity today.

After the second full day of the AAJ Convention, members enjoyed themselves - networking, attending a variety of educational programs and meetings, catching up with old friends, and hearing from prominent speakers. Some of the highlights include:

**American Association for Justice Political Action Committee Town Hall Meeting** - This luncheon had a huge, standing room only crowd and featured the witty James Carville, who discussed the future of politics in America and

### Seattle Materials & Products:

- [View all available audio & video recordings](#) from the 2006 Winter Convention - visit AAJ's multimedia provider, [PlayBack Now](#).
- [Search the Exchange](#) under "CLE materials" for convention reference papers.
- [Find convention print and CD materials](#) offered through West.
- [Convention Program Book](#)
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### AAJ Seattle Photos

1. Go to: [www.seattlephotography.com](http://www.seattlephotography.com)
2. Click on the "Events Index" Button
3. Select the AAJ event you want to view
4. Enter password: seattle

Once in the program, go to the VIEW MORE PHOTOS and select individual events for that day. Only images for that event will display. Use the Zoom tool (magnifying glass icon) to enlarge the image and the loupe to more closely see detail. The Shopping Cart offers both reprint and jpeg ordering options.