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## **Russell Carparelli Named Executive Director of American Judicature Society**

**Nashville, Tennessee** – The Honorable Russell Carparelli, Judge of the Colorado Court Of Appeals, has been selected as the new Executive Director of the American Judicature Society. AJS President Martha Hill Jamison of the 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals of Texas said that, “Russell Carparelli is a superb choice to lead AJS into its second century.”

Judge Carparelli was chosen from a large field of candidates after a national search. The AJS Search Committee was chaired By Rebecca Lee Wiggs, a Jackson, Mississippi attorney and Vice President of AJS. The other members of the Search Committee were Randy J. Holland, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware and AJS Director, and Richard H. Levenstein, a Stuart, Florida attorney and Secretary of AJS. In passing the unanimous recommendation of the search committee on to the AJS Board of Directors, Ms. Wiggs stated: “In a talented and diverse pool of applicants, Judge Carparelli’s energy and passion for this work stood out. The colleagues who recommended him spoke consistently of his tireless commitment to improving our justice system.” The AJS Board voted unanimously to accept the nomination of Judge Carparelli to be the new AJS Executive Director.

Judge Carparelli graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Denver College of Law. He earned a Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law. Judge Carparelli served in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1990 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served in various capacities in the course of his Air Force career, including prosecutor, defender, military trial court judge and military appellate court judge, civil litigator, and litigation advisor to the Air Force General Staff. He then did commercial litigation in private practice in the Denver area for twelve years.

On February 7, 2003 he was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals, a position in which he currently serves. While on the Court of Appeals, Judge Carparelli had a leadership role on the Chief Justice’s Commission on the Legal Profession, was a member of the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations’ Professionalism Coordinating Council, was a member of the Colorado Judicial Institute’s Board of Directors, and co-founded the ABA award-winning “Our Courts” adult public education program.

The American Judicature Society embarks on its second century with a new affiliation with Vanderbilt Law School. Chris Guthrie, Dean of the Vanderbilt Law School, remarked: "I am thrilled that AJS has been able to hire a leader of Judge Carparelli's caliber. He has an exemplary record of service and embodies all of the characteristics one could want in an Executive Director. This is great news for AJS and for Vanderbilt Law School. I am excited to work with Russ."

Judge Carparelli, who will assume his new position at AJS on January 1, 2014 following his retirement from the bench, remarks: "For more than a century, the American Judicature Society has been a national leader in ensuring that our nation has a fair, impartial and quality system of justice. I am honored to help lead AJS as it begins its second century and builds its relationship with Vanderbilt University. I am excited about the possibilities and eager to address the challenges that lie ahead. The task is nothing less than helping to preserve the rule of law and the freedom, equality and prosperity it enables."

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Founded in 1913, the American Judicature Society is a nonpartisan organization with a national membership of judges, lawyers, and other citizens interested in improving our nation's courts and the administration of justice. The AJS mission is to secure and promote an independent and qualified judiciary and a fair system of justice. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ajs.org>.