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## Court Review: Volume 40, Issue 3-4 - Editor's Note

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# Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The observant reader will already have noted that this is a double issue, constituting Issues 3 and 4 of Volume 40. It reflects, I'm afraid, one of the regrets of my tenure as your editor—I simply haven't been able to keep our publication on schedule. It is helpful, I think, to have a full-time judge serve as editor. Issues that arise in my daily work suggest a need for informative articles that I can solicit and the knowledge I get in my daily work helps me in determining which articles to select and how to edit them. But there's always the time commitment required by my day job as well.

With this double issue—and coming issues on jury reform and judicial independence in the trial court—we will be back on schedule by the time of the American Judges Association's annual conference in October in San Francisco. I have appreciated your patience as our publication schedule has lagged behind the calendar; I have also appreciated the many kind comments we've received regarding the quality of the articles you have received.

The first article in this issue was inspired by the anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Hongxia Liu takes us on a tour of the sculpted friezes in the United States Supreme Court Building, noting the diversity of the 18 lawgivers depicted there. Aside from our cover photos, we don't normally pay much attention here to the buildings from which justice is dispensed. Liu ties together quite nicely the concepts of diversity that have come in decisions from the Court and the edifice from which they are crafted.

Two articles dealing with the criminal justice system follow. Jennifer Skeem and John Petrila review the increasing use of specialty probation dockets for offenders with mental illness. They note both problems and opportunities created by such dockets. Judge Michael Marcus of Oregon discusses his proposals for smarter sentencing—focusing on crime reduction as a primary goal.

In our next article, Elizabeth Neeley reviews the concerns of minority residents of Nebraska about their court system. These concerns were explored in extensive public hearings in 2002. Neeley reviews both the methods that can be used to explore such issues and the concerns that were expressed.

Our last article, by Gene Flango and Ann Keith of the National Center for State Courts, assesses the use being made of new laws in several states to curb aggressive driving. Surveys of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officers in Virginia showed unexpectedly low interest in using these new statutes.

As always, we invite you to take a look at the Resource Page at the end of the issue. This issue covers resources for complying with the U.S. Supreme Court's new sentencing decision, *Blakely v. Washington*; background resources on the *Brown v. Board of Education* case; and the latest information on proposed changes to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.—SL



*Court Review*, the quarterly journal of the American Judges Association, invites the submission of unsolicited, original articles, essays, and book reviews. *Court Review* seeks to provide practical, useful information to the working judges of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In each issue, we hope to provide information that will be of use to judges in their everyday work, whether in highlighting new procedures or methods of trial, court, or case management, providing substantive information regarding an area of law likely to be encountered by many judges, or by providing background information (such as psychology or other social science research) that can be used by judges in their work. Guidelines for the submission of manuscripts for *Court Review* are set forth on page 26 of the Summer 2003 issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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Letters to the Editor, intended for publication, are welcome. Please send such letters to *Court Review*'s editor: Judge Steve Leben, 100 North Kansas Avenue, Olathe, Kansas 66061, e-mail address: sleben@ix.netcom.com. Comments and suggestions for the publication, not intended for publication, also are welcome.

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