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The Resource Page



EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY

John C. Brigham, Adina W. Wasserman & Christian A. Meissner, *Disputed Eyewitness Identification Evidence: Important Legal & Scientific Issues*, COURT REVIEW, Summer 1999, at 12. Available at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/cr36-2/CR36-2Brigham.pdf>.

The lead article in this issue of *Court Review* tests the knowledge of judges about eyewitness testimony against the extensive research data compiled by psychologists and others. For judges who would like to review the underlying research data in greater detail, we suggest this article from a past issue of *Court Review*. In it, three leading researchers review in detail the data showing what tends to make eyewitnesses more—or less—reliable. The article also compares the assumptions contained in eyewitness jury instructions commonly used against the research data and makes some suggestions for the consideration of the courts.



PUBLIC OPINION

In general, do you think the United States Supreme Court is in touch with what is going on in the country, or not?

In touch	51%
Not in touch	38%
Not sure	11%

Do you think the United States Supreme Court is generally too liberal, too conservative, or about right in its decisions?

Too liberal	30%
Too conservative	20%
About right	37%
Not sure	13%

Recently, the Supreme Court made some widely publicized rulings. Based on what you know about the decisions, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of how the court ruled, or if you don't know enough to say.

Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision allowing an applicant's race to be a factor in college admission procedures?

Approve	24%
Disapprove	63%
Not sure	13%

Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision overturning the Texas law that prohibited gay sex?

Approve	40%
Disapprove	44%
Not sure	16%

In general, who would you trust more to make new appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court: a Democratic president or a Republican president?

A Republican	38%
A Democrat	35%
Not sure	27%

Given President Bush's appointments in other areas, how comfortable are you with him selecting the next Supreme Court nominee?

Very comfortable	32%
Somewhat comfortable	27%
Somewhat uncomfortable	14%
Very uncomfortable	20%
Not sure	7%

Which one of the current Supreme Court justices do you most admire or agree with? [unaided recall, open-ended question]

Sandra Day O'Connor	11%
Antonin Scalia	6%
Clarence Thomas	5%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	3%
Anthony M. Kennedy	2%

William H. Rehnquist	2%
Stephen G. Breyer	1%
David Souter	--
John Paul Stevens	--
Other names	2%
Don't know any names	68%

Source: FOX News/Opinion Dynamics Poll, surveying 900 registered voters between June 30-July 1, 2003 (margin of error \pm 3%). Reported in the Polling Report, July 14, 2003.

Do you think federal courts have generally been supportive, neutral, or hostile toward Christian religions in their rulings?

Supportive	16%
Neutral	42%
Hostile	33%
No opinion	9%

Do you approve or disapprove of a federal court decision ordering an Alabama court to remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from public display in its building?

Approve	19%
Disapprove	77%
No opinion	4%

Source: CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll, Aug. 25-26, 2003, surveying 514 respondents (495 respondents for Ten Commandments question) in the U.S (margin of error \pm 4.5%). Reported in the Polling Report, Sept. 8, 2003.

For more information on public opinion and the courts, see these past *Court Review* articles:

David B. Rottman & Alan J. Tomkins, *Public Trust and Confidence in the Courts: What Public Opinion Surveys Mean to Judges*, COURT REVIEW, Fall 1999, at 24. Available at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/cr36-3/CR%2036-3%20Rottman.pdf>.

Panel Discussion, *Public Opinion of the Courts: How It Has Been Formed and How We May Reshape It*, COURT REVIEW, Fall 1999, at 46. Available at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/cr36-3/CR%2036-3%20Crier.pdf>.