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Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the lead article in this issue, court consultant Roger Hanson examines the implications of the changing role of the judge. He rightly notes that judging today is not exactly what it was 30 years ago and asks how changes in the perceptions of the proper judicial role have affected the behavior of judges. For most of us, we tend to do our jobs on a daily basis without conscious thought about the various roles we play (*e.g.*, law applier, mediator, policy maker), let alone the expectations of others about our performance of each of those roles. Although Hanson draws no final conclusions in this article, I think you will enjoy joining him in giving some structured thought to these issues, including how they may impact your own work. If you see impacts in your own court, please consider sharing your views through a letter to the editor for publication in our next issue.

Perceptions also are the focus of our next article—this time how the perceptions of family court judges affect their decisions. Psychology professor Leighton Stamps found significant age-related differences in judges' attitudes about whether mothers or fathers should have custody of children. In most states, of course, statutes now prohibit use of the maternal-preference doctrine. Accordingly, this article also gives food for thought: how can we keep alert to our own biases so that we follow the law and not merely our biases?

Two other articles round out the issue. Arthur Garrison, a criminal justice planner with the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, reviews some of the problems involved in drug-treatment programs, including considerations that judges must keep in mind. Garrison's article is based on detailed research on a treatment program in Delaware. Pamela Richardson, a third-year law student at the Catholic University of America won the American Judges Association's 2001 writing competition with her article on *Illinois v. Wardlow*, the Supreme Court decision upholding the stopping of a pedestrian solely on the basis that he ran from police in a high-crime area. Each year, we print the winning entry in our writing competition, and Richardson's review of the *Wardlow* decision is a well-written review of a very interesting decision.

Last, we invite your attention to the annual index of the past four issues of *Court Review*. All of the articles listed are available on our website at http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/review.html. —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 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 19 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

Court Review is indexed in the Current Law Index, the Legal Resource Index, and LegalTrac.

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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Photo credit: Mary Watkins. The cover photo is of the Old State House in Boston, Massachusetts, the oldest surviving public building in Boston, built in 1713. Although it also housed the Massachusetts Assembly, the building's west end was home to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the courts of Suffolk County for many years. The Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Bostonians from this balcony in 1776. More about the history of the building can be found at http://www.bostonhistory.org/old_state_hs_hist.html.

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