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Steve Leben

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Court Review

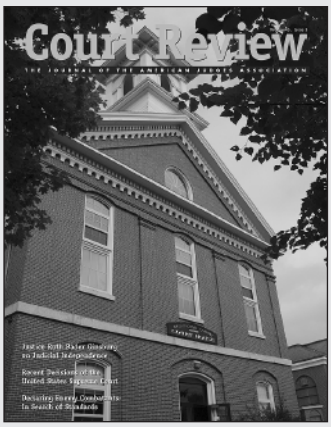
THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Volume 43, Issue 3 Fall 2006

EDITOR'S NOTE

We welcomed Alan Tomkins as coeditor of *Court Review* in the last issue. This issue marks my return to *Court Review* from the overall leadership of the American Judges Association (see page 111 for the new president's opening remarks). I certainly enjoyed my year as AJA president, but it will be great to be able to refocus on *Court Review* and its role as an aid to judges both in doing their daily work and in protecting the role of independent judges in our society.

For those of you who were unable to attend the AJA's annual educational conference in Vancouver in September 2007, we will bring you some of the highlights in this and coming issues. In this issue, we present the remarks of United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on judicial independence. She was a delightful guest at our conference, and we believe you will find her remarks of interest.



This issue also includes Professor Charles Whitebread's annual review of recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court. One of the highlights of each of AJA's annual educational conferences is Professor Whitebread's presentation of commentary about these decisions. In Vancouver, Justice Ginsburg both attended Professor Whitebread's presentation and responded to it. Even without her insightful comments, though, having an overview of the past year's decisions of the Court will be of interest to most judges. We invite you to attend our 2008 annual educational conference (September 7-12 in Maui, see page 151) for Professor Whitebread's update on the decisions of 2008.

This issue concludes with an article by Joseph Storch on the standards under which the United States is holding its own citizens as enemy combatants. Because those standards have not been explicitly detailed by the government, Storch's informed surmise about the standards being used raises important questions and provides some initial conclusions.

In a future issue, we will follow up on another presentation made at the Vancouver AJA conference—the AJA's first "white paper," which was presented and adopted by the AJA at the Vancouver conference. That paper recommends a number of steps judges and courts can take to increase the perception of procedural fairness in our courts. We have a special issue in the works on that topic; it will include—but go beyond—the paper presented in Vancouver. Before the special issue on procedural fairness, we'll have a special issue on the use of social-science concepts, including psychology, in the courts. Stay tuned. — Steve Leben

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 and Canada. 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 128. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

Court Review is in full text on LEXIS and 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 one of Court Review's editors: Judge Steve Leben, 301 S.W. 10th Ave., Suite 278, Topeka, Kansas 66612, email address: sleben@ix.netcom.com; or Professor Alan Tomkins, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401, PO Box 880228, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0228, email address: atomkins@nebraska.edu. Comments and suggestions for the publication, not intended for publication, also are welcome.

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Photo credit: Mary Watkins (maryswatkinsphoto@earthlink.net). The cover photo is of the Washington County Courthouse in Machias, Maine. The courthouse was built in 1853; the cupola and bell were added in 1868. The courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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