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The Resource Page



WEBSITES

NCSC/NHTSA WEBSITE ON HANDLING DWI CASES

www.courtsanddwi.org

With the support of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Center for State Courts has created a website for judges to help in handling those who drive drunk or impaired. The site is also intended to provide educational materials that may be used in public-education efforts about reducing drunk driving and the role courts may play in that effort. The site was developed by the National Center for State Courts with assistance from a group of judges and judicial educators.

The website includes several self-contained modules, allowing visitors to move directly to material of interest. Those modules are:

- Effects on the Community, which includes PowerPoint slides, a self-awareness quiz, and links to other resources;
- The Court's Role, which uses a "frequently asked questions" format to guide visitors to video clips from judges on the role of the courts, as well as an overview about applying problem-solving-court principles to DUI cases;
- Adjudication Process, which provides video clips from experienced judges about handling these cases, as well as links to additional resources for judges and an educator's guide;
- Sentencing Options, which discusses ways to achieve goals of rehabilitation, incapacitation, and sanction, how to factor high-BAC levels into sentencing decisions, and what some have recommended as "best practices" for DUI sentencing;
- Community Impact, which is intended to show that the use of some of these methods may result in better results and an improved community.

Self-assessment tests on the effects of drunk driving may be taken online or printed out. Thus, they could be used in a public-education setting with students or the general public.

THE SUPREME COURT AND PUBLIC OPINION

"The next president may have the opportunity to make several nominations to the Supreme Court. How important is the appointment of Supreme Court justices in your vote for president next year: very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?"

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at All Important	Unsure
8/7-13/07	52%	36%	11%	2%

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Supreme Court is handling its job?"

	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
8/7-13/07	45%	37%	17%
4/25 - 5/1/07	58%	27%	15%
11/28 - 12/4/05	50%	32%	17%
7/21-25/05	50%	39%	11%
5/18-23/05	44%	39%	17%
12/7-12/04	50%	33%	17%
2/26 - 3/3/03	56%	27%	16%

"Do you think the United States Supreme Court is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?"

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
8/7-13/07	39%	37%	25%

"Do you think the Supreme Court is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?"

	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
8/7-13/07	20%	29%	37%	13%

"Is your opinion of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts favorable, unfavorable, mixed or haven't you heard enough about him?"

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Mixed	Haven't Heard
8/7-13/07	21%	9%	21%	49%

"Which comes closer to your point of view? (A) In making decisions, the Supreme Court should only consider the original intentions of the authors of the constitution. (B) In making decisions, the Supreme Court should consider changing times and current realities in applying the principles of the Constitution."

	Original Intentions	Current Realities	Unsure
8/7-13/07	43%	48%	9%
7/21-25/05	44%	50%	6%
5/18-23/05	42%	51%	8%
2/26 - 3/3/03 Adults	39%	54%	7%

Source: Quinnipiac University Poll. N=1,545 registered voters nationwide for survey of Aug. 7-13, 2007; margin of error \pm 2.5%, as reported at The Polling Report (www.pollingreport.com/Court.htm).