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Resource Page



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

JURY TRIAL MANAGEMENT: MODEL JUDICIAL-EDUCATION CURRICULA

<http://www.icmelearning.com/jtm/>

Greg Mize cochaired the 1997-98 D.C. Jury Project, which produced a detailed jury-reform agenda for both federal and local courts in the District of Columbia. Since leaving the bench in 2002, he has been a judicial fellow at the National Center for State Courts. (He also serves on *Court Review's* Editorial Board.) Most recently, Mize has directed a project in which model curricula were prepared for judicial-education programs. Whether you want help in presenting a good educational program or simply want to know more about handling jury issues for your own courtroom, these materials are well worth a look.

Mize had the support of an advisory committee of nationally recognized jury-trial experts, including two who wrote articles for *Court Review's* 2004 special issue on jury-reform issues: Judge B. Michael Dann and Professor Shari Diamond. (See our 10-year index at page 179 of this issue for those and other *Court Review* articles on jury-trial issues.) That group developed detailed learning objectives for teaching curricula on two subjects: “Managing Jury Selection Effectively” and “Helping Troubled Deliberating Juries.” Mize then developed both a teaching guide—consisting of learning objectives, group exercises, and a bibliography—and PowerPoint slides for 11 separate educational programs.

The “Managing Jury Selection Effectively” curriculum contains six modules, which can be taught in either 60- or 90-minute lengths:

- Obtaining Crucial Information from Prospective Jurors;
- Ruling on For-Cause and Peremptory Challenges;
- Judge & Lawyer Collaboration During Jury Selection;

- Time Management; and
- Promoting Judge-as-Educator During Jury Selection.

The “Helping Troubled Deliberating Juries” curriculum contains five modules, which are suggested for presentation in a 60-minute format:

- Improving the Deliberative Process;
- Helping Jurors Overcome Jargon;
- Responding to Deliberating Juries Having Questions or Reporting an Impasse;
- Responding to Misconduct/Mishaps in Deliberations;
- Respecting Juror Privacy & Responding to Their Stress.

Several of the modules were “road tested” during their preparation. Two were presented at the 2009 annual conference of the Nevada District Judges Association, and two others were presented at the 2009 National Jury Summit sponsored by the American Board of Trial Advocates. In addition, both the National Center for State Courts and the National Judicial College have agreed to maintain a “rolling roster of experienced jurists, empirical researchers, respected veteran trial lawyers, trial consultants, and articulate former jurors” who might serve as faculty for educational programs using these curriculum modules. These national speakers would supplement local presenters so that programs would best meet the dual objectives of local relevance and information-rich programming.

Judicial educators will no doubt be bringing some of these programs to a conference near you. In the meantime, you could learn a great deal about handling jury issues by working through the Learning Objectives and Activities documents, along with reviewing some of the key articles and resources cited there.

All of the materials can be downloaded in .pdf format from the website. To obtain documents in Word format, you can contact either Judge Gregory E. Mize (gmize@ncsc.org) or Paula Hannaford-Agor (phannaford@ncsc.org), director of the Center for Jury Studies at the National Center for State Courts.



NEW BOOKS

KELLY LYNN ANDERS, *THE ORGANIZED LAWYER*. Carolina Academic Press, 2009 (\$20). 148 pp.

From time to time, do you wish that an attorney who appears in your court could overcome the disorganization that keeps him or her from doing a good job? Or, just perhaps, do you have a colleague who is so disorganized that his or her docket is badly managed?

This new book by Kelly Lynn Anders, associate dean for student affairs at Washburn University School of Law, might be the answer. Written in an engaging, conversational style, she presents a fresh approach to organization. Readers first take a test that categorizes them as a Stacker, a Spreader, a Packrat, or a Free Spirit. Anders then provides organizational advice tailored to the reader's needs both as a lawyer and as a person who already has a track record for how he or she deals with the materials already encountered in daily work.

The book's best asset within a crowded field of books on organizing is that it is not too complicated. Anders sets out fairly simple rules and guidelines, tailored to each organizational style. The book's biggest shortcoming is the converse—it isn't very detailed; Anders's description of desk and file organization is much briefer than that found in other books. But that may ultimately be beneficial to those who have already had trouble getting organized. Anders notes the famous Woody Allen quip, “Eighty percent of success is showing up.” If Anders's book can get a disorganized lawyer to try to do better, following the straightforward suggestions she makes will lead to noticeable improvement.

The book may be of special interest to younger lawyers. Anders provides a chapter with guidelines for business casual and professional attire, along with advice on what may be worn in various settings.