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## Editor's Note

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# Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Our lead article is a thorough review of the 2010 Iowa judicial-retention elections by Professor Roy Schotland, a leading authority on judicial elections. He provides a thorough context for the 2010 election cycle, a detailed discussion of what took place during the Iowa campaign season, and his thoughts about the likely impact from the defeat of three Iowa Supreme Court justices.

Professor Schotland has been following judicial-selection systems, including elections, for decades. He has authored five amicus briefs for the Conference of Chief Justices, including an influential brief in *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 129 S. Ct. 2252 (2009). We think you'll find his review of the 2010 Iowa election worthy of careful consideration.

Please note on the facing page in AJA president Mary Celeste's column that the AJA will be hosting a symposium aimed at educating judges about judicial-retention issues and methods, as well as a workshop to teach judges about what they can do to keep both their own jobs and an independent judiciary.

United States Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow, who spends a great deal of his time getting cases settled, provides seven techniques for breaking impasses during judicial settlement conferences. Judge Denlow provided a great article for us in 2002 on how to get judicially encouraged settlements properly documented. See Morton Denlow, *Concluding a Successful Settlement Conference: It Ain't Over Till It's Over*, CT. REV., Fall 2002, at 14. We're pleased to have him return to our pages with another practical article about how to achieve settlements whenever that's at all possible.

Our final article is a review of the leading non-criminal cases from the 2009-2010 Term of the United States Supreme Court. Kansas City lawyer Tim Davis reviews all of the important cases involving civil procedure, the right to bear arms, freedom of speech, employment discrimination, and federalism. This completes our two-part review of the 2009-2010 Term; Professor Charles Weisselberg's review of the criminal decisions was in our last issue.

We also have a review of an interesting book by Professor Steven Lubet, a law professor at Northwestern University and a member of *Court Review's* Editorial Board. Good, readable books about legal history aren't plentiful, but Lubet is a master at merging law and history and good stories. Judge Karen Arnold-Burger provides a review of Lubet's book about the importance of the Fugitive Slave Acts in the years leading up to the Civil War and the role that attorneys and judges played, an interchange that provided an important backdrop for the debate over slavery and the run-up to the Civil War.—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 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 149. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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Photo credit: Mary Watkins (mayrswatkinsphoto@earthlink.net). The cover photo is of a building called Ali'iolani Hale, which is the present home of the Hawaii Supreme Court. The building once served as the seat of government in Hawaii. The building's courtyard features a gold-leaf statue of King Kamehameha I, who established a kingdom in Hawaii in 1810.

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