Editor's Note

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Judges share many common problems, goals, experiences, and interests. That's why professional associations like the American Judges Association and its journal, Court Review, have a purpose.

With that in mind, I'd like to ask for your help. Let us know what you'd like to read about on these pages. Suggest a topic—or an author. You can reach me at lebens@kscourts.org, and I'd very much appreciate your thoughts.

This issue starts with an article identifying three targets of opportunity for the improvement of any court: clarify the vision, foster a public-service mentality, and get everyone involved. Brian Ostrom, Roger Hanson, and Kevin Burke focus on how to have a high-performance court.

Two articles focus on considerations of procedural fairness. Nicholas Woolf and Jennifer Yim describe the courtroom-observation program now in place in Utah. Trained observers—vetted by the Utah Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission—observe judges on the bench. The Utah observers have been specifically instructed to observe the extent to which each judge observes accepted norms for procedural fairness. The Utah program presumes that procedural-fairness principles are relevant for all courts, but, in a separate article, Victor Flango challenges that premise. He suggests that these concepts may not apply to all courts and that court staff may need to play the procedural-fairness role in some dockets.

Elizabeth Neeley's article focuses on how one state has attempted to counter the underrepresentation of minorities on its jury panels. She reviews the thorough work done in Nebraska, not only providing details of those efforts but also suggesting ways in which other states and courts may address this issue.

Our final article comes from Judge David Admire, who served as a visiting professional at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. He tells us about his experience there and about the organization and early work of the court.

We're at work on some interesting future issues. One will explore the issues involved in eyewitness testimony. We'll also have our usual coverage this fall of the past year's United States Supreme Court decisions. And each issue closes with the Resource Page, which notes various items of interest to judges.

Please let us know what else you'd like to see on the pages of Court Review.—Steve Leben