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Editor's Note

Steve Leben

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Leben, Steve, "Editor's Note" (2011). *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association.* Paper 362.
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Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Volume 47, Issue 4 2011

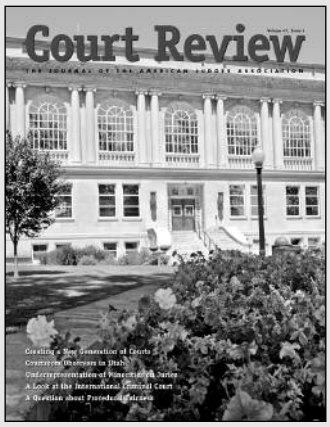
EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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 101 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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Photo credit: Mary Watkins (maryswatkinsphoto@earthlink.net). The cover photo is the Mesa County Courthouse in Grand Junction, Colorado. Construction began in 1922 and was completed at a cost of $293,000. Mesa County had a design contest for the courthouse, and a design from architect Eugene Groves, who designed many public buildings in Colorado, was accepted.

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Cite as: 47 Ct. Rev. ___ (2011).