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Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association, Volume 48, Issue 4, Editor's Note

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"Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association, Volume 48, Issue 4, Editor's Note" (2012). *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association*. 462.

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Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION
Volume 48, Issue 4

2012

EDITOR'S NOTE

We're pleased to begin this issue with a summary of the past year's United States Supreme Court civil cases, written by Professor Todd Pettys, the Associate Dean for Faculty and the H. Blair and Joan V. White Chair in Civil Litigation at the University of Iowa College of Law. Professor Pettys will now be doing an annual survey of these cases for *Court Review*, joining Professor Chuck Weisselberg of Berkeley Law, who has done the criminal cases for us for the past five years.

It has taken us awhile to get replacements for our old friend, Professor Charley Whitebread, who had done the summaries for us for more than 20 years before his death in 2008. This is a *Court Review* feature that many of our judges rely upon to make sure that they haven't missed any important developments each year. We are thrilled to have two outstanding scholars and teachers now on board to prepare these summaries exclusively for us, focusing on the cases most of interest to judges in the state courts.

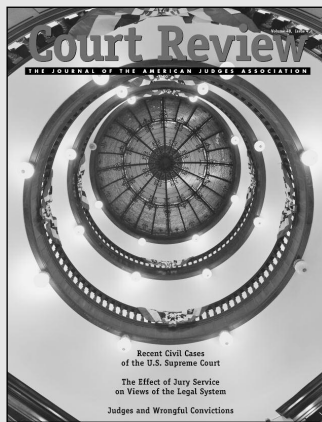
For any of you who haven't provided your email addresses to the American Judges Association, you should know that we recently began a practice of first posting these timely summaries electronically—and notifying AJA members by email—as soon as they are ready. Professor Weisselberg's summary of the criminal cases was sent to AJA members September 10, and Professor Pettys' summary of the criminal cases came out electronically on December 7. To be included next year when these summaries are first available—and for other timely articles that may first be posted electronically—be sure to give the AJA your email address. You can send it by email to aja@ncsc.dni.us.

This issue has three more articles that we think you'll find of interest.

First, a group of researchers looks at the effects of jury service on confidence in the jury system, in state and local judges, and in the United States Supreme Court. About a million people serve on juries each year in the United States, so the impact could be significant. The researchers looked at people summoned for jury service in King County, Washington, and they found that there was a statistically significant improvement in their opinions of the jury system and of state and local judges several months after their jury service. But there was no difference in their opinion of the United States Supreme Court.

Second, Virginia law professor Brandon Garrett summarizes some of the key conclusions from his study of the full record in the first 250 cases of exonerations from DNA evidence. He's written a good book (*Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong*) fully setting out his findings. We asked him to do a shorter piece for us, and he provided a very engaging and readable article that speaks to how judges might benefit from the lessons that can be learned from 250 exoneration cases.

Last, we have the student essay winner from this year's AJA competition for law students. Sang Jee Park, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, reviews the caselaw on the constitutionality of mandatory pretrial DNA testing of those arrested or indicted for a felony offense.—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 131 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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Cite as: 48 Ct. Rev. ____ (2012).