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Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Volume 51, Issue 3

2015

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are trying out two new features in this issue, and we hope you enjoy them.

First, you'll find a law-related crossword puzzle on page 122. The puzzle was written by Vic Fleming, a district judge in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has been a district judge since 1996, teaches a seminar at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law (his alma mater) on law and literature, and has written both legal humor columns and crossword puzzles for many years. He is willing to provide crossword puzzles for us in future issues as well.

Second, you'll find a new column, "Thoughts from Canada," by Canadian judge Wayne Gorman. He is a judge of the Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as an active member of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges. We have nearly 200 Canadian members of the American Judges Association; they find benefit in reading not only materials in *Court Review* that cover social-science topics (thus usually transcending national boundaries) but also discussions of legal issues as they are resolved in the United States. We think that our U.S. judges will also find interest in how Canadian courts resolve similar issues, and Judge Gorman is willing to provide examples of that in each issue.

Please let us know what you think of these new features—along with any other suggestions you may have for articles or authors or subjects you'd like to see. You can contact me (sleben56@gmail.com) or my coeditor, Eve Brank (ebrank2@unl.edu).

Our issue begins with Professor Todd Pettys' annual review of the past Term's United States Supreme Court civil cases. The civil cases were especially interesting this year, and Professor Pettys has done his usual masterful job of reviewing them. If you have a chance, please thank him for his contribution.

Our second article looks at efforts to improve court performance in the courts of Ottawa County, Michigan. Most courts could benefit from a similar project, so we think you'll find it of interest.

Our third article considers whether it might be possible to lessen the effects of implicit bias on jurors. Researchers at the National Center for State Courts conducted an experiment to see whether a specific jury instruction about the issue might be helpful.

Finally, we have a review of Ross Guberman's new book on judicial writing, *Point Taken: How to Write Like the World's Best Judges*. We found the book worth reading for any judge who writes opinions. (After the book review was prepared, we noticed that the Oxford University Press had purchased an ad for the book in this issue too. The ad was purchased through our association staff; the editors of *Court Review* are not involved in selling ads for the issues, and we don't make any editorial decisions based on ad sales.)—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 115 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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Cover photo, Mary S. Watkins (maryswatkins@mac.com). The cover photo is of the Old Quebec City Courthouse, which opened in 1887 and served as a courthouse for nearly a century before its present use for the Quebec Ministry of Justice.

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