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Court Review: The Journal of the American  
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American Judges Association

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2020

The Resource Page, Vol. 56, No. 2

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# The Resource Page

## COVID RESOURCES

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has long been at the top of any judge's list of places to find useful and practical resources. As you would expect, NCSC was on the forefront of providing help to get judges and judiciaries through the unique challenges presented by COVID. You likely have already consulted their COVID webpage at <https://www.ncsc.org/>. Be sure to look at their page of webinars on the topic as well. NCSC has been preparing a series of webinars in real time from leaders in judiciaries discussing their experiences and plans. These materials are "musts" for anyone taking seriously our roles in keeping the judiciary functioning.

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) is another superb resource for judicial officers. While we often think of NACM as being for court administrators, on issues like the pandemic, NACM is an excellent resource for judicial officers. NACM has not only marshalled reference materials but has been presenting their Weekly Coronavirus Podcast, all of which are available through their website at <https://nacmnet.org/>. NACM's podcasts assemble panels of front-line experts addressing the same issues you face to talk about their experiences and insights. Recent podcasts address issues from the most up-to-date lessons about the challenges of virtual hearings to budget strategies.

In terms of general resources, the American Bar Association has done a good job of collecting on one page a variety of COVID-related resources of importance to the judiciary at <https://www.americanbar.org/>

Many specialty organizations have also provided strong resources that may relate to your specific court. Admittedly, some are stronger than others. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals is an example of a stronger page as they have assembled good resources for treatment courts related to operations in the age of COVID at <https://www.nadcp.org/>. So don't forget to check the specialty organizations related to your court for the help they can provide.

Finally, you may want to check the resources being provided to those appear-

ing before you. A popular tract circulating extensively among some trial lawyers is the recent white paper from the American Board of Trial Advocates. The white paper is called *Guidance for Conducting Civil Jury Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic* and is the basis for a number of arguments being made in courts and discussion fora around the country. You can review it at <https://www.abota.org/>

## ETHICS

One of the websites that should be bookmarked for every judge is the page for judicial ethics resources from the National Center for State Courts overseen by our own contributor Cynthia Gray. We learn, and sometimes are entertained, by reading about the mistakes of others. Part of my regular ritual while I lunch at my desk is to check the blog's quick updates on judicial ethics cases at <https://ncscjudicialethics-blog.org/>. I can't count the lessons I've learned there or the problems I've avoided by learning from mistakes of others reported there.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR THE COURTS

The American Psychology Law Society (APLS) has made their recent white paper on eyewitness identification accessible to the public. You can find it at <https://psynet.apa.org/>. The title is *Policy and Procedure Recommendations for the Collection and Preservation of Eyewitness Identification Evidence*. The white paper is quickly making the rounds and will likely be the basis of a request in your courtroom soon. APLS assembled six senior eyewitness researchers and developed nine recommendations for eyewitness identification procedures. The report is eye-opening and timely given developments in judiciaries around the country on eyewitness identification reliability issues.

Related to the APLS white paper, many states have started looking more seriously at instructing jurors on the unique challenges of eyewitness identifications. For example, you can find California's model instruction at <https://www.justia.com/> and Massachusetts' model instruction at <https://www.mass.gov/>.

Readers with a good memory will also note the recent *Court Review* article, "Do

Judges' Instructions About Eyewitnesses Really Work?", found in issue 55:3. You can easily access that thought-provoking discussion at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/>

## BANKRUPTCY, ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS

The Federal Judicial Center is the research and education agency of the judicial branch of the United States Government. Senior researcher Jason A. Cantone curates a special topics page focused on federal-state cooperation at [www.fjc.gov/fedstate](http://www.fjc.gov/fedstate). Resources that judges, attorneys, and other legal professionals can use to inform others and learn about bankruptcy-related topics were recently added to the page. In furtherance of its work with the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, the Center contacted bankruptcy judges, state trial court judges, court administrators, and clerks to identify commonly asked questions about bankruptcy. These individuals shared many materials used across the country to help others better understand bankruptcy. The new resources combine the many materials and lessons learned into a series of usable, easily adaptable resources for anyone leading educational sessions about bankruptcy. Topics include bankruptcy overview, automatic stay, bankruptcy discharge, family law, and foreclosure. For more information on these materials, contact Dr. Cantone at [fedstate@fjc.gov](mailto:fedstate@fjc.gov).

## LET'S KEEP TALKING

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