

April 2002

Court Review: Volume 39, Issue 1 - The Resource Page

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"Court Review: Volume 39, Issue 1 - The Resource Page" (2002). *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association*. 160.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ajacourtreview/160>

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The Resource Page



INFORMATION ON PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

A brief overview of problem-solving courts is found in the opening essay of this issue of *Court Review*. For those who would like to look further, here are some additional resources.

PAMELA CASEY & WILLIAM E. HEWITT, COURT RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF SERVICES: PROMISING COMPONENTS OF A SERVICE COORDINATION STRATEGY FOR COURTS. National Center for State Courts, 2001 (\$5 shipping & handling). 66 pp.

Researchers Pamela Casey and William Hewitt review the increased use of problem-solving courts from several helpful perspectives. First, they describe the primary examples of problem-solving courts—community courts, domestic violence courts, drug courts, family courts, and mental health courts, including the types of service referrals (e.g., drug therapy, parent education, housing assistance, etc.) that may arise in each type of court. Second, they discuss how court supervision of the provision of such services may fit into the role of a judge and court. Casey and Hewitt review the standards of the Trial Court Performance Standards—access to justice; expedition and timeliness; equality, fairness, and integrity; independence and accountability; and public trust and confidence—from the perspective of a problem-solving court. Third, they present nine “promising components” of an effective strategy for coordinating services provided through a problem-solving court. Their suggestions are based on telephone interviews with court personnel in 50 jurisdictions and in-depth field research in eight jurisdictions. Suggestions include having case-level service coordinators, judicial and court leadership, and an active policy committee of those who have a stake in the

process. (Copies can be ordered for \$5 shipping and handling from Lynn Grimes, (757) 259-1812, lgrimes@ncsc.dni.us.)

GREG BERMAN & JOHN FEINBLATT, PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS: A BRIEF PRIMER.

http://www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/prob_solv_courts.pdf

These authors from New York's Center for Court Innovation provide a helpful overview of the concept of problem-solving courts and how that concept is playing out in practice. Their essay provides an overview of the development of problem-solving courts and the reasons for their recent rise, some definitions of how they have become unique in practice, the results of evaluations of their performance, and a summary of potential areas of tension between these courts and some traditional principles of the justice system. This online monograph was originally published as an article in *Law and Policy*.

National Center for State Courts Website
Materials on Problem-Solving Courts
<http://www.ncsconline.org/WCDS/index.htm>

From this page on the NCSC website (which you get to by clicking the “Court Information” icon on their home page), look at the folder marked, “Court System Structure and Governance.” There, you'll find separate folders containing articles and resource materials on specialized and problem-solving courts.

U.S. Department of Justice Website
Materials on Problem-Solving Courts
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/courts/problem_solving.htm

From this page on the Justice Department's website, you'll find federal reports on drug courts, mental health courts, community courts, and teen courts.

Center for Court Innovation
<http://www.courtinnovation.org/>
<http://www.problem-solvingcourts.org/>

We've given you two web addresses here. The first is the home page for New York's Center for Court Innovation. The second is the Center's specific page containing resources related to problem-solving courts. Several publications are included here, including the Berman & Feinblatt article mentioned above and an online monograph describing the Midtown Community Court in Manhattan, New York.

Center for Problem-Solving Courts
<http://www.problemsolvingcourts.com/>

This group attempts to provide resources, including education and training, to help problem-solving courts to succeed. Its website includes background briefing papers from a variety of sources.



NEW BOOKS

ANN L. KEITH & CAROL R. FLANGO, EXPEDITING DEPENDENCY APPEALS: STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DELAY. National Center for State Courts, 2002 (\$5 shipping & handling). 70 pp.

Timeliness is a goal in the resolution of all court disputes, but it is especially important when the issues involve children. It becomes critical when the children may be forced to remain in unstable, violent, or otherwise harmful situations. Researchers Ann Keith and Carol Flango surveyed 43 states that have some procedure in place for expediting appeals in cases involving dependency findings (e.g., child in need of care, foster care, adoption, and abuse cases) and made an in-depth study of the practices of several courts. Their findings contain several major recommendations for strategies that can streamline the appeal process. (Copies can be ordered for \$5 shipping and handling from Toni Knorr, (757) 259-15912, tknorr@ncsc.dni.us.)