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The Resource Page

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The authors conclude with a paraphrase of a famous line from literature. Anna Karenina begins, “Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” The authors’ version for the courts: “Happy Courts are all alike; every unhappy court is unhappy in its own way.” As in many other areas, they conclude that there is no single key to success for a court but that any number of factors may cause failure: “To be successful across all . . . trial court work areas, courts must pay attention simultaneously to multiple, and often competing, values . . . [T]here are many ways in which court leaders can fail.”

We’ve only scratched the surface of the interesting data and insights presented in the book. Political science professor Susette Talarico called the authors’ work “the most innovative study of trial courts in the past 10 or 15 years.” We think you will find it quite interesting too. The authors have reviewed research on organization and management in the private sector, and they have adroitly adapted it to trial courts. They conclude that there is no single “right” answer to court culture—none of the cultures is by definition good or bad, but there are consequences to performance. If you’re interested in the differences in cultures between courts and how these differences may affect performance, you should take a look at this book.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE
American Judges Association
Annual Educational Conference
http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/conferences/

The American Judges Association will hold its 51st annual educational conference October 3-8, 2010 at the Westin Tabor Center in Denver, Colorado. The conference should be our best ever—held in collaboration with the Colorado state courts and many other entities. For an overview of the conference program, take a look at the inside back cover. Then go to the AJAs website for more information on the conference and full registration details. We hope to see you in Denver!