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EDITOR'S NOTE

The lead article in this issue is Professor Todd Pettys's annual review of the civil cases decided in the past Term of the United States Supreme Court. For those of you who don't check the AJA website (amjudges.org) from time to time, you missed out when we posted Professor Pettys's article back in August! He covers both the decided cases most likely to come up in our courts and some of the early cases on the docket for the present Term.

In our second article, Professors Jennifer Robbennolt and Valerie Hans draw on material from their book, *The Psychology of Tort Law*, to discuss how tort law sometimes diverges from our commonsense notions of justice. When this happens, they show that it can lead to anomalies in legal proceedings. They also suggest that a divergence between the results obtained through our legal system and commonsense notions of justice can lead some to question the justice system's legitimacy. In only six pages, Robbennolt and Hans provide an overview and important insights about our tort-law system.

Our third article provides an overview of the assessment tools now available for risk assessments. Each state tends to use a specific instrument. A group of researchers led by Professor Kirk Heilbrun reviews each of the major instruments in use, discussing the strengths and limitations of these instruments as well as the extent to which expert opinion guided by some structured judgment process might compare in usefulness to these scored instruments. They conclude with recommendations for best practices in risk assessments in court.

Of course, the issue also includes our regular features: the Resource Page, our column on Canadian law from Judge Wayne Gorman, and a law-related crossword from Judge Vic Fleming. The Gorman column in this issue provides an overview of Canadian law on setting bail. That subject—along with proceedings to collect fines and fees—has become a hot topic in the United States. The Conference of Chief Justices and several other national organizations in the United States recently published a benchcard on best practices for the lawful collection of fines and fees. We've reprinted that benchcard at pages 127-128. We also have announcements from the American Judges Association throughout the issue, including the regular list of future AJA conferences and the announcement of the AJA's national awards for 2017.—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 134 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

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The cover photo is of the main hall of the historic Cuyahoga County Courthouse in Cleveland, Ohio. The courthouse has been home to several important cases, including the Sam Sheppard murder trial and the trial court proceedings in *Terry v. Ohio* and *Mapp v. Ohio*. The turtles under each of the lamps on the second floor of the courthouse are said to be symbolic of the slow march of the light toward justice. Cover photo by Steve Leben.

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