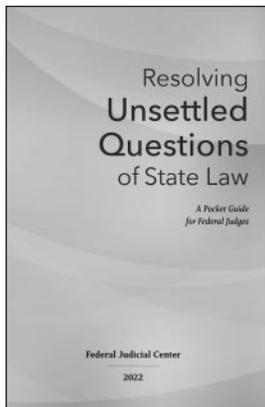




The Resource Page

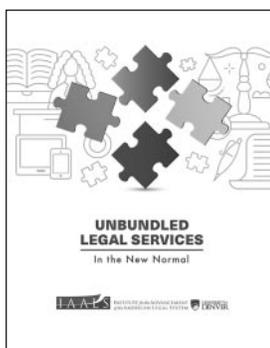
RESOLVING UNSETTLED QUESTIONS OF STATE LAW: A POCKET GUIDE FOR FEDERAL JUDGES



When considering a question of state law, a federal court may find that the issue is unanswered by either a state statute or an on-point decision of the state supreme court. This new pocket guide,

produced by the Federal Judicial Center, describes approaches that federal judges can use when seeking to resolve unsettled questions of state law, including abstention doctrines, question certification, and the prediction method (sometimes known as the *Erie* guess). It also encourages state and federal judges to build and maintain stronger relationships. Federal Judicial Center <https://www.fjc.gov/content/373468/resolving-unsettled-questions-state-law-pocket-guide-federal-judges>

UNBUNDLED LEGAL SERVICES



The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) recently issued a new report addressing unbundled legal services.

A lawyer providing unbundled legal services works with clients only on certain legal tasks instead of taking on the entire case, based on what the clients can afford and need help with the most. Unbundled legal services are becoming a more popular way to help people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer for the entirety of their case. Lawyers can offer unbundled services in their practice to increase their clientele and

also to provide help to many who are unable to pay for full-scale legal help. While this model has increased in popularity over the years, there continue to exist several challenges with its implementation.

This report from IAALS details the key discussion points from the Unbundled Legal Services in the New Normal conference held in 2021, a partnership between IAALS, the Chicago Bar Foundation, the ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, and the Self-Represented Litigation Network. The event focused on how the pandemic helped normalize digitization and the use of technology for legal service providers generally.

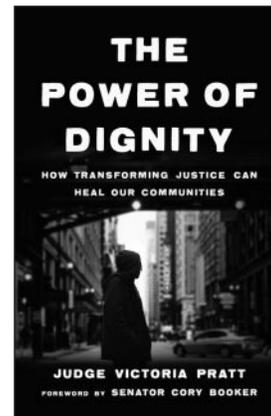
The report provides a fresh take on how to advance unbundled legal services nationwide, including:

- Insights on establishing an unbundled practice.
- When and how to integrate technology tools in a practice, including how to identify opportunities for productization of legal services.
- Important considerations to ensure that an unbundled practice adheres to professional ethics obligations.
- Considerations for courts on becoming essential partners to unbundled practitioners and leaders in supporting the widespread implementation of the unbundled model.

The report is titled *Unbundled Legal Services Is the New Normal* and can be found at <https://iaals.du.edu/publications/unbundled-legal-services-new-normal>

PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS—THE POWER OF DIGNITY

Judge Victoria Pratt is an accomplished author and inspiring speaker. In her book *The Power of Dignity*, Judge Pratt describes her journey of reform in her Newark Municipal Court based on principles of respecting the dignity of individuals. Judge Pratt explains how procedural justice can be implemented in the most challenging situations and how this philosophy can help heal people as well as whole communities. Judge Pratt candidly discusses some of the most important shortcomings of our



criminal justice system, how it can double punishments of our most vulnerable people. Importantly, Judge Pratt also offers persuasive and disarmingly simple

tactics we can implement today and ameliorate these problems to move toward a better system of justice. Judge Pratt's storytelling style makes this a delightful, informative, and optimistic read.

COURTROOM INTERPRETATION

While published a few years ago, Susan Berk-Seligson's book *The Bilingual Courtroom: Court Interpreters in the Judicial Process* remains a must read for anyone dedicated to improving accessibility to justice in our courts. The author presents one of the few systematic studies of court interpretation and the significant concerns we should all be addressing. The author gives an eye-opening demonstration of how an interpreter can be the difference between conviction and acquittal in our system. The book is heavily research based, not mere pontification. This is an essential text for the judge that wants to ensure people in your courtroom have an opportunity to understand the proceedings.

LET'S KEEP TALKING

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK.

Have comments or suggestions for *Court Review*?

Have a topic for us to cover? Want to contribute an article? Let us know:

editors@courtreview.org