

Court Review

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue provides insights, information and commentary relevant to judges at all levels of the court system in the United States — trial and appellate, municipal, state and federal.

For state trial court judges who must deal with child visitation issues in the context of domestic violence, Professor Julie Kunce Field provides an overview of the available strategies for keeping families safe, as well as a useful background on domestic violence cases. A sidebar story, reprinted from the *Seattle Times*, illustrates the dangers inherent in these cases, even when precautions have been taken.

For state appellate judges, Roger Hanson provides data demonstrating that the key to shortening the time it takes to decide appeals is the level of resources provided. In a companion article, Judge Stephen J. McEwen, Jr. of Pennsylvania's intermediate appellate court describes how having four law clerks per judge, plus a central legal staff of sixteen, keeps their court current in its work.

For municipal court judges, Judge Karen Arnold-Burger recounts the establishment of a mediation program that can reduce caseload and keep barking dogs and similar problems out of court. For all judges, our Resource Page highlights mediation resources.

We present two essays we believe will be of interest to all judges. First, we reprint major portions of Chief Justice William Rehnquist's year-end report, in which he urged an end to the federalization of local crimes and preservation of the proper balance between the federal judiciary and that of the states. Second, Professor Stephen C. Yeazell brings some reasoned analysis and common sense to the case of California appellate jurist Anthony Kline, who faces a disciplinary proceeding for issuing a dissenting opinion in a case in which he recognized that a recent opinion of the highest court in his state required a contrary result.

Our interview is with Professor Roy Schotland, the reporter for an ABA task force that studied campaign contributions from lawyers to judges. The task force has several recommendations it hopes to get approved by the ABA House of Delegates in 1999. We think you will find this overview of current issues in judicial campaign reform of interest.

We invite your participation in *Court Review*. This journal provides a means of sharing ideas with judges at all levels of the judicial system throughout the country and, indeed, throughout North America. Letters to the Editor are welcome, as are article, essay and book review submissions. Author submittal guidelines are found on page 44.

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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. 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 at page 44 of this issue. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense or reject material submitted for publication.

Letters to the Editor, intended for publication, are welcome. Please send such letters to *Court Review's* editor: Judge Steve Leben, 100 North Kansas Avenue, Olathe, Kansas 66061, e-mail address: sleben@ix.netcom.com. Comments and suggestions for the publication, not intended for publication, also are welcome.

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