

Court Review

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We begin this issue with remarks given by Roger Warren on the need to tie preservation of judicial independence with a healthy dose of judicial accountability. Warren is a former judge and the former president of the National Center for State Courts. He argues that we focus on the things we can control, not those we don't. He urges us to take a leadership role in getting our own house in order and in making sure we're accountable to the public both for our use of funds and for our fidelity to fairness.

Roger Warren's themes tie in with a new publication from the Justice at Stake organization mentioned in the Resource Page (page 44). This is no coincidence: Warren was recently named the chair of Justice at Stake's board of directors. We also encourage you to go online to read this new, 22-page publication ("Speak to American Values: A Handbook for Winning the Debate for Fair and Impartial Courts"), which is summarized, with a link to the web, on the Resource Page. Combined with Warren's article, this new publication serves as a roadmap for keeping our courts strong and for enhancing public support for them.

In our second article, researchers Max Rothman and Burton Dunlop explore ways in which the aging of the population is affecting the courts. Through surveys and court site visits, they describe ways in which the courts are being made more accessible to older users. Our third article reviews the establishment of at least 63 specialized courts handling cases involving drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Gene Flango of the National Center for State Courts provides a helpful listing of these courts and their early experiences. Our final article is Professor Charles Whitebread's annual review of the criminal decisions of the past Term of the United States Supreme Court. His review of the civil decisions of the past Term will be in the next issue.

I'm pleased to announce that three law students at the University of Kansas and University of Missouri-Kansas City law schools have agreed to be student editors for this volume of *Court Review*. We are once again behind in our publication schedule, but will be able to get caught up with their help. You will not miss any issues and, during the next 12 calendar months, will receive more than the usual four. As always, if you have suggestions for authors or article topics that would be good for *Court Review*, or if you would like to speak to other judges through a letter to the editor, please contact me at sleben@ix.netcom.com.—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 42. *Court Review* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject material submitted for publication.

Court Review is in full text on LEXIS and is indexed in the Current Law Index, the Legal Resource Index, and LegalTrac.

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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Photo credit: Mike Fairchild. The cover photo is of the old Douglas County Courthouse in Lawrence, Kansas, built in 1903. Douglas County was organized in 1855, five years before Kansas became a state, and named after U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. Mike Fairchild and his company, Dezinathon Graphic Design (913-865-3705, mikefair@sunflower.com), perform the design and layout work on *Court Review*.

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