

# Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Volume 50, Issue 3

2014

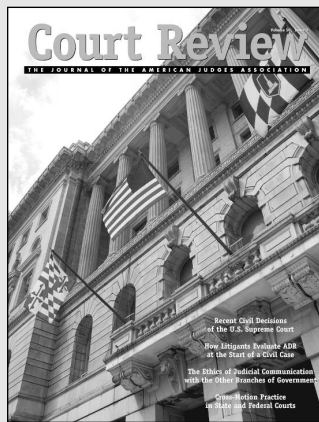
## EDITOR'S NOTE

**O**ur issue begins with Professor Todd Pettys' annual review of the United States Supreme Court's civil cases from the past Term. This Term, much of the notable action was on the civil side—rulings on the Affordable Care Act, the First Amendment, campaign finance, affirmative action, the religious rights of closely held corporations, and more. American Judges Association members who have given the AJA their e-mail addresses received this article as soon as it was published, only a month after the end of the Court's Term.

Professor Donna Shestowsky summarizes the findings of research she conducted in which she studied how litigants evaluate legal procedures (e.g., mediation, nonbinding arbitration, trial) at the inception of their civil cases. Her results are consistent with the procedural-justice findings *Court Review* articles have been highlighting for years: Litigants prefer procedures that provide them with the opportunity for direct participation in the resolution of their cases.

Federal law clerk Michael Langan and attorney Jason Halpin, a former clerk, provide an overview of civil practice involving cross-motions in both state and federal court. Judges handling civil cases will find helpful citations to both federal and state caselaw on the procedural rules that sometimes trip up practitioners—and judges—handling cross-motion practice.

Judge (now professor) Raymond McKoski takes up the problem of and opportunities for courts communicating with the “political branches,” including “judicial impact statements, state of the judiciary messages, judicial opinions, service on legislative and executive commissions, and testifying before, and consulting with, governmental committees and officials.” His article focuses on the ABA's Model Code of Judicial Conduct, and Judge McKoski concludes with specific recommendations for judges.—SL & AT



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

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Cover photo, Mary S. Watkins (maryswatkins@mac.com). The cover photo is the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Courthouse in Baltimore, Maryland. Constructed between 1895 and 1899, the courthouse occupies a full city block. The Circuit Court for Baltimore City occupies the building, which was rededicated in 1985 in the name of Mitchell, a well-known civil-rights leader from Baltimore. For more information about the courthouse and Mitchell, go to <http://goo.gl/Lg813p>.

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Cite as: 50 Ct. Rev. \_\_\_\_ (2014).