



# The Resource Page

## EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION

### Innocence Project

This organization has worked since 1992 to address wrongfully convicted defendants by spearheading DNA exoneration and improvement of eyewitness identification. The link below is a brief and handy reference to the work among various states and some best practices.

<https://www.innocenceproject.org/eyewitness-identification-reform/>

### National Center for State Courts

In 2017, NCSC included an important article in its annual *Trends in State Courts* publication titled “The Trouble With Eyewitness Identification Testimony in Criminal Cases.” The article highlights issues in this area and lists ways to learn more from various jurisdictions, including preventative instructions and academic articles.

<https://www.ncsc.org/microsites/trends/home/Monthly-Trends-Articles/2017/The-Trouble-with-Eyewitness-Identification-Testimony-in-Criminal-Cases.aspx>

“Why Science Tells Us Not To Rely On Eyewitness Accounts” *Scientific American* (January 1, 2010)

Two psychology professors summarize the science about false memories and juror reliance on eyewitness claims. The article uses plain English to succinctly describe the major problems of eyewitness identification and show how science may account for some of these predicaments. For example, research shows that false memories can be constructed by common practices, such as a line-ups or interviews because memory may not be a videotape recording of what we see, but rather a subjective reconstruction of what we can remember, or what is suggested.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/do-the-eyes-have-it/>

*Eyewitness Testimony: Civil and Criminal*. Fifth edition. Elizabeth F. Loftus. (Lexis-Nexis, 2013)

Since 1987, this distinguished professor has put forth this textbook with other notable authors and academics. In this fifth edition, the material covers elements of

perception and an excellent background of basic eyewitness identification issues. Moreover, it leads the reader to strategies and tactics at each step of a trial that are affected by eyewitnesses.

## JUDICIAL SELECTION

### Brennan Center for Justice

The Brennan Center at NYU Law School is a longtime think tank and clearinghouse for current issues in the law and related topics. It advocates against elections for state supreme courts and urges states to modify judicial selection systems toward appointment rather than election. But regardless of the reader's preference on the issue, this resource is a valuable tool for reference and learning about judicial selection. It includes platforms and links for academic articles, data banks, and an interactive map for each state.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/rethinking-judicial-selection>

### National Center for State Courts Judicial Selection in the States

The 2017 edition of *Trends in State Courts* includes this thumbnail description of the then current judicial selection playing field and helpful links to other useful articles and summaries, including its own outstanding resource guide.

<https://www.ncsc.org/sitecore/content/microsites/future-trends-2013/home/monthly-trends-articles/judicial-selection-in-the-states.aspx>

### The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System

IAALS is a think tank at the University of Denver that conducts largely empirical research on a wide variety of issues related to the American legal profession. It aims to find practical solutions to well-known issues. This link is a web page titled “Judicial Selection in the United States,” and it shows IAALS work over recent years, including a 2014 model developed by a committee chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that describes a somewhat more meaningful appointment process. The material combines general reference guides, scholarly research, and legal discussion.

<https://iaals.du.edu/projects/judicial-selection>

Bonneau, Chris W. and Hall, Melinda Gann, ed. *Judicial Elections in the 21st Century* (New York: Routledge 2017)

This important and critically praised collection is edited by two of the most well-known scholars in the area of judicial selection. It is cited several times in Charles Gardner Geyh's book reviewed in this issue, *Who Is to Judge?* and includes superb articles by Professor Geyh and many other prominent academics. Overall, the volume is a great review of the election method of choosing judges and evaluates the latest research on how elections actually work, and levels the playing field against the rise of merit selection over the past 20 years.

<https://www.amazon.com/Judicial-Elections-Century-Courts-Politics/dp/1138185892>

Shugerman, Jed. *The People's Courts: The Rise of Judicial Elections and Judicial Power in America* (Harvard University Press 2012).

The author is a prominent scholar at Fordham University School of Law and is well-known in the field of judicial selection. This book has become one of the definitive resources for examining the election of state court judges. It includes an excellent history of state judicial elections, and documents the long-standing tension between independence and accountability. It is also a very fine overall legal history, as it shows us the political nature of judging and judge selecting.

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