

Court Review

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, Issue 4

Winter 1998

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue marks the fourth of what I call "the new *Court Review*," closing out another volume for this quarterly publication. In early 1998, we began to rethink what we wanted from *Court Review* and how we could produce it. We had a great deal of freedom, since we had no articles on hand, aside from student writing competition entries.

We began with a total revision of the layout of the journal. We added two new features to each issue: an interview and the Resource Page (see pages 42-44). We recruited a top-notch editorial board to help recruit authors and identify good topics. And we began to make contacts wherever we could to get good article submissions.

Because of the redesign and the lack of articles on-hand, our first "new" issue didn't come out until August 1998. Beginning with that issue, we have published a year's worth of issues in nine months. We thank all of those who have helped, especially our authors, our editorial board, Judge Gerald Elliott (who spearheaded approval of all of the changes) and the staff of the National Center for State Courts. Our next issue, Spring 1999, will be received by you while it is, indeed, still Spring. By the Summer 1999 issue, we will be back on a normal publication schedule, with the issue received by readers about July 1.

In this issue, we take stock of public opinion of the courts — and ways courts can shape it — through an interview on a new national survey commissioned by the American Bar Association; through an article by David Rottman reviewing a mass of data available from national surveys and from more than twenty individual state surveys; and through an article by Pamela Casey on how the Trial Court Performance Standards can provide ways to focus and improve court performance. We have two essays: one on how ADR may stave off a flood of Y2K lawsuits and one introducing readers to the State Justice Institute. And Professor Charles Whitebread provides an update on recent civil cases from the United States Supreme Court.

We hope that you have found that we have been delivering on our promise of providing more, and more useful, information to you on the pages of *Court Review*. This is your journal, and we'd appreciate hearing from you regarding what you like and don't like, as well as your suggestions for what we should cover. We also invite submission of Letters to the Editor, and article, essay and book review submissions. Author submissions and inquiries — or other comments about *Court Review* — can be sent to me by e-mail 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. 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 the Fall 1998 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.

© 1999, National Center for State Courts, printed in the United States. *Court Review* is published quarterly by the American Judges Association (AJA). AJA members receive a subscription to *Court Review*. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$25 per volume (four issues per volume). Subscriptions are terminable at the end of any volume upon notice given to the publisher. Prices are subject to change without notice. Second-class postage paid at Williamsburg, Virginia, and additional mailing offices. Address all correspondence about subscriptions, undeliverable copies and change of address to Association Services, National Center for State Courts, P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798. Points of view or opinions expressed in *Court Review* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the positions of the National Center for State Courts or the American Judges Association. ISSN: 0011-0647.