Editor’s Note: Almost any resource that can help a judge do a better job can help to improve public trust and confidence in the courts. Thus, it’s a daunting task to prepare a list of references in this area. The Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts are joining forces to prepare a plan just to identify best practices from around the country - ultimately hoping both to identify such programs and to disseminate information about them. That will obviously be a worthwhile project, and, as such materials are prepared by other national groups, we will certainly tell you about them. In the meantime, we have prepared this somewhat eclectic collection of resources that might be of use to you in a variety of areas. Information on how to order publications from the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society and the National Center for State Courts is found on page 82.

**BIAS, FAIRNESS & EQUITY**

New Mexico Supreme Court Committee to Study Racial and Ethnic Fairness and Equality in the Courts, Final Report of the New Mexico Supreme Court Committee to Study Racial and Ethnic Fairness and Equality in the Courts. New Mexico Supreme Court, 1999. 56 pp. Contact: Lisa Lightman, (505) 827-4624, e-mail: aocijl@nmcourts.com.

For a recent, comprehensive statewide report on the problems of racial and ethnic bias, the report issued in 1999 by a New Mexico committee chaired by New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Joseph Baca is an excellent resource. The committee, with the assistance of an outside consulting firm, conducted detailed surveys of judges, court staff, attorneys and others who routinely have involvement with the courts. It also held public hearings throughout New Mexico; collected data about the profile of the workforce in the courts and in other agencies, along with data on arrests, sentencing and offender characteristics for adults and juveniles; and reviewed other studies about race and ethnic issues in New Mexico. Its report concluded that there was a picture of overall fairness and equality in the courts, although there were also many areas for improvement. The report concluded with a series of recommendations for improving racial, ethnic and cultural awareness; for improving access to representation and court-related services; and for improving the representation of racial and ethnic groups in juries and in the judicial workforce.


This publication is the result of a State Justice Institute grant and is sponsored by five national organizations: the National Association of Women Judges, the National Judicial College, the National Center for State Courts, the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession and the National Judicial Education Program (a project of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). The directory provides an annotated list of actions taken and materials available to address gender bias in the courts that can be readily replicated or adapted for use in other courts.

**COURT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**


In this book, Judge Richard Fruin provides descriptions of seventeen judicial outreach programs in place around the country, ranging from town hall meetings to teen courts to judge-hosted educational radio programs. Central to the book are working papers, publicity and associated materials from the individual programs, which are included. In addition, other program ideas for judicial outreach are also described. The price is discounted to $9.95 for ABA Judicial Division members; add $3.95 to either price for S&H. ABA Product Code 5230048.

This NCSC-produced guide includes a description of six exemplary projects of court-community collaboration, in addition to a detailed discussion of how to develop such programs.


On February 9, 1999, the Judicial Council of California unanimously approved the recommendations of the Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach, including the release of the task force's major work product, Dialogue, a comprehensive “how to” resource to aid courts in court and community collaboration activities.


This is a reprint of the binder of materials distributed at a May 1998 conference. It details a five-step planning process and its use in development of a court strategic plan for use in court and community collaboration. Information about that planning process can also be found on the Web at http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/court_planning.htm.

California Court and Community Collaboration Project Web Site http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/index.htm

This project, sponsored by the California Judicial Council, has as its stated purpose “to improve the courts' ability to maximize resources, meet increasing demands and improve public confidence.” A number of resources are available at the site.


This paper provides a useful discussion of the benefits to be achieved from court-community collaboration.

The Judges’ Journal, Fall 1999 Special Issue. ABA Judicial Division. $6.50.

The Fall 1999 issue of The Judges’ Journal is devoted to court-community outreach and collaboration. Articles cover the ethical issues involved; what is currently going on in federal and state courts; and how daytime court television programs are affecting public perceptions of the judicial system.


American Bar Association, Community Involvement (an ABA Roadmap publication). $5.

**ETHICS - JUDGES**


Now available, this is the third edition of what is clearly the most comprehensive work on judicial ethics. Professors Shaman, Lubet and Alfini cover the Code of Judicial Conduct and its variants as adopted around the country.

American Judicature Society, Judicial Conduct Reporter. Quarterly. $28 per year.

This quarterly newsletter analyzes developments in judicial discipline, reporting current decisions around the country. Relevant books and journal articles are noted.


This is designed as a self-study guide on ethics issues that confront part-time judges who also practice law. It includes sections on misuse of office; when disqualification is required; how being a part-time judge affects the lawyer's practice; serving as an arbitrator or mediator; serving as a fiduciary; business and financial activities; and political activities.


This is actually a set of six different papers examining judicial ethics advisory opinions on specific topics: Recommendations by Judges (#841); Political Activity by Members of a Judge's Family (#842); Organizations That Practice Invidious Discrimination (#843); A Judge's Attendance at Social Events, Bar Association Functions, Civic and Charitable Functions, and Political Gatherings (#844); Ethical Issues for New Judges (#845); and Real Estate Investments by Judges (#846). Individual papers may be ordered by number for $7 each.

This is a combination of a video and an accompanying study guide, intended to provide direction to judges to allow fair and impartial handling of settlement conferences and processes. Guidelines and accompanying commentary for handling such conferences in an ethical way are provided; a discussion guide for judicial educators is also available.


This program, designed to teach new judges how to fulfill their judicial responsibilities, consists of three videotapes and a self-study guide. Topics covered include becoming a public figure, courtroom control and handling stress.


This program, covering topics such as courtroom demeanor, prejudice and bias, dealing with pro se litigants, conflict of interest and disqualification, off-the-bench conduct and supervising court personnel, consists of two videotapes. A self-study guide and instructor's manual are also included.

**ETHICS – COURT STAFF**


Topics covered include confidentiality, political activity, favoritism, discrimination and sexual harassment. The video includes four scenarios in which actors portray situations often encountered by court employees. Each scenario is followed by a panel discussion. A one-hour videotape, instructor's manual and self-study guide are included.


This code covers areas such as abuse of position, confidentiality, conflict of interest, political activity and performance of duties.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Top 10 [or 11] Court Web Sites (announced at CTC6 Conference, Sept. 1999):

1. North Dakota Supreme Court Home Page - www.court.state.nd.us
2. San Diego Superior Court Home Page - www.sandiego.courts.ca.gov/superior/
4. Washtenaw County Trial Court - www.co.washtenaw.mi.us/depts/courts/index.htm
5. Delaware Municipal Court Website - www.municipalcourt.org
6. Iowa Supreme Court - www.judicial.state.ia.us
8. Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento - www.sac-court.com
10. Connecticut Judicial Branch Home Page - www.jud.state.ct.us

Links to Other Court Web Sites:


The National Center for State Courts provides a fairly comprehensive listing of court Web sites.

AALL Link to Web Sites: http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/law/lawlib/aallwg/

The American Association of Law Libraries provides a link to examples of the best Web sites it could find in a variety of areas. The criteria used by its committee in picking the best sites are also provided.

National Center for State Courts, Court Technology Program listings http://ncsc.dni.us/Ncsc3.htm#divisions

The NCSC Web site provides information on the use of technology and lists of vendors.


This is a consultant's report, done under a State Justice Institute grant, on how to improve the initial Web site set up by the Maricopa County Superior Court. To see the court's general Web site, go to http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/. To look at their Self-Service Center for the use of litigants, go to http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ssc/sschome.html.


**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE**


AJS has a collection of materials on judicial independence at this site. This includes its "Judges Under Fire" section, which details and documents attacks on judges throughout the country.

Colorado State Courts, Judicial Independence Resources http://www.courts.state.co.us/scao/judind.html

Resources on judicial independence have been collected at this page on the Colorado state courts' Web site.
American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence  
http://www.abanet.org/judind/What.html

At this ABA Web site, you can find information on ABA activities related to judicial independence, as well as talking points, model speeches, a bibliography and other materials.


American Bar Association, Judicial Independence (an ABA Roadmap publication). $5.


JUDICIAL SELECTION & RETENTION


If you are interested in setting up a fair program to evaluate judicial performance, this report is probably the best resource you could find to use as a starting point. It describes the structure and operations of statewide judicial performance evaluation programs in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. The authors provide their own recommendations for establishing an effective judicial retention evaluation program.

American Bar Association, Judicial Selection (an ABA Roadmap publication). $5.


JUDICIAL SYSTEM REFORM


This new book by court management consultant Robert Tobin of the National Center for State Courts traces the court reform movement and looks critically at what has been accomplished and how reform might be best pursued in the future.


JURY REFORM


We previously cataloged the best books and articles on jury reform earlier this year in The Resource Page of Court Review. Additional materials beyond those listed here are found there.


In this article, Arizona Superior Court Judge Mike Dann presents a compelling argument that the traditional legal model of judicial behavior - in which jurors must act passively throughout the trial - is contrary to overwhelming social science and education research about people, jurors included, learn best. He presents a reality-based behavior model of the juror, discusses the lessons we can learn from educators, and then discusses the implications of these lessons for jury reform.


This jury reform manual was the work product of a unique committee that looked into reforms needed to both state and federal courts in D.C. The report includes detailed references. Copies are available from the Council for Court Excellence, 1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 620, Washington, D.C. 20036-4104, (202) 785-5917. The Council requests payment of $5 to cover postage and handling.


This monograph provides an overview of the jury reform efforts of the past several years in Arizona, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia and New York. It describes the work and makeup of each jurisdiction's jury reform commission and tells which of the recommended reforms have been adopted. The authors also give advice on how to start a similar process in your jurisdiction.


The one thing we know is true when large groups of summoned jurors fail to report is that the jury ultimately chosen may not be fully representative of the community. This report carefully examines the available options for dealing with the problem.


This monograph presents a simple proposition - that jurors, even in routine cases, may face stress they do not face in their normal pursuits - and provides a thorough discussion of ways judges and others in the court system can reduce juror stress. Includes results of surveys of more than 800 persons summoned for jury duty and more than 800 trial judges. To order, send $5 to cover postage and handling to NCSC, Att.: Lynn R. Grimes, P. O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, or e-mail lgrimes@ncsc.dni.us.


All of the proposals for jury reform are catalogued here with pros, cons and citations to cases and articles discussing each one. Topics covered include juror questioning of witnesses, juror note-taking and juror discussion of evidence during trial. More than one hundred pages of appendices are included, providing sample preliminary jury instructions, instructions about the deliberation process and jury exit questionnaires.


**MEDIA RELATIONS**

American Bar Association, Division for Media Relations and Communications Services, The Reporter's Key: Rights of Fair Trial and Free Press. ABA, 1999. 65 pp. First copy free, $10 per copy thereafter.

American Bar Association, Division for Media Relations and Communications Services, Planning a Bar-Media Seminar. ABA, 1988. 19 pp. $3.

American Bar Association, Division for Media Relations and Communications Services, Facts About the American Judicial System. ABA, 1999. 35 pp. $19.95.

American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence http://www.abanet.org/judind/What.html

At this ABA Web site, you can find talking points to use on judicial independence, model speeches and editorial columns, and other materials that could be used as background information when talking with the media.

**ORGANIZATIONS**


ABA Web sites:
General ABA site - www.abanet.org
ABA Judicial Division - www.abanet.org/judicial
ABA Office of Justice Initiatives - www.abanet.org/justice
ABA Division for Legal Services - www.abanet.org/legalservices
ABA Governmental Affairs Office - www.abanet.org/legadv

American Judges Association, Association Services, P. O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, (757) 259-1841.
Web: http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/

Web: http://www.clasp.org

Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), c/o National Center for State Courts, P. O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, (757) 253-2000.
Web: http://cosca.ncsc.dni.us/

Web: http://www.faircourts.org/

Web: http://www.faircourts.org/

**MORE INFORMATION**

http://nacm.ncsc.dni.us/
http://www.cosca.ncsc.dni.us/
http://www.faircourts.org/
http://www.abc.org/legalservices
http://www.abc.org/justice
http://www.abc.org/judicial
http://www.abc.org/legadv
http://www.ajs.org/
National Association for Public Interest Law, 2120 L Street, N.W., Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 466-3686. Web: http://www.napil.org

National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, P. O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, (757) 259-1841. Web: http://www.ncsc.dni.us

National Center on Poverty Law, 205 W. Monroe St., Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 263-3830.

Public Justice Center, 500 East Lexington St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202, (410) 625-9409. Web: http://www.publicjustice.org

State Justice Institute, 1650 King St., Suite 600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, (703) 684-6100. Web: http://www.statejustice.org


American Bar Association, Division for Public Education, Law and the Courts. ABA, 1995. $2.50.

American Bar Association, Division for Media Relations and Communications Services, Facts About the American Judicial System. ABA, 1999. 35 pp. $19.95.

PRO SE LITIGANTS


This is a thorough, readable manual for helping pro se litigants, with an appendix of additional resources, including contact names and a bibliography. It reports the findings and recommendations of an American Judicature Society/Justice Management Institute study financially supported by the State Justice Institute.


We previously catalogued resources on helping pro se litigants in the Summer 1998 issue. Included are Web sites for use by pro se litigants and an easy-to-clip set of guidelines for court staff to use on what they can and cannot do to assist pro se litigants.


This publication, which reports on the establishment of self-service centers in Phoenix, includes an independent evaluation of their program done by an outside consultant. This Maricopa County project was aided by a grant from the State Justice Institute. You can view the Self-Service Center’s Web site at http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ssc/sschome.html.

PUBLIC OPINION


The full report on this 1999 survey sponsored by the National Center for State Courts and the Hearst Corporation is available on the Web. For an overview of the data, see the article in this issue by David Rottman and Alan Tomkins.
PUBLIC TRUST & CONFIDENCE

National Action Plan
http://ncsc.dni.us/PTC/Ptc.htm

The 51-page draft National Action Plan, prepared following the May 1999 national conference, is available at this Web site. When the draft goes into final form, you can expect that it will be posted here as well.

National Conference on PT&C
http://ncsc.dni.us/PTC/Ptc.htm

For anyone who would like even more information on the May 1999 national conference than is found in this issue, it’s available at this Web site. Included are briefing papers made available to the conference participants; polling data on the national survey taken in advance of the conference; tallies of votes by conference participants ranking various issues and strategies; and a complete transcript of the plenary sessions of the conference.

HOW TO ORDER PUBLICATIONS

American Bar Association: 750 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611. To order by fax or phone with credit card: Fax (312) 988-5850; Phone 1-800-285-2221 or (312) 988-5522; or use the order form on the ABA Web site at http://www.abanet.org/.

American Judicature Society: 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, Illinois 60601. To order by phone or fax with credit card: Fax (312) 558-9175; Phone (312) 558-6900 ext. 147.

National Center for State Courts: For published items, contact the NCSC Fulfillment Department, P. O. Box 580, Williston, Vermont 05495-0580. You can also order by phone at 1-888-228-NCSC or by e-mail at ncsc.orders@aidcvt.com. For reports available without charge, contact the NCSC home office, 300 Newport Avenue, P. O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8798, (757) 259-1841.


The report title is a mouthful, so we’ll simplify things here. This report summarizes the work of a regional conference of federal and state judges convened in October 1997. The conference, sponsored by AJS and funded by the State Justice Institute, included judges from the states of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Circuits. The conference broke into smaller discussion groups, and the suggestions of each group as to areas in which state and federal judges could cooperate to improve public trust and confidence in the courts are summarized, including public education and outreach programs. Also included is survey data of these federal and state judges regarding issues on which state and federal judges share issues of mutual concern.


These were the materials for a statewide conference of court employees, in which issues related to public trust and confidence in the courts were addressed. Topics addressed at the conference included re-engineering the courts; racial and gender bias; public education programs; specialty courts; enforcement of court orders; and jury reform.


Report of mailed survey taken in Fall 1998 of judges and attorneys, covering many of the same topics included in the 1998 Texas survey of the general public.

American Bar Association, Office of Justice Initiatives, 1999 Summary of State and Local Justice Initiatives.


TRIAL COURT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (TCPS)


To the extent that public trust and confidence can be affected by judicial performance, the Trial Court Performance Standards are an excellent starting point for a thorough review of the performance of a judge, a court or a court system. The NCSC’s Pam Casey gives an excellent overview of the TCPS in this article, which is available on the Web.

Trial Court Performance Standards http://www.ncjrs.org/courtdocs.htm

From this Web site, you can download several publications of the Bureau of Justice Assistance covering the TCPS in detail. For an overview,
start with Trial Court Performance Standards with Commentary. More detailed publications are also available, including ones about the various measurement systems that can be used to measure and improve compliance with the standards.

Trial Court Performance Standards Listserve

An e-mail discussion listserve regarding the TCPS has been set up by the NCSC. Contact Hillery Efkeman at hefkeman@ncsc.dni.us to join.

USER-FRIENDLY COURTS RESOURCES


This book contains more than 100 suggestions for improving courthouse services at minimal cost and with limited effort. The tips were submitted by judges, lawyers and court staff and have already been implemented in various places around the country.


This is a training manual for court employees, designed to improve service to the public. The manual reviews how court staff can analyze the needs and expectations of the public with whom they come in contact in the workday.


This publication, which reports on the establishment of self-service centers in Phoenix, includes an independent evaluation of their program done by an outside consultant. This Maricopa County project was aided by a grant from the State Justice Institute.


American Bar Association, Judicial Division, One Customer at a Time. ABA (videotape), 1994.

American Judicature Society, Silent Justice: Court Experiences of People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. AJS, 1997. $25.

This is a 22-minute, closed captioned videotape demonstrating real-life stories of people with hearing impairments who have been denied full access to the justice system. Hosted by nationally known comedienne Kathy Buckley, who is hard of hearing, it describes what can be done to ensure that those who are deaf or hard of hearing can fully participate in judicial proceedings.


THANKS ...

Court Review received the help of staff at the National Center for State Courts, the American Bar Association, the State Justice Institute and the American Judicature Society in putting together this list of resources. Special thanks go to Pam Casey, Tim Fautsko, Carol Flango and David Rottman of the NCSC; Eileen Gallagher, John Holtaway, Darmea McCoy, Jeremy Persin, Mary Ann Peter and Jack Sweeney of the ABA; Kathy Schwartz and David Tevelin of the State Justice Institute; and Seth Andersen, Beth Murphy and Shelly Partilla of AJS.

AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION FUTURE CONFERENCES

2000 Midyear Meeting
May 4-6
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino
($125.00 single or double)

2000 Annual Conference
September 10-15
Kansas City, Missouri
The Westin Crown Center
($134.00 single or double)

2001 Midyear Meeting
March 29-31
Hot Springs, Arkansas
Hilton Hot Springs Convention Center
($90.00 single or double)

2001 Annual Meeting
September 30-October 5
Reno, Nevada
Silver Legacy Resort
(Room rate to be determined)
BOOKS


This CD-ROM contains more than 70 hours of oral argument and oral opinion pronouncements in 50 cases decided over the past four decades. The audio is made from master recordings available at the National Archives and the CD-ROM provides annotations to all of the oral arguments so that listeners can jump from point to point. Cases include Brandenburg v. Ohio, Gideon v. Wainwright, Gregg v. Georgia, Griswold v. Connecticut, Wisconsin v. Yoder, Miranda v. Arizona, United States v. Nixon and Clinton v. Jones. If you want to preview some of the material, the audio (but without annotations) is available on the Web at http://oyez.nwu.edu.


In time to set the stage for the next batch of Supreme Court cases on federalism, this book offers broad-based commentary on the sharing of judicial power between the federal government and the states. The book is written by University of Cincinnati law professor Michael Solimine and Wright State University political science professor James Walker, who argue that a dual system of strong state and federal courts benefits both the development of the law and the protection of liberty.


If you're thinking of becoming an author, try to get this author's agent, if he has one. Keith Whittington, an assistant professor in Princeton's political science department, published his first two books within months of each other. In Constitutional Interpretation, he examines how courts should go about interpreting the Constitution drawing arguments from American history, political philosophy and literary theory. He concludes that interpreters should stick to the discoverable intentions of the writers. In Constitutional Construction, he moves away from issues of constitutional interpretation altogether, discussing instead how the Constitution guides and constrains political actors in the United States government. He discusses four case studies drawn from American history, including the impeachment of Justice Samuel Chase, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson and the various battles between President Nixon and Congress, indicating how and why these cases set various standards for the application of constitutional principles and tipped the balance of constitutional powers.

USEFUL INTERNET SITES

American Judges Association http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/

Although we have been on the Web for quite some time, we haven't mentioned it before here on the Resource Page because there just wasn't enough there and what was there was often out of date. We believe we've fixed those problems and hope you'll take a look at our site. You can find the schedule for upcoming meetings and a directory of officers and board of governors members (with phone numbers and e-mail addresses). In addition, you can find the full text of all of the contents of Court Review beginning with the Spring 1998 issue. We will keep working to update and improve the site. Bookmark it and check back from time to time.

Justice Information Center http://www.ncjrs.org/

This U.S. Department of Justice site provides general access to information tracked by them about the justice system, including a search engine that searches more than 140,000 published and unpublished resources catalogued by DOJ from the early 1970's to the present. Click on "courts" and then "documents" to get a list of more than 100 documents available on line in full text, including the Trial Court Performance Standards, publications on drug courts and many others.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC TRUST & CONFIDENCE

The Resource Page focuses on resources relating to public trust and confidence in the courts beginning at page 76.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE RESOURCE PAGE

Each issue of Court Review features The Resource Page, which seeks to help judges find solutions to problems they may be facing, alert them to new publications, and generally try to provide some practical information judges can use. Please let us know of resources you have found useful in your work as a judge so that we can tell others. Write to the editor, Judge Steve Leben, 100 N. Kansas Ave., Olathe, Kansas 66061, e-mail: sleben@ix.netcom.com.