

# Court Review

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

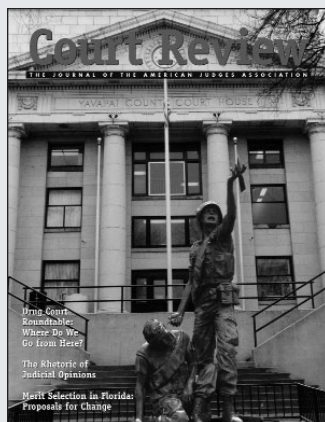
**T**he issue begins with an examination of the development of drug courts, the most highly visible of the many “problem-solving courts” developed in recent years. The first drug court was created little more than a decade ago in 1989; today, there are more than 1,200. No doubt there have been many lessons learned along the way, and we try to find—and explore—those lessons in the lead piece in this issue.

New York's Center for Court Innovation convened a group of 19 judges, court administrators, and others involved with drug courts to discuss what has worked, what hasn't worked, and where drug courts may go from here. Aubrey Fox and Greg Berman of the Center for Court Innovation have provided an introduction to the discussion, which is followed by an edited transcript of the full-day discussion that took place. We think you'll find it of interest.

The issue includes three other articles. United States Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow explains how to make sure that a settlement conference results in a settled case, not additional disputes over what was agreed upon. He includes a helpful checklist a judge can use to make sure that everything that should be covered actually has been discussed and agreed upon.

The last two articles were runner-up entries in the American Judges Association's law student writing competition over the past two years. Victoria Cecil reviews the judicial selection process in Florida, and then proposes several changes that might make merit selection more useful there. Benjamin Berger discusses the use of metaphor in judicial opinions, including review of some specific cases from Canada in which metaphor has been effectively used as a tool of persuasion.

We close with two reminders about *Court Review*. First, we welcome letters to the editor, book reviews, essays, and articles from our readers. You can contact me at [sleben@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sleben@ix.netcom.com) to discuss any potential contributions. Second, we remind you that all *Court Review* issues from 1998 to the present are available on the web at <http://aja.ncsc.dni.us/courtrv/review.html>. In addition, our articles from 1998 to the present are available in full text on LEXIS in their combined law reviews database. —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, Canada, and Mexico. 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 39 of this issue. *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](mailto:sleben@ix.netcom.com). Comments and suggestions for the publication, not intended for publication, also are welcome.

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Photo credit: cover photo, Mary S. Watkins ([maryswatkinsphoto@earthlink.net](mailto:maryswatkinsphoto@earthlink.net)). The cover photo is of the Yavapai County Courthouse in Prescott, Arizona. In front of the courthouse is the All Veterans Memorial, a tribute dedicated in 1989 to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

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