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.

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