Domestic violence is a subject about which judges need good initial education and continuing refresher courses. Quite simply, there is much about it that is counterintuitive. Why does a woman who is physically and mentally abused day after day, week after week, stay with the abuser? For most of us, the answer is neither self-evident nor a part of our personal life experience. Yet there is a large—and growing—body of good research in the area.

Julie Kunce Field, a member of Court Review’s editorial board who specializes in the area of law and domestic violence, has recruited some leading experts to contribute to this special issue, covering issues of special interest to judges: Field provides a useful overview of the area, including strategies for identifying high-risk cases and some tips for handling those cases. Lundy Bancroft covers issues involving the parenting of men who commit domestic abuse. Lavita Nadkarni and Barbara Zeek Shaw focus on the judicial role in protecting children involved in families where abuse has occurred. Darren Mitchell and Judge Susan Carbon explain the often-confusing state and federal laws regarding possession and purchase of firearms by perpetrators of domestic violence. And Jane Aiken and Jane Murphy review evidence issues prevalent in domestic violence cases.

In addition to these articles, we have a Resource Page section focusing on domestic violence cases, including a list of past Court Review articles available on the web and other web-based resources.

Summer 2002? Yes, sadly it’s not a misprint. This is the Summer 2002 issue of Court Review. And though it hasn’t actually been all that long since you received your last issue, we have gradually fallen behind in our publication schedule.

The good news is that we are committed to getting caught back up in a measured way over the next year. You can expect to receive issues during the rest of 2003 on an accelerated schedule. I expect that you will actually receive five issues, instead of four, during 2003. We remain committed to making sure that there is useful information for judges in each issue. We appreciate your continued readership. —SL