Before describing each of the articles in this issue, let me take a moment to comment on the sorts of problems that arise in editing a journal intended for both a United States and Canadian audience. The American Judges Association was formed in the United States and has most of its members there. It also has a substantial—and growing—membership in Canada. As our Canadian readers are well aware, there are some differences in the way the English language is used in Canada and in the United States. (For an entertaining and enlightening discussion of some of the differences, prepared by the Cornerstone Word Company of Ottawa, take a look at http://www.cornerstoneword.com/misc/cdneng/cdneng.htm.)

I raise this topic because the lead essay in this issue is by a Canadian judge, Ian B. Cowan, who wrote about Canadian events with appropriately Canadian spellings. Our journal, like most others, has made certain style choices, and we use U.S. English spellings. Thus, labour became labor and offences became offenses, all without either the labor or the intent of Judge Cowan. Meanwhile, on the Resource Page at the end of this issue, the word license is spelled in the Canadian way—licence—because it is part of the actual title of a Canadian publication.

I hope that our Canadian readers will not mind our choices. All publications try to achieve a single, consistent editing style. We spend a great deal of effort in the editing of each issue. Substantively, though, we also spend time trying to get articles and materials that will be of interest to all of our readers, both in Canada and in the United States.

Judge Cowan’s essay should be of interest to many. He happened to be in the crosshairs of the SARS epidemic in Toronto, which forced careful consideration of both legal and practical concerns in handling quarantine orders against potentially infected citizens.

Our lead article, by Paula Hannaford-Agor, places efforts to help pro se litigants into their broader context. She describes the changes under way in some places to allow “unbundled” legal services, in which an attorney helps with some, but not all, aspects of a client’s legal problem. She also discusses how these sorts of changes may impact the role of courts in helping self-represented litigants gain appropriate access to their judicial system.

Two other articles round out the issue. Andrew Fulkerson, a former judge, reviews the usefulness of ignition interlock devices as a way of preventing repeat impaired-driving offenses. We also include last year’s winning entry from our law student essay competition. In it, Rosalind Alexis Sargent presents her views on racial inequities in the federal sentencing guidelines. —SL