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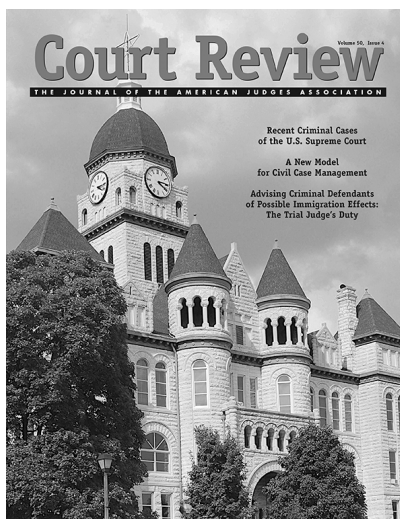
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The Resource Page

COURT REVIEW ITEMS

Judge Smith's article, *Some Thoughts on Engaged Judging*, provides excellent insights into the development of skills for judges. For additional exploration of related concepts, review the special issue of *Court Review* on procedural fairness presented by Steve Leben in Volume 44, Issue 1/2 along with the groundbreaking white



paper on procedural fairness authored by Judges Kevin Burke and Steve Leben, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2RvzNMh>. You also may find of value a discussion of applying social science research to improve judicial case management in *A New Model for Civil Case Management* from Volume 50, Issue 4.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Rich Press, DNA Mixtures: A Forensic Explainer, National Institute of Standards and Technology (2019).

<https://www.nist.gov/featured-stories/dna-mixtures-forensic-science-explainer>

The National Institute of Standards and Technology produced an excellent report this year on the state of DNA science related to mixtures. Their report, *DNA Mixtures: A Forensic Science Explainer. What are DNA Mixtures? And why are they sometimes so difficult to interpret?*, is one of those rare publications that truly

lives up to its title. Rich Press, the report's author, provides a superb and understandable explanation of the often-murky waters of the DNA mixtures we so commonly see in courtrooms. He describes the different types of DNA evidence, the developments in DNA technology in recent years, and the "double-edged sword" of recent advancements. Mr. Press explains in easy to follow language the difficulties that can cause problems in interpreting DNA mixtures and what they really mean. As helpful as his analogy is, I must admit the richness of his illustrative photos made me hungry for that childhood staple of vegetable soup. This report is a must-read for any judge handling criminal cases.

The National Judicial College and Justice Speakers Institute, LLC, Science Bench Book for Judges (2019).

<https://bit.ly/349AD45>

As we all know, the trial judge is cast in the role of gatekeeper for scientific evidence in our court system. The National Judicial College (NJC) has long been a reliable source of useful and informative materials for judges and they don't disappoint in this new bench book. With financial support from the State Judicial Institute, NJC partnered with the Justice Speakers Institute, LLC, to assemble an excellent bench book to help us in tackling the myriad of issues presented by new science. This bench book helps keep you up to date on the nuanced developments of substantive and

procedural law directing your role as gatekeeper with a framework of general knowledge to help you apply those standards. The panel of authors represents extensive courtroom experience on both sides of the bench. The authors provide a digestible overview of the nature of scientific knowledge, the scientific method, and the language of scientific research. They also survey a broad range of topics that arise regularly in courtrooms across our country. Topics range from shaken baby to statistics. Common misunderstandings of scientific research, both accidental and intentional, are described. The authors also walk the reader through the common situations that arise in civil, criminal, and juvenile proceedings addressing how to handle the issues pretrial, during trial, and in post-trial proceedings. The focused sections on evidence-based sentencing and post-sentence supervision would be worth presenting as a standalone publication. They are sure to provide you with welcome new insights on how to be a more effective criminal judge. And the best news is that the bench book is available as a free download.



WEBSITES

Supreme Court Podcasts.

<https://player.fm/podcasts/Supreme-Court>

While many search resources are available online, the sheer number of potential search topics can be overwhelming. We often forget how much can be available to us on any given topic and sometimes old fashioned "shelf browsing" is the best way to be surprised by an unexpected gem. One example is PlayerFM's page for Supreme Court Podcasts, which presents a surprisingly broad array of potentially interesting and useful podcasts for anyone interested in the judiciary, or who may be seeking ideas for that upcoming community presentation. Podcasts listed range from addressing the history of the court to telling the human stories behind landmark cases, key civil rights cases, comedic takes on legal questions, and upcoming cases as well as issues.

