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Evidence Column

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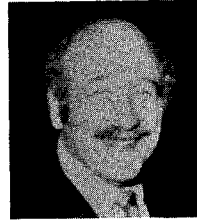
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EVIDENCE COLUMN

By Professor Paul R. Troeh, Jr.



The title of this column should not be considered reflective of the creativity of this Journal. I alone created it, with inspiration from Wilt Chamberlin. He was reported to have suggested naming the San Diego pro basketball team, "The San Diego Pro Basketball Team." To save the editor's time in penning a disclaimer, let the record show that anything appearing in this column, today and henceforth (I just had to use that word) is the opinion of the author, and does not reflect the views of the Journal, the NAALJ, or the advertisers.

Creativity in decisions and orders authored by ALJs is often found more in the medium than in the message: Spelling and punctuation are two examples. And my efforts may be (I'm told) leading examples of "creative spelling."

As to creativity in the legal system in general, perhaps the statement of the founder of questioned document analysis, Albert S. Osborn, author of Questioned Documents, 2d Ed. (1946) is still viable. At 646 he stated in his typical style:

"When plows are improved in Ohio it is not long before Indiana and even far away Washington and Arizona learn of it, but the laws may be greatly improved and knowledge of this almost equally important fact does not get across the state line in sixty years. This comparison speaks well for the intelligence and progressiveness of farmers."

Do you read the American Bar Association Journal and the Judges' Journal? The former contains very well written summaries of U.S. Supreme Court opinions and circuit opinions, reported by topic. Evidence matters and administrative law and procedure controversies are frequent topics. The Judges' Journal, among other features, presents a quarterly report by the Chairman of the Conference of Administrative Law Judges. Both these journals may be subscribed to without joining anything. The ABA Journal is \$18 per year and the Judges' Journal is \$15. In my view, each is well worth the price. The subscription address for both is: American Bar Association, 1155 East 60th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637. Next issue, in the first substantive column, I will review evidence problems with micro-film systems, and with "photo-copy" machines that produce "originals". Suggestions of future topics are solicited, and are best sent to the editorial offices of this Journal, the address of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

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