Terry MacCarthy has been the Executive Director of the Federal Defender Program in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for a few years longer than I have been a member of the federal judiciary. He started his professional career as a law clerk to one of my favorite federal judges, William J. Campbell, the respected Chief Judge of the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Terry’s reputation as a public defender is unexcelled. A few years ago his book about cross-examination was published by the American Bar Association and has been well received by the profession.

In this new work—MacCarthy on Impeachment—jointly authored with his two sons, Terry has produced an equally valuable study of a subject even more specialized than the art of cross-examination. The book is subtitled How to Find and Use These Weapons of Mass Destruction. It separately identifies sixteen different ways to impeach a witness and includes fascinating examples of each, sprinkled with advice about how to maximize the impact on the jury and pitfalls to be avoided. Trial lawyers will no doubt be the principal beneficiaries of the book, but other readers will also enjoy Terry’s breezy style and his selection of illustrative dialogues between defense counsel and hypothetical witnesses. This work is a welcome addition to the literature on a critical aspect of trial practice.