INTRODUCTION

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The Importance of Judicial Outreach to Judges and Lawyers—Personally and Professionally
By Judge Stephanie Domitrovich

As teachers of the law, judges also must continue to be students of the law and recognized in their communities as public servants. Authors in this issue of The Judges’ Journal share how judicial outreach allows them to impart the importance of fairness and uphold the independence of the judiciary.

FEATURES

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The Importance of Judicial Outreach in Our Time, and Its Connection to a Divided Past
By Mark O’Halloran, Carolyn A. Dubay, and Melissa Aubin

To defend our democracy in this time of division among citizens, lawyers and judges can help rebuild the fundamental principles of civic discourse and respect for our government institutions through educating the public about the rule of law.

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Searching for the Future
By Judge Richard L. Fruin Jr.

Twenty years ago, Judge Fruin helped change the way courts think about judicial outreach. His book Judicial Outreach on a Shoestring has served as a manual for effective ways judges can help educate the public about the work of the courts, contributing to increased public trust and confidence in our justice system.

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Maintaining Public Commitment to the Rule of Law
By Judge Russell Carparelli (Ret.)

Many forces in contemporary society foster cynicism regarding the America’s courts and rule of law. Judges and lawyers have a unique professional and civic responsibility to counter this cynicism, promote public trust in our judicial system, and preserve public commitment to fair and impartial courts.

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Be the Change
By Judge Katherine Beaumont Kern

Media and negative experiences may result in a mistrust of courts and the law. Judges are uniquely qualified to combat these perceptions by engaging in outreach with the public, educating them about the courts, and hopefully erasing the divide between those on the bench and those in front of it.

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Judicial Outreach in the Courthouse: How a Learning Center Can Teach the Rule of Law
By Judge Nannette A. Baker

The award-winning Judicial Learning Center at the Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse in St. Louis is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The JLC hosts roughly 5,000 visitors a year and contains mock courtrooms, interactive exhibits, a museum of noteworthy cases, and a space dedicated to the history of the judiciary.
“Appeals on Wheels” Traveling Oral Arguments Boost Public Outreach
By Joseph H. Merrick and Judge Margret G. Robb
The Indiana Court of Appeals developed a traveling oral arguments program, known as “Appeals on Wheels,” in 2001 and since has held over 500 oral arguments at venues across Indiana. The program allows Hoosiers to learn about the appellate process and see the court’s judges at work.

Judicial Outreach: The Massachusetts Experience
By Judge Paul D. Wilson
Judge Wilson shares judicial outreach techniques that work for judges in Massachusetts, including participation in the ABA’s National Judicial Outreach Week, in-person and video presentations held inside and outside the courthouse, and events aimed at hearing from and educating the public.

A Revolution That Doesn’t Offend Anyone: The ABA Guidelines for the Appointment and Use of Special Masters in Civil Litigation
By Merrill Hirsh
At the ABA Midyear Meeting in January 2019, the House of Delegates approved guidelines to appoint special masters in federal and state courts to help supplement judicial responsibilities.

Cryptocurrency: The Next Step in the Noncash Era?
By Judge Herbert B. Dixon Jr. (Ret.)
Judge Dixon discusses the creation and use, and ups and downs, of cryptocurrency and ends with the question of whether cryptocurrency will ever rival the general acceptance of other noncash options such as checks, credit cards, and mobile payment apps.

Promoting the Independence, Integrity, and Impartiality of the Judiciary
By Marla N. Greenstein
The current threats to judicial independence have given judicial outreach an urgent and compelling purpose, one in which judges isolated behind the bench transform into respected and visible community leaders.