4 Bringing Baghdad into the Courtroom
SHOULD COMBAT TRAUMA IN VETERANS BE PART OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EQUATION?
By Christopher Hawthorne
In earlier eras it was known as nostalgia, shell-shock, combat fatigue. Today psychiatrists call it PTSD—post-traumatic stress disorder—a long-term and debilitating aftereffect of war. One study estimates 300,000 veterans will return from Iraq and Afghanistan with combat-related PTSD. Some of them will commit violent crimes. In this article the author discusses the use of PTSD as a defense—its advantages and disadvantages; its history and its current acceptance by juries and judges; case law; comparisons to the insanity plea and self-defense; and its use as a mitigating factor at sentencing.

14 E-Filing and Privacy
WHAT EVERY LAWYER NEEDS TO KNOW
By Rebecca Hulse
With the passage of the E-Government Act of 2002, government records went electronic, making them available anywhere, anytime, and to anyone with computer access. Recognizing that some court records contain information that should remain private, the Supreme Court enacted rules that require lawyers to redact data such as Social Security numbers, home addresses, taxpayer IDs, the names of minors, financial account numbers, and birth dates. Some state laws go even further. In this article the author examines the many ways in which lawyers can innocently fail in their duty to protect a client’s information and details what tools are available to avoid malpractice suits or Rule 11 challenges.

20 Disability Discrimination Law in Correction Facilities
By John Parry
There’s little doubt that conditions in American jails, prisons, and secure treatment facilities are inadequate. For inmates who suffer mental or physical disabilities, the situation is far worse. In fact, Amnesty International has termed the situation “inhumane.” Historically, a prisoner’s recourse has been limited to that relief provided by the U.S. Constitution and federal civil rights laws. In this article, author John Parry examines the state of the law today, including the legislation and case law that define what constitutes a “covered” disability; the right to treatment, accommodation, and education; and the means to litigating on behalf of the disabled inmate.

30 Sentencing Advocates Enhance Reasoned Court Decisions
By Sharon Patrick and Jill Miller
Two experts make the case for defense-based sentencing advocacy as a means to ensure a fairer and more reasonable outcome once a defendant is convicted. The authors argue that this not only benefits the individual but society as a whole in that judges will often impose shorter sentences or alternatives to incarceration—both of which relieve the overburdened penal system. Here they delineate the role of the advocate, what qualities a defense lawyer should seek in a potential advocate, the cost of employing an advocate, as well as the advocate’s independent duties to the justice system.
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Trial Tactics
PRESENT SENSE IMPRESSIONS
AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME

Practice Pointers
RACE NO LONGER RELEVANT
IN DNA TRIAL EVIDENCE

Ethics
INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE—TOO
HOT TO HANDLE?

Federal Sentencing
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY GUIDELINES
ARE RIPE FOR CHALLENGE

Cert Alert
SUPREME COURT CASES OF INTEREST

Juvenile Justice
ANATOMY OF A FALSE CONFESSION

Section News
POLITICS, POLICY FOCUS AT SPRING MEETING