

Suffolk Journal of Trial and Appellate Advocacy

Volume 22 | Issue 1

Article 21

1-1-2017

Editor's Note

Stephanie M. Toribio
Suffolk University Law School

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.suffolk.edu/jtaa-suffolk>



Part of the [Litigation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

22 Suffolk J. Trial & App. Advoc. x (2016-2017)

This Notes is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Collections @ Suffolk. It has been accepted for inclusion in Suffolk Journal of Trial and Appellate Advocacy by an authorized editor of Digital Collections @ Suffolk. For more information, please contact dct@suffolk.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader:

On behalf of the Suffolk University Law School Moot Court Honor Board, I am proud to present the first issue in Volume XXII of the *Suffolk Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy*. This issue contains one lead article and eight student-written pieces, each designed to be of practical use to lawyers and judges at the trial and appellate levels.

The Lead Article, *Attorney-Directed Voir Dire Comes To Massachusetts: The Republic is Safe*, was written by the Honorable Dennis J. Curran. Judge Curran provides a comprehensive recommendation on the proper application of the new *voir dire* law. We are fortunate to have published a piece written by a Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, and whose experience provides distinctive insight on attorney-directed *voir dire*.

The student-written pieces address topics that are of interest to members of the bar in Massachusetts and nationwide. The topics covered involve:

- a discussion and analysis of guidelines and rules implemented to reform the Indian Child Welfare Act, and the impact on state courts (Allison E. Davis);
- an analysis of the approaches Courts take on the issue and exploring burden reduction methods and a proposal that Courts adopt a burden-shifting method to address the burden of review in e-discovery of social media content (Rochella T. Davis);
- a discussion of the United States flawed method of execution for criminals sentenced to death and a proposal that our modern times demand a change to this method to create a more humane method of execution (Meghan Elizabeth Hall);
- an examination of class actions and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and how the application of the rule will continue to evolve with future class actions (Chelsey E. Turner);
- a critique of The Lanham Act section 2(a)'s disparaging provision as a violation of Constitutional rights, and the potential consequences of modifying The Lanham Act (Kimberly T. Aquino);
- an analysis of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts' ruling on hearsay in sexual assault cases during grand jury proceedings, and the concerns with stigmas associated with sexual assault charges (Alexis Brewster);
- an analysis of the United States District Court of Massachusetts' application of a *Brady* violation to the sentencing phase in a post-conviction case (Natasha A. Desa); and

- an analysis of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit’s ruling that there was no show of authority to constitute a Fourth Amendment seizure (Connor J. Gilbert).

My thanks and gratitude goes out to all staff members of the Moot Court Honor Board who helped put this issue together with noteworthy professionalism and dedication. The *Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy* boasts some of the finest members of the Suffolk University Law School community, and it has been a true honor to work by their side. The Moot Court Honor Board is indebted to the entire editorial staff for the tremendous amount of time and effort they devoted to the editorial process.

Special thanks go out to the President of the Moot Court Honor Board, Bianca Muñoz who acted as my sounding board, and was always there to lend her support. Additionally I’d like to thank my Executive Editor, Brian S. Brazeau, and my Managing Editor, Alyssa M. Johnson, for their absolute devotion to editing the enclosed pieces for publication in this issue. Finally, I would like to thank the Board’s advisor, Professor Richard Pizzano, the Board’s Staff Assistant, Janice Quinlan, and the Deans and Faculty of Suffolk University Law School for their continued support of the Moot Court Honor Board and *Suffolk Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy*.

Thank you for reading the first issue in Volume XXII of the *Suffolk Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy*. I am confident practitioners, professors, students, and judges will benefit from our scholarship, and will find Volume XXII thought-provoking and useful.

Best regards,

Stephanie M. Toribio
Editor-in-Chief