

INTRODUCTION

This is not a “theme” issue. There’s plenty to read, but it is impossible to corral the articles in this issue under one umbrella.

Consider this lineup: Concussions. Trolls. A pitched battle between a federal court judge and a New Hampshire judge over jurisdiction is recalled from the 19th century. And the surprisingly slippery meaning of a word you see all the time in statutes and caselaw: “substantial.”

Also, practical articles on no-contest clauses in wills and trusts; a primer on legal aspects of first-person property insurance; and the impact of recent appellate rulings in workers compensation law.

Last, not an article at all, but an impartial timeline of an “infamous” case. Starting on page 36 is a condensed timeline of legal motions and life events in a decade of litigation in a high-conflict divorce. This is the case that ended with the self-immolation of Thomas Ball in front of the Cheshire County Superior Court on June 16, 2011. Mr. Ball submitted a lengthy, rambling letter to the local newspaper before his very public suicide, proclaiming, in effect, that the courts had failed to provide him justice. Our timeline, compiled entirely from court pleadings and orders, is intended, as objectively as possible, to supplement the news reporting surrounding the incident with facts about how the case had been handled over the past 10 years.

And, of course, New Hampshire Supreme Court cases ably reviewed by David Ruoff, our current *Lex Loci* author.

This issue is late because it took awhile to pull together. It was interesting that during the production process, two of our authors were called away from the state by international public service commitments. First, David Ruoff’s fall calendar was dominated by a court-appointed case in US District Court. He is defending a woman seeking naturalization who is accused of participating in the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Ruoff spent several weeks in Rwanda working with attorneys from the International Criminal Tribunal and will be traveling there again after the holidays. The case goes to trial in New Hampshire in late February.

And last month, Bradley Holt was called away to Haiti on short notice. A Captain in a US Navy Reserve unit that directly supports NATO, Holt is part of an unusual joint team comprised of physicians and military officers studying how to improve the interface between military and civilian healthcare providers in various contexts. The team traveled to Haiti to analyze disaster response and humanitarian assistance efforts after Haiti’s January 2010 earthquake, the first of five case studies the team will undertake.

We hope to report more on these efforts, and on the international work of other Bar members in the future.

- Dan Wise, Editor

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