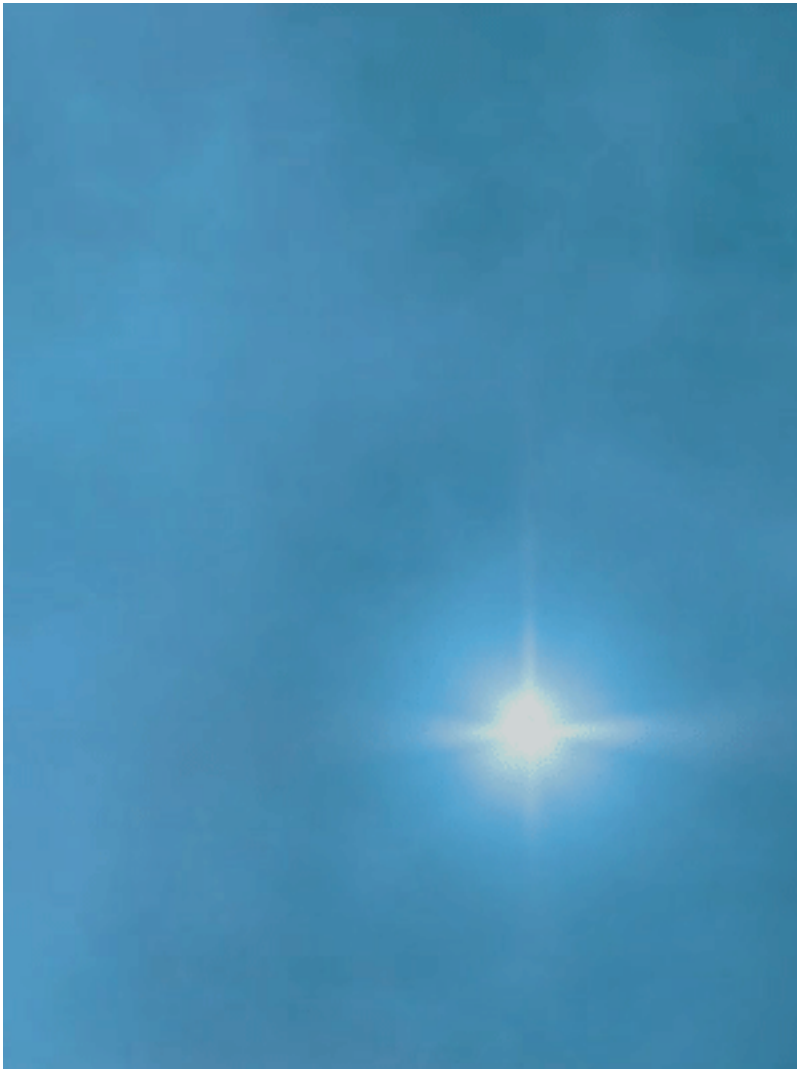


juries, created by peremptory challenges, voir dire and blind strike submissions, and its fit with the ideal of a citizen jury.

After the commentaries and Professor Sommers' article, I have a long reading list to plough through, and many factual and normative questions about the jury system in Britain and America to think about. This exchange has also made me aware of how little I know about the relative strengths and weaknesses, from a deliberative perspective, of systems that do not use juries compared to those that do. Perhaps the precautions built into those systems to ensure fair assessment of the evidence will help us better decide what forms of partisanship are appropriate in jury selection, and whether intrusive questioning of jurors is consistent with the idea that ordinary citizens have a distinctive, and independent role to play in the administration of justice, along with legal professionals. At all events, a hearty thank you to Dr. Handrich and *The Jury Expert* for an exchange which has given me so much to think about.



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Don't miss our next issue.....

TJE's Favorite Thing for January 2009!

Thanks to **Leslie Ellis** of [TrialGraphix](#) | Kroll Ontrack we actually have TWO favorite things this issue.

Leslie's Favorite Thing One:

My new favorite thing is the **TripIt** website. You forward your confirmation emails from airlines, hotels, car rentals, etc. to the website, and it puts it all in one, easy to read, and (the best part) Blackberry-accessible itinerary, complete with maps and directions. It's totally awesome. And linkable.

The website is www.tripit.com.

Leslie's Favorite Thing Two:

Another favorite thing - the **Empirical Legal Studies blog**. These folks conduct and report on the empirical research on legal issues that we otherwise have a hard time getting access to. It's heavily academic, but chock-full of useful info and the posts are usually very well-written.

The website is: <http://www.elsblog.org/>

Happy New Year!

For *The Jury Expert*, it's especially good to turn the calendar year. In 2008, *TJE* went digital. We debuted in May, 2008 on the web in the form of downloadable PDF files. Now, especially for 2009, you can read *The Jury Expert* entirely on-line. You can still download and forward and print--everything you could do before. But now, you can read articles on-line in addition to downloading AND you can easily comment on what you're reading.

When we revamped this publication to be entirely on the web, our hope was to have your comments on articles published along-side the articles so that a dialogue could develop between litigators, consultants, academics, and other subscribers that would inform, challenge and stimulate us all. But first, we had to see if you liked where the [American Society of Trial Consultants](#) was going with this publication. (And you like us, you really like us!)

The Jury Expert is truly unique in legal publications--both in content and in our now interactive website. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our web designer/developer, [Marc Lazo](#) who took our original ideas and made them into a reality on the web. Now, much like *TJE* articles strive to turn research and theory into practice, Marc and his associates have refined and expanded the website for *The Jury Expert* from our non-technical dreams to a reality meant to work for you with an intuitive ease. We also want to thank ASTC's [David Fish](#) for designing the sample ads you see throughout the print version and on the web. We'll start advertising in *The Jury Expert* this year to help ASTC defray costs of the publication.

So. Look around. Speak up! Comment. Interact. Tell us what you like and don't like. Even though it goes without saying--keep your comments professional and courteous even when/if you disagree. Happy 2009. Read on. Write in. And keep requesting article topics (we're hitting another requested topic this issue).

-- [Rita R. Handrich, PhD](#)



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