

# **Journal of Law and Social Deviance**

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**THE INFLUENCE OF AGE  
ON THE ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
THE RULE OF LAW:  
THE CASE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM  
THE FORMER SOVIET UNION  
TO ISRAEL**

Julia Shamir

This study considers the difference in the perceptions and the attitudes towards the rule of law, based on age by drawing on the data collected in the course of nine focus group interviews with the representatives of three segments of Israeli society: the immigrants of the 90s from the former Soviet Union (FSU), the secular veterans and the modern orthodox veterans. The findings suggest that the age variable plays a significant role in the disparate perceptions of the rule of law among Israeli immigrants.

## **CRIMINAL INSANITY: A CHANGE IN JUSTICE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER**

Marissa Zwerner

This article argues that courts should adjudicate the culpability, or guilt, of defendants suffering from a major mental illness in the same manner as similarly-situated defendants, such as juveniles and the mentally challenged, who suffer from similar issues of capacity. The current criminal justice procedures for adjudicating the offenses of juveniles and individuals with mental handicaps, both of whom are developmentally incapable of understanding the consequences of their acts, provides a valuable model for understanding how courts should address criminals with mental illnesses.

This “new” criminal class of offense should include a modified charge that addresses the special circumstances unique to defendants with mental illnesses. Additionally, courts should modify their sentencing guidelines to protect the public at large, while still providing the necessary treatment and rehabilitation specific to this uniquely-situated population with mental illnesses.

# **CHILDREN OF POLYAMOROUS FAMILIES: A FIRST EMPIRICAL LOOK**

Mark Goldfeder  
Elisabeth Sheff

For the past several years, the issue of legalizing plural marriage has been gaining considerable traction in the United States and around the world. While public opinion seems to move in favor of consensual adult relationships regardless of numerosity, courts, both domestic and abroad, still worry that a discussion of plural marriage includes a discussion about third party harm, specifically harm to children. Leaving aside both the constitutional and regulatory questions involved in legalizing plural marriage, this article addresses some of the common assumptions and misconceptions regarding plural marriage from both a legal and social perspective. Then, this article presents the first empirical study constructing an actual data set for both legal and social scientific reference for the best interest of the child, as opposed to allowing courts and counselors to continue relying on hearsay or outdated assumptions.

**CELEBRITY JUSTICE  
AND GOSSIP BLOGS: DEMOGRAPHIC  
CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIM-  
IZED AND ALLEGEDLY CRIMINAL  
CELEBRITIES FEATURED ON TOP  
GOSSIP BLOGS**

Carmen M. Cusack

Which demographic of celebrity is most frequently the subject of internet gossip blog posts that discuss celebrity involvement in crime? Understanding the potential relationship between internet blogs, public perception of celebrities, and the criminal justice system may be useful for improving the justice system and reducing bias.

This article presents findings on the gender, race, and occupation of the most widely covered celebrities, who were involved in criminal cases, between 2008 and 2013. Relying on media reports about O.J. Simpson and Paris Hilton to contextualize the potential phenomenon and effects of celebrity justice, the dynamic between bias, demographic data, celebrity, media, and the criminal justice system are thoroughly explored in this article.

## **FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS: CRIMINAL INJUSTICE**

Okorie Okorochoa

This article argues that standardized field sobriety tests (“SFSTs”) tests have serious flaws that render them invalid and unreliable. Furthermore, a blood alcohol content (“BAC”) above the legal limit does not correlate to impairment as a general rule, and, in some individuals, no correlation exists to support legal action. Section II discusses Standard Field Sobriety Test Field Studies. Section III explains the administration of and flaws of the three test battery, including horizontal gaze nystagmus test, One-Leg Stand test, Walk and Turn Test. Section IV argues why field sobriety tests are not indicative of impairment or BAC and Section V discusses experimental evidence of SFST inaccuracy. Section IV concludes that these tests need to be abolished in the interest of justice.

## THE PROBLEM OF A TERRORIST BY ANY OTHER NAME

R. Brian Parrish

This article explores the subjective and inconsistent use of the terms “terrorist” and “terrorism.” First, it briefly looks at some of the various definitions used and proposed, pointing to other works that provide a more detailed treatment. Second, it considers the potential stakes in this definitional quest and how the word “terrorism” is actually used in society. Third, it proposes using a construction of the “Social Contract” as a useful lens to view the problem. Fourth, it examines some of the issues with using the label of “terrorism.” Finally, it proposes that the definitional problem should not be left to those who stand to gain the most from the use of the definition that they fashion.