

Letters

PIONEER IN LAW

"A Birth and Many Firsts," April, page 12, was an excellent article on Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, although space did not really allow you to elaborate on all the many firsts that she has to her name.

She is one of the all-time trailblazers for women of color in the law. I was particularly proud that, while she was serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, she agreed to swear me in as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge in 2002!

Judge Kelvin D. Filer Los Angeles

CHANGING NUANCES OF GRAMMAR

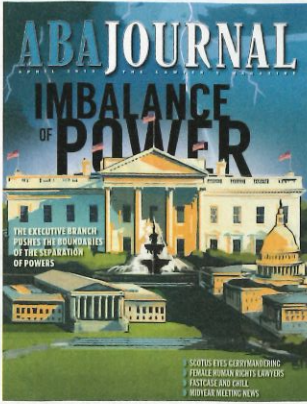
In reference to "Inclusive Legal Writing," April, page 22: As a former young fogley educated in the 1980s, I must admit that I resisted gender-inclusive language. Gender-inclusive language seemed awkward and inelegant. But taste is a real thing—and it does change.

Now it is the gender-exclusionary language that obtrudes like an inflamed digit. Christopher Smith Warsaw, Poland

PETS AND POLICE

"Concerning 'Pet Threat,'" April, page 16, the argument is like that for the criminal exclusionary rule: People object to the principle of it, arguing (correctly) that there is no "fairness" in letting clearly guilty people go free just because a cop makes a mistake (intentionally or unintentionally).

The exclusionary rule only protects guilty people, right? If you're guilty and the cops illegally search you, your remedy



is exclusion. But what if you are innocent and the cops illegally search you? No remedy at all, except you can sue the officer. But juries are notorious for refusing to compensate people for being the victims of illegal searches.

So, since juries won't punish cops who violate a person's Fourth Amendment rights in a civil lawsuit, the only way to motivate the cops to follow the Constitution is to low the Constitution is to resist gender-inclusive language.

CONCORRECTIONS

"Talk Isn't Cheap," May, page 18, should have reported that Oklahoma Solicitor General Mithun Mansinghani represented that state and 10 others as petitioners, alongside telecommunications companies, in a dispute over prison phone rates. "Side Hustle," May, page 38, should have reported that Kevin Han received a delivery order from a senior associate, Nina Lacher's Instagram receives more than 300,000 "impressions" per week, and Todd P. Graves received a job offer from a New York City firm.

PETS AND POLICE

"Legal Prey," May, page 52, should have identified Vanessa Stine as a staff attorney at Friends of Farmworkers. Her Equal Justice Works fellowship ran from 2014 to 2016. "New School," April, page 36, mistakenly implies that the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project was recently founded. The clinic, a collaboration between Yale Law School and the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, opened in December 2006.

The article also should have reported that the state court ruling that resulted in a \$1.1 billion judgment against lead-paint manufacturers occurred in 2013.

The Journal regrets the errors.

their jobs correctly—then, just maybe, they will start training them properly. David W. Simon San Bernardino, California

LANGUAGE, LANGUAGE

In regard to "Fighting Words," April, page 18, gross abuse of profane language reflects badly on the person who is abusing the language, and it also will cause doors of opportunity to slam.

The command of the English language and polite manners coupled with emotional control never go out of style. Felicia Mercer Colorado Springs, Colorado

SEPARATION OF POWERS

I was bemused by the juxtaposition of ABA President Hilarie Bass' very fine message, "The Balance of Power," April page 8, and the article "DOJ Rescinds Guidance on Excessive Court Fines and Fees," page 9.

Bass' message encourages attorneys to do whatever we can to help enhance the separation of powers and federalism, lamenting, for example, the imbalance caused when the executive branch circumvents local courts by slashing judges' pay.

The facing article, however, asserts "U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions revoked Obama-era guidance warning local courts" The slant of this article is that it was horrendous to roll back the "warning," but perhaps the executive branch should not issue threatening warnings to local courts in the first place.

Federalism and the separation of powers should be considered first. While some may feel the attorney general's rescission "dealt a blow to civil rights," the rescission also landed a punch for the separation of powers and the concept of federalism.

It is not the job of the DOJ to "embarrass" state courts, contrary to the article's contention. The attorney general's rescission rectified an overreach, thus rebalancing the separation of powers and federalism.

The positioning of the second article unnecessarily diminished the impact of the president's message. Ronald F. Larson Sun City, Arizona

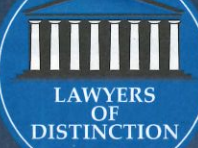
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