


# THE UPDATE

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*The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.*



## **WIRELESS DELIVERY OF COURTROOM TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE**

The Ninth Circuit Court serving Florida 's Orange and Osceola Counties serving Orlando and Kissimmee recently deployed wireless presentation systems in its main courthouses and plans to make comparable facilities also available in several dozen facilities throughout both counties. In the the Ninth Circuit's deployment, for example , all main courthouse courtrooms have 6 to 8 LCD panels (each serving every two jurors, the judge and lawyers ) to display both evidence and testimony. Court proceedings can also be digitally recorded, with voice files wirelessly transmitted to remote stenographers as well as available playback in the courtroom. The Ninth Circuit Court began testing the system 6 months ago in Orlando's main 23-story courthouse. Installation cost at approximately \$1000 per node is far less expensive than a hard wired equivalent system .



## **MEMORY CONCERNS FOLLOWING SEVERE STRESS**

Researchers at Yale University reported on a recent study involving over 500 soldiers, sailors and pilots (at survival schools at 3 mock POW camps run by the US military) who were being trained to withstand the mental and physical stresses of capture. After being subjected to threatening behavior during mock interrogations most failed to identify their interrogators a day or so later and many even got the gender wrong. Other studies have also questioned the accuracy of recall of traumatic events. Such findings may result in casting doubt on the reliability of victim testimony in cases alleging psychological trauma. Yet other studies have suggested that intense, personal experiences might produce near photographic recollection, something that both prosecutors and juries often assume. For additional details see International Journal of Law and Psychiatry (Vol 27 , p 265)



## **DOE SEEKS FEEDBACK ON NEW ENERGY STANDARDS**

Advanced notices of proposed rulemaking for appliance energy efficiency standards set for late September were recently announced by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. These standards will affect the

following manufactured products: distribution transformers, commercial air conditioners and heat pumps , and residential furnaces and boilers. To date,energy efficiency standards have saved 7.9 quadrillion BTU ' s of energy representing an estimated \$31.1 billion in reduced energy bills since established in accordance with the requirements of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975.



### ***TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE FLYING LESS OF A DRAG***

A new patent for an invention being applied for by Utah State University may end up saving the already economically distressed airline industry and private, military and transport airplanes hundreds of millions in fuel cost each year. Professor Warren Phillips, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Utah State and a hang glider pilot invented "Twisteron" technology to twist the wings in the same direction during flight to minimize drag on airborne aircraft. When a 747, for example , is cruising at 40000 feet, its engines run only to overcome the force of drag according to Professor Phillips. A typical 747 will burn about 7 gallons of fuel a minute and approximately one half of its weight estimated at up to 750,000 pounds can be fuel. Potential savings could approach a billion dollars per year over the next decade since both jet fuel consumption and price is expected to rise according to Utah State 's Research Foundation's Technology Commercialization Office.

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