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**THE COVER OF THIS EDITION OF *JUDICATURE* HIGHLIGHTS** an article, “Crowdsourcing and Data Analytics: The New Settlement Tools,” that proposes a novel use of technology for reducing the time and costs associated with settlements by crowdsourcing mock juries to generate predictive data around likely case outcomes.

The authors of the piece were among several teams that recently participated in a “Demo Day” sponsored by the Duke Law Tech Lab here at Duke Law School. During the event, teams pitched ideas for using technology to improve the legal system and enhance access to justice. The proposals included a do-it-yourself divorce app, a dispute resolution platform for smart contract-based transactions and distributed economies, and a mobile-optimized



**FROM THE PUBLISHER**

website that allows construction professionals to file liens.

The promise of technology for improving the administration of justice is coming to fruition. Courts are now well familiar with electronic filings, video conferencing, online data management, and other web-based services that are key to efforts to modernize and recognize efficiencies in the courts. But even as many courts are still struggling to find the funding to adopt them, such systems already seem passé in the tech world. We are now on

the cusp of a new wave of legal technology largely focused on the possibilities of artificial intelligence (AI).

These technologies are already at work, perhaps in ways we don't even realize. Some juvenile courts use predictive algorithms to determine recidivism and, by extension, sentencing. In some states, data-sharing between courts and law enforcement has streamlined the warrant process. And China has indicated that it intends to harness big data to teach virtual “judges” to learn from prior cases. As we consider driverless cars, should we also imagine judge-less courts? The possibilities for efficiency and access are many, but the risks are there as well. In addition to the ever-present threat of security breaches and cyberattacks, systems that rely on algorithms and proprietary technologies can usurp the role of the judge and incorporate assumptions or biases that the judge may not be aware of. It is important for judges, particularly judicial leaders and administrators, to stay abreast of these new technologies to understand and avoid the costs while seeing and mobilizing the benefits.

The Bolch Judicial Institute is actively studying and developing programs to address such issues in the law and technology arena. We welcome your input, suggestions, and submissions to *Judicature* on this topic and others pertaining to law and technology, courts and judging, and the study and promotion of the rule of law.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Judicature*.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David F. Levi". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**DAVID F. LEVI**

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