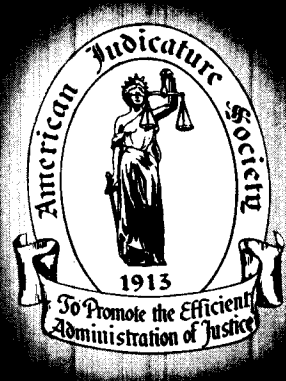


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GLENN R. WINTERS, *Editor*

Robert E. Allard, *Assistant Editor*  
Dori Drestander, *Editorial Assistant*

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**CONTENTS**

1964 Elections Vindicate Merit Plan, *Editorial* ..... 123

The Dictatorship of Irrelevancy, *Editorial* ..... 125

A Missouri Judge Views  
Judicial Selection and Tenure  
by *Elmo B. Hunter* ..... 126

Variations of The Society's Merit Plan,  
Judicial Selection and Tenure ..... 133

Two Dozen Misconceptions About  
Judicial Selection and Tenure  
by *Glenn R. Winters and Bob Allard* ..... 138

Efficient Organization and Effective Administration  
for Today's Courts—The Citizens' Responsibility  
by *William J. Brennan, Jr.* ..... 145

Judicial Selection Reform—  
New York's Unfinished Business  
by *Marion P. Ames* ..... 150 †

Court Modernization Conferences to Continue ..... 152

Governor and Mayor Appoint Commissions ..... 154

The Herbert Harley Portrait ..... 155

Herbert Lincoln Harley, portrait ..... 156

*1964 Elections Vindicate Merit Plan*

THE NATIONAL election that swept President Johnson and most of his party's candidates to victory last month was a landslide, a political landslide, to be sure, but it was not the landslide for judicial reform that the 1962 election was. Fewer judicial reform measures went to the voters in this election than in the previous one, and those that did tended mostly to confirm the wisdom of presenting such issues in elections that are not dominated by national politics.

Most conspicuous on that point was the failure of Oklahoma's State Question 415, to establish a "Court on the Judiciary" for discipline and removal of judges, to gain the majority needed for adoption. Long recognized as a need in all states, the Oklahoma proposal had been in the making for two or three years, and the need for it in that state was dramatized during the campaign by the indictment of two appellate court judges on tax evasion charges and the sentencing of one of them to federal prison. The campaign for adoption of the amendment was well conducted by the Oklahoma Institute for Justice, Inc., a citizens' organization established as a follow-up to the "Modern Courts for Oklahoma" conference in December, 1962. Public sentiment supported the proposal, and the vote was in its favor by 397,823 to 370,675. The need for a percentage of all votes cast, however, was a formidable obstacle to overcome. Many thousands of voters voted for politi-