OUR MISTAKES


SUPREME COURT ARGUMENT FORM

We have this news from Eugene Fidell and his collaborators on the *Pronouncing Dictionary of the Supreme Court*:

As noted in *A Pronouncing Dictionary of the Supreme Court of the United States*, 15 Green Bag 2d 433, 440 n.37 (2012), the Court requires counsel in granted cases to complete an Argument Form that indicates the phonetic pronunciation of the names of counsel and parties. These forms have not been retained in the past, but we are happy to report that the Clerk’s Office will now be keeping them.

The Court does not require use of either the International Phonetic Alphabet (“IPA”) or any other particular system for indicating pronunciation. Typically, counsel use a plain-language system when completing the Argument Form, so that, for example, the pronunciation of “Davies” might be indicated as “DAVE-ease,” indicating emphasis with capital letters. Where these parts of the form have not been completed and there is some uncertainty about pronunciation,
the Clerk’s Office will telephone counsel for clarification. While IPA notation and the user-friendly Pronunciation Guide in BRYAN A. GARNER, DICTIONARY OF LEGAL USAGE xxvii (3d ed. 2011) are more precise (and are employed in the Pronouncing Dictionary), they are not universally known and using them would only impose a burden on the Clerk’s Office. We therefore do not recommend their use on the Argument Form.

The editors welcome corrections and suggestions for additional Pronouncing Dictionary entries. We are also assembling a list of typographical errors in case names.

THOUGHTS FOR A YEAR

The calendars, deskbooks, and such that we lawyers often receive during the winter holidays are boringly predictable – full of lightweight, shopworn, jolly cynicism about the law and its servants. But this year some of us will get something better. The Lawyers Jokes, Quotes, and Anecdotes 2013 Calendar from Andrews McMeel Publishing has plenty of the usual law humor, but much of it is relatively fresh, and it has been selected and arranged with unusual sophistication and care. See, e.g.: