

# Wit and Wisdom

from Faculty on Legal Issues of the Day

**“It’s amazing what we will do** and say when we are shielded from social shaming. You think when you’re doing it online, people are images and things that we attack. It’s depersonalized. This generation has been schooled in the misogyny of bravado. It’s become a point of pride that I can talk that way, too. I can be vicious. Young women are jumping on this, thinking it’s empowering. It’s anything but.”

—*Danielle Citron* in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, speaking about online bullying.

**“For many African-Americans** and Latinos, Justice Sotomayor’s confirmation hearings were far from the kind of courageous and honest dialogue Attorney General Holder encouraged. Instead, the treatment of Judge Sotomayor served as confirmation of entrenched racism in our society – proof that no how matter accomplished, no matter how qualified, no matter how reasonable they have shown themselves to be, minorities will be viewed by some in positions of power and authority as untrustworthy, unintelligent and undeserving of respect.”

—*Sberrilyn Ifill* in a *Baltimore Sun* op-ed about race and justice.

**“In the last couple of years** people are starting to be aware that if they have these units in their car, people can keep track of you. I think it’s a growing public awareness. The problem is that most people feel like, ‘I’m not doing anything wrong, so who cares?’ But I think that’s the wrong way of looking at it.”

—*Renée Hutchins* in a *New York Times* article about Fourth Amendment protections for the use of GPS data.

**“Did China and India suddenly have gigantic needs for new oil products in a single day? No. Everybody agrees supply-demand could not drive the price up \$25, which was a record increase in the price of oil. The price of oil went from somewhere in the \$60s to \$147 in less than a year. And we were being told during that run-up, it’s supply-demand, supply-demand, supply-demand.”**

—*Michael Greenberger* on *60 Minutes*, discussing the role of speculation in driving up oil prices, including a one-day jump of \$25.

**“No one has done a decent job** of covering the four years that Thurgood Marshall practiced in Baltimore. It was a very active period, but it was difficult to get at. He did major civil rights cases, but he also tried to keep his private practice.”

—**Larry Gibson** in the *Washington Post*, announcing the opening of the new exhibit “Thurgood Marshall’s Early Career in Maryland: 1933-1937” in the Marshall Law Library.

**“The AIG bailout is a wealth transfer** scheme in the guise of a public investment in a supposedly going concern. In plain English, AIG is winding up its derivative business. Since it was on the losing side of derivatives bets, wind up means payment to winners.”

—**Robert Rhee** in a *National Law Journal* op-ed about the AIG bailout.

**“The longer an accused remains unrepresented and unable to challenge the government’s case, the more likely delay jeopardizes a fair trial. The prosecutor’s decisive advantage often results in unjust convictions and coerced pleas.”**

—**Douglas Colbert**, writing in *The National Law Journal* about equal justice for poor people accused of committing a crime.

**“During the Bush years,** it was all too common for administration political appointees to suppress or reshape scientific findings. They infamously tried to suppress a report by EPA scientists on the scope of global warming, for example. But ending such heavy-handed manipulation by political appointees is the low-hanging fruit of the effort to restore science to its rightful role in policymaking. It absolutely needs to be picked, but there’s much more to harvest.”

—**Rena Steinzor** in a *Baltimore Sun* op-ed about the relationship between science and policy.

**“Those restrictions have** hamstrung legal aid lawyers for years. They are unjust, unethical and undermine the lawyer/client relationship in many important respects. Lifting the restrictions would make for the more efficient use scarce resources and increase judicial efficiency and the efficiency of legal aid lawyers. If you’re a private lawyer, you can take all of these actions. Why are lawyers for the poor limited?”

—**Michael Millemann** in the *Daily Record* supporting a proposal to end restrictions, including a ban on pursuing class-action lawsuits, imposed by Congress on all independent legal aid programs that receive federal funding.