Editor’s Note

Earlier this year, the Boston Bar Association published *Justice on the Road to Ruin*, a report with disturbing ramifications for lawyers, litigants, and frankly, anyone who cares about the soundness of our justice system. According to the BBA report, funding for the Massachusetts Trial Court has plummeted by 14 per cent in just three and a half years — resulting in the loss of over 1,000 experienced employees. By contrast, appropriations for the rest of state government were reduced by 2.2 per cent during that same period.

Despite the valiant efforts of judges and court personnel to implement sound management strategies for making do with less, the reality is that inadequate funding — resulting in real pain for real people — continues to be of pressing concern to *Boston Bar Journal* readers. Over the next several issues of the *Journal*, we will be presenting a series of articles detailing the impact of a justice system starved for resources.

In this edition, Manisha Bhatt has written an article about the impact of funding cuts in Family Court on probate litigants and their lawyers. We invite similar submissions from our readers. How has the reduction of funding for our state courts affected you? What tips might you have for fellow practitioners working in the state courts?

The *Journal*’s Board of Editors recognizes that state funding raises a host of important policy questions and that reasonable minds may differ as to what is the most prudent course of action. Accordingly, we take no position on these questions, deferring to the BBA’s policy-making body, the Council. We seek, rather, to present the funding, facility, management, and operational challenges facing the state courts from a variety of perspectives, in hopes of illuminating the effect of a struggling court system on the people who work in or seek justice through it each day, and enriching our readers’ knowledge of our third, co-equal branch of government, on which all the citizens of Massachusetts depend for the resolution of disputes and preservation of rights.