

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

In the Modern Court, It's Not "Business" as Usual: Case Study. By Bradford C. Brown, et al.

MITRE Corporation. Sep. 2012. 3 p.

http://www.mitre.org/work/tech_papers/2012/12_1812/12_1812.pdf

The MITRE Corporation, a nonprofit organization chartered to work with courts to improve efficiency, has developed a set of algorithms for scheduling cases that reduce docket volatility and increase court efficiency. The algorithms require electronic filing of court cases to gather data, and then schedule the cases according to the developed algorithms. More efficient scheduling allows greater efficiency and less costs for courtroom use.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Older Americans 2012: Key Indicators of Well-Being.* Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Aug. 2012. 200 p.**

http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/main_site/default.aspx

“The demographics of aging continue to change dramatically. The older population is growing rapidly, and the aging of the ‘Baby Boomers’ born between 1946 and 1964 (and who began turning age 65 in 2011), are accelerating this growth. This large population of older Americans will be more racially diverse and better educated than previous generations. Another significant trend is the increase in the proportion of men age 85 and over who are veterans.”

ECONOMY

***Investing in the Human Capital of Immigrants, Strengthening Regional Economies.* By Audrey Singer. Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. Sep. 2012. 12 p.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/9/20%20immigrants%20human%20capital%20singer/immigrants%20human%20capital%20singer.pdf>

“Coming out of the Great Recession, slow economic recovery has U.S. communities seeking strategies that will grow jobs in the short term and improve standards of living over the long term. This paper examines how geographic regions can invest in the human capital and economic advancement of immigrants who are already living in their jurisdictions, to help boost short- and long-term U.S. economic growth, and highlights programs and partnerships that work to unlock and build skills of immigrants.”

EDUCATION

***Annual Report Card on California Teacher Preparation Programs for the Academic Year 2010-2011.* By Marjorie Suckow. Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Oct. 2012. 999 p.**

http://www.ctc.ca.gov/reports/T2_State_Report_2010-2011.pdf

This report reviews teacher preparation programs in California for the academic year 2010-11. The number of students enrolled annually in teacher preparation courses has dropped steadily since 2006. A total of 51,744 students were enrolled in 2006 while only 34,838 were enrolled in 2011. Overall, 71% of students enrolled in teacher preparation courses were women and 56% were white. The report reviews a variety of topics including admission rates, graduation rates, scores on various credentialing tests, low-performing programs, technology, and classroom-based teacher training.

***California's Fiscal Returns on Investments in Higher Education.* By Jon Stiles, et al. UC Berkeley Center for Studies in Higher Education. Oct. 2012. 14 p.**

<http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/docs/ROPS.Stiles%20et%20al.ReturnOnInvestment.10.2.2012.pdf>

“The next generation of college graduates will contribute significantly to the future of the state and its residents. By the time today’s college graduates reach age 50 they will have repaid the nearly \$4.5 billion dollars the state originally invested in them, plus an additional \$10 billion. As the state seeks to balance the budget, it must consider the investment value, the rate of return that is inherent in certain expenditures; in this case, the funding of higher education. This report concludes that the investment in education is critical to the ultimate success of California.”

EMPLOYMENT

The California Economy: Employment in 2012. By Marisol Cuellar Mejia. Public Policy Institute of California. Oct. 2012. 2 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_EmploymentReviewJTF.pdf

California's non-farm employment grew 2.1% in August. This was the ninth strongest growth rate in the nation. Services in professional / scientific / technical, health care, administrative / support, and accommodation / food sectors led the way in adding 360,300 jobs between June 2009 and August 2012. Government sector jobs fell by 143,100 since the end of the recession, offsetting private industry gains of 416,900 jobs during this same time period. Job growth has been strongest in the San Jose region (5.6% increase) and weakest in the Sacramento region (1.9% decrease).

ENERGY

Technology Road Map: Fuel Economy of Road Vehicles. International Energy Agency. Sep. 14, 2012. 50 p.

<http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/name,31269,en.html>

"Most technologies for improving the fuel economy of two-wheelers, light-duty vehicles (LDV) and heavy-duty vehicles (HDV) are already commercially available and cost effective. Compared with 2005 levels, the potential for improving the fuel economy of all vehicle types within the 2030 time frame ranges from 30% to 50%. This represents a very important opportunity for saving oil and cutting carbon dioxide (CO₂) over the coming two decades and beyond."

ENVIRONMENT

Where Does California's Water Come From? Land Conservation and the Watersheds that Supply California's Drinking Water. By Kirk Klausmeyer, et al. The Nature Conservancy of California. Oct. 2012. 34 p.

http://www.nature.org/media/california/california_drinking-water-sources-2012.pdf

This study "is the most extensive and detailed ever done on where the state's surface water originates and how protected the land is in the watersheds that supply it. Eighty-two percent of the water supplied by public water districts for domestic and other uses comes from rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other surface water sources. Overall, California requires nearly 157 million acres of land and multiple watersheds spanning eight states to collect and deliver drinking water.... [M]uch of our in-state surface water originates in the snowpack of the Sierra Nevada, whose runoff into rivers and streams provides drinking water to 65% of Californians." (Nature Conservancy, Oct. 12, 2012).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voter Identification: A Brief Introduction. By Laura Parker. California Research Bureau. S-12-010. Oct. 2012. 2 p.

http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/12/Voter_ID_Short_Subject_FINAL.pdf

"In 2011, state legislators introduced and passed a record number of bills to tighten voter registration procedures, restrict early or absentee voting, or require that citizens provide proof of identity before voting. Often enacted along partisan lines, voter participation policies have become high-profile, contentious issues in state politics. This brief provides an overview of one such policy: voter identification or voter ID."

HOUSING

National Fair Housing Alliance, et al. vs. Bank of America Corp. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity. Sep. 25, 2012. 28 p.

[http://www.nationalfairhousing.org/Portals/33/2012-09-25 Bank of America complaint with exhibits smaller.PDF](http://www.nationalfairhousing.org/Portals/33/2012-09-25%20Bank%20of%20America%20complaint%20with%20exhibits%20smaller.PDF)

The National Fair Housing Alliance has filed a complaint against Bank of America for violating the Fair Housing Act by maintaining Real-Estate Owned (REO) homes in predominantly white neighborhoods in better condition than REO homes in African-American and Latino neighborhoods, as well as other “communities of color.” The complainants’ charges come from a study of homes in eight metropolitan areas – including Oakland, Richmond, and Concord, California.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Paycheck to Paycheck

<http://www.nhc.org/chp/p2p/>

The Center for Housing Policy has created an interactive database on wage information for over 70 occupations, and for home prices and rents in more than 200 metropolitan areas. Policy makers can use this database to analyze the wages necessary to purchase or rent a home. A variety of California cities are listed, including Chico, Bakersfield, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Characteristics of Fatal Crashes Involving 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers with Teenage Passengers. By Allan F. Williams, et al. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Oct. 2012. 21 p.

<http://www.aaafoundation.org/pdf/2012FatalCrashCharacteristicsTeenDriversAndPassengers.pdf>

There were more than 9,500 fatal crashes involving 16- or 17-year old drivers nationally during 2005-2010, and 588 in California. “Although most state graduated driver licensing systems now include a restriction on carrying passengers for the first several months of licensed independent driving, teenage passengers still are present in more than two of every five fatal crashes of 16- and 17-year old drivers. The data presented in this report can help states identify remaining targets of opportunity to prevent fatal crashes that involve teenage drivers with teenage passengers through refinements to their graduated driver licensing programs as well as ... enhanced enforcement of existing laws.”

About *Studies in the News*

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