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WHITHER STATE IMMUNITY?: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE
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Recent developments in the area of state immunity evidence a substantial influence on the future of the doctrine in international law. The author discusses in detail the European Convention on State Immunity and Additional Protocol of 1972, the United States Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976, the British State Immunity Act of 1978, and the Singapore State Immunity Act of 1979. He compares the four and makes suggestions about how they have individually and collectively affected the development of the doctrine.

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The author believes that applying the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code governing the tax treatment of payments made incident to separation and divorce has become complicated and unpredictable. In this article, Professor Lynch examines how I.R.C. sections 71 and 215 have developed, given congressional intent, with respect to the definition of an obligation of support, the differentiation between a support obligation and a property interest, and the periodic payment requirement. He concludes with suggestions aimed at simplifying the law with respect to these payments.

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Pennsylvania's Post Conviction Hearing Act includes several provisions designed to discourage repetitive requests for collateral relief from criminal convictions. According to the author, a series of decisions by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, culminating in *Commonwealth v. Watlington*, have weakened these protective measures by making them vulnerable to frivolous allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel. The author examines the leading decisions and discusses the supreme court's recent attempt, in *Commonwealth v. Alexander*, to provide guidelines to lower courts for dealing with petitions making these allegations. He concludes by proposing a statutory modification to the Post Conviction Hearing Act which would empower lower courts to dispose of such petitions in a summary proceeding that determines whether specific errors by prior counsel prejudiced the petitioner's constitutional rights.

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