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Articles

THE BROKEN SAFETY VALVE: JUDICIAL DISCRETION'S FAILURE TO AMELIORATE PUNISHMENT UNDER CALIFORNIA'S THREE STRIKES LAW
Alex Ricciardulli 1

This Article suggests that the power of judges to reduce sentences imposed under California's Three Strikes law has not diminished the severity of punishment meted out under the law. The Article traces the development of California's Three Strikes Law, assesses the importance of judicial discretion in analyzing the constitutionality of the Three Strikes Law, and illustrates the limited nature of judicial power under the law. The Article also analyzes empirical evidence concerning the Three Strikes law to determine that the evidence corroborates the inefficacy of judicial power. The Article concludes that there are only two meaningful ways to alleviate the impact of the law: remedial legislation and/or through a constitutional decision categorically barring a life sentence for most nonviolent, non-serious crimes.

ENRON: THE FINAL STRAW & HOW TO BUILD PENSIONS OF BRICK
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The Author traces the collapse of Enron from a legal perspective, focusing on the ramifications the company's failure had on 401(k) pension accounts. The Article uses Enron and other case studies to conclude that new legislation is required to enable 401(k) pensioners to build a secure retirement and protect against external risk.

POST-ELECTION LITIGATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

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The Article focuses on the causes and consequences of post-election litigation in Pennsylvania. The Authors conclude that the Pennsylvania Election Code has been strictly construed by Pennsylvania courts out of a reluctance to interfere with, and to promote, the finality of election returns.

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