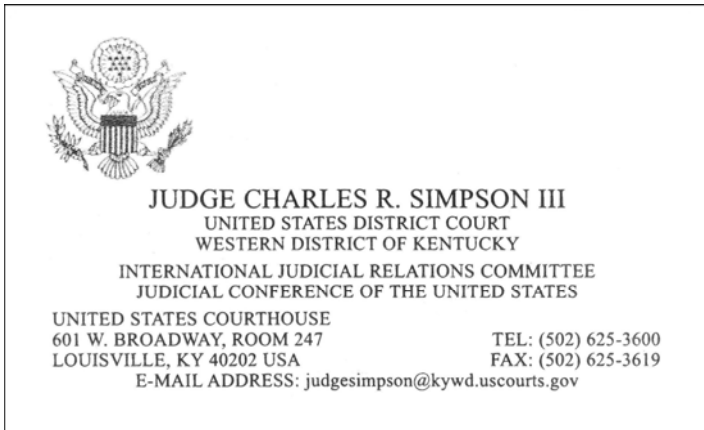


Ex Ante

ways. For example, most semantic ambiguity – in the sense of divergent meanings based on different contexts – is readily resolved by the surrounding text of a legal document; language users are not even aware that there is an ambiguity in the first place. Thus, we know that “bank deposits” almost certainly does not refer to something found near a river bank as long as the statute deals with financial institutions rather than the environment.

3. *Contemporary issues.* The third catch-all definition (referring to any uncertainty in meaning) is unfortunate because it blurs many different sources of textual uncertainty – such as semantic and syntactic ambiguity, vagueness, open-ended texts, and generality. The better catch-all phrase is linguistic “uncertainty.” See Entry: Ch. 1 – Uncertainty about meaning.

- WILLIAM D. POPKIN, A DICTIONARY OF STATUTORY INTERPRETATION 11 (Carolina 2007).



INTERNATIONAL CALLING CARD — THE ANSWER

Pictured above is the answer to the question we asked on page 154 of the Winter issue. Look for more about the International Judicial Relations Committee in future issues.

