

process of law (if the school is a public institution). The threat of litigation makes some academic administrators gun-shy about expelling students caught plagiarizing.

THE JURIST'S MARCH

Fully two thousand spectators crowded the lawn on the west side of the United States Capitol on May 10, 1884, to witness the unveiling of a large bronze statue of Chief Justice John Marshall. According to the *Washington Post*,

The programme began with the rendition by the Marine band of "The Jurist's March," composed for the occasion by Prof. Sousa.

The *Green Bag* would like to hear that march. Unfortunately, as best we can tell, John Phillip Sousa did not write "The Jurist's March."

He wrote 136 marches, but none of them were for or about lawyers. We are pretty sure that the Marine band was not playing Tchaikovsky's "Jurisprudence March," which is sometimes called the "Jurist's March." It was not written until November 1885, and was performed for the first time on December 5, 1885, during a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the composer's alma mater, the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in St. Petersburg. (Yes, Tchaikovsky spent some time in law school.)



And so we are still searching.

It is possible that the *Post* misreported the title and provenance of the tune played by the Marine band that day. After all, the story opens with this characterization of Marshall's place in the sequence of Chief Justices of the United States:

Ex Ante

The bronze statue of John Marshall, of Virginia, first Chief Justice of the United States, was unveiled with fitting ceremonies in the Capitol grounds yesterday.

Marshall was the third, fourth, or fifth Chief Justice, depending on how one reads the history of the Court. He was not the first.

Any word about the march performed by the Marine band on the western terraces of Capitol Hill on May 10, 1884, would be most appreciated. If you have any information or ideas along these lines, please drop us a line at editors@greenbag.org.

● *Perpetuated in Bronze*, WASH. POST, May 11, 1881; Morrison R. Waite, *Address at the Unveiling of the Statue of John Marshall at the U.S. Capitol*, 2006 GREEN BAG ALM. 193.

AMBIGUITY CLARIFIED

William D. Popkin's new *Dictionary of Statutory Interpretation* is filled with usefully extended treatments of important and interesting legal terms. Surely his most ambitious, and quixotic, effort is the definition and treatment of ambiguity:

1. *Definition*. "Ambiguity" is ambiguous:
 - (1) It can refer to semantic ambiguity, when there are two divergent meanings based on different contextual settings, such as – a monarch can be a butterfly or a ruler, depending on whether the context is botany or government; a tomato can be a fruit or vegetable, depending on whether the context is botany or colloquial/business (*Nix v. Hedden*, 149 U.S. 304 (1893) (tomato is a vegetable in colloquial and business usage)). See Entry: Ch. 1 – Semantic ambiguity.
 - (2) It can refer to syntactic ambiguity, as when a dependent clause can have one or multiple references (for example, A, B, or C which etc.). See Entry: Ch. 1 – Syntactic ambiguity.
 - (3) It can be a catch-all phrase, referring to any uncertainty in statutory meaning.
2. *Relevance for statutory interpretation*. Confusion over the meaning of "ambiguity" is important only because different sources of uncertainty are likely to be resolved in different