

Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy pledged ... to award his own Rehnquist bobblehead to the court that made the most progress in reducing its criminal case backlog over the first six months of the year.

Several other courts in the Orange, Windham, Bennington, and Chittenden districts also did a good job of reducing their backlogs. As a result, said Chief Judge Brian Burgess of the Orange District Court, “this trophy will tour the other above mentioned courts over the next couple of months, as reduction in backlog continues.”

---

*appellateblog.blogspot.com; Alan J. Keays, Rutland court wins noddin' noggin award, Rutland Herald, Sept. 7, 2004.*



## The Geography of Justices

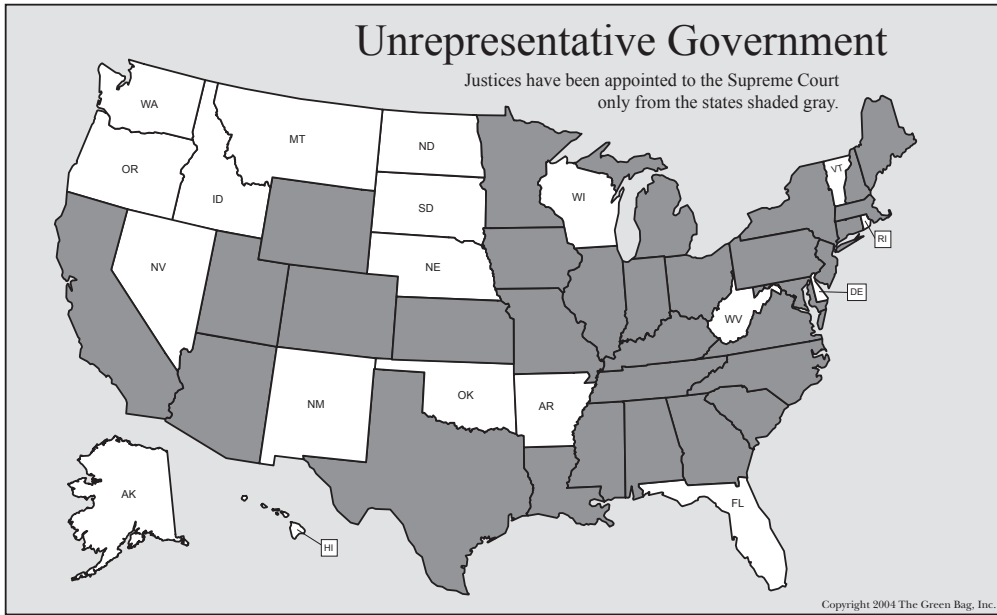
**I**N 1978, AN ANALYST of Supreme Court appointments wrote:

The nineteen states which have not yet had a person appointed to the Court have tended to be the least populated of their region. However, the geographical representation argument seems to be plausible and should operate to the advantage of some of these states prior to the conclusion of this century. One can reasonably expect that Presidents will continue to be concerned with the geographic factor, and that officials from the as yet unrepresented states will continue to call attention to their status when vacancies occur on the Court.

Wrong. More than a quarter-century after that prediction was published, there are still nineteen states that have not yet sent a citizen to the Supreme Court. See the map on the next page.

Surely Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has part of the explanation:

The Supreme Court and other appellate courts benefit by having judges from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Most people these days live in



urban areas. There are fewer people of rural backgrounds to go around, on the bench or elsewhere.

But how about Delaware, which has been waiting its turn for 217 years? Florida was rural once upon a time, but not anymore – not in a long time. And can it really be true that the Northwest and the Northern Plains are as empty of Supreme Court material as they are of megalopoli?

*William J. Daniels, The Geographic Factor in Appointments to the United States Supreme Court: 1789–1976, 31 WESTERN POL. Q. 226 (1978); Robert Henry, It's a Long Way to Certiorari: Sandra Day O'Connor @ Her Lazy B, 6 GREEN BAG 2D 425 (2003).*



## ABA Memorabilia

“THE MOST MEMORABLE THING a law professor ever said to you” was the subject of the “Answers of the Week” feature in the June 8 edition of the *ABA Journal eReport*. The winning memory was Willamette Professor (now emeritus) Claudia Burton’s advice on how to sound