

# Gavel to Gavel

A review of state legislation affecting the courts

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## *Focus: Prefiled legislation*

As most legislatures start to come back into session for 2008, many are offering some insights into what the next year has to offer for the state courts. Many are reintroductions of legislation from the immediate past session while others are brand new offerings.

## *Newly Introduced*

### **Selection**

[MISSOURI HJR 49 \(2008\)](#) Increases to 9 the number of people on the Appellate Judicial Commission, 5 to be non-attorneys appointed by the Governor. (Current commission: 7 people, 3 non-attorney members) No committee yet assigned

[WISCONSIN AJR 81 \(2007\)](#) Moves nonpartisan elections, including that of judges and justices, from Spring to November. In Assembly Elections and Constitutional Law committee

### **Qualifications and Terms**

NONE

### **Rule Making Authority**

#### [SOUTH CAROLINA HB 4370 \(2008\)](#)

Removes Supreme Court's power over bar admission and attorney discipline. Places authority under General Assembly to pass laws "consistent with the manner by which the General Assembly regulates other professions that require a doctorate degree." In House Judiciary committee

#### [SOUTH CAROLINA HB 4371 \(2008\)](#)

Removes Supreme Court's power over bar admission and attorney discipline. Creates Commission on the Legal Profession and Judiciary under the Department of Labor's Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing. Commission to have power over bar admission and attorney discipline. In House Judiciary committee

### **Structure Changes**

NONE



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## Jurisdiction

[ARIZONA SCR 1004 \(2008\)](#) Allows Superior Court to have original jurisdiction over dissolution of marriage and annulment (currently, only has original jurisdiction over divorce and annulment). No committee yet assigned

[MISSOURI HB 1417 \(2008\)](#) Raises small claims jurisdiction from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Not yet assigned to committee

## Salary and Budget

NONE

## Other

NONE

## *Floor and Committee Activity*

### [PENNSYLVANIA SB 584 \(2007\)](#)

ORIGINAL: Allows for creation of drug courts as a special criminal docket. Creates statewide drug court coordinator.

AMENDED: Allows for creation of problem solving courts as a special criminal docket. Creates statewide problem solving court coordinator. Approved as amended by Senate Judiciary committee

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