

Editor's Corner

Political Science Goes to Court arises from a discussion Bernard Grofman and I had last summer over lunch about ideas for *PS*. I had known Bernie primarily as the conduit for manuscripts from the reclusive *PS* author A Wuffle.

We agreed that an issue on reapportionment and specifically the role of political scientists as expert witnesses in the courts would have broad appeal to our readership. The California case of *Badham v. Eu* provides the perfect vehicle. The late, politically savvy Philip Burton was said to have fashioned California's congressional district lines on the back of an envelope with the apparent result—upon adoption by the State of California—of adding at least six new Democratic seats to the congressional delegation. Cries of "We were robbed!" were heard from Republicans throughout the country and the case has been brought to court.

Does California's congressional reapportionment constitute an unconstitutional gerrymander? Who better to ask than political scientists?

Four political scientists have been called upon to serve as expert witnesses in *Bad-*

ham v. Eu: Grofman and Gordon Baker whose declarations support the arguments of the plaintiffs, and Nelson W. Polsby and Bruce Cain who warn that elimination of the gerrymander is unwise even if it were possible.

After a useful introduction by Grofman, excerpts of the declarations of the four political scientists appear. Our purpose is to give readers a taste of the memoranda submitted. Because space is limited, much has been omitted, including some material which is referenced but not presented in the declarations. We have performed minimal editing to be faithful to the original text.

Guest editor Grofman has been scrupulous in separating his work as editor from that as a party in the case, as you will see. He also convinced A Wuffle to write an addendum to the symposium to evaluate the techniques used by the expert witnesses and to provide some lessons for use by other political scientists who venture into the courts as expert witnesses.

Catherine Rudder