

Bathroom Reader

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WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Stambovsky v. Ackley, 572 N.Y.S.2d 672 (1991), also known as the “Ghostbusters” ruling, is a classic contracts case addressing undisclosed conditions as a basis for contract rescission. While that ruling moved away from traditional *caveat emptor* principles, more can be said about the buyer’s need to “beware” in this case.



The “haunted” house.

In a 1977 Reader’s Digest article, Helen Ackley described the three ghosts that frequented the home, one of which was named Sir George, a Navy lieutenant during the American Revolution. Tarrytown, NY, across the Hudson River from the Nyack home, was made famous by Washington Irving’s Halloween tale *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The home was eventually sold by the Ackleys and, since the Ghostbusters ruling, ghost hunters have frequented the home looking to

contact some of the lower Hudson Valley spirits. Sir George and Margaret, the lady ghost of the home, have reported that the home is not quite as fun since the Ackleys departed.

CIRCUIT RIDERS



The practice of riding circuit by Supreme Court Justices is a concept at least as old as the federal judiciary and has a storied history that spans the first Judiciary Act of 1789 required two Supreme Court Justices sit with one local district judge twice a year in the three circuits then in existence. The purpose of the duty of holding court in the circuits—“riding circuit”—was to keep the Justices in touch with local communities.

Circuit riding responsibility was arduous. Justices received injuries and became ill during their travels on horseback. Despite the pleas of the Justices to be relieved of their burdens as circuit riders, Congress did not listen. Several bills aimed at eliminating circuit riding were introduced in Congress unsuccessfully until, in 1869, Congress established a new circuit court system and provided for the appointment of permanent circuit court judges,

repealing this requirement.

While some justices still hear cases in their assigned circuits, fortunately for them they no longer have to ride a horse to get there.

MORE THAN A GAME

Has your team ever lost so badly that it just seemed criminal? Judges in Louisiana certainly think so. LSU economists found that judges who were LSU grads handed down harsher sentences in juvenile courts after the LSU Tigers lost a football game. Some kids, especially those of color, faced up to twice as long behind bars if LSU lost when it was ranked in the top 10.

Some worry that data-driven analysis may be misleading because it ignores important context. But this research shows how big data is being used to reveal human bias in the criminal justice system. These economists hope their research will add to the growing evidence showing that emotions influence decision-making. The influence of a loss may not be the case nationwide, however, and it’s unknown how Hawai‘i judges react after a Warriors loss. *Adopted from The Atlantic* <http://tinyurl.com/z66rqf9>.