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Don't try judges in the media

Regarding recent attacks on judges of the Maricopa County Superior Court:

The State Bar of Arizona has a deep concern that these attacks will serve to undermine the legal process.

When one analyzes objectively the import of the decisions being criticized, it becomes apparent that the stated justification of seeking to inform the public of matters threaten the public safety cannot be sustained.

To the contrary, these attacks appear to be transparent attempts to cow the judiciary into rulings that are acceptable to the source of these attacks. The prospect of having a decision vilified on the front page of your newspaper cannot help but have a chilling effect on the ability of a judge to evaluate independently the legal merits of an issue that has been presented for decision.

There is a correct way to question a judge's actions, and that is through the appellate courts or the Commission on Judicial Conduct, and not through the media.

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