

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Where the Money Goes: Understanding Litigant Expenditures for Producing Electronic Discovery.

By Nicholas M. Pace, et al. RAND. Apr. 2012. 158 p.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1208.html>

"Pretrial discovery procedures ... encourage an exchange of information that will help narrow the issues being litigated, eliminate surprise at trial, and achieve substantial justice. But, in recent years ... the societal shift from paper documents to electronically stored information (ESI) has led to sharper increases in discovery costs than in the overall cost of litigation.... The monograph provides a[n] account of the resources required by a diverse set of very large companies ... to comply with what they described as typical e-discovery requests [and] ... suggests ways to reduce those costs as well as address concerns over duties to preserve data in anticipation of litigation."

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Generational Projections of the California Population By Nativity and Year of Immigrant Arrival. By John Pitkin, et al. Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Apr. 2012. 49 p.

http://www.usc.edu/schools/price/futures/pdf/2012_Pitkin-Myers_CA-Pop-Projections.pdf

“California is at the cusp of a major generational transition. The large generation born during the national Baby Boom in the 1940s and 1950s is beginning to leave their prime working ages. At the same time, a rising generation born in the California baby boom of the 1990s, many the children of immigrants who arrived in the 1980s and 1990s, will soon be adults and entering the workforce. The impending changes pose the state with both great opportunities and urgent challenges that need to be addressed.”

The Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California. Mount St. Mary’s College. Mar. 2012. 52 p.

<http://www.msmc.la.edu/PDFFiles/status-of-women/RSWG-2012-Final-high.pdf>

“[W]omen lag behind men in reaching positions of power. Until women reach parity with men in these areas, we have not reached the vanishing point of inequality, and we are short-changing California and our country by losing the significant contributions that women can bring to our economy and society. This report seeks to contribute not only to the understanding of the status of women and girls in California, but to inspire deliberate steps that can be taken to address continuing inequalities.”

ECONOMY

Public Investment: The Next ‘New Thing’ for Powering Economic Growth. By Josh Bivens. Economic Policy Institute. Briefing Paper No. 338. Apr. 18, 2012. 18 p.

<http://www.epi.org/files/2012/bp338.pdf>

There is much research that points to the economic benefits associated with the power of public investments as a significant driver in long-term productivity growth. “This paper summarizes what the research tells us about the role of public investment in driving broad and long-term economic growth and constructs estimates of how much an increased effort in public investment could boost growth in the coming decade.”

EDUCATION

California’s Early Assessment Program: Its Effectiveness and the Obstacles to Successful Program Implementation. By Hilary McLean. Policy Analysis for California Education. Mar. 2012. 34 p.

http://www.stanford.edu/group/pace/PUBLICATIONS/PACE_EAP_March_2012.pdf

“The Early Assessment Program (EAP) has emerged as a national model for states seeking to design policies that increase the number of students who leave high school ready for college and careers.... The report describes the key features of the EAP, with a particular focus on the ways ... the program can help to strengthen coherence and alignment in California’s fragmented educational system.... [It also] reviews the available research on the EAP and its impact on student access and success in post-secondary education, and identifies ways in which the program could be modified to increase its value to California students and educators.”

EMPLOYMENT

America's Human Capital Paradox. By Thomas A. Kochan. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Mar. 2012. 32 p.

http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1197&context=up_workingpapers

Investing in human capital will help the economy to be competitive and raise the standard of living. However, the economy undervalues the people side of work. Human capital investment is not prioritized. Instead, firms prioritize shareholder and financial considerations over human resources. Wages for most of the labor force have stagnated and inequalities grow even as job satisfaction declines and unions receive little support from public and private employers. Business, labor, government, and education leaders need to work together to implement long-term policy and institutional reform aimed at high productivity with high-wage practices as the new norm and accepted standard.

ENERGY

Paying Too Much for Energy? The True Costs of Our Energy Choices. By Michael Greenstone, et al. Brookings Institution. Apr. 17, 2012. 21 p.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2012/04_energy_greenstone_looney/04_energy_greenstone_looney.pdf

"Energy consumption is critical to economic growth and quality of life. America's energy system, however, is malfunctioning. The status quo is characterized by a tilted playing field, where energy choices are based on the visible costs that appear on utility bills and at the gas pump. This system masks the external costs arising from those energy choices...." The authors suggest policy changes, including appropriately pricing the external costs of energy production and use, and using cost-benefit analysis to make proposed regulations more effective.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

State of the Air 2012. American Lung Association. Apr. 2012. 51 p.

<http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/advocacy/fight-for-air-quality/sota-2012/state-of-the-air-2012.html>

"Although California still has some of the worst air in the nation, continuous progress in reducing ozone and particulate pollution has resulted in the state's air quality at its cleanest since the Lung Association's annual report began 13 years ago." The Los Angeles region shows particularly noteworthy success in reducing particle pollution over the years. Unhealthy levels of air pollution still exist in many California cities and counties, but these findings "reinforce the effectiveness of California's progressive clean air laws and investments and the importance of the Clean Air Act."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Recent Studies Find Raising Taxes on High-Income Households Would Not Harm the Economy: Policy Should Be Included in Balanced Deficit-Reduction Effort. By Chye-Ching Huang. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Apr. 24, 2012. 23 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/4-24-12tax.pdf>

"The research in the field does not provide strong evidence that modestly raising tax rates at the top of the income scale would have significant growth-reducing effects on labor supply, taxable income, savings

and investment, or entrepreneurship. Including [base-broadening] revenue-raising measures in a larger deficit-reduction effort would ... facilitate enactment of a large package that also includes sizeable expenditure reductions. It would represent a more balanced approach to deficit reduction than the alternative of shielding higher-income Americans from tax increases and thereby requiring low- and middle-income Americans to shoulder most of the load. Fairness, as well as growth, matters for tax policy."

HEALTH

Annual Survey of Catastrophic Football Injuries: 1977-2001. By Frederick O. Mueller, et al. National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research, University of North Carolina. Apr. 2012. 33 p.
<http://www.unc.edu/depts/nccsi/FBCATReport2011.pdf>

"Catastrophic brain injuries associated with full-contact football appear to be rising, especially among high school students.... Since 1984, there have been 488 cervical cord and cerebral injuries with incomplete recovery, including 164 brain injuries, of which 148 were among high schoolers. Additionally, the years between 2001 to 2010 saw a 25% jump in football-related disability brain injuries over the previous decade, increasing to 66 from 52 incidents among all types of players." (*ScienceDaily*, Apr.16, 2012).

HOUSING

A Comparative Context for U.S. Housing Policy: Housing Markets and the Financial Crisis In Europe, Asia, and Beyond. By Ashok Bardhan, et al. Bipartisan Policy Center. Apr. 2012. 36 p.
http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/housing%20comparative%20context_4-11.pdf

The U.S. housing system has distinct characteristics from that of systems around the world: a mortgage interest tax deduction, a relatively high proportion of long-term fixed-rate loans, no fees for mortgage prepayment, and a predominance of non-recourse loans (mortgages secured only by the house and not the borrower's other assets). This comparison and analysis of housing markets around the world offers some lessons on how housing institutions and regulations may have contributed to the housing boom and bust, and what role they played in the extent of the global financial crisis.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

State of Charge: Electric Vehicles' Global Warming Emissions and Fuel-Cost Savings Across the United States. By Don Anair, et al. Union of Concerned Scientists. Apr. 2012. 64 p.
http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_vehicles/electric-car-global-warming-emissions-report.pdf

This report compares the global warming emissions and the costs of driving on electricity to that of driving on gasoline in 50 large cities, including seven in California. The report estimated, through a "wells to wheels," full fuel-cycle methodology, that for the California cities, the global warming emissions due to electric vehicles were equivalent to gasoline-powered vehicles attaining 79 miles per gallon.

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