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From the Editor

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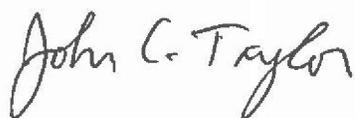
From the Editor...

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2018 issue of the Journal of Transportation Management (JTM), being Vol. 29 No 1! This issue of the Journal is dedicated to legal issues in primarily the trucking industry. The issue starts with an article on legal issues in E-Commerce trucking, includes a second article on in-transit cargo crime impacting the retail supply chain, moves to an article on item response theory models and how well they work with FMCSA data, goes to a fourth article on rail related alternatives, has a fifth article on discovery issues related to trucking accidents, and concludes with a reprinted article, from a recent JTM issue, on what FMCSA is measuring with safety fitness determinations and the impact on due process.

Our first article examines legal issues in trucking, related to home delivery in retail distribution. A number of unresolved issues related to home delivery contracting, regulatory, and risk transfer issues involving selection and retention of carriers are explored. The second article is on in-transit cargo crime impacting the retail supply chain. The authors explore the extent of the problem and offer a number of suggestions for preventing in-transit crime. The third manuscript explores item response theory models and how well they work with FMCSA data. The article concludes that IRT models have the potential to provide a stable and fair scoring system. Whether it can achieve this goal will depend on the availability of accurate relevant data on all the important aspects of "Safety Culture." The fourth article examines the potential for rail services. The article postulates that rail may be a viable alternative for a growing number of commodities, and specifically examines the viability of rail services for the wine industry. The fifth article looks at discovery issues related to trucking accidents. The article suggests that trucking company's efforts to preclude discovery or admission of preventability determinations in a lawsuit are bolstered by FMCSA statements. The sixth article, reprinted from a recent issue of JTM, is a law review style piece that looks at what the FMCSA is really measuring with its use of big data in safety fitness determinations, and the impact on due process. The author suggests that the successive efforts of FMCSA and its predecessor agencies to measure safety and fitness based on mass quantities of roadside inspection data are incapable of either accuracy or fairness.

At the *Journal*, we are continuing to make a number of changes that will improve the visibility of JTM, and improve its position in the supply chain publishing world. These include registering and updating journal information with several publishing guides, and placing the past and current content on services that provide visibility to Google Scholar. Authors will receive summaries of downloaded articles monthly, and can examine the Digital Commons web site for data on various aspects of the publication and their articles. One year old issues will be placed into the system.

I look forward to hearing from you our readers with questions, comments and article submissions. The submission guidelines are included at the end of this issue's articles and I encourage both academics and practitioners to consider submitting an article to the Journal. Also included in this issue is a subscription form and I hope you or your library will subscribe.



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