BOOKS IN BRIEF

Cloning and the Constitution: An Inquiry Into Governmental Policymaking and Genetic Experimentation. By Ira H. Carmen. University of Wisconsin Press: Madison, Wisconsin. 1986. Pp. 223. $22.50. The author examines genetic engineering from a political science analysis rather than from a biological science standpoint. The underlying view of the author is that the understanding of the appropriateness of genetic engineering, specifically recombinant DNA experimentation, lies within the Constitution. The author approaches this subject in chapter one by examining science in American constitutional history. Next, in chapter two, cloning as an American constitutional freedom is examined. In chapter three, the author analyzes the recent debate concerning human genetic engineering. Chapter four explores the recombinant DNA cloners and their watchdogs. Finally, chapter five examines recombining constitutional images. As the author describes his work “[t]he book’s essential themes are political science inquiry, governmental policymaking and genetic experimentation. But more than that, it endeavors to dramatize the inevitable tensions between science as personal liberty and law as necessary social adhesive. It is, in short, a portrayal of reciprocal constitutional relationships.”

News Cameras in the Courtroom: A Free Press—Fair Trial Debate. By Susanna Barber. Ablex Publishing Corporation: Norwood, New Jersey. 1987. Pp. 176. $29.50. The focus of this book is the 1978 conference of State Chief Justices where those in attendance approved a resolution which allowed the highest court of each state to set standards regulating radio, television and other photographic coverage of court proceedings. The passage of this resolution was followed by the Supreme Court’s decision in Chandler v. Florida, 449 U.S. 560 (1981), in which the Court held that television coverage of a criminal trial did not constitute a denial of due process. Thus, this book in part one examines the background of the courtroom cameras debate. In part two, the constitutional issues and popular arguments to the issue of news cameras in the courtroom are examined. Part three is a summary and discussion of the courtroom cameras research. Finally, in part four, changing her focus from the courtroom to the audience, the author performs a risk-benefit
analysis. Thus, a basic question of the compatibility of news cameras in the court versus the goal of the courts to try cases according to law is explained.