

IV. COMPUTER ABUSE AND THE COURTS

With advancements in technology, computer use as well as abuse is increasing tremendously. The rapid development of computer technology permits the infliction of injuries for which the present law frequently has no remedy. Susan Hubbell Nycum discusses a wide variety of criminal acts relating to computers and notes that, because of the unique nature of the computer itself, these acts do not fit within traditional criminal classifications. Reform at both the state and federal levels is necessary if the law is to provide adequate protection for computer hardware and software users. The accelerating, almost uncontrolled increase in computer use affects the court system as well. Judge David Dixon discusses the potential confidentiality problems created when a court uses a computer to collect information on the court's operational efficiency. He notes that recording court opinions on computers may result in inaccuracies in addition to general problems of attributing and protecting ownership of data bank and program design. In conclusion, he urges the legal profession to design new protections to satisfy the unique requirements of computer use by private entities and the courts.

