

Letter from the Editor

Austin Stephenson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review>

Recommended Citation

Austin Stephenson, *Letter from the Editor*, 60 DePaul L. Rev. 971 (2011)
Available at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review/vol60/iss4/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Law at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in DePaul Law Review by an authorized administrator of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact mbernal2@depaul.edu, MHESS8@depaul.edu.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In keeping with tradition, I write this letter from the editor as an introduction to the final issue of Volume 60 of the *DePaul Law Review* to offer thanks to the members of an exceptional editorial board for their tireless work and to briefly recap the events of what has been a fantastic year. I am proud of the work that we accomplished as a team; I came to this position with a short history of working on various political campaigns, in which the success of the venture can sometimes depend on how competently a small, close-knit group works together. There was a similar sense this year, with fourteen people working often long hours and united by a common mission. But despite all the hard work, I have never had as much fun.

This year was highlighted by three main events. One was the Twenty-First Annual DePaul Law Review Symposium, entitled *Changing Conceptions: Exploring Medical and Legal Advances in Fertility Preservation*. I cannot emphasize enough how much our Symposium Editor, Brittany Heitz, worked to make this event a success. Her dedication was amazing, and the speakers on the event's panels, which included both academics and actual patients who had undergone fertility preservation procedures, made for an interesting and diverse discussion. Second, the annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy continues to be an enormous boon to both the Law Review and the wider DePaul Law community. This year's Clifford Symposium celebrated the work of Professor Robert L. Rabin, a giant in the field of tort law and a Clifford Symposium regular. My thanks go out to Mr. Robert A. Clifford for making this event possible and for enabling the *DePaul Law Review* to publish the rich scholarly articles that this symposium produces each year. Finally, our Business Manager, Dave Larson, organized the Sixth Annual Law Review Alumni Reception, at which we honored Law Review alumnus Donald L. Schiller with the Sapientia Award for his outstanding work since graduating from DePaul. He and his firm, Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP, have had a significant impact on the field of family law, and it was a great pleasure and honor for me to meet Mr. Schiller and introduce him at this event.

Aside from our major events, Volume 60 was proud to publish thirty-five articles across four issues this year. Many of these came from our two annual symposia, while six were selected by our fantastic Managing Editor of Lead Articles, Emily Stine. Eleven others are

student-written comments selected by last year's editorial board for publication. I am also proud of the few changes that we were able to implement this year, whether they were minor and organizational or larger-scale, big-picture ideas. For example, toward the end of the year, we began a process by which a team of board members would participate in reading and selecting lead articles for publication under the supervision of the Managing Editor. While such a system may not be novel to most law reviews, it represents a new practice and relatively big institutional change for the *DePaul Law Review*, and I am gratified by signs that our successors in Volume 61 seem keen on continuing this plan and fully implementing the change.

I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to thank the individuals on the Board who made this year so worthwhile for me. First and foremost, I would like to thank Katherine Strle, the Executive Editor for Volume 60. Her position entailed a tremendous amount of work and responsibility, and Katherine brought to it a determination and enthusiasm that consistently amazed me. But her incredible work ethic is not even the reason that I am most grateful for her. Above all, she was a good friend, someone who I could share anything with, who was always willing to lend me a helping hand, and who made the Law Review office a brighter, more pleasant place. I am not sure what I would have done this past year without her help. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend so much time with her, even if that time occasionally involved late nights in the office, reading until our eyesight blurred. She was also willing to bluntly tell me when my jokes were stupid, which can be an incredibly valuable service, although if asked, I doubt she would say that my sense of humor has improved as a result. She would be right.

Emily Stine, our Managing Editor of Lead Articles, worked tirelessly at reviewing and selecting articles for two of our issues and served as the intermediary between our authors and the rest of the board. She helped me navigate several difficult problems during the course of the year, and I could always count on her diplomacy and tact in dealing with any situation, no matter how delicate. She also had a knack for spotting the smallest errors in an article and deserves the title of "Volume 60's Best Eagle Eye" for her uncanny attention to detail.

Laura Lee, our Managing Editor of Notes and Comments, organized the intra-journal write-on competition for the entire law school, helped lead us through our own write-on selection process, managed publication decisions for the student articles to appear in Volume 61, and helped me in any way I ever asked. She has a tendency to re-

spond to e-mails with lightning-fast speed, which I always appreciated, and the thoroughness of her editing was an invaluable benefit to every student article appearing in Volume 60.

Brittany Heitz made the Law Review Symposium a resounding success, and I cannot fairly share any of the credit. She and Professor Nanette Elster, Director of DePaul's Health Law Institute, worked together to bring some outstanding speakers to our law school for an event that addressed pressing legal issues. Brittany was also always eager to offer help with literally anything, even tasks unrelated to the symposium, and I often took her up on it. Anyone who has a chance to work with her should feel incredibly lucky.

Dave Larson effortlessly juggled a full-time job, classes, and the role of Business Manager for the Law Review. He not only made the alumni event a giant success, he stuck true to the platform he ran on in the 2010 board elections—"fiscal responsibility"—by carefully scrutinizing our budget and making sure we did not waste Law Review funds. More importantly, anytime something came across my desk that I did not understand, I could be sure that Dave would know how to handle it. In fact, by the end of the year, I marveled at how many things he was taking care of behind the scenes, hidden to most people or taken for granted. For example, I only recently discovered that Dave is the reason that the several plants in the Law Review office stayed so green and thrived all year. Apparently plants need water to survive. Who knew? Dave Larson, that's who.

Last but not least, our Associate Editors all put in countless hours working on articles, fine-tuning them to perfection. They also supervised staff members in the cite-checking process, picking up any slack when needed, and they guided those staff members through the process of writing their articles. The Law Review's work would be impossible without them. They are also all great people. I enjoyed Katherine Gaumont's company this year, and thinking back, I cannot remember a time when she didn't have a smile on her face. Bill Kirby made me laugh so hard that I cried on occasion, and while that may not have been great for my short-term productivity, I am fairly sure it was a huge factor in keeping me healthy and sane during my tenure as Editor in Chief. James Looby served as our *de facto* Social Chair. In that capacity, he organized outside events, including kickball and bowling tournaments, and generally helped our staff members (and me) remember that there was more to Law Review than the work. Andrea MacIver is one of the most positive, dedicated people I know, and I could always count on her for extra help. Dan Malachowski's work ethic was astounding, especially considering he worked a full-

time job, and Volume 61 is incredibly fortunate to have him returning as a board member next year. Josh McIntyre consistently received high praise from the staff members he worked with, confirming my original suspicion that he was a fantastic Associate Editor (and a Bluebook guru, to boot!). I found in Nick Metcalf a fellow nerd, and a special bond was immediately established, as I no longer had to feel quite as ashamed when mentioning my favorite fantasy or sci-fi books among the other board members. Stephanie Pullos was a great sport, and she was one of the few volunteers for our fledgling new system of article selection who had an opportunity to review an article that we ultimately published.

Looking back, I've realized that this was the most important experience of my law school career. It validated every thought I had about why I wanted to become a lawyer and go to law school in the first place. If I can count on working closely with at least a few people in my future who are anything like the people I worked with on the Law Review, life will be good. Although it is a bittersweet moment, I am sure that we are leaving this institution in the very capable hands of the Volume 61 Editorial Board members. I wish them the best of luck.

*Austin Stephenson**

* Editor in Chief, *DePaul Law Review*, Volume 60; J.D. 2011, DePaul University College of Law; B.A. 2006, University of Chicago.