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W. Colliton*

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## Letter from the Editor

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### I.

In the final issue of each volume of the *DePaul Law Review*, the editor in chief writes a short letter that offers a look into the work of the Law Review during the past year.<sup>1</sup> This year, we continued the Law Review's strong tradition of publishing quality legal scholarship from leaders in their fields, as well as rising academics and practitioners. In this letter, I briefly review the life of the Law Review over the past year, and I take this opportunity to offer words of thanks to those who have contributed to the success of Volume 58. A past editor in chief noted in his letter that he would "try not to be boring."<sup>2</sup> Though I make no promises along those lines, I will at least keep this letter brief.

### II.

Following the course of my immediate predecessor, Geoff Burkhart, I will let the articles in the current volume "speak for themselves."<sup>3</sup> As in years past, issues one and four included articles selected by the Managing Editor of Lead Articles; Gerrit Wieringa ably filled that post this year in selecting seven outstanding articles. In the second and third issues, we published articles from last year's Law Review Symposium, *Media, Race and the Death Penalty*, as well as last year's Clifford Symposium, *The Challenge of 2020: Preparing a Civil Justice Reform Agenda for the Coming Decade*. As always, these symposia attracted established scholars and practitioners, and in the case of this year's Clifford Symposium, a number of distinguished judges.

This year the final issue of the Law Review is published in memory of Professor Jim Colliton, who was awarded the *Spirit of DePaul*

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1. See Geoffrey T. Burkhart, *Letter from the Editor: A Man Walks into a Board*, 57 DEPAUL L. REV. 873 (2008); John C. Roberts, Jr., *Letter From the Editor*, 56 DEPAUL L. REV. 1131 (2007); Eric W. Schupp, *Letter From the Editor*, 55 DEPAUL L. REV. ix (2006); Karyn L. Bass, *Letter from the Editor*, 54 DEPAUL L. REV. 1039 (2005); Suzanne Milne Alexander, *Letter from the Editor*, 53 DEPAUL L. REV. 1401 (2004); Heather R. McDonald, *Letter from the Editor*, 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 1059 (2003); Annette Messitt, *Letter from the Editor*, 51 DEPAUL L. REV. 983 (2002); David Edward Dahlquist, *Letter from the Editor*, 50 DEPAUL L. REV. 1061 (2001).

2. Roberts, Jr., *supra* note 1, at 1131.

3. Burkhart, *supra* note 1, at 873. I would like to thank Geoff for his excellent guidance and willingness to answer questions throughout the year.

*Award* this year.<sup>4</sup> While the current members of the editorial board were not lucky enough to have class with Professor Colliton while we were students at DePaul, we have learned about Professor Colliton's amazing life and his contributions to the law school through the tribute at the beginning of this issue.<sup>5</sup> In addition to the letters that appear there, we have heard from past students and professors who told us about Professor Colliton's never-ending concern about his students at DePaul and his commitment to the success of the law school. The Law Review is honored to print this issue in memory of Professor Colliton.

As in past years, the Law Review hosted symposia and events for Law Review members, alumni, and the general public this year. The Law Review Symposium this spring was entitled *Guantanamo Bay & Beyond* and was co-sponsored by the International Human Rights Law Institute. Josh Grenard, our Symposium Editor, attracted not only great scholars, but also attorneys and military personnel who understood the challenges of representing detainee clients and offered insights for the way ahead after Guantanamo. The Clifford Symposium this year, *Rising Stars: A New Generation of Scholars Looks at Civil Justice*, was true to its name in attracting rising stars of the academy, and we look forward to reading these scholars' insights in Volume 59 of the Law Review.

The Law Review also held two events that were priorities of last year's editorial board. First, along with all of the journals at DePaul, we hosted the first-ever Inter-Journal Write-On Competition in August 2008. This competition provided DePaul law students with the opportunity to write on to one of six journals, instead of submitting responses to several different journal competitions. We found that the competition was helpful to both students and journals, and we are optimistic that the journals at DePaul will continue the inter-journal format. Second, at our annual alumni reception, we awarded the Second Annual Sapientia Award to an outstanding alumnus of the Law Review, Donald L. Mrozek.<sup>6</sup> This award started just last year, and we hope that it will continue for years to come as the alumni reception grows each year.

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4. Wes McCart discovered that the Law Review has printed memorial issues in the past, and I thank him for his suggestion to dedicate our final issue to Professor Colliton.

5. See *In Memoriam*, 58 DEPAUL L. REV. 827 (2009). Professor Wayne Lewis was extremely helpful in organizing this memorial tribute, and he was always patient and considerate in working with the Law Review.

6. See Donald L. Mrozek, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, <http://www.hinshawlaw.com/dmrozek> (last visited May 1, 2009).

## III.

As in previous years, this year the members of the editorial board set out to leave the Law Review better than we found it. In our efforts to improve the Law Review, we recognized that we were “only stewards of this journal.”<sup>7</sup> Only toward the end of the year could we see “the big picture” and appreciate how certain parts of the editing process could improve. Thus, we worked to pass on more information to our successors and improve the transition between editorial boards of the Law Review.

Some changes were small. For example, we created e-mail addresses for certain positions on the Law Review board that will continue from year to year, and we now have specific e-mail addresses that serve as contacts for subscriptions, submissions, and other areas. We also made larger changes to help the new board members understand the editing process. This year, we asked the new board members to join us in editing some of the articles toward the end of the year.<sup>8</sup> Our predecessors were very helpful in creating manuals for each position on the editorial board. We added to these guides, and we tried to pass on as much knowledge about the details of the process as possible.

While many previous editorial boards have streamlined the editing process for the Law Review, we continue to work to make the process more efficient and more author-friendly. As the year progressed, we reduced the number of times authors reviewed edited versions of their articles, while ensuring that the authors had an opportunity to review all changes. Most importantly, we have tried to pass on as much of what we learned as possible to the incoming editorial board, so that future editors can implement the most efficient procedures from the start.

This year the Law Review also took on major projects to revamp the staff program, improve the alumni database, and redesign the Law Review website. For the staff program, we reformed the orientation process, and we developed a cite-checking manual to give the staff more guidance about the very technical work of the editing process. Wes McCart, the Business Manager of Volume 58, spearheaded the database and website projects, and his tireless work has greatly improved the Law Review for years to come. The editorial board and

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7. Roberts, Jr., *supra* note 1, at 1131.

8. We thank the new board members for their willingness to try out these procedures this year. Their contributions were thoughtful, and we are confident they will continue the strong tradition of the *DePaul Law Review*.

Law Review staff spent several weeks compiling an updated list of nearly 2000 alumni, as many of the old lists and law school records were no longer current. The Law Review also expanded its website,<sup>9</sup> which now provides access to our current issues online and provides an archive with articles from past issues. This allows other websites and blogs to link to articles that are immediately available online when the issue goes to press.<sup>10</sup> Along the way there were other small projects and improvements, and we are encouraged that our successors will build on these changes and make even more improvements in the future.

#### IV.

I follow some of my predecessors in taking this opportunity to acknowledge the work of each of the editorial board members. I will try not to be too sentimental, and I will leave out the embarrassing stories. This year was perhaps a year of more uncertainty than most for third-year law students,<sup>11</sup> and it was always refreshing to come into the office and know that someone would be there to listen, laugh, or just make fun of the situation. In contrast to some of my predecessors, I cannot easily categorize the editorial board this year as “a quiet bunch”<sup>12</sup> or “loud and occasionally obnoxious.”<sup>13</sup> The members of the editorial board were a unique cast of characters, and they all brought a distinct perspective to their work and to the office. Above all, they are brilliant people, and I am honored to have worked with them over the last year.

The Executive Editor this year was Aaron White. Aaron was responsible for checking citations and sources for thousands of footnotes, as well as running elections and the staff orientation. He worked diligently, and we all relied on Aaron’s expertise. Although his tasks were time-consuming and tedious, Aaron always went out of his way to treat others with kindness. Our Managing Editor of Lead Articles, Gerrit Wieringa, corresponded with authors with characteris-

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9. DePaul University College of Law, DePaul Law Review, [http://www.law.depaul.edu/students/organizations\\_journals/student\\_orgs/lawdlr/](http://www.law.depaul.edu/students/organizations_journals/student_orgs/lawdlr/) (last visited May 1, 2009).

10. See Adam Liptak, *Influence on the Supreme Court Bench Could be an Inside Job*, N.Y. TIMES, Dec. 9, 2008, at A20, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/09/washington/09bar.html> (providing a link to a PDF article on the Law Review website). We are excited that the law school is implementing new technology that will allow next year’s editorial board to make greater improvements to the website’s design.

11. See, e.g., Posting of Kashmir Hill to Above the Law, <http://www.abovethelaw.com> (Apr. 23, 2009 11:32 AM) (forecasting doom and gloom).

12. Roberts, Jr., *supra* note 1, at 1131.

13. Burkhart, *supra* note 1, at 874.

tic sensitivity and care. He also reviewed thousands of submissions to find articles for our first and fourth issues this year. This was an enormous task, and Gerrit performed it thoughtfully, which basically is how Gerrit approached any task on the Law Review (or law school, for that matter).

Melissa Skinner, the Managing Editor of Notes and Comments, directed our staff members through the writing program, and she edited all of the students articles published this year. Mel ensured that all the staff members were on the right path, and she brought humor to even the most monotonous tasks. She was also an insightful editor; Mel had a way of getting to the heart of the problem during an editing meeting and resolving conflicts simply. Josh Grenard, our Symposium Editor, worked diligently for over a year to organize the symposium this year. Josh was able to sort through layers of detail and make sure that everything was taken care of, and this year's symposium was well-organized, timely, and enlightening. Josh was also an attentive and focused editor of this year's third issue. As the Business Manager, Wes McCart single-handedly reformed (and modernized) several business practices of the Law Review. As an Associate Editor, Wes was an excellent mentor and a meticulous editor. Wes took ownership of his work and he set out to make the Law Review better for his successors; his ideas have truly improved the Law Review.

All of the Associate Editors were excellent guides for their staff members and superb editors of the articles this year, and each brought unique skills to his or her work. Seth Stern had a knack for above-the-line editing, and his editing was always focused on improving clarity. His one-liners were also always welcome during line meetings. Besides her excellent editing work, Valerie Sherman was an exceptional mentor as part of the writing program. Val also kept the candy bucket full, and she made us all happy on the days when she brought in some amazing baked treat. Jessica Durkin took charge in quickly completing her editing tasks, even when they were sprung upon her. She approached the most tedious tasks with patience and humor. Faced with some particularly challenging assignments, Kristen Hengtgen went out of her way to make sure that everything was in order. Her editing was thorough, and she was a reliable member of the board.

Chris Letkewicz was a keen below-the-line editor, and he ensured that articles were properly sourced and citations conformed to the Bluebook. Besides his incredible karaoke talents, he was also a valuable mentor for the writing program. Suma Udupa Shah approached every task with care, and her work revealed focus and attention to

detail. Besides her methodical work, Suma had a positive attitude (with a healthy dose of sarcasm, of course). Marie Wade's editing was precise and thorough, and she took ownership of the articles that she edited. She was the kind of person who would make coffee in the morning and bring it to class for you just to make your day a little brighter, and she always asked to see if there was any way that she could help. Nisha Verma was amazingly efficient in her work, and she was equally effective. She was also there to listen and gave great non-nonsense advice. Most importantly, all of the Associate Editors this year were always willing to help out and take on extra work to make sure the Law Review ran smoothly.

## V.

Perhaps I was somewhat optimistic at the start when I predicted a short letter. It seems that this year was as busy a year as ever with changes and developments. While the Law Review is sure to see many more improvements in the future, the Law Review could not grow and evolve each year without support from the law school. Thus, I end the letter with words of thanks for members of the DePaul community who were instrumental in the publication of the Law Review this year. We would like to thank Glennis Jones-Marshall, Dave Bell, Leigh Georgell, Nicole Pinkey, and Debbie Howard for their support this year and every year. We would also like to thank Dean Andrea Lyon for her help with our third issue this year. We also offer thanks to Dean Diana White, who was very helpful in planning the inter-journal write-on and answering whatever questions we could come up with.

We also would like to thank Dean Brian Havel, who has been very helpful as the Law Review moves to a new office next year. Dean Stephen Siegel was also very helpful this year with our staff program, and he provided excellent advice as we started the year. We would like to give special thanks to Professor Stephen Landsman. As always, Professor Landsman's guidance and encouragement were helpful and reassuring. Finally, the Law Review would like to thank Dean Glen Weissenberger for his constant support.

*Jonathan N. Schildt\**

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\* J.D. 2009, DePaul University College of Law; Bachelor of Music 2006, University of Illinois. I would like to thank my parents and my sisters, Jenny and Julie, for their love and support. I am blessed to have them. I would also like to thank my Chicago family—Tim, Kathy, Bob, and of course Lesley and Brian—for making the last three years incredibly fun.