

Letter from the Editor

Eric W. Schupp

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Eric W. Schupp**

In the tradition of my predecessors,¹ it is with great enthusiasm that I write this Letter from the Editor. The sixth of its type, this letter serves to introduce the final issue of the Fifty-Fifth Volume of the *DePaul Law Review* and to chronicle the past year. In May 2005, fourteen editors set out to publish another quality volume of this journal. Though the task seemed daunting, we met the challenge with vigor. Another year has come and gone, and the *DePaul Law Review* today is as strong as ever.

Last year our board set out to improve the journal in a number of ways. First, we wanted to enhance the editing process. We did so not by reinventing the wheel, but by streamlining the processes installed by previous editors. Several minor changes, along with great communication and teamwork, increased our efficiency and resulted in the publication of consistently high quality issues. Second, we wanted to enhance the student writing program. We did this in two ways. First, our associate editors worked closer with candidates, offering more feedback and encouragement at every stage. Second, we implemented an intense article review policy whereby only those articles that met the highest standards of scholastic and academic integrity were selected for publication. Finally, we sought to reach out to the broader legal community. We accomplished this with an improved website. More importantly, we hosted an alumni event honoring former editors of the *DePaul Law Review*. We had a very large turnout and hope this wonderful event continues in the years to come. The sense of community and excitement fostered by this event was unforgettable.

* Author served as Editor-in-Chief of the Fifty-Fifth Volume of the *DePaul Law Review*. The author thanks his parents, Hank and Moraima, and his wife, Meredith, for their unconditional love, support, and popcorn breaks.

1. See 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).

We published an impressive body of scholarship by various noted professors, practitioners, and students. The topics ranged from First Amendment issues such as President Bush's Faith-Based Community Initiative, corporate censorship, and the public's right to access court documents, to childhood obesity, Chicago housing discrimination, and digital music sampling.

But the journal shines brightest when hosting and publishing symposia. We hosted the *DePaul Law Review's* Sixteenth Annual Symposium, "Ties That Bind: Family Relationships, Biology, and the Law," which saw professionals from numerous disciplines discuss the role of biology in legal issues such as domestic violence, juvenile justice, same-sex relationships, and child abuse. Our Symposium Editor, Christine Matott, did an excellent job. She spent months planning this superb event. Her execution was flawless.

We published three exciting symposium issues this year. Our second issue unveiled the scholarship produced for the Eleventh Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy, "The Challenge of Noneconomic Damages in Civil Litigation." This issue focused on the intense debate surrounding the myriad controversies involving the monetary awards individuals receive for pain and suffering. The issue comes at an important time as many states, including Illinois in 2005, have recently enacted limits on noneconomic damages. This symposium was made possible by a generous alumnus and former member of the *DePaul Law Review*, Mr. Robert Clifford. We are very grateful for Mr. Clifford's support over the years. In our third issue, we published the *DePaul Law Review's* Fifteenth Annual Symposium, "Precious Commodities—The Supply and Demand of Body Parts," which focused on the delicate issues surrounding organ and tissue procurement and distribution. Finally, in this current issue, we publish articles from a symposium hosted by DePaul's Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology, "Intellectual Property Licensing by the Dominant Firm: Issues and Problems." These articles tackle issues intersecting the complex doctrines of patent law and anti-trust law.

These symposia are always well organized and well attended. Furthermore, these symposia routinely feature some of the most brilliant minds in the nation. The entire DePaul community should be proud to be involved with such wonderful events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the editors I had the pleasure of working with this past year. Your hard work, keen insights, and incredible attention to detail never ceased to amaze me.

This journal is not just a tribute to important legal scholarship, but to the abilities of DePaul's brightest young minds. I feel lucky to have worked with such an intelligent and fun group of people and nothing pleases me more than knowing I made so many new friends.

On behalf of the entire editorial board, we would also like to thank numerous people within the DePaul community that made our journal such a success. We could not have done this without you. Special thanks go to Stephan Landsman, David Bell, Howard Rubin, Frank Cleary, and Cynthia Rigali-Lund.

While I knew that composing this letter would be one of many responsibilities, I never thought the time would actually come to write it. With that in mind, I offer some advice to incoming boards. Savor your time working on the *DePaul Law Review*; it passes quickly. You may find yourselves overwhelmed and frustrated at times, but work together and you will be amazed at what you can accomplish. Additionally, do not hesitate to rely on former editors. In the words of a previous Editor-in-Chief, alumni "*are the strongest assets of this journal.*"²

As I relinquish my post as Editor-in-Chief, I leave with a sense of peace knowing that the *DePaul Law Review* is strong, relevant, and as well produced as it has ever been. Furthermore, the incoming board is a talented group that will continue the traditions of this journal with respect and honor. With those ideas in mind, I am confident that the *DePaul Law Review* will continue in its role as an integral part of the legal environment for years to come.

2. Heather R. McDonald, *Letter From the Editor*, 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 1059, 1061 (2003).

