

Welcome Address

Lauren McKenzie

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Welcome Address†

*Lauren McKenzie**

Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is Lauren McKenzie, and I am privileged to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the DePaul Business & Commercial Law Journal. I want to welcome all of you today to our symposium entitled “Ethical Innovation in Our Changing World.”

Law practice is a business. Like every other industry, it is affected by improvements in technology and general changes in our society.

In the past decade, and particularly in the past few years, it is fairly easy to say that the legal market has drastically changed. As new legal services and technology become more prevalent, law firms and businesses worldwide are encountering fresh obstacles. However, every innovation is a double-edged sword: it can bring about positive change, but it also has the potential to cause harm.

For lawyers, it must not be at the expense of ethics. Ethics are a fundamental aspect of the law and legal practice. In fact, passing an ethics exam is required to apply for the bar. Emphasizing the importance of ethics is where we begin our legal career and should continue to be a priority in practice.

During the Symposium, we will delve into ethical questions and emphasize the importance of ethics in law, particularly in the midst of innovation. We have gathered a group of accomplished lawyers and experts to share their insights into the evolving world of business and the ethical responsibilities of our profession. We hope you will find their perspectives informative and thought-provoking.

Before we get to our first speaker, I would like to thank some individuals who have contributed to the success of the DePaul Business & Commercial Law Journal and to the planning and creation of the Symposium.

None of this could have happened without the unfailing support of Dean Jenn and the dedicated staff at DePaul including David Bell,

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Nicole Pinkey, Lori Wolan, and Debbie LaGioia. A special thank you goes to Ann Hudson and the Law Library staff. Our advisor, Professor Max Helveston has been instrumental in providing us with valuable guidance and wisdom not just this past year but for many years to come.

I want to thank the student editorial board of the Journal. Their dedication and hard work, along with that of our research staff and members, are directly responsible for ensuring the Journal's ongoing success. They have maintained the tradition of putting out a high-quality product in a timely fashion. I would like to give special recognition to our Symposium editor, Tiffany Cole, for her unwavering commitment to making this year's Symposium a success.

Finally, I would like to thank each of the presenters for taking time out of their busy schedules to be here today. Thank you all for coming.