

Letter from the Editor

Karyn L. Bass

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Karyn L. Bass**

INTRODUCTION

As any Chief Executive Officer, President of an organization, or Dean can probably attest, an institution is only as strong as its members. Similarly, the *DePaul Law Review* as an institution has fortified its place in the academic arena because of the outstanding Editorial Board and staff that led the considerable task of publishing an exceptional journal this year. The Fifty-Fourth Volume of the *DePaul Law Review* has continued and built on a distinguished tradition of excellence. As I began my tenure last spring, I set out to accomplish three broad goals. First, our board sought to strengthen the foundation of the *DePaul Law Review* by revamping our editing and staff training programs. Second, we wanted to increase our visibility on the national level by publishing groundbreaking scholarship and organizing an innovative symposium on the legal and ethical ramifications of the growing international organ trade.¹ Finally, we hoped to improve our relationship with the administration, alumni, and the Chicago legal community. Like many editors endeavored to do before me, we sought to leave the Law Review better than we found it.² With great pride, I am pleased to report that we have met and exceeded this challenge.

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1. The Fifteenth Annual *DePaul Law Review* Symposium, Precious Commodities—The Supply and Demand of Body Parts, was held on March 4, 2005. For more information on the Symposium and the date of publication, see http://www.law.depaul.edu/current_students/student_orgs/lawdlr/currentnews.asp.

2. See Suzanne Milne Alexander, *Letter from the Editor*, 53 DEPAUL L. REV. 1401 (2004); David Edward Dahlquist, *Letter from the Editor*, 50 DEPAUL L. REV. 1061, 1069 (2001); Heather R. McDonald, *Letter from the Editor*, 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 1059 (2003); Annette M. Messitt, *Letter from the Editor*, 51 DEPAUL L. REV. 983, 985 (2002).

II. STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF THE DEPAUL LAW REVIEW

Never satisfied with maintaining the status quo, our board introduced several structural changes to advance the Law Review's purpose of serving as a key legal source for academics and practitioners. Through a revamped and streamlined approach to editing, we strengthened the quality of our published works while increasing the Law Review's efficiency. With the help of committed editors and trusted faculty advisors, the Law Review substantially changed our student writing and research program. As a result, our program is stronger than it has ever been.

Additionally, the Law Review fostered a renewed sense of community among its members, staff, and editorial board. Each editor and candidate invested in the Law Review's greater mission and along the way we discovered a wonderful group of friends. The reward has been not only a phenomenal team of brilliant students, but also an impressive Volume of scholarship that will impact both the international and national community.

III. A COMMITMENT TO GROUNDBREAKING SCHOLARSHIP

The *DePaul Law Review's* commitment to publishing groundbreaking scholarship continued this year with outstanding articles by renowned scholars. Aside from publishing great works, the *DePaul Law Review's* Fifteenth Annual Symposium brought together an impressive circle of scholars, ethicists, doctors, and practitioners to discuss the growing (and often illicit) commercial human body parts market.³ The dialogue at the Symposium was intriguing and the scholarship that will follow is already greatly anticipated throughout the health care and health law community.

To launch our Fifty-Fourth Volume, celebrated Copyright scholar David Nimmer wrote an innovative article on academic plagiarism and reverse passing off.⁴ Our second issue has proven quite timely as Congress and state legislatures grapple with the many problems surrounding the nation's medical malpractice system.⁵ The Tenth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy, "Starting Over?: Redesigning the Medical Malpractice System," resulted in an out-

3. See generally *supra* note 1.

4. See David Nimmer, *The Moral Imperative Against Academic Plagiarism (Without A Moral Right Against Reverse Passing Off)*, 54 DEPAUL L. REV. 1 (2004).

5. See generally Bernard Black, Charles Silver, David Hyman & William Sage, *False Diagnosis*, N.Y. TIMES, March 10, 2005, at A27.

standing collection of scholarship that explored various alternatives to the current system.⁶ The scholars presented pioneering empirical and theoretical works that challenged conventional wisdom surrounding the medical malpractice debate.

IV. FOSTERING COMMUNITY

As one of the cornerstone legal institutions in Chicago, the DePaul University College of Law has long-enjoyed its important place in the legal community. This year, however, I hoped to achieve even greater prominence for DePaul by initiating an annual event specifically for *DePaul Law Review* alumni.⁷ With several alumni in attendance, the Fifty-Fourth Volume unveiled the Editors in Chief plaque to commemorate the deep commitment that all Editors in Chief have given to this noble journal. I encourage future boards to continue this new tradition and develop a strong and active network of *DePaul Law Review* graduates. Our extraordinary success would not be possible without the strides taken by our talented predecessors. Yet, even greater achievements are possible with continued partnership between the Law Review and the outstanding alumni that we count as our own.

Thanks to tremendous faculty and administrative support, the *DePaul Law Review* essentially reinvented itself this year. We seized the opportunity to make significant strides in our journal's success. With the weight and trust of the law school on our shoulders, we met this task with careful study, great energy, and inspiration. Yet without the unwavering commitment to excellence by our remarkable editors, none of our many achievements would be possible.

V. CONCLUSION

As I end my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, I am honored to have worked with such a stellar collection of editors and scholars. By serving as a critical forum for the most important legal issues of our time, the *DePaul Law Review's* reputation and scholarship increases with each volume. I challenge the many brave and brilliant editors who will follow in my path to strive for continued excellence, tempered with a degree of innovation. Simply maintaining the status quo, while certainly a large enough job alone as it consists of publishing four issues, is not enough. To truly commemorate the history and celebrate the potential of the *DePaul Law Review*, future editorial boards

6. See generally 54 DEPAUL L. REV 203 (2005).

7. The *DePaul Law Review* hosted an alumni reception for all Law Review alumni on April 20, 2005.

should push the limits of success to continually work towards even greater achievements for our journal.