

Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Suzanne Milne Alexander**

Three years ago, my predecessors began the practice of publishing a Letter from the Editor.¹ The purpose of the letter was to revisit the past year and to look forward to new challenges for upcoming years.² As I procrastinated writing my letter, I pondered the words of the previous Editor in Chief: “Designate three goals for yourselves while still bright-eyed and motivated.”³ As someone who is no longer bright-eyed, I know that we were all eager to make change, to make the *DePaul Law Review* better than we found it; I believe we did that, but in an unexpected way. We were challenged to keep the website going, continue to streamline the editing process, and focus on training new candidates. While these were noble goals, and certainly important, no one could have imagined at the beginning of our tenure the sheer volume of what would ultimately be our finished product.

The Fifty-third Volume of the *DePaul Law Review* is the largest ever published at DePaul, and contains 1,895 pages, with articles by top scholars from across the country. In short, we have produced a fantastic product this past year, of which the DePaul community can be proud.

One theme this year has been a focus on identity—from our identity as a country after the events of September 11th to our identity as individuals and a society contemplating the effects of race relations, reparations, and the often hidden, but certainly prevalent, role race plays in the U.S. system of capital punishment. Our fourteenth annual symposium, entitled *Privacy and Identity: Constructing, Maintaining, and Protecting Personhood*, focused on the role of individual identity as it relates to the right of privacy and how privacy affects who we are.

One of our great achievements was our winter issue—the Ninth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy, funded by a generous alumnus, Robert A. Clifford. The symposium, *After Disaster: The September 11th Compensation Fund and the Future of Civil*

* Author served as Editor in Chief of the Fifty-third Volume of the *DePaul Law Review*, 2003-2004.

1. See Dave Enquist, *Letter from the Editor*, 50 DEPAUL L. REV. 1061 (2001).

2. See Annette Messitt, *Letter from the Editor*, 51 DEPAUL L. REV. 983 (2002).

3. Heather McDonald, *Letter from the Editor*, 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 1059 (2003).

Justice, could not have been more timely; the final expiration date for applications to the Fund by victims' families was set for December 22, 2003. We have an incredible collection of articles devoted to praise, critique, historical study, and comparison of the Fund and its implications—by a strong and noteworthy group of scholars.⁴

Our spring and summer issues focus on race and the role it plays in society: Race as proxy and race as an all too widespread issue in our system of capital punishment in this country. The remarkable *Race to Execution Symposium* resulted in this outstanding issue, comprising articles by notable authors, including attorneys, law professors, and social scientists; their contributions offer us new research and new perspectives on the role race plays in who is sentenced to the death penalty in this country and how communities are affected by this.

I would like to thank the editorial board of the Fifty-third Volume of the *DePaul Law Review* for their hard work and outstanding effort this past year. We have emerged as a team—a team that has only been made stronger by its challenges. We have also chosen an accomplished editorial board for next year. Of course, I challenge them to set goals and make the *Review* better than what it is now, but really the most important thing they can do is to focus on publishing a quality volume.

We have certainly achieved many of our goals this year: we have streamlined the editing process, updated and refined the candidate training process, strengthened relationships with the faculty and administration, and, with the symposia, highlighted to the legal community the type of high-quality meetings of scholars and legal professionals that DePaul can and does produce and publish. But it is in the true purpose of the *DePaul Law Review* that we found our greatest achievement—editing a substantial, high quality, and exceptional journal.

4. 53 DEPAUL L. REV. 205-928 (2003).