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## Letter from the Editor

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Heather R. McDonald\**

### INTRODUCTION

Starting two years ago, my predecessors embarked on a new tradition—a Letter from the Editor. The letter was designed to review the preceding year, inspire improvement, and set challenges for the incoming board.<sup>1</sup> With great enthusiasm, I carry on this tradition.

When I was appointed Editor-in-Chief for Volume 52, I was full of energy and new ideas. DePaul College of Law was in a period of transition—with the addition of Dean Glen Weissenberger<sup>2</sup>—thus, DePaul’s potential for improvement was unlimited. I saw the same potential within the confines of the DePaul Law Review. Our Editorial Board was challenged to leave the Law Review better than we found it. This challenge, I am happy to report, we met with vigor.

### II. GLOBAL INFLUENCES AND LOCAL SUPPORT: THE GROWTH OF DEPAUL LAW REVIEW

One of the greatest challenges placed upon our board was to maintain “a forum for differing written and oral viewpoints on world issues.”<sup>3</sup> This goal is especially important when considering the current state of world affairs: On the international front, we are attempting to build a global community while simultaneously fighting a war; On the domestic front, a “war on terrorism” is challenging our civil liberties while the American economy continues to suffer. In response, we had the pleasure of publishing a symposium entitled *Export/Import: American Civil Justice in a Global Context*<sup>4</sup> to examine specific “issues raised by the export of American notions of civil justice and the impact of other nations’ views on our system.”<sup>5</sup> Further, several articles

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\* Author served as Editor-in-Chief of the Volume 52 of the DePaul Law Review, 2002-2003.

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

2. DePaul University College of Law’s Dean Glen Weissenberger started his tenure during the summer of 2002.

3. Messitt, *supra* note 1, at 985.

4. The Eighth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Policy, *Export/Import: American Civil Justice in a Global Context*, was held in April 2002.

5. Stephan Landsman, *Introduction*, 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 253 (2002).

from our twelfth annual symposium, *Beyond Belonging: Challenging the Boundaries of Nationality*,<sup>6</sup> address concerns raised nationally after September 11, 2002. In addition, our thirteenth annual symposium, *Race as Proxy: Emerging Issues in Race and the Law*,<sup>7</sup> examines racial issues in America today.

Our editorial board realized that one advantage of attending DePaul College of Law, an urban university in the heart of Chicago, is being surrounded by several of the most well-respected professors and lawyers in their field of expertise. One of our goals was to begin building working relationships with many of these individuals where both parties benefit; we can improve the quality of our journal and these scholars can use the Law Review as a forum to express freely their ideas and opinions. With this in mind, we continued our seven-year relationship with a generous alumnus, Robert A. Clifford, by publishing the Eighth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Policy and look forward to publishing next year's symposium, *After the Disaster: The September 11th Compensation Fund and the Future of Civil Justice*.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, we worked with Professor Roberta Rosenthal Kwall<sup>9</sup> to publish a symposium issue specifically devoted to *The Many Faces of Authorship*.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, we began working with Professors Andrea Lyon<sup>11</sup> and Susan Bandes<sup>12</sup> to publish a future symposium dedicated to a discussion addressing several death penalty issues.<sup>13</sup>

In addition to expanding the forum for debate, the Law Review tackled several internal challenges. We successfully created the DePaul Law Review's first website, streamlined the cite-checking and editing process to provide for higher quality articles in a more efficient manner, and managed our own budget internally.

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6. 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 759-1058 (2002).

7. The Thirteenth Annual DePaul Law Review Symposium, *Race a Proxy: Emerging Issues in Race and the Law*, was held on March 8, 2002. For more information on the symposium and the date of publication, see [http://www.law.depaul.edu/opportunities/student\\_organizations.asp](http://www.law.depaul.edu/opportunities/student_organizations.asp).

8. 53 DEPAUL L. REV. (forthcoming 2003). The Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Policy was held on April 24-25, 2003. See the DePaul Law Review's website for more information on the symposium and its publication schedule, available at [http://www.law.depaul.edu/opportunities.student\\_organization.asp](http://www.law.depaul.edu/opportunities.student_organization.asp).

9. Raymond P. Niro Professor of Intellectual Property Law and Director, DePaul University College of Law Center for Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology.

10. 52 DEPAUL L. REV. 1059-1333 (2003).

11. Associate Clinical Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law and Director, Center for Justice in Capital Cases.

12. Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law.

13. 53 DEPAUL L. REV. (forthcoming 2004).

### III. CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

Although our board significantly improved the DePaul Law Review, there is still work to be done. I challenge next year's board to begin focusing on what it wants to accomplish now. Designate three goals for yourselves while still bright-eyed and motivated. In the depths of winter and your editorship, re-evaluate these goals. By the light of next spring, ensure that you have accomplished these goals and are leaving the DePaul Law Review better than you found it.

Administratively, there is still potential to further streamline the editing process. In particular, focus on the training of new editors and candidates, day and night students alike. In addition, continue to carry on professional, lasting relationships with the Dean, faculty, and staff to ensure the maintenance of a high-quality journal. Another major challenge is to improve upon the newly created website: allow for electronic submissions and e-mails directly through the site; include abstracts of future articles; and add archives of old articles.

Most importantly, it is time to reacquaint with the Law Review's roots. Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting several alumni of the DePaul Law Review, and they *are* the strongest assets of this journal.

### CONCLUSION

As I retire my position as Editor-in-Chief, I believe we capitalized on the challenges placed before us and left the DePaul Law Review better than we found it. I encourage next year's board to do the same. Even though being a law review editor requires a great amount of time and dedication, the experience is an invaluable one. This year, I have had the honor to work with some of the most brilliant minds—both the authors and members of my board. Together, we accomplished more than I could have ever hoped for. I anticipate year's board will look back and feel the same way I do today.

And to all those involved with the publication of the Volume 52 of the DePaul Law Review, thank you for making my term as Editor-in-Chief an unbelievably fulfilling experience.

