

# Letter from the Editor

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Annette M. Messitt\**

### INTRODUCTION

In the fourth issue of the 50th volume of the DePaul Law Review, my predecessor began a new tradition—the Letter from the Editor.<sup>1</sup> The letter was designed to provide a review of the preceding year and to inspire improvements and set challenges for the incoming board; however, rather than concentrate on our own accomplishments this year, I wish to reflect upon the work of all student-run law reviews and journals in light of the events of the past year.

### II. A YEAR IN REVIEW

In his premier letter, after summarizing the first fifty years of the DePaul Law Review and encouraging future law review members to continue a tradition of excellence, former Editor-in-Chief David Dahlquist acknowledged the critics of student-run publications. He stated, “[D]ialogue within the legal community questions if law reviews serve an important and necessary role, or whether they are antiquated institutions with little or no purpose.”<sup>2</sup> Sadly, the events of the past year at the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in Pennsylvania served as a somber reminder that law reviews do indeed serve a very important role in the community: the role of providing publication opportunities and creating open forums for students, professors, and practitioners who wish to discuss, debate, and critique the most current and important events in the law and the world.

Since September 11th, law reviews throughout the country have published articles and comments referencing the aftermath of the events of September 11th and their effect on many areas of the law,

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\* Author served as Editor-in-Chief of the 51st volume of the DePaul Law Review, 2001-2002, and anticipates serving as a clerk for the Honorable Judge Susan R. Agid of the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One from 2002-2004.

1. David Dahlquist, *Letter from the Editor*, 50 DEPAUL L. REV. 1061 (2001).

2. *Id.* at 1067.

including the following: international business law,<sup>3</sup> freedom of information,<sup>4</sup> the death penalty,<sup>5</sup> governmental policies involving terrorism,<sup>6</sup> tort law,<sup>7</sup> criminal sentencing guidelines,<sup>8</sup> environmental law,<sup>9</sup> racial profiling,<sup>10</sup> the right to privacy,<sup>11</sup> and federalism.<sup>12</sup> In addition to seeking, editing, and publishing articles on different areas of law, law reviews and student-run journals offered symposium panels to the community, which discussed many issues, including the Second Amendment,<sup>13</sup> ethics and arbitration,<sup>14</sup> election law,<sup>15</sup> ecology and the law,<sup>16</sup> NAFTA,<sup>17</sup> women and the law,<sup>18</sup> asylum,<sup>19</sup> and the future of the

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3. Hale E. Sheppard, *U.S. Actions to Freeze Assets of Terrorism: Manifest and Latent Implications for Latin America*, 17 AM. U. J. INT'L L. 625 (2002).

4. Jack B. Weinstein & Catherine Wimberly, *Secrecy in Law and Science*, 23 CARDOZO L. REV. 1, 31 (2001).

5. Jeffrey L. Kirchmeier, *Another Place Beyond Here: The Death Penalty Moratorium Movement in the United States*, 73 U. COLO. L. REV. 1 (2002).

6. Comment, *Responding to Terrorism: Crime, Punishment, and War*, 115 HARV. L. REV. 1217 (2002).

7. Richard A. Nagareda, *Autonomy, Peace, and Put Options in the Mass Tort Class Action*, 115 HARV. L. REV. 747, 795 (2002).

8. Diana E. Murphy, *Inside the United States Sentencing Commission: Federal Sentencing Policy in 2001 and Beyond*, 87 IOWA L. REV. 359, 376 (2002).

9. Bonnie Docherty, *Challenging Boundaries: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and International Environmental Law Protection*, 10 N.Y.U. ENVTL. L.J. 70, 71 (2001).

10. Liam Braber, *Korematsu's Ghost: A Post-September 11th Analysis of Race and National Security*, 47 VILL. L. REV. 451 (2002).

11. Thomas R. McCarthy, *Don't Fear Carnivore: It Won't Devour Individual Privacy*, 66 MO. L. REV. 827, 842 (2001).

12. Carlos Manuel Vazquez, *Whither Zschernig?* 46 VILL. L. REV. 1259, 1312 n.293 (2002).

13. The Northern Kentucky Law Review held a symposium entitled *The Second Amendment Today: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives on the Constitutionality of Firearms Regulation* on February 16, 2002. See the Northern Kentucky law review web page, available at <http://www.nku.edu/~chase/lawreview/symposium.html> (last visited April 14, 2002).

14. The Georgia State University Law Review held a symposium entitled *Ethics in a World of Mandatory Arbitration* on February 14, 2002. See the Georgia State University Law Review web page, available at <http://law.gsu.edu/lawreview/symposium/index.html> (last visited April 14, 2002).

15. The Florida State University Law Review held a symposium entitled *Election Law Symposium* on March 23, 2001. See the Florida State University Law Review web page, available at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview> (last visited April 14, 2002).

16. The Vermont Law Review held a symposium entitled *Mountain Resorts: Ecology and the Law* on November 2, 2001. See the Vermont Law Review web page, available at <http://www.lawreview.vermontlaw.edu> (last visited April 14, 2002).

17. The Ohio Northern University Law Review held a symposium entitled *NAFTA: North American Integration or Simply Taking Care of Business* on March 15, 2002. See the Ohio Northern University Law Review web page, available at [http://www.onu.edu/org/law\\_review/symposium.html](http://www.onu.edu/org/law_review/symposium.html) (last visited April 14, 2002).

18. The University of San Francisco held a symposium entitled *Shifting the Scales of Justice* on March 16, 2002. See the University of San Francisco Law Review web page, available at <http://usfca/lawreview/symposium.html> (last visited April 14, 2002).

19. The DePaul Law Review held a symposium entitled *Beyond Belonging: Challenging the Boundaries of Nationality* on March 9, 2002. See the DePaul Law Review Symposium informa-

airline industry.<sup>20</sup> If possible, symposium panels were revised to include the effect of terrorism on matters of law; for example, the DePaul Law Review added a panel to its 12th Annual Symposium, entitled *Beyond Belonging: Challenging the Boundaries of Nationality*, to discuss refugee and asylum law in a world “at war with terror,” while another student-run publication, the DePaul Business Law Journal, added several panels addressing terrorism to its symposium on the future of the airline industry. I am confident that many law reviews and journals will dedicate future symposia to other evolving areas of law in the aftermath of September 11th and the commencement of the “War on Terrorism.”

### III. CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

In addition to continuing to create a forum for differing written and oral viewpoints on world issues, I encourage future DePaul Law Review members to strive for excellence and improvement both within the law review office and the law review publication itself. On internal matters, I urge future boards to continue to improve and change for the better the administrative functions of the law review, including the editing process, the cite-checking and writing programs for candidates, the internal budgeting procedure, law review website access, and the transition methods and materials for use by newly elected board members. Improving these internal functions will permit future boards to concentrate more fully on changing and improving the substance of our publication.

On matters involving the law review publication, I urge the board to continue soliciting book reviews, which this year's board revived after a long absence. In the spirit of this reinstatement, future boards may consider reviving legislative notes and/or student notes that focus on Illinois law in an effort to better serve the local legal community. In addition, and perhaps most important, the DePaul Law Review must concentrate on forging strong and lasting relationships with our alumni, our incoming Dean, and our administrators and faculty at the DePaul University College of Law. Strong relationships with these allies will ensure that the DePaul Law Review has the financial and administrative support to continue to publish a quality journal of which the DePaul University College of Law and its students may be proud.

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tion site, available at <http://www.law.depaul.edu/lawreview/intro.html> (last visited April 14, 2002).

20. The DePaul Business Law Journal held a symposium entitled *Terrorism and the Future of the Airline Industry* on February 8, 2002.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Although law review management, writing, and editing work is completely voluntary and quite intensive, the rewards so greatly outnumber the trials that it is an opportunity that should not be missed. I applaud future law review candidates and editorial board members for undertaking the challenge. This type of dedication to the publication of the DePaul Law Review and enthusiasm for the continued study of the law in relation to local, national, and world events is that which defines the role of student-run law reviews and journals—an “important and necessary” role that will continue for years to come.