

## Foreword

Judge William J. Bauer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

Judge William J. Bauer, *Foreword*, 50 DePaul L. Rev. 1057 (2001)

Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/law-review/vol50/iss4/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Law at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in DePaul Law Review by an authorized editor of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact [digitalservices@depaul.edu](mailto:digitalservices@depaul.edu).

## FOREWORD

*Judge William J. Bauer\**

At the risk of stating the obvious, this is the 50th Anniversary issue of the DePaul Law Review. Notes and comments come from those brave men and women (one is tempted to add “living and dead”) who served on the boards of editors over these many years. I am proud to have been asked to prepare this brief forward.

Fifty years is less than a blink of an eye to geologists; it is an enormous chunk of life to most mortals. And a Golden Anniversary is appropriately celebrated with nostalgia, cheers and, not infrequently, with champagne. The fiftieth year of publication for the DePaul Law Review should merit both a backward look of satisfaction and a forward look of anticipation.

Twenty years ago, I had the honor to write the forward to the DePaul Law Review just as I had the honor fifty years ago to serve on the very first board of the splendid intellectual tome. As I pointed out, fifty years ago the editors had no tradition to rely on, no old-boy network, no way of knowing how to prepare such a piece of work – or even how much work was involved. Except for specific research into very specific subjects, it is safe to say that most of us had never even read a law review.

In an effort to avoid repeating my last generational forward, let me discuss the idea of a law review in the abstract. A law review is, pretty much, the only vehicle available to our profession for practitioners, students, and even judges and professors, to express themselves on subjects of deep interest to the writers and such of their readers who may have an interest in the problem under discussion. The contributors, and particularly the students, have no monetary axes to grind, no cause to which they owe the duty of client relationship to advance or defend, and no motive except pure intellectual and legal research and development. The cause is pure; the work, properly presented, has the potential of somehow, somewhere, advancing legal thought and even affecting the cause of justice. Ideas that begin as simple submis-

---

\* Judge Bauer is a Senior Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is a DePaul College of Law alumnus and was an Editor on the board of Volume One of the DePaul Law Review.

sions can be found, over the years, to have taken root in the substantive body of law. And that possibility gives hope and reason for all the work that producing the tome requires.

Many of the most important changes in how we approach the practice of law, how we teach it, how we judge it, and how the world accepts it, started with a labor of love that found its way into print, and into the body of legal thinking, by its publication in a law review. And, like chain reactions, new ideas on law produce more new ideas, more refinements, more careful scrutiny of what we do day to day in advancing justice and freedom. In short, there is a very, very good reason to undertake the publication of law reviews. It helps us all in ways we do not always appreciate.

In my position as a judge, I receive about fifty law reviews from around the country. I do not pretend that I read them all, but then, I do not pretend that I read every act passed by Congress. I can say with honesty that I scrutinize them all to see whether there is within a note or comment that I think I can use, or discusses a novel or intriguing twist in the law, or is a fresh approach to an old question, even if I have no idea that any work of my court might be touched by the subject. Those items I do more than scan; I digest them whole. Some years ago, I discovered that oral argument changes my initial impression in about ten percent of the cases before me – maybe more. And frequently, I find that the direction of my thinking about a field of law or, more often, a specific case, has been to a large or small degree influenced by a splendid commentary or student note that I encountered in one or another law review.

And let me say to those students currently struggling to produce the next DePaul Law Review: you will have many occasions to be glad you did. To learn how to research, to learn how to assemble legal arguments and to see through specious arguments, to hold your own in spirited discussions with your fellow editors; these are the things that will make you great lawyers when pure research is no longer an option for you and when clients depend on your legal talents.

I do not at all suggest that all the great lawyers of America were members of a law review; I do believe, however, that the lessons learned from working on, and preparing notes for law reviews and collecting articles from outside sources makes the practice of law easier. It is an educational opportunity that pays only in satisfaction when being done but, like an investment toward retirement, has long-term benefits for the worker.

I have no idea who or whom decided in the middle of the century that DePaul should produce a law review. Whoever he is, or they

were, I pause to say that after fifty years I am still grateful, and with each new edition, my gratitude grows. I shall continue to look forward to each new edition and I am confident that the legal world – lawyers, judges, professors – and the rest of the world seeking justice and truth – will continue to benefit.

Happy Golden Anniversary, DePaul Law Review. May you prosper and publish for as long as the Rule of Law is paramount in this great country of ours – and as long as men are free to think and write about how much better we can become if we really try.

