

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

The *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest* is proud to present our final issue of Volume XIV. We have enjoyed a successful year filled with compelling topics and impressive authorship. In the fall, we began Volume XIV with our publication of *The General Assembly in Review*, followed by an annual symposium, which focused on state legislative and judicial initiatives for establishing mental health courts in Virginia. Our subsequent issue covered an array of contemporary topics in the areas of litigation, federal procurement, and child protection programs. Our third issue centered solely on the Bill of Rights under the U.S. Constitution and became the first issue widely available to the general public. We conclude our year with our fourth issue presented here, which discusses a variety of issues that are particularly in contention among legal commentators. This issue examines: the personal and philosophical undertones possibly affecting judicial opinions; the problems posed by modern federalism markets; the potential unconstitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act; and finally, the ethical adversities faced by attorneys who engage in online social networking.

The Journal's achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment demonstrated by our reliable Editorial Board and Staff. Many thanks to: Executive Editor Jillian Malizio whose passion and diligence maintained the Journal's operations and staff relations; Publication Editor Gregory Engle who, despite spending long hours in the office and liaising between multiple publication companies at once, always had a smile on his face; Managing Editor Michael Puglisi who maintained the power of the purse in keeping us on track; Recruitment Editor M.R. Rowe for recruiting such a large number of devoted journal members: General Assembly Editor Carter Keeney whose combination of quick-wit and

local political knowledge always guaranteed a successful issue: Lead Articles Editors Lauren Campbell and David Tait whose dynamic personalities and relentless efforts continued to ensure thought-provoking publications throughout the year; Notes and Comments Editor Paul Koshetar for finding impressive works by law students worthy of recognition in each issue; and Symposium Editor Kyle Matykowski for organizing a successful public event featuring an impressive panel of speakers. We are also very grateful to our graduating staff member Shlawna Sikochi for her hard work during the past two years.

I am proud to have been a part of the *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest*, and I am confident that our success will serve as a platform from which the incoming Editors will take the Journal to new heights.

Thank you,

Sheila Moheb  
*Editor-in-Chief*