

## Letter from the Editor

Melanie C. MacKay

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Each year, the editor in chief of the *DePaul Law Review* writes a letter to commemorate the progress of the past year. During my tenure as editor in chief of Volume 59, I have had the privilege of making unforgettable friends and the opportunity to edit superb articles. The task of writing this letter is therefore my honor. I could not begin this letter without a word of thanks to many people. Most especially, thank you to the board and staff of Volume 59. Being a part of this board required time away from academic responsibilities, time away from extracurricular activities, and most notably, time away from loved ones. Despite the demands of this journal, your hard work and dedication knew no bounds, and together we have created something to be proud of. Thank you also to the professors who volunteered their time to mentor third-year students on the board and second-year students who asked for your aid in writing their articles. This journal is better because of your efforts. And finally, thank you to every author who published in Volume 59; the *DePaul Law Review* is grateful for your contribution to the continued success of this journal.

This year was marked by three outstanding events. First, our Symposium Editor, Ben Shrader, skillfully planned a symposium entitled *Trial 2010: A Look Inside Our Nation's Courtrooms*. This symposium explored judicial elections, alternative dispute resolution, technology in the courtroom, and current constitutional concerns. The panels of experts were impressive, the topics were engaging, and the DePaul University College of Law's Interim Dean, Judge Warren D. Wolfson, noted that it was one of the best student symposiums that he had ever attended. Second, Professor Stephan Landsman organized *The Sixteenth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy: The Limits of Predictability and the Value of Uncertainty*, which was immensely successful. Professor Landsman routinely attracts distinguished and intelligent speakers, and the *DePaul Law Review* is thankful for all the time and effort that he dedicates to planning this consistently successful event. Likewise, we are grateful to Mr. Robert A. Clifford for making this symposium possible. Third, our Business Manager, Gwen Schoen, planned the Fifth Annual Law Review Alumni Reception, where we awarded Ms. Carla Michelotti the Law Review's Sapientia Award. Ms. Michelotti is the Executive Vice President, Chief Legal, Government, Corporate Affairs Officer at Leo Burnett Worldwide, and she is the third recipient of the Sapientia

Award. This award is given to distinguished *DePaul Law Review* alumni, and we thank Ms. Michelotti not only for being present to accept the award, but also for the thoughtful comments that she provided after receiving it.

In addition to these events, the board of Volume 59 was tasked with editing thirty-four articles in four separate issues. The Managing Editor of Lead Articles, Rachel White-Domain, selected five articles that appeared in the Fall 2009 and Summer 2010 issues. Last year's Symposium Editor recruited five articles that appeared in the Winter 2010 issue, last year's Managing Editor of Notes and Comments selected ten student articles, and one article was published in association with a speech given at the Center for Church-State Studies at DePaul University College of Law. The remaining thirteen articles were published in our third issue, in conjunction with the *DePaul Law Review's* annual Clifford Symposium. The caliber of authors published in Volume 59 was impressive, and the diverse topics discussed within those articles were innovative and thought provoking. I speak for the entire board when I say that it was a privilege to have had a hand in shaping these articles.

The publication of Volume 59's four issues is a terrific accomplishment, and I will always look back on this year with a great deal of nostalgia. The work completed this year could not have been accomplished without the unique contributions of each board member, and although I could write pages about the board members of Volume 59, below is a brief synopsis of how each of them contributed to the *DePaul Law Review*.

James Vanzant, the Executive Editor, committed a vast amount of time to the *DePaul Law Review*, reading each article four times and checking every citation for accuracy. He was our resident *Bluebook* guru, and he could recite *Bluebook* rules with incredible accuracy. He somehow managed to do all this while simultaneously working long hours for the Public Defender's Office. James never backed down from a challenge or a deadline. He accomplished miracles with the amount of work on his plate, and the quality of his work speaks for itself. Last year, James and I decided that we would do everything in our power in order to avoid publishing articles while we were studying for the bar. This included long nights, early mornings, and weekly Saturday and Sunday line meetings. Even when our schedules became grueling, James' perseverance and determination never faltered. So congratulations to James: We did it!

Rachel White-Domain was the Managing Editor of Lead Articles. Her position demanded an incredible amount of work, but she exem-

plified grace under pressure, making her job appear almost effortless. Rachel is a brilliant woman. She is meticulous, she is generous, and she challenges everyone around her to be better, both academically and personally. She was very much my right-hand *woman*,<sup>1</sup> constantly contributing invaluable insight. She developed strong relationships with authors, and the authors' ability to become acquainted with Rachel has undoubtedly enhanced the reputation of this journal. In addition to carrying out all of the responsibilities typically performed by the Lead Articles editor, Rachel consistently volunteered her time and services to all of this journal's projects. Her unreserved commitment to the journal went unnoticed by no one, and her impact on Volume 59 is immeasurable.

Katie Johnson, the Managing Editor of Notes and Comments, was a fantastic student leader who was dependable, hard working, and wonderful to be around. Katie's friendly temperament improves any room that she enters, and her contagious attitude enlivens those around her much more than she realizes. As an added bonus, Katie reads with a critical eye, catching both big-picture and detailed errors at every corner. She would volunteer to help the journal accomplish any task, regardless of whether she was technically responsible for ensuring its completion. Simply put, she is a delightful person who was wholly and selflessly committed to this journal, and she will be greatly missed. As the Managing Editor of Notes and Comments, she was an important asset to second-year students, and she bettered our writing program by creating the Alumni Feedback Network, which is designed to help second-year students contact alumni who are willing to read and provide feedback on draft student articles. The Alumni Feedback Network is a tremendous success, and the *DePaul Law Review* will be forever grateful for her work.

Ben Shrader was the Symposium Editor for Volume 59, and his symposium has left his successor with a tough act to follow. His job is by no means easy, but true to himself, Ben made his job look trouble-free by never complaining. I am grateful for his immense contribution to this journal, and I look forward to reading Volume 60's Spring 2011 issue, which will contain all the articles that were published in conjunction with his symposium. In addition to being a talented Symposium Editor, Ben was one of the few people who I knew when the

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1. Anyone who had the pleasure of working with Rachel is sure to know why this word is italicized. Rachel is an ardent opponent of all social inequities, and she did not leave her commitment to social justice at the *DePaul Law Review's* doors. Instead, she became an expert at noticing when authors used the pronoun "he" to the absolute exclusion of "she." We could always count on Rachel to set this right.

board of Volume 59 was elected. It has been a pleasure, to say the least, to have spent this last year with him on the board. He was a constant source of humor and biting wit, never missing a chance to quote *Arrested Development* at perfect moments. Needless to say, line meetings with Ben were always amusing, and his light-hearted humor will be missed.

Gwen Schoen, the Business Manager, was normally the first person in the law review office and often the last person to leave. Her nearly constant presence in the office made everyone's time here more enjoyable. Although her desk resides in the far corner of the office, Gwen would frequently poke her head over her cubicle's wall to participate in any conversation that happened to be taking place. And without exception, Gwen would respond to every inquiry with the kind of politeness and pleasantness that reside only in those who are sincerely gracious people. She had her hands in nearly everything that the *DePaul Law Review* accomplished, and her involvement ensured that everything went off without a hitch. She was, quite simply, a great Business Manager and an even better friend. I will miss seeing her every morning, and I will especially miss our daily conversations over her cubicle wall.

And finally, thank you to every Associate Editor on Volume 59: Tad Baria, Sarah Barnes, Jodi Schuette Green, Steve Highfield, Scott Koontz, Claire Kossman, Emily Monteith, Karen Nakon, and Elizabeth Hermann Smith. The work of an Associate Editor is time consuming, and it requires great diligence. Each Associate Editor followed multiple articles from beginning to end, ultimately becoming the most familiar editor with that particular article. I am proud to say that I can, without hesitation, thank each and every Associate Editor for their hard work, thoroughness, and attention to detail. Each of them met their tasks with professionalism, and this journal could not have accomplished anything without the extraordinary efforts of the Associate Editors.

As I leave this journal in the hands of next year's board, I have only a few parting words. To our readers, I hope that you found the articles stimulating and well written. To last year's board, thank you for electing such a diverse and wonderful group of people to the board of Volume 59. To the board of Volume 60, I look forward to seeing your contribution to this journal. And to the board members of Volume 59, I will miss you. I wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors, wherever they may take you, and I will never forget the new friend-

ships that we have made or the great things that we have accomplished.

*Melanie C. MacKay\**

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\* Editor in Chief, *DePaul Law Review*, Volume 59; J.D. 2010, DePaul University College of Law; B.A. 2005, Georgetown University. Thank you to my parents, Bob and Jan Craig, for your constant love and support. You are inspirational, your guidance is invaluable, and you will forever be my role models. Thank you also to my siblings and their families, Brent, Margit, Alice, Kristen, Margot, and Steve, for the joy and laughter that only family can provide. I also thank Uncle Steve, Aunt Linda, Logan, and Melissa for your love and support. You are exceptionally dear to me, and I am at home when I am with you. I am also grateful to Kathy and Patrick MacKay for your loving support and for the many delicious dinners you cooked throughout my law school career. And thank you, most especially, to Gideon MacKay, my husband, for your extraordinary love, patience, and encouragement. You believe in me without hesitation, and all of my achievements belong to you.

