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## Letter from the Editors

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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Dear *Health Law & Policy* Reader:

On behalf of the Editorial Board and staff, it is with great enthusiasm that we present the third issue of *Health Law & Policy*. This issue is particularly special to us as it marks the end of our role as Co-Editors-In-Chief, a position we have proudly and enthusiastically held since the inception of this publication in the Spring of 2007. When we first introduced *Health Law & Policy* to the American University Washington College of Law (WCL) and the Washington, DC community last year, we could only hope that *Health Law & Policy* would become the substantive publication that we now present to you.

Given the rich political discussions that have been occurring the past few months, we wanted this issue of *Health Law & Policy* to truly capture the pulse of the vast array of legal developments, policy issues, and avant garde bioethical questions currently being discussed in the health care arena. Thus, in our effort to further enrich the breadth of *Health Law & Policy*'s offerings, we sought to compliment the traditional array of practitioner- and student-written articles offered in this issue by including three pieces written from diverse perspectives of a political science scholar, a practicing physician, and a Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Specifically, our third issue opens with the transcript of a keynote speech on physician-assisted suicide given by renowned Professor Raphael Cohen-Almagor at the Washington College of Law in January 2008, and is followed by an article presenting an innovative legal analysis of what is known as the ERISA "regulatory vacuum." This issue also presents two distinct analyses of physicians' obligations through articles addressing the potential implications of concierge medicine and the bioethical ramifications of patient-physician relationships in the military. Three authors writing for this issue tackle relevant issues in women's health through articles concentrating on access to reproductive health care in the context of hospital mergers, recent state approaches to HPV vaccine regulation, and the ethics of stem cell research and the potential for coercion when monetary compensation is involved. Finally, this issue includes an article that explores the varied perspectives held by members of the deaf community and analyzes the merits of different disability protections advocated for by the deaf.

As the old adage goes and this issue exemplifies, "the third time is a charm." Our dedicated readers may note this installment of *Health Law & Policy* is more than twice the length of the inaugural issue that hit the stands last spring. The length of this issue and the wide range of topics covered within serve as testaments to the ever-expanding interest in health care law held by WCL students and the legal world at large. *Health Law & Policy* is now distributed throughout the nation and our loyal reader base continues to grow with each passing issue.

We extend our genuine gratitude and thanks to our advisor, Professor Corrine Parver, for more than two years of dedication and guidance from the inception of this publication to its current success. We also graciously thank our past staff members for bringing this publication to its current success and our current staff members for their tireless efforts during the production of this issue. We sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together, and we offer our very best wishes to the new executive board and staff in anticipation of many amazing issues to come!

Sincerely,



Georgiana Avramidis  
*Editor-in-Chief*



Gabrielle A. Mulnick  
*Editor-in-Chief*