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Acknowledgements

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Each year, in a tradition dating back twenty-three years to Volume 33, the Editor-in-Chief of the *University of Richmond Law Review* authors acknowledgements to be included in their volume's final publication. In keeping with tradition, I offer below my gratitude to those who have contributed to this publication and to the overall success of the *Law Review*, and reflect upon the fifty-seventh volume of our journal.

Our journey began in the spring of 2022 when we were elected to our Editorial Board roles by the Volume 56 Board. One of the most difficult things each new board encounters is the temporal limitations we face. One year to learn our new roles, navigate the publication process, and work to improve the journal—all while soliciting, editing, and publishing four issues. The changes and improvements each board makes are necessarily limited, and each board brings with them its own unique vision of what the *Law Review* should look like. It is with this in mind that our esteemed and motley crew set out our goal for Volume 57—to reexamine our processes and procedures and lay a solid foundation upon which our successors could build.

This began with an overhaul of our Staff guide and internal consistency style manual, the *Redbook*. We streamlined our internal consistency rules, removing superfluous rules and making others more in line with citation styles used by courts and practitioners. We created the *Law Review* Resources Page, providing a single hub where all documents, calendars, deadlines, memos, and other resources could be accessed from and created a “Spading Cheat Sheet” as a quick reference guide for editing and spading rules. Building upon the work done by our predecessors on Volume 56, we developed and implemented a comprehensive reform and reorganization of our editing process, allowing for a greater focus on individual pieces of scholarship and streamlining the editing process to allow for more efficient workflow.

For the first time since 2015, we found a way for *Law Review* members to obtain academic credit as part of their participation on a legal journal. In consultation and coordination with the Dean's Office, we created a new class, *Selected Topics in Scholarly Publication*. This class was designed to allow journal members from all three journals to work on process improvement for their journal and receive academic credit for that work. Each year, members will select one process on their journal they believe needs improvement, then, in consultation with the journal advisors and using legal process improvement strategies, will improve and redevelop that process. While this is not a perfect solution nor a complete replacement for the academic credit *Law Review* members used to receive, we hope it serves as a building block towards that goal.

Additionally, we reexamined our online presence, updating and reorganizing our website to make it more user-friendly and added all our previously published scholarship to the *University of Richmond Scholarship Repository*. We expanded our social media presence, growing our followings on Facebook and Instagram, and creating a LinkedIn page that has grown to have one of the largest followings of legal journals in Virginia.

In the spring of 1958, William T. Muse, Dean of the University of Richmond School of Law, opened the first issue of the first volume of the *University of Richmond Law Notes* stating that he hoped the publication would "be of some value to the lawyers of Virginia."¹ Dean Muse pledged that the publication would "be devoted to Virginia law" and that it would "contain discussions of practical problems which are thought to be of current interest to the profession."² In keeping with, and recentering on that mission, we launched the *Virginia Docket Review (VADR)*, an online forum where scholars, practitioners, and students can author pieces discussing pending and recently decided cases of the Supreme Court of Virginia and Court of Appeals of Virginia, as part of the *University of Richmond Law Review Online*. These short pieces are meant to provide small, quick-to-read updates for practitioners in the Commonwealth. Echoing Dean Muse, we too hope that this platform will be of some value to the lawyers of Virginia.

Serving as Editor-in-Chief has been a uniquely daunting challenge, but one that has been among the most rewarding in my

1. William T. Muse, *Foreword*, 1 U. RICH. L. NOTES 2 (1958).

2. *Id.*

professional career. However, finding the right words to express my gratitude in these few pages has proven to be the most difficult challenge I have faced in my tenure. I am not sure that the full extent of my gratitude can be expressed in words, but I have endeavored to convey some small part of that.

I suppose the best place to start is at the beginning. Thank you to the Volume 56 Editorial Board and to Editor-in-Chief, Chris Sullivan for entrusting me to lead Volume 57. Chris, I am eternally grateful for your confidence in me, and for your willingness to always take my calls over the past year to let me vent to you or seek your advice. You were an outstanding Editor-in-Chief and you set a high bar for me to follow. I humbly hope I have done you proud.

Each Editor-in-Chief, each Editorial Board, inherits the journal from the previous and seeks to build upon that. We do not exist in an island but upon the shoulders of all those who have come before. With that in mind, thanks are also due to Lincoln Wolfe, Volume 55 Editor-in-Chief, for carrying this journal through a pandemic, your adaptiveness and the continued quality and professionalism of the journal continues to be felt. Thank you to all the Editors-in-Chief, back to the first, Pat McSweeney, in 1968 and to all the staff members, too numerous to name here, who have laid the groundwork for what the *Law Review* is today. Those who came before us demonstrated their commitment to excellence and challenged us to follow suit—I hope we have honored the legacy you left us.

The successes of the *Law Review* are the result of the tireless effort of many, and our accomplishments are equally shared between our members and those who have offered guidance throughout the year. An immense thank you to our faculty advisors, Professor Jessica Erickson and Professor Carl Tobias, for their advice and guidance throughout the year. Thank you to the staff of the University of Richmond Law Library for being a resource to our staff for citation questions and researching aid. A personal thank you is due to Professor Joyce Janto. Thank you for your expertise and assistance as we overhauled our *Redbook* and for always being willing to answer my questions (large and small). Your kindness and vast knowledge are an asset to the law library and the school, and I will be forever grateful to you. Thanks are also due to the legendary Glenice Coombs. For forty years you were an integral part of this journal, and while you retired in 2021, your

impact on this journal, and your dedication to it, remains. Despite enjoying a well-deserved retirement, you were always willing to take a phone call, grab a coffee, or come into the office to answer our questions and provide words of wisdom. I have always remembered your words about the ultimate goal of the *Law Review*—“we publish books”—and I have always tried to keep that in the forefront of my mind throughout my tenure. While future generations of *Law Review* members may not have the chance to get to know you personally, know that your legacy and commitment to this journal will remain, in our dedication to excellence, hard work, and the publication of quality legal scholarship.

To the Staff of Volume 57, a year spent as a member of a law review is a considerable undertaking. The hours spent poring over articles, the grind of learning the intricacies of the editorial process, and the effort of collaborating with peers combine to yield a uniquely challenging, if hopefully rewarding, experience. Together, we have edited nearly 9,000 footnotes, over 375,000 words, and published 1,628 pages of legal scholarship—the largest amount ever published by the *University of Richmond Law Review*. I understand that achieving such a feat required enduring and tiring weeks throughout the past year. However, I trust that these four published books will provide you with a sense of well-earned fulfillment. Your efforts have enabled countless voices to be heard, contributing to our shared comprehension of law and justice, which will endure for many years to come.

To our Associate Symposium Editor—Seneca Tsang—thank you for your assistance in bringing back the first in-person annual Symposium in four years. Your hard work, constant involvement in everything you can be engaged in, and dedication to service and to those around you never ceases to amaze and inspire me. Above all, I am grateful to call you, my friend.

To our Associate Online Editor—Jack Sims—thank you for the commitment you showed in making the *Law Review*’s online presence the best it could be—our continued growth in our social media and online presence is due in no small part to your creativity and thoughtful work. Thank you for finding new and interesting ways to keep our social media fun and for the publication (and expansion) of the *University of Richmond Law Review*. I am sure being the sole Associate Online Editor has not been easy, especially as Bridget and I sought to do more with our Online presence this year.

I am truly grateful for your dedication and the kindness you bring to every interaction.

To our Articles & Comments Editors—Nicole, Holly, Mandy, and David—thank you for your diligent work in securing so many of our articles. We published articles on a wide array of topics this year, with many novel and important contributions to the scholarly discussions because of your work. I hope that you look back with pride on the articles that you helped select and bring to the publication for the legal community. Thank you also for your assistance in scoring the journal competition, and the invaluable guidance you provided to our Staff as they crafted their own scholarship.

To our Articles Editors—Jack, Viktoriia, Taylor Anne, Hannah, Catherine, and Starr—thank you for your mentorship and instruction of the Staff, an always-critical role the importance of which only grew this year with an unprecedented number of second-year Staff members. You are wonderful editors and have been integral in setting the stage for the success of Volume 58 by sharing your insights, feedback, and support with our Staff.

To our Manuscripts Editors—Zie, Bryson, Kaylee, Matt, Austin, and Mary—thank you for your masterful knowledge of the *Bluebook*, meticulous attention to detail, and invaluable support in assisting our final editors with preparing pieces for publication. You are truly among the most accomplished editors I have ever encountered. I also want to thank you for your leadership during office hours and the mentorship you have provided to the Staff. When I assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that the Volume 57 Manuscripts Editors might be the most remarkably talented group in the sixty-three-year history of *Law Review*. Having had the privilege of working alongside each of you this past year, I can confidently say that this statement was unquestionably true.

It has been a tremendous honor, one that is profoundly humbling, to lead this organization, comprised of the brightest and most successful students in our law school. Our members are not only devoted to the advancement of legal scholarship, but they set out to leave *Law Review* better than they found it. I must take this opportunity to offer my sincerest gratitude and admiration for my colleagues. I am humbled and privileged to have worked alongside such an incredible group of editors, future lawyers, never more so than with the members of our Executive Board. As Chris did before

me, I view the role of Editor-in-Chief as a supportive one, seamlessly bridging different positions and providing the necessary resources and assistance to help individuals realize their full potential. From the very outset, and throughout the process of writing these acknowledgments, I have been fully aware that each one of you is exceptionally suited for your respective roles. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead this publication and for continually humbling me with your unwavering dedication, hard work, creativity, and commitment to this journal.

To Drake Herring, our Publications Editor—you had the daunting task of not only taking on a position that didn't previously exist, but also taking on the shoes of a woman who carried the *Law Review* for the past forty years. Not only did you excel in your role, but you helped to craft and define how this role will exist moving forward—you have undoubtedly honored the legacy that Glenice left. Thank you for your grace and accommodation as we worked to define the role of Publications Editor and for your dedication to making sure the issues we published were the best they could be.

Bridget Maas, I cannot describe how grateful I am for the opportunity to have worked together. Not only did we have one of the smallest editorial boards, we had the smallest online staff—rather than seeing that as an impediment, you made the most of it and not only maintained but expanded. You updated the website, worked through a significant backlog to ensure that all of *Law Review's* published scholarship are available through the school's repository, you launched the *Virginia Docket Review*, and, on top of it all, you published seven pieces, continuing to ensure that the *University of Richmond Law Review Online* is a place people can look to for legal scholarship. The *University of Richmond Law Review Online* is undoubtedly the future of this journal, and your work as Online Editor has laid the foundation for it to truly become the *Law Review's* fifth publication.

Ryan Dunn, Senior Notes & Comments Editor, President Emeritus, and (self-titled) King of the Law School. Coming off the back of a historically low turnout journal competition, there were great expectations for us to have a achieve a high participation and completion rate. You didn't just meet the expectations or even exceed them, you set a new bar which may never be surpassed. Eighty-five percent of the first-year class participated in the Unified Journal Competition, with nearly all completing it, and

with nearly three-quarters of those who did ranking *Law Review* as their first-choice journal. In the end, we added forty-four new Staff members, the largest Staff *Law Review* has ever had in its sixty-three-year history. This alone would be an impressive legacy for any Senior Notes & Comments Editor, but your legacy extends beyond it. You have been the life of the *Law Review* office—always keeping morale high and your passion and the commitment to the scholarly work we publish is the exceeded only by your commitment to foster and mentor the Staff. I will truly miss your infectious enthusiasm. You were one of the first people I met at orientation, it has been such an honor and pleasure to have known and worked with you over the past three years. I truly cannot imagine *Law Review*—or law school—without you.

Emily Casey, no roles on the editorial board begin more quickly than Lead Articles Editor and Editor-in-Chief. I thought I was being thrown into the fire, but before I even met with Chris, you were reaching out to start planning our solicitation plans. You and your team helped solicit some phenomenal legal scholarship from a diverse group of authors. Your candidness, kindness, and insights throughout his process made it possible and, more importantly, made it fun. Not only did you do an incredible job soliciting articles throughout the spring, summer, and fall, even after fulfilling your job of soliciting, you came back and revamped our solicitation process—making it more efficient and improving the quality of articles being selected. As Glenice always used to say, “*we publish books,*” but this core function of the *Law Review* is incumbent upon the solicitation of quality articles. Your improvements to the process have helped to build the foundation upon which the journal’s future successes will be based. I hope, looking back, you can take great pride in the books we published and the voices you helped be heard.

Cassidy Bowling, our Managing Editor. Thank you for assisting with the mechanics behind the *Law Review*—the budgeting, the mailing, the social planning. Thank you for your dedicated work in fulfilling these responsibilities. Thank you for going to bat for us with the Richmond Law Administration, advocating for this journal, and for ultimately ensuring that our friends and families got to see us in our capacities as *Law Review* members at the graduation brunch.

Kelly Boppe, when you took on the role of Symposium Editor you had the formidable task of orchestrating the first in-person *Law*

Review symposium in four years. Not only did you succeed in doing that, but you also organized and executed a symposium that was repeatedly talked about as one of the best symposia people had ever been to. Between the in-person event and the seven articles we published in our Symposium issue, you helped bring into the public eye, and give voice to, the issues being faced by rural Americans. Your autonomy, drive, passion, and resilience were, and continue to be, inspiring to me. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to bringing about one of *Law Review's* greatest Symposia.

Kelly O'Brien, the Annual Survey of Virginia Law holds the distinction of being the first issue published by Law Review and is also our most widely read. Together, we embarked on the journey of publishing a book for the first time, which could have been a challenging and arduous process. However, through your patience, dedication, and commitment to ensuring the utmost quality of scholarship, we made it a seamless experience. I am grateful for your efforts to familiarize me with "hip slang," even though I may not have been the best student in that regard. However, what I am most thankful for is not just the work you did for this journal; it is the fact that amidst others approaching me with concerns about deadlines and readiness for printing, you never failed to ask the more important questions—how I was doing or if I had any enjoyable plans for the weekend. For this, I express my heartfelt gratitude. It meant more to me than words can truly convey.

Josh Stenhjem, the Executive Editor of the *Law Review*, and my right hand for this past year. In an organization of more than eighty people with a multitiered editing process and tight deadlines, there must be someone who provides structure to the chaos. Thank you for working the most thankless job in this organization and for doing such a masterful job in it. Not only did you keep the gears turning through your weekly schedules, but you also led the effort to reorganize and perfect so many facets of the journal. From our reorganized and refined editing process, to the "Spading Cheat Sheet," and countless other changes, you helped to build a strong and lasting foundation for the future success of the *Law Review*. These changes made *Law Review* better and will certainly last for years to come. I wish we got to spend a year with this journal after the changes you helped implement and spearheaded. I am truly glad to have had the opportunity to work

alongside you this past year—I could not have asked for a better partner in leadership.

The journal is where it is today because of the hard work and commitment of those mentioned above, but I am where I am today because of the love and support of my friends and family. I am grateful to many but wish to highlight a few.

To my dog, Sasha, my closest friend for nearly ten years. You supported me during my darkest moments, kept me going when nothing else could, and never failed to bring a smile to my face. You were with me when I started this journey so many years ago, I wish you could have been here for the end of it—we did it.

To my parents, I cannot possibly offer sufficient recognition. Thank you for always believing in me and supporting me, even as I traveled a winding path of self-discovery. If I have had any success—in not only this position, but in law school and in the parts of life that came before it and will follow—it is thanks to you. I am forever grateful for your love and trust.

Lastly, to McKenna Brady. Your unwavering support has meant the world to me. Your kindness, wisdom, uplifting words, and unwavering faith in me have played a pivotal role in shaping who I am today, both as an editor and as an individual. Over the past three years—the past year especially—you have had a remarkable ability to alleviate the burdens of difficult times and enhance the joys of the good times beyond what I could have envisioned or wished for. I genuinely could not have achieved this without you.

It has been my distinct honor to serve as the fifty-seventh Editor-in-Chief of the *University of Richmond Law Review*. On behalf of those involved and those who have come before, it is my privilege to proudly present the final issue of Volume 57.

Matthew L. Brock
Editor-in-Chief