

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present the first issue of its twenty-ninth volume. This issue contains a diverse set of pieces that we hope will be useful and informative as well as thought-provoking. Additionally, the 2011 *Year in Review* is now available online at http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/alr_yearinreview (you may also follow the link on the *Alaska Law Review* website, <http://alr.law.duke.edu>).

This issue begins with two articles, each written by a talented Alaska law clerk. The first, *Rule 82 & Tort Reform: An Empirical Study of the Impact of Alaska's English Rule on Federal Civil Case Filings*, by Douglas C. Rennie, compares civil case filings in the District of Alaska to civil case filings in other federal judicial districts to determine whether Rule 82 reduces meritless litigation. The author concludes that although Rule 82 does not appear to reduce such lawsuits, it does appear to be fulfilling its intended purpose of partially compensating prevailing parties. The second article, *Navigating Uncharted Waters: Alaska Native Corporations in a New Era of 8(a) Contracting*, by Emily M. Maass, provides an overview of the 2011 revisions to the Small Business Administration 8(a) Business Development Program regulations. It then analyzes the likely effects of those revisions on certified Alaska Native Corporations.

Next, the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present two comments. The first, *The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend and Membership in the State's Political Community*, by Professor Christopher L. Griffin, Jr., provides an overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend and Alaska Supreme Court cases on PFD eligibility. The comment argues that these cases reflect a larger judgment about who may fully participate in Alaska's political community. The second comment, *The Anchorage, Alaska Veterans Court and Recidivism: July 6, 2004–December 31, 2010*, by the Honorable Jack W. Smith, provides empirical data and firsthand observations highlighting the important role the Alaska Veterans Court is playing in Alaska's legal community.

Finally, this issue concludes with two student notes. The first, *Insiders and Outsiders: The Case for Alaska Reclaiming Its Cultural Property*, by Rebecca Kitchens, provides an overview of the cultural property law framework and suggests steps Alaska Natives could take if they wish to assert their cultural property rights. The second note, *Alaska on the Asset Protection Trust Map: Not Far Enough for a Regulatory Advantage, but Too*

Far for Convenience?, by Timothy Lee, provides an overview of the 1997 act that made Alaska the first state to recognize self-settled asset protection trusts. The note discusses developments since the act's passage and analyzes the extent to which Alaska has met its goal of becoming a financial hub for asset protection.

I hope that you will find these pieces as enjoyable and informative as we have. This issue concludes my service as editor-in-chief of the *Alaska Law Review*. Leading the journal for the past year has been a fantastic experience. I not only have had the opportunity to work with a talented and dedicated group of students; I also have had the privilege of working with and getting to know a few of Alaska's many talented judges and practitioners. I am very grateful to the Alaska Bar for this opportunity, and I hope that the following pages demonstrate our commitment to producing the best possible law review for the state of Alaska.

Jennie Morawetz