

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our June 2017 issue, the first in our thirty-fourth volume. We are gratified to be able to share with you this new issue, which features three Articles and two student Notes. These pieces touch on a variety of legal issues that are currently significant for Alaska, from pretrial diversions to the Permanent Fund Dividend to public school funding.

Our first Article, titled *The Anchorage, Alaska Municipal Pretrial Diversion Program: An Initial Assessment*, is written by Cory R. Lepage and Jeff D. May. Dr. Lepage is an assistant professor in the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage; Mr. May serves on the faculty of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Justice Program. Analyzing in depth the success of the Anchorage Pretrial Diversion Program, Dr. Lepage and Mr. May determine that the program is both efficient and cost saving, suggesting that it should be considered for use on a more widespread level as a resource saving alternative to current methods.

Our second Article, titled *Truth and Reconciliation Commissions: A Needed Force in Alaska?*, is written by Heather Parker, a graduate of the Willamette University College of Law and a clerk for Judge Philip Pallenberg, who serves on the Juneau Superior Court. Describing the use of truth and reconciliation commissions throughout the United States and other countries, Ms. Parker considers the implementation of such commissions in Alaska, ultimately arguing that they could be valuable for improving both transparency and dialogue.

Our third Article is written by Ashley K. Sundquist, a recent graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law and an upcoming clerk for Judge Sharon Gleason, who serves on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. In her Article, titled *The Economic Loss Doctrine in Alaska and the Design Professional Exception*, Ms. Sundquist starts with an overview of the economic loss doctrine in Alaska, identifying the two main exceptions currently provided by Alaskan courts: the design professional exception and the independent duty exception. Ms. Sundquist concludes that the design professional exception causes inconsistent results, and that the independent duty exception should instead be applied equally across all professions.

Along with these three articles, the *Alaska Law Review* is happy to include two student Notes, both written by current members of our journal. Our first student Note, written by Eli Kozminsky, is entitled *Children and Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend: Reasons for Rethinking*

Parental Duty. Mr. Kozminsky notes that there is no parental duty for managing a child's Dividend, and argues that a higher level of parental duty is necessary for effectively advancing the Permanent Fund Dividend's purpose.

Our second student Note is written by Kate Wheelock, and is entitled *The Future of Challenges to the Alaskan Public School Funding Scheme after State v. Ketchikan*. In her Note, Ms. Wheelock examines recent challenges to the required local contribution to school funding, and analyzes potential constitutional challenges to the funding scheme. Finding that such challenges might be successful, Ms. Wheelock surveys public school funding methods found in other states, suggesting that Alaska consider these methods to prepare for the possibility of the elimination of local contributions.

I, along with the rest of the staff here at the *Alaska Law Review*, hope that you find the Articles and Notes found in this issue to be both engaging and valuable. We all feel very fortunate to be able to review such high quality articles and are indebted to the Alaska Bar Association, as well as the rest of the Alaska legal community, for granting us the honor of publishing the *Alaska Law Review* twice a year. We are also grateful to the Alaska Bar Association and the Duke University School of Law for agreeing to renew our publication contract, and look forward to serving Alaska for years to come.

All issues of the *Alaska Law Review* are freely available on our website — alr.law.duke.edu — with both printable and searchable PDFs, as well as a complete archive of previous issues and Year in Reviews. I hope that you will visit our site and continue to read and engage with the *Alaska Law Review*.

Adam H. Kaldor
Editor-in-Chief 2016-2017