

ANNALS OF HEALTH LAW
ADVANCE DIRECTIVE
Editor's Note

The *Annals of Health Law* is proud to present the second Issue of our online journal, *Advance Directive*. Consistent with our goal of promoting student health law scholarship, Part I of this Issue features the winning entry from the first annual Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys' student writing contest. In her article, "No-Fault Solutions to the Problems of Medical Injuries: A Focus on Sweden as a Model," Sarah Hoffman explores the inadequacies of the U.S. medical malpractice tort system in deterring unsafe practices and compensating injured individuals. She turns to Sweden's "no fault" system as a viable alternative.

Part II of this Issue focuses on the theme of law and public health. We begin with the pressing topic of public health and the economy. Our authors explore the potential risks of putting healthcare reform on the back burner because of the economic crisis; the burgeoning practice of medical tourism as an alternative to expensive health care treatment in the United States; and whether a national mandate for autism insurance coverage is too onerous in the current economic climate.

Next our authors tackle public health regulation: vaccines, immunizations, and FDA food safety inspections. Our authors propose a workable standard for vaccine exemptions to address "misplaced fears" of vaccines; suggest strategies to combat well-documented ethnic disparities in influenza immunization rates; and explore the hazards of the FDA relying on the regulatory scheme of the importing country to inspect imported food.

We then address the critical topic of access to medications and mental health treatment. Our authors propose an orphan drug patent pool to incentivize research into orphan diseases and improve access to the resulting drugs; and then

suggest ways to reduce juvenile recidivism by increasing access to mental health treatment for juvenile offenders.

The Issue then turns to public health litigation, analyzing a recent Supreme Court decision, *Altria Group, Inc. v. Good*, which may give hope to numerous plaintiffs in class action lawsuits who are claiming harm from misleading advertising involving “light” cigarettes.

Finally, the Issue delves into public health legislation, where our authors analyze controversies surrounding Illinois state legislation to protect medical marijuana users; New York state “fat tax” legislation designed to reduce obesity rates while generating revenue for health programs; federal legislation to combat the rising incidence of chronic Lyme disease; and federal “conscience clauses” that allow healthcare providers to refuse to perform medical procedures based on religious or moral beliefs.

We would like to thank Claire St. Aubin, our Technical Production Editor, and Tiffany Gehrke and Alexis Shrawder, our *Advance Directive* Senior Editors, for their invaluable contributions in launching this Issue. We also are grateful to our *Annals* Executive Board members—Adam Larson, Tamara Forys and Angela Epolito—for their editorial assistance. Our *Annals* members deserve a special recognition for writing timely, thoughtful articles and for editing the work of their peers. Finally, we extend our warmest appreciation to the Beazley Institute and our faculty advisors, Professors Lawrence Singer and John Blum, for their continued support, encouragement, and mentorship.

We hope you enjoy our second Issue of *Advance Directive*.

Sincerely,

Ann Weilbaecher
Editor-in-Chief
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Loyola University Chicago School of Law