

Introduction to Volume 50

Welcome to Volume 50, Issue One of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*. We are excited to open our quinquagenary publication with comments from our past editors in chief, reflecting upon their experiences leading the *Law Journal*. Our first publication includes a diverse range of articles, reaching subjects from class action settlements to the criminal sentencing and treatment of juveniles. We round out Issue One with articles centering on John Courtney Murray and his work involving the interplay between religious freedom, civil coexistence, nondiscrimination, and the common good. Issue One is the culmination of months of hard work by the Executive Board, which reviewed several hundred scholarly works. Through this process, we were able to select thought-provoking scholarship of the highest quality.

Opening Issue One are several articles that touch on the legacy of John Courtney Murray and his contribution to reconciling the freedoms guaranteed in the United States Constitution with the Catholic Church.

Issue One concludes with an important discussion regarding the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Miller v. Alabama* and how the Court's categorization of children as constitutionally different from adults should affect the way minors are treated in criminal courts. The scholarship examines the broad scope of the Court's declaration that children are constitutionally different from adults. Our last article switches gears, examining class action litigation, focusing specifically on the trend towards allowing in-depth merit inquiries at the class certification stage. The article presents a compelling argument that settlement pressure at the class certification stage should not be treated as an undue hardship, but rather as the idiosyncratic risk management strategy of defendants.

The *Law Journal* would like to thank our immensely talented authors for sharing their compelling and insightful contributions in our publication. It was an absolute pleasure to work with all our authors. Lastly, the Executive Board thanks our diligent *Law Journal* staff members, without whom our publication would not be where it is today.

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