

Celebrating 50 Years: Reflections from Past Editors in Chief

In celebration of our semicentennial volume, the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* continues to look back on how the past fifty years have shaped our journal and academic legal scholarship at Loyola University Chicago. All four issues of Volume 50 will contain reflections from those who helped make the *Journal* what it is today. We are excited to reach this milestone as a journal and look forward to see what the next fifty years will bring.

Norma Zeitler, Volume 26

It was 1991, and I was an army intelligence officer stationed at a joint intelligence base in Sinop, Turkey. Desert Shield had just ended and Desert Storm was ramping up. Our unit had just taken on a classified mission in support of Gulf War I.

Shortly thereafter, I received a package from my oldest sister, Rosana. The package contained a letter and a thick book titled *LSAT Preparation Guide*. The letter succinctly explained that my niece had her entire elementary class praying that our base would not be hit by a missile, and insisted that it was time for me to stop playing soldier and come home. Anticipating that I would ask “what will I do if I get out?” my sister explained that I should study for the LSAT and go to law school.

Going to law school was something I had never considered—I loved the military, and I had not been a very good student in college. But, over the years, I had learned to trust my sister, so study I did. However, by the time I received that fateful package, I had been slated for a highly selective tour of duty at the Pentagon. So I put off law school for a year, and it was during that year that I met Pam Bloomquist, then the director of admissions for Loyola.

Later that year, I received acceptance letters from Loyola and the University of Illinois. Having not made up my mind where to attend by the deposit deadline, I deposited at both schools. When I missed the second deposit deadline at Loyola, I received a call from Pam asking why I had missed the deadline.

Not only was I impressed that Pam had remembered me and had taken the time to call, but even more so that she had taken the time to track me down in Greece where I was traveling with a congressional staff delegation. Needless to say, Pam’s actions swayed my decision, and I enrolled at Loyola.

It was very clearly one of the best decisions of my life—not only did I become editor in chief (by writing on), I met my future husband, Bob (JD 1994). We have three fantastic young adult sons, I am a partner at an AmLaw 100 law firm, and I still enjoy the practice of law.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Pam for encouraging me to apply, to Loyola for overlooking my less-than-stellar academic credentials, to the *Law Journal* for legitimizing me as a worthy candidate for employment, to my husband and sons for supporting me on this journey, and to my sister for showing me the path. Thanks, Ro, Ro. Rest in peace.

Angela Upchurch, Volume 32

I am honored to join my fellow past editors in chief in celebrating the 50th year of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*. I served as its editor in chief for Volume 32 from 2000–01. Working on the *Law Journal* provided me with many opportunities. First, it helped me foster long-lasting friendships with my classmates. During my time as editor in chief, the *Law Journal* hosted its very first legal symposium on the topic of Law and Religion. I have fond memories of working with my classmates to plan and host this event. Second, *Law Journal* opened up professional opportunities for myself and my classmates. I became a law professor; a significant part of my career involves writing law journal articles. Serving as editor in chief of the *Law Journal* was instrumental to my becoming a member of the academy and in preparing me for my career. My coeditors went on to serve as a judge, a director of a non-profit, and as partners in law firms. I think we all would say that serving on the editorial staff of the *Law Journal* was critical to our career paths. Lastly, and most importantly, the *Law Journal* provided me with the opportunity to consider complex legal issues, to hone my writing and editing skills, and to become a critical thinker. I am forever grateful for my time on the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*, and I wish many successes to the staff of Volume 50.

Norah Jones, Volume 37

Thank you to the editors of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* for this invitation. The opportunity to reflect in a deliberate way about my experience as editor in chief has been wonderful. It has highlighted for me the reality that, as meaningful as the experience was while I was in the midst of it, the lessons I took from it are what have had the most lasting impact.

Serving on the *Law Journal* in any capacity requires commitment to excellence, dedication to teamwork, and unfailing diligence in meeting obligations. It is up to the editor in chief to set that tone and to lead by example. The *Law Journal* is not successful if its issues are the product of individuals working in isolation. The editor in chief must recognize that while the production of top-notch legal scholarship is critical, the process through which that scholarship is produced is of equal value. Respect for colleagues, belief in self, and an ability to see how seemingly small, daily challenges and opportunities fit into the bigger picture are the values and experiences that shape the practice of law itself. For the opportunity to put those values into action as part of my law school experience and to work so closely with such fantastic classmates and colleagues while doing so, I am eternally grateful.

Peter Senechalle, Volume 40

Professor Breen used to give a talk to incoming *Law Journal* staff in which he described legal scholarship as an ongoing conversation. I was repeatedly reminded of his advice as I reflected on my tenure as editor in chief of the *Journal*. On one hand, the world could not feel more different today—the economy is much better¹ while politics could not be worse. It is sometimes hard to see how we got here. It was somewhat comforting, then, to look inside the *Journal* and see that the articles that appeared in Volume 40 are very much parts of conversations that continue today. We published articles on trade,² and taxation, and wealth inequality.³ We hosted a symposium examining the judiciary, including several papers addressing judicial independence and accountability.⁴ This is a reminder of the vital role of the *Journal* and other scholarly publications as both an archive of these conversations and a forum for their continuation.

1. *Compare Entry-Level and Lateral Hiring – On the Road to Recovery?*, NALP (Mar. 2011), https://www.nalp.org/march2011_entryleve_lateral_hiring, with Karen Sloan, *Job Market for Law Grads ‘Surprisingly Strong,’ NALP Finds*, LAW.COM (Aug. 1, 2018, 6:00 PM), <https://www.law.com/2018/08/01/job-market-for-law-grads-surprisingly-strong-nalp-finds>.

2. Stephen Zamora, *A Proposed North American Regional Development Fund: The Next Phase of North American Integration under NAFTA*, 40 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 93 (2008); Elizabeth Trujillo, *From Here to Beijing: Public/Private Overlaps in Trade and Their Effects on U.S. Law*, 40 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 691 (2009).

3. See Leo P. Martinez, *Tax Policy, Rational Actors, and Other Myths*, 40 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 297 (2009); Marjorie E. Kornhauser, *Cognitive Theory and the Delivery of Welfare Benefits*, 40 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 253 (2009).

4. E.g., Nancy J. Moore, *Is the Appearance of Impropriety an Appropriate Standard for Disciplining Judges in the Twenty-First Century?*, 41 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 285 (2010).

Bruce Van Baren, Volume 43

My time as editor in chief taught me the power of teamwork, which is of equal importance to me today in the practice of law. My colleagues on the editorial board were outstanding and often stepped up to assist with tasks that were outside the scope of their responsibilities to ensure we published quality articles on time. I am forever grateful for their contributions.