Conclusion to Volume 50

Even as a proud grammar nerd and vocabulary geek, I cannot find words to adequately express the gratitude and pride I feel for all that the staff of Volume 50 accomplished over this year. First, we celebrated half a century of legal scholarship here at Loyola University Chicago. In celebration, we looked back at all that those who came before us contributed to create the publication we are today.

This foundation allowed us to discuss important themes scholars, lawyers, and judges currently grapple with. We were honored to further the conversation on religious freedom in the United States, and the implications that cases like Masterpiece Cakeshop create in both the legal and religious fields. We examined the future of legal scholarship and the role that law journal ranks and professor tenure may have in limiting objectively good scholarship from becoming widely known. And, to celebrate two more anniversaries, we discussed the change in the legal landscape in the 10 years since the Lehman Brothers collapse, as well as the 50 years since the Chicago 8 Trial.

We also published three excellent student articles, which examined the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, the mental disability standard’s application in death penalty cases, and the discoverability of visa information and how immigrants may be protected from abuse. Last, we held a tremendous conference entitled Democracy in America: The Promise and the Perils, keynoted by Erwin Chemerinsky and paneled by many other widely influential constitutional law scholars. The conference surveyed the United States’ political system and created a dialogue about America’s political future.

These accomplishments would have been impossible without Volume 50’s executive board and staff’s diligent and tireless contributions in editing, providing scholarship, and much more that could fill an entire issue of its own; thank you to you all. I would also like to express my gratitude to our authors, all of whom were a delight to work with and learn from. Finally, a special thanks to Professor Breen, our faculty advisor, who provided us with sage advice throughout the entire year. Contributing to Loyola University Chicago and the legal profession as editor-in-chief of this publication has been nothing short of remarkable.

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