

Celebrating 50 Years: Reflections from Past Editors in Chief

In celebration of our semicentennial volume, the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* continues its 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.

*Abraham J. Souza, * Volume 45*

The *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal's* fiftieth anniversary gives all of us the opportunity to reflect on the *Journal's* remarkably important role in the education of young lawyers for the past half century. As a practicing attorney, I firmly believe that there is no better preparation for the practice of law than serving as a member of the *Journal*. For one, students are required to hone their writing and editing skills, quickly grasp complex issues of substantive law, and develop a heightened attention to the minute details of grammar and citation form—skills that are invaluable to any legal career. More importantly, the *Journal* is too large of a task for one person to handle alone; as a result, students must collaborate with their colleagues and the academic community both at Loyola and beyond to produce a product of which all can be proud.

I have no doubt that these attributes are part of the *Journal* experience today, and they certainly were when I had the privilege of serving as editor in chief of Volume 45. During that year, the members of the *Journal* benefitted greatly from the vast knowledge of the Law School's professors, who facilitated our publication of numerous articles from academic symposia covering a wide array of substantive topics—including patents, innovation, and the freedom to use ideas, as well as the policy goals underlying the heightened pleading requirements in securities fraud class actions. The members of the *Journal* also developed lasting personal and professional friendships through many late nights in the *Law Journal's* office and learned a great deal from one another's interests and expertise. The highlight of the year, however, was the *Journal's* publication of faculty tributes to our late colleague, Professor George Anastaplo. The *Journal's* publication of those insightful and thought-provoking reflections on Professor Anastaplo's work and legacy illustrated the *Journal's* capacity for bringing the Law School community together and demonstrated that there is significant meaning to the work that we all do as lawyers. As it has consistently done so far, I have no doubt that the *Journal* will continue to play a central role in the lives of students and the examination and development of the rule of law over the next fifty years. I wish its current, future, and past members my very best.

* Abraham J. Souza is a litigator in Reed Smith LLP's Chicago office, where he concentrates his practice on complex commercial and class action matters. As a law student at Loyola, Abe served as editor in chief of Volume 45 of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*. Abe then worked as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois before beginning his career in private practice.

Griffen Thorne, Volume 46

I can think of few experiences in my life that compare to being editor in chief of the *Law Journal*. It's difficult to explain in such a short space how much I learned or how important the experience was for me in my career or education. So instead, I will share my most memorable aspect—that I was lucky enough to work with a team of the absolute best executive editors and other *Journal* members, and that I had the mentorship of Professor John Breen and my predecessor, Abe Souza.

There were countless times where the workload seemed far too difficult to handle, or where tasks seemed simply impossible to work through. At even the most difficult of these times, having such excellent colleagues and mentors made the mountains of endless and challenging work seem manageable.

I of course learned a tremendous amount from being on the *Law Journal*, and gained a credential that will remain with me for life. But the most memorable part for me was the people with whom I worked.

Benjamin Barnett, Volume 47

Memories of *Law Journal* always lead me back to the publication's office. Mind you, the *Law Journal* office presents as nothing special. It's a small, windowless environment with little room to sit more than a few, a reality that becomes increasingly uncomfortable as collections of back issues and broken technology mount. And yet, for a year, that office was also my home. I get to write that with a smile, for it reflects not only the countless hours spent crouched in a near-ceaseless cycle of reading and editing, but also the camaraderie I experienced from within those walls. This second sense of home is the one I will long cherish.

As anyone who has occupied that office or one of its kind surely knows, highs and lows of the job are a certainty. The former are easy and can be celebrated with cold drinks. Over the course of Volume 47's publication, I also learned that the latter need not be overwhelming. Far and away the greatest part of being editor in chief was the ability to take comfort in the fact that I was surrounded by intelligent, confident, and dedicated peers. With such a team, problems were not feared; they were solved. To me, that defined *Law Journal*. Even though it ended only a short while ago, I know that my time with the publication will always be best remembered not in the articles read or the edits made, but rather in the people I had the privilege to work amongst.

Grace Urban, Volume 49

There is nothing more satisfying or terrifying as editor in chief than holding a completed issue of the *Law Journal* in your hands. Satisfying because it represents the culmination of months of hard work and countless sleepless nights on the part of the entire *Law Journal* staff. Terrifying because you are convinced that even though you've read through every word and every footnote personally at least five times (not to mention everyone else who painstakingly edited the issue), you *will* find a typo.

As I reflect on my tenure as editor in chief, what stands out the most is what an immense privilege it was to lead and work alongside Loyola's best and brightest. The executive board and the staff members made every overwhelming task a manageable one. Together, we ensured there was nothing to distract from the thought-provoking legal scholarship we had the honor to print.

For the *Law Journal's* legacy after fifty years is not simply a gold star on the resumes of the thousands of students whose names have graced its masthead, although it is certainly that. Rather, it is a publication that has helped elevate legal discourse and further the development of the law. It has provided a platform for innovative ideas and important legal debates. It has done its part to advance progress on the bench, at the bar, and in the legal academy. And it has done so in a way that is uniquely Loyola—with an eye toward justice. That is something of which we can all be proud.