

From the Editors

One role of the *Journal of Legal Education* is to examine the emergence of new areas of legal practice, teaching, and scholarship. We devote the first part of this issue to the relatively new field of animal law—already very popular with students. Our approach to this topic is to focus on the people who pioneered in this area, practice, and teach in it, and generally have worked in the trenches to develop and sustain it. Their passion and commitment is quite evident in their writings, and they provide a moving picture of the emergence of the field. As many of the contributors point out, those who developed the field have faced tremendous legal obstacles, beginning with the traditional notion that animals are essentially the property of humans. Legal activists in this area have also been ridiculed and labeled as extremists. Yet the articles show that the field has arrived, and animal law is already central to numerous political and legal issues including environmental protection and sustainability, the massive industry of pet ownership and care, and the multinational corporate sector devoted to the production of animal food and other products such as leather and furs.

The first article, by Bruce A. Wagman, takes readers through the personal history of one of the leaders in developing a private practice in this area, in teaching, and in publishing. His theme of progressive development—“courtrooms to casebooks”—is echoed in the second article, by Megan A. Senatori and Pamela D. Frasch, who chart a path “beyond preaching to the choir.” This progressive development of the field that both articles depict is compared here to the environmental movement from which in many ways it stemmed. Taimie L. Bryant’s article is on the substantial impact that television personality Bob Barker’s strategic gifts has had on the resources and legitimacy of animal law, especially in elite law schools. Reminiscent of similar investments in other areas, notably law and economics, the commitment of outside resources to animal law helped move law schools toward new programs and courses. Kathy Hessler, from Lewis & Clark, then discusses the challenges and opportunities of a clinic devoted to animal law issues. Finally, concluding the section on animal law, the *Journal* convened a roundtable discussion with young practitioners to provide a sense of the perspective of those who are building careers today in this field.

Animal law is the first emerging area of law that the current team of editors has taken up. We welcome suggestions for other areas that would merit a similar focus.

The next article in this issue draws on the personal experience of the two authors, Suzanne Rabé and Stephen A. Rosenbaum, who provide a joint perspective on Professor Rabé’s sabbatical from teaching in a legal writing

program to work as an intake worker in a legal services office. The article details the benefits to clients, professional development, and the academy from this kind of "sending down" experience.

We next include another of our "At the Lectern" articles. It features Kenny Hegland describing how he came to make videos for high schools, reaching hundreds of thousands of students and engaging them with challenging and relevant legal topics. The article reminds law professors, as does the previous one, that the path to a rewarding and fulfilling academic career does not always involve a single-minded pursuit of scholarly fame and glory.

Finally, we publish three book reviews that examine different aspects of Constitutional law and its role in our political life. Dennis A. Henigan, a scholarly partisan in the battle over gun control, examines Mark Tushnet's learned reading of the debates about the Second Amendment. Joerg Knipprath reviews Lucas A. Powe, Jr.'s history of the Supreme Court, placing it in the context of the abundant literature that seeks to make sense of the Court and its role in the United States. Concluding the book reviews, AALS President-elect, Michael A. Olivas, provides a review essay of a series of books that together provide the basis to understand and appreciate the relatively neglected struggle of Mexican Americans against discrimination and indeed segregation.

As we have suggested in earlier issues, we welcome comments and suggestions.

Bryant G. Garth
Gowri Ramachandran
Molly Selvin