

From the Editors

Traditional legal education has long and rightly been faulted for its overemphasis on litigation as the core path through which the law develops. Increased attention to transactional work has remedied this situation somewhat. But many law schools continue to give almost slavish devotion to courtroom technique and formal submissions as the sole method through which lawyers present evidence and argument.

Consider the mind-set of the diligent student preparing for moot court. Her concern often centers on fear of questions about some details in a footnote that she has overlooked. But in practice, most lawyers find themselves frequently called upon to make presentations to impatient, unprepared audiences. In such settings, the refined skills of written and oral argument may fall on deaf ears unless they are paired with a flair for simplification and ways to command attention.

Our authors in this issue are leading the effort to expand legal education's horizons. Expertly assembled by guest editors Michael Asimow and Ticien Marie Sassoubre, this symposium issue illustrates the many ways law can be better understood through use of videos both in the classroom and in the world of persuasion. Our authors further demonstrate how using popular culture can be a productive way to communicate effectively with our students. Along the same theme in this issue is a reflective essay from veteran law and literature professor Thomas Morawetz, who shines fresh light on how lawyers might benefit from reading fiction and philosophy. Dawn Watkins and Laura Guihen round out these articles with a fascinating study of how metaphors can be used not only to improve argumentative skills but to enhance the quality of feedback we provide our students.

Our *At the Lectern* from Julie A. Oseid playfully illustrates how losing her voice helped her find new ways to succeed. And Judith Welch Wegner uses a perceptive review of Neil W. Hamilton's book, *Roadmap: The Law Student's Guide to Meaningful Employment*, to call upon all of us in the legal academy to focus on development of professional identity. Enjoy!

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