

# Annals of Health Law

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Volume 23  
Issue 2 *Special Edition 2014*

Article 2

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2014

## Foreword

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### Recommended Citation

Jamie E. Levin , Daniel G. Orenstein & James G. Hodge Jr *Foreword*, 23 *Annals Health L.* (2014).  
Available at: <https://lawcommons.luc.edu/annals/vol23/iss2/2>

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## Foreword

### **Special Edition: “Building the Field of Public Health Law – Perspectives from the Network for Public Health Law”**

This *Annals of Health Law* Special Edition brings together faculty and students from the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the Public Health Law and Policy Program at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University to highlight the work of the Network for Public Health Law. The Network is a national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide insightful legal guidance, helpful resources, and opportunities to build connections for organizations and individuals committed to using law to improve public health. This includes local, tribal, state and federal officials; public health practitioners; public and private attorneys; policy-makers; and advocates, among others.

In this Special Edition, authors from the Network and key partners address current and significant issues across the field of public health law. The range and diversity of topics addressed reflect the breadth of challenges at the intersection of law and the public’s health. The problems they address cross jurisdictional borders and impact the public’s health. Resolving these problems requires vision and collaboration cognizant of the complex system of legal, ethical, political, cultural, and practical considerations facing public health. Authors in this Special Edition offer carefully considered, targeted assessments and solutions to these considerable challenges.

This issue begins with *Flipping the Light Switch: New Perspectives on Default to Donation for Organs and Tissues*, in which authors Daniel G. Orenstein and Layne Bettini add to the discussion of consent models for cadaveric donation with an argument in favor of default to donation (or “presumed consent”) on the basis of ocular and tissue donation impact, donor family well-being, and public health ethics. Next, *The Legal Anatomy of Product Bans to Protect the Public’s Health*, by James G. Hodge, Jr. and Megan Scanlon, examines what they call the “legal anatomy” for identifying and implementing effective bans on commercial products and services with significant health risks in light of public health authority and countervailing law, policy, and ethics arguments.

In *The Expansion of Newborn Screening: Implications for Public Health and Policy*, Leila Barraza and Lauren Burkhart consider newborn screening programs and their future in the era of whole genome sequencing, examining potential disease prevention and health promotion benefits as well as potential ethical, legal, and policy obstacles. *ACA Implementation: The Court Challenges Continue*, by Jane Perkins and Dipti Singh, provides an overview and critical updates on litigation surrounding the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), analyzing numerous legal challenges from initial repeal-oriented litigation, to subsequent attempts to curtail contraception coverage requirements, to emerging efforts to enforce ACA provisions.

*Monitoring the Law: Court Watch Programs in Maryland*, by Megan Griest, addresses domestic violence through the lens of public health, critiquing existing criminal justice approaches in Maryland and examining potential improvements via programs that train volunteers to observe and record judicial behavior and recommend best practices for

consistency and victim protection. In *Priorities in Public Health Law: A Practice-Based Analysis of Trends in the Legal Needs of Public Health Professionals*, Caty Schmitter and Jennifer A. Bernstein, bridge the gap between public health policy and practice with a detailed analysis of data on legal technical assistance requests to the Network and how this experiential knowledge can inform efforts to meet current and future needs of public health professionals.

We would like to sincerely thank the *Annals of Health Law* student editors at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, the *Annals of Health Law* Executive Board Editors, Arizona State University, the Network for Public Health Law, and Kristin Corrigan, Program Coordinator, Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, for their assistance and efforts in bringing this Special Edition to fruition.

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The entire *Annals* Editorial Staff would like to thank the authors who contributed their exceptional talent and knowledge to this outstanding issue of the *Annals of Health Law*. It was our pleasure to work with you on this Special Edition Issue. The Editorial Board would like to thank each and every member of the *Annals* team, without whom this issue would not have been the success that it is. We would also like to thank the incredible staff at the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy for their continued support.

**Jamie E. Levin, J.D. Candidate May 2014**

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