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## Foreword

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## Foreword

The *Annals of Health Law* Editorial Board is proud to present our Winter 2016 Issue. The Editorial Board seeks out articles that reflect the diversity of legal issues that arise in a field as dynamic as the healthcare industry. This year's Editorial Board has endeavored to provide a publication that addresses a range of issues, from opportunities for community health centers, to a proposal tying the ACA to the tort system, and finally to international perspectives on access to health care as a human right. The selected pieces contribute to the continued recognition of the *Annals of Health Law* as one of the country's preeminent health law and policy publications.

Our first article, authored by Kathryn Watson, examines the 340B Program and how community health centers can benefit from relationships with chain pharmacies to reduce costs and expand access to pharmaceutical products for vulnerable populations. Ms. Watson details the full origins and development of the 340B program before discussing the risk-benefit analysis community health centers must undergo before agreeing to participate in the program. The article offers a comprehensive understanding of the unique position of community health centers in relation to the 340B program.

Our second article, authored by Professor Maxwell Mehlman, Jay Angoff, Patrick Malone, Professor Charles Silver, and Peter Weinberger, serves as a response to a recent proposal that would limit compensation for future medical expenses arising out of tort actions to the maximum out of pocket limit under the Affordable Care Act. The authors argue that such a proposal is based upon assumptions and misunderstandings about the purposes of the ACA, and would result in bad public policy. If accepted, the authors suggest that the proposal would lead to negative financial consequences for patients, disrupt the tort system's fundamental purpose, and pass costs on to taxpayers.

The concluding article addresses a fundamental access to care issue through the lens of the public health crisis of obstetric fistula throughout Africa and East Asia. Dr. Obiajulu Nnamuchi, Dr. Edwin Ezike, and Dr. Jude Odinkonigbo address the haunting stories of women affected by this condition, their lack of access to care, and the demographic issues that correlate with the continued occurrence of a condition otherwise eradicated throughout the Western world. The authors analyze the continued fight to eliminate obstetric fistula through a human rights analysis based on the Millennium Development Goals set by the UN in 2000, and argue that the future prevention of the occurrence of obstetric fistula is a fundamental human rights obligation.

The entire *Annals of Health Law* Editorial Staff would like to thank the distinguished authors who contributed their outstanding work and innovative discussions to this issue of the *Annals*. This issue is the result of our authors' unbridled enthusiasm and dedication to health law and policy scholarship. The Editorial Board and I would like to thank every member of the *Annals* team for their efforts and dedication throughout the editing process—the issue would not have been the success that it is without the commitment of our Editors and Members. I would also like to express my gratitude to my Executive Board colleagues: Morgan Carr, Sumaya Noush, Amy Michelau, Jennifer Fenton, Elise

Robie, and Sarah Kitlinks. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our Senior Editors: James Flannery, Christopher MacKenzie, Holly McCurdy, and Joseph Willuweit. Lastly, we would like to thank the incredible staff at the Beazley Institute for Health and Policy for their continued support in all of our endeavors.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy the Winter 2016 Issue of the *Annals of Health Law*.

Sincerely,

Ryan B. Marcus

Editor-in-Chief

*Annals of Health Law*