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Editor's Note

I am honored to announce that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Public Interest Law Reporter*. Twenty-five years ago, Loyola students founded the Public Interest Law Reporter in an effort to raise awareness of issues in the public interest legal field. Throughout the last 25 years, our writers have addressed many developments in public interest law, from economic justice to criminal law. They have also highlighted needs for improvement in these areas.

In some respects, today's political, societal, and legal climates can discourage law students, lawyers, and legal professionals. Far too often, it feels like little progress has been made, and that the steps taken forward have been small – occasionally outnumbered by steps backward. However, it is important to reflect on the last 25 years, and the progress we have made as a country. The legal field is one of slow change, but of change nonetheless. In 2008, the United States elected our first African-American president, who signed into effect the Affordable Care Act in 2010. In 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States protected gay marriage as a legal right in a landmark decision. These are just two examples of, not steps, but strides that we have made towards progress.

There is much left to be done as we propel into this new decade. Current rights are in jeopardy of being lost. Legislative bodies and courts are, at times, reluctant to protect these rights. Our never-ending work in the public interest legal field can feel as though it is met with little advancement. But as we continue to fight for human rights, for economic justice, and for a fair legal system, my hope is that you feel encouraged by the change that *has* been made.

In this issue, our writers explore topics ranging from unintended implications of lawmaking doctrines and legislative acts, to righting the wrongs imposed by our criminal justice system, to current developments in the court system. Each article serves as a reminder of why our advocacy is important – of the change we can make. This issue was written with the zeal of those hungry for such a change. As you read this issue, I invite you to feel this passion and to carry this passion into the new decade, to reflect on the progress we have made in the past 25 years and look forward to the progress we will continue to make together in the next 25 years.

With gratitude,
Emily Knox
Editor-in-Chief