

Loyola University Chicago Law Journal

Volume 49
Issue 4 *Summer 2018*

Article 2

2018

Introduction to Issue Four

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Recommended Citation

Introduction to Issue Four, 49 Loy. U. Chi. L. J. ii ().

Available at: <https://lawcommons.luc.edu/lucj/vol49/iss4/2>

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Introduction to Issue Four

Loyola University Chicago Law Journal is thrilled to present Issue Four of Volume 49. Issue Four has traditionally highlighted legal developments affecting Illinois and acted as a resource for academics, judges, and practitioners. However, Issue Four of Volume 49 is different, and for good reason.

Dean Nina Appel, a beloved and impactful member of both the Loyola community and the legal community at large, is retiring at the end of this academic year. In recognition of her remarkable career, the *Law Journal* dedicates Issue Four to Dean Appel. To this end, the Issue features numerous tributes to Dean Appel from colleagues and friends. We hope these tributes provide the reader with a sense of who Dean Appel is and why she has forever shaped our law school.

Issue Four then turns to remarks offered by H. Jefferson Powell on the role constitutional lawyers should play in the ongoing discussion of the meaning and idea of the United States. In his remarks, Professor Powell argues it is the duty of constitutional lawyers to use their knowledge and expertise to contribute to this conversation on national identity.

The Issue concludes with a student Comment in which Katherine Ferry analyzes First Amendment protections as applied to off-campus speech made via social media. In her Comment, Ms. Ferry examines recent court decisions concerning the interplay between the First Amendment and speech made on social media, and also proposes a legal standard for individual school districts to consider before crafting a student social media policy. This Comment is especially timely considering the exponential growth of social media usage over the past decade and the overall lack of guidance offered by U.S. courts as to how social media speech made outside the schoolhouse may be restricted.

The *Law Journal* thanks all of the authors for their contributions, as well as its staff members for working so hard to make Issue Four a special and lasting piece of scholarship. Finally, the *Law Journal* thanks Professor John Breen for his leadership and guidance this year, and for facilitating all of the tributes to Dean Appel.

Kevin Major
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Loyola University Chicago Law Journal