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Celebrating 50 Years: Reflections from Past Editors in Chief

In celebration of our semicentennial volume, the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* is looking back on how the past fifty years have shaped our journal and academic legal scholarship at Loyola University Chicago. All four issues of Volume 50 will contain reflections from those who helped make the *Journal* what it is today. We are excited to reach this milestone as a journal and look forward to see what the next fifty years will bring.

In the Beginning . . .

Judge Brian R. McKillip, Volume 3

Although not technically “the beginning,” it was close enough, and when the editorial board of the *Law Journal* began work on Volume 3 in the summer of 1971, the year ahead looked like uncharted waters to us.

We had little, if anything, in the way of tradition and even less in physical resources. We were “housed” in one tiny office on the second floor of the building at 41 East Pearson Street—a structure long since demolished. I cannot effectively convey how small our office was—perhaps 10 feet by 18–20 feet. My best recollection was that we had two desks at the far end of the room. As editor in chief, I was assigned one, and the other was Managing Editor Tom Montgomery’s. When we both sat at our respective desks, our backs were nearly touching. No computers—I think Tom had a typewriter.

The door to the *Journal*’s office was just outside the main lecture room, so there was a regular flow of students and faculty past our door, and board members would spend quite a bit of time visiting in the office with each other and other students. Bill Pokorny, the executive editor, together with the other editors, Warren Marwedel, Roseann Oliver, Bill Hirschberg, and Larry Casazza, had titles, but really just did whatever needed to be done to get the issues out.

The best thing we had going for us was the close supervision of Professor Richard A. Michael, who took a very active role assisting us in the editing of articles. While at times it seemed it would never happen, we got the issues out, and very close to being on time at that. No small achievement in our eyes.

It was a quick but stressful year. The Vietnam War was continuing and jobs were not easy to come by. Nevertheless, I look upon those days with a great deal of fondness. I recall vividly, sitting in a tiny room with a second-year student editing his article, while Professor Michael rocked in the chair next to me, correcting each mistake I made. While I cannot speak for my fellow editorial board members, the experience of that year impressed upon me the importance of precision in writing and legal analysis, but most importantly, it helped form in me a commitment to excellence in our chosen profession.

Reminiscences About My Time as Editor in Chief

Ronald V. Hirst, Volume 4

The 1972–1973 school year saw the publication of Volume 4 of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*, which was then still in its infancy, having been in existence for less than four years. Then, the *Law Journal* staff was about half the size that it is today, and we published only two volumes of the *Law Journal* annually compared to the four now published. We worked in a small office in the old Law School building at 41 East Pearson, which is now gone and replaced by Loyola's School of Communication building. I was honored to serve as editor in chief of Volume 4 of the *Law Journal*, which featured an article on products liability by the distinguished Loyola Law School alumnus, James A. Dooley, who at the time was one of Chicago's preeminent trial lawyers and later became the first graduate of the Law School to serve as a justice on the Illinois Supreme Court. My job as editor in chief was made easy by the sage advice I received from our faculty advisor, Richard A. Michael, and the extremely talented and hardworking editorial board and staff with whom I worked and who all went on to enjoy successful careers in law and related fields. A noteworthy example is Susan Sher (if I may drop a name), who wrote a case comment for Volume 4 on the scope of a news reporter's privilege under the First Amendment. Susan's illustrious career took her all the way from the *Law Journal* to the White House where she served as Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Chief of Staff for First Lady Michelle Obama. Another member of the *Law Journal*, who wrote an article for Volume 4 about the delegate dispute at the 1972 Democratic convention, had his *Law Journal* article subsequently cited by the US Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's draft decision even included our member's name in the citation to his article. However, by the time the Court's final opinion was published, someone had figured out that the article's author was only a student and, alas, his name was quietly dropped from the citation, although the citation to the article itself still appears in the Supreme Court's final opinion. These are just a few memories I have of my year as editor in chief of the *Law Journal*, and I was delighted to be asked to share them in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the *Law Journal*.

Completing the Tasks; Becoming a Better Lawyer

Patrick E. Deady, Volume 8

I am thankful for this excuse to look back on the time when I embarked on a legal career that has now spanned nearly five decades. Looking in the rearview mirror is not something I am prone to do. The fall of 1976 and spring of 1977 were exciting times, for both the courts and the country, and the work of the editorial staff reflected that. As the nation faced the first presidential election since the resignation of Richard Nixon, the editors solicited articles from professors and practitioners to address the post-Watergate criminal prosecutions of multinational corporations and the enforcement by the SEC of programs designed to deter and expose corrupt corporate payments, both foreign and domestic. At the same time, the sea change surrounding the law of employment discrimination and sexual harassment created by the enactment of Title VII a decade before had reached a point where competing forces were struggling over where all this was all going, compelling the editorial board to devote an entire issue to a fair employment symposium. Given where we are today, what was old is new again.

We, as editors, had heady thoughts and lofty ideas about the future of the law and our role as lawyers in it. But, as Bob Dylan has said, “I was so much older then, I’m younger than that now.” After graduation, I came to understand that the real value of law journal was in the doing. The countless hours of editing, cite-checking, and pouring over page proofs—which must now seem to millennials like a form of Egyptian hieroglyphics—all under the constant pressure of the printer’s deadlines. As mundane as all of that sounds, these were skills that would become important to me and my biggest takeaway from my work on the *Journal*. Sure, we all took a certain measure of pride in a job well done once the latest issue showed up in the *Journal* office and we got some words of thanks from the dean and our faculty advisor. But, there was never much time to appreciate it all or to soak in all we had been able to accomplish with very little oversight or direction; somehow, we figured it all out. There were always more tests to take, papers to write and finally, bar exams to somehow get through.

I’m sure I tried, back then, to personally thank everyone, the members of the board and the student contributors, but I do not think I ever thanked them all publicly for the work they did. Now, given the opportunity, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge all of their work that made my job so easy, and to thank them all for making me a better lawyer.

Nancy E. Dowd, Volume 12

It is an honor to participate in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*. I served as the second female editor in chief of the *Law Journal* from 1980–1981, following Teree Foster.¹ That hallmark reflects the significant proportion of women in my class and the equal respect for women that was a hallmark of my time in law school. I entered law school after graduate school and was unsure of my opportunities. I was strongly supported while in law school, and was particularly delighted to find so many female faculty, who served as role models, when I entered law school—particularly Dean Nina Appel and Professor Diane Geraghty, who were among my 1L professors. I was also delighted to have Professor Norman Amaker, the first African American faculty member, as my 1L Civil Procedure professor. The diversity that I experienced my first year was something I only appreciated in retrospect once I began teaching myself, and realized how some law faculties struggle even today to have a diverse faculty.

I had been out of school several years and was not at all sure how well I would do in law school—in fact, I well remember my terrible performance on practice exams! But I managed to do well, and one reward was becoming part of the *Law Journal* at the end of my first year. I can categorically say that my journal experience was pivotal to my future career; no doubt it remains so for current law students. Becoming the editor in chief heightened that incredible experience, in terms of my exposure to research, scholarship, and the intensive attention to detail and corroboration; and because of the opportunity it gave me to manage and lead collaboratively, something I believed in theory but was able to practice in fact. We had an amazing editorial board of both full-time and part-time students, and not only published our volume, but also completed a task we set for ourselves of “catching up” the *Law Journal* so that it was published on schedule.

Critical to my success were several mentors who encouraged me to take full advantage of the opportunity that the *Law Journal* provided, including the possibility of a judicial clerkship and a career in academics. Professors Norman Amaker, Larry Kalevitch, and Robert Spector were

1. Teree Foster became *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal*'s first female editor in chief in 1975–1976. Teree clerked for Judge Sprecher on the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and also had a law teaching career before eventually becoming Dean of DePaul's College of Law. She passed away in 2004; Loyola's faculty remembers her fondly.

critical to the path I took. With their support, I successfully applied and was offered a federal clerkship with Judge Robert Sprecher on the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit—one of the most memorable years of my life as witness to key cases and the process of judging and opinion writing. I also had the opportunity to interview for a clerkship on the US Supreme Court with Justice John Paul Stevens (the first Loyola grad to have that honor).

I have been blessed with a job I love, still, at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. My initial step to that career began at Loyola, with the *Law Journal*. I continue to be motivated to make Loyola proud.

I wrote my law journal note on the *Bakke* case, focusing on the issue of societal discrimination. It was a harbinger of things to come. The fight for equality and justice is far from over; indeed, I write at a time when core values are imperiled and new visions to reach our promise as a nation are critical. I have recently offered my vision, titled *Reimagining Equality: A New Deal for Children of Color*.² The link to where I began nearly forty years ago is clear.

2. NANCY E. DOWD, *REIMAGINING EQUALITY: A NEW DEAL FOR CHILDREN OF COLOR* (2018).

My Experience as Editor in Chief

Kevin T. Keating, Volume 13

I found the collaboration between the article editors and their authors to be a very interesting dynamic. It inevitably resulted in a superior work product than what could have been produced by the author alone. Most authors have a tendency to verbosity, and the editors played an instrumental role in helping authors to tighten up their legal arguments.

I was reminded of this lesson during the past year, when a book I had written was accepted for publication. My editor just had one small suggestion—reduce the length from 130,000 to 100,000 words! I remembered a lesson I had learned during my tenure as EIC. An editor does not make recommendations in order to substitute his or her judgment for the author's. Rather, it is the combination of the judgment of both parties that produces the best possible work. I decided to follow my editor's advice. I reviewed each section, paragraph, and sentence to determine which ones I could cut. I then spent several weeks deleting unnecessary sections, lengthy block quotations, and redundant sentences. In other words, I became my own editor. I believe that the resulting book, *Papal Teaching in the Age of Infallibility, 1870 to the Present: A Critical Evaluation with Historical Illustrations*,¹ is better for the input I received from my editor. If it had not been for my experience as EIC, I might not have had the wherewithal to perform this editorial task.

1. KEVIN T. KEATING, *PAPAL TEACHING IN THE AGE OF INFALLIBILITY, 1870 TO THE PRESENT: A CRITICAL EVALUATION WITH HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS* (2018).