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John E. Durkin

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Volume X

*John E. Durkin**

When I was first asked to contribute to this reflection last spring, I had no idea what the experience of Student Editor-in-Chief would entail. But now, over a year later, as I sit in the airport waiting for my return flight from the National Conference of Law Reviews, I have a somewhat more enlightened perspective. As I write this piece, the *Journal* is nearing the final stages of production and there is a better than fair chance that we will see the first copies of Volume X before graduation.

The greatest aspect of the *Journal* is the continual strive for excellence. I have taken great pride in continuing to build on the efforts of previous editors in this quest for excellence. For example, when I telephoned Mead Data Central to inquire about having the *Journal* placed on the Lexis legal data base, I was told of Patrick Clendenen's, EIC Volume 7, earlier efforts to do the same. As a result of the continual pressure over the past few years, the *Journal* was given top priority and placed online in the first cycle of Mead Data Central's law journal data base expansion. When looking through the old files I came across a memo written by an earlier editor with a lengthy list of suggestions for improving the *Journal*. At that point I realized that what I took for granted as standard operating procedure came about from the hard work of my recent predecessors. Each year the *Journal* continues to improve.

The *Journal* has made significant technological advances this year thanks to the financial contribution of the administration. *The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy* is proud to be the first and only of the three law journals at Catholic University to make the transition to desk top publishing, which enables us to produce page proofs in the Journal office. While this required the board to contribute significant amounts of additional time and effort and accept greater responsibility for the end product, it has improved the editing process tremendously by reducing the amount of time it takes to generate page proofs. What used to take the printer approximately 10 days to do can now be done by the *Journal* staff in a matter of hours.

* Student Editor-in-Chief, Volume 10.

Successful law journal work is team work. Judging from my conversations with the faculty editors and “war stories” from former editors, I can safely say that the Volume X editorial board is one of the best teams the *Journal* has ever had. This is a credit both to trailblazing efforts of past editorial boards and the Volume X editorial board’s commitment to excellence. The members of the Volume X board knew that it was especially important to put forth their best because we would set the standards against which to judge the success of Volume XI, the first year in the *Journal’s* transition to full student autonomy. I am confident that the Volume X board has taught its successors, by example, how to produce a top quality professional journal in a professional manner. For this I thank all the members of the Volume X editorial board.

This reflection would not be complete without acknowledging the the magnanimous efforts of Professor George P. Smith II and Father Raymond O’Brien. These two professionals are not only the *Journal’s* liaison to the faculty and administration, they are driving forces behind the *Journal’s* success. The *Journal* benefits tremendously from Father O’Brien’s annual fund raising efforts (cornering fellow faculty members and calling old friends out of the blue soon after the *Journal* has sent them a solicitation letter). Moreover, Professor Smith is the *Journal’s* institutional memory that allows the *Journal* to grow from year to year rather than spending fruitless hours reinventing the wheel. Even though there were times when I wished professor Smith were on sabbatical or out of town, such as when he made one of his many 7:00 a.m. wake up calls to remind me that something needed to be done or someone needed to be called, I thank him for his support and acknowledge that the *Journal* would not be half the law journal it is today without his contributions of time and energy.

I wish the Volume XI board the best of luck as they begin to tackle the challenges of the first autonomous issue of *The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy*.