
A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

*Zoe Chanin, * Allie Goodman, * Nathanael Ham, * Caitlin Kierum, * James Kirwan, * Charlotte Boucher, * and Steven Van Iwaarden. *The Michigan Journal of Law & Society Executive Committee for Volume 1.*

A year-and-a-half ago, the *Michigan Journal of Law & Society (MJLS)* was only an idea. Like many of the best ideas, *MJLS* started out as a conversation between a student and a professor. Having greatly enjoyed the Early American Legal History course at the University of Michigan Law School and having written way too much for the final paper for that course, James Kirwan, Editor-in-Chief for the first Volume of *MJLS*, approached Professor Bill Novak about legal history journals that consider accepting student notes. When told that all of the existing legal history journals cater towards professional scholars and that there was more demand than could be met by the existing supply of peer-reviewed journals, James asked Prof. Novak if there would be value in starting a legal history-themed journal at Michigan Law. With an exuberant yes as a reply, James and Novak began formulating an idea that would soon branch out to include a path breaking, multidisciplinary approach to legal scholarship, one that combines the best features of both law-student-run journals and faculty-run, peer-reviewed journals.

MJLS expanded to encompass all of the social sciences and humanities because of the great programs here at the University of Michigan, supported by many of the kindest and most energetic scholars and students anywhere in the world. Recognizing that student-run law journals necessarily limit their pool of knowledge to law students, and that we could better understand the law by seeing it from a greater number of disciplinary and methodological perspectives, Allie Goodman, Charlotte Smith, and

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Zoe Chanin—PhD Candidates in History, Political Science, and Sociology, respectively—were tapped to join the team so the journal would better encompass social-scientific and humanistic inquiry.

The next step was to better understand the student-run law journal model and to apply its lessons to a combined cohort of editors. Caitlin Kierum, Nathanael Ham, and Steven Van Iwaarden, three Michigan Law students with thousands of hours of editing experience, joined and helped lead the journal in its inaugural year.

Recognizing that the missing link in combining the best elements of student-run law journals and peer-reviewed journals was faculty expertise, the student leadership team for Volume 1 of *MJLS* then approached well-known interdisciplinary legal researchers at the University of Michigan and beyond, asking them to provide substantive advice to the journal and to peer-review select content. The *MJLS* faculty board, now composed of Matthew Erie, Daniel Fryer, Ann Heffernan, Leila Kavar, Nora Krinitsky, Greta Krippner, Andrew Lanham, Matt Lassiter, Sandy Levitsky, Bill Novak, Emily Prifogle, Heather Ann Thompson, and Mariah Zeisberg, has provided advice at every step along the way, offered invaluable edits, and made our hybrid model possible. We are indebted to them for their assistance and advice. We are also indebted to other profound legal scholars who have reviewed submitted work, like Bryan K. Roby and Devi Mays of the University of Michigan and Kevin Tobia of Georgetown University Law Center.

And, of course, none of *MJLS* could have been possible without the unending support of our law and Ph.D. student editors. Their thousands of hours verifying claims, correcting quotes, fixing citations, and improving the clarity of writing has enriched our first Volume in innumerable ways.

Like with all new undertakings, we've benefited immeasurably from the advice and support of so many friends and colleagues. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the University of Michigan Law School Library, particularly Jessica Pasquale and Kincaid Brown, for their tireless assistance in getting us off the ground; to Dean Mark West for his approval and words of support; to various student editors, like Lexi Wung, Caroline Farrington, Ahmed Rizk, and Julianna St. Onge, for their insights into the day-to-day operations of running a student journal; and to a great deal of faculty and staff for their support and feedback. The University of Michigan Law

School Communications Department has also provided us with significant help, from logo design to formatting assistance.

We are also grateful to our Volume I authors: Joseph Conti, Alicia Pastor y Camarasa, Smita Ghosh, James Kloppenberg, Andrew Lanham, and Max Lykins. It has been a pleasure working with you and we are proud to publish your work and the great insights contained within it.

And since *MJLS* believes first and foremost in a vision of cross-disciplinary conversation, we cannot help but feel that the lifelong friendships we have forged in creating *MJLS* are proof of concept. We hope that these friendships, our approach to understanding the law, and our mixed model will reverberate for many years to come.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we hope that you'll enjoy reading the inaugural Volume of the *Michigan Journal of Law & Society*.