NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The staff of the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our December 2004 issue. We are honored that the Alaska Bar has decided to renew its relationship with Duke University School of Law. Each year, the editorial staff looks for ways to better serve the needs of our readership. The most notable change you will find this year is that our popular *Year-in-Review* feature is moving online. The online feature will be easy to use and available in a searchable and printable format. Please look for the *Year-in-Review* next Spring on our website, located on the copyright page.

The December 2004 issue reflects our goal to provide topical pieces that are of practical and academic interest to many different sectors in the Alaska legal community. The five pieces we selected for this issue touch upon important areas of criminal law, constitutional law, judicial selection, labor and employment law, and civil procedure. The Article by Thomas Van Flein examines how the Alaska courts have developed a body of independent state constitutional law under the doctrine of New Federalism. Stephen Branchflower's Article discusses the merits of Alaska's Office of Victims' Rights, offering it as a model for other states. The Comment by Joseph Kalamarides discusses the Alaska state courts' treatment of workers' compensation laws for remote-site employees. Susie Dosik argues on behalf of Alaska's merit selection process for judges in a Reply to a Note written in our June 2003 issue. Finally, my Note critiques recent legislative attempts to repeal the public interest litigant exception to Civil Rule 82. We are pleased with the quality of the submissions we receive each year and encourage members of the Alaska Bar to continue to use the *Alaska Law Review* as a forum to promulgate their views.

Each year, the *Alaska Law Review* attracts an impressive group of students committed to producing a first-class legal publication. It is a great privilege to lead this year's group of enthusiastic and intelligent editors. I am also grateful to work with the many members of the Alaska Bar. Alaska is truly a unique state, blessed with a talented and dedicated legal community. My colleagues and I were fortunate to visit Alaska last spring and would like to thank those who hosted us or took time out of their busy schedules to meet with us. We appreciate your hospitality. As always, we are delighted to receive feedback, comments, and questions regarding the publication.

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