NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The staff of the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our December 2003 issue. This issue includes two Articles, one Comment, one Reply, two Notes, and one Practicum. The Practicum is a new feature designed by the executive board in response to feedback from members of the Alaska Bar. The Practicum is a short piece that responds to a particular legal question, providing guidance to attorneys, judges, or legislators. For example, the Practicum in this issue analyzes a recent amendment to an Alaska statute, discusses its strengths and potential problems, and concludes with suggestions to improve the statute. We encourage attorneys, legislators, and other members of the Alaska Bar to submit Practica on issues they find pertinent and useful.

As always, we received many interesting and well-written pieces to choose from for this issue. The seven pieces we selected cover a broad array of topics and should evoke the interest of many different sectors of the Alaska legal community. The Article by Joseph Chambers examines *In re Exxon Valdez* and the effect that the Supreme Court's recently identified due process constraints on punitive damages will have on the case. Marshall Wilde's Article analyzes the liability of mental health providers for treatment of individuals who receive court-mandated services, and Mark Andrews's Comment looks at the Alaska Supreme Court's opinion in *J.S. v. State* and its effects. The Reply by Eric Johnson responds to a Comment written by Professor Erwin Chemerinsky in our last issue. Our two Student Notes, written by John Fred and Merrill Hoopengardner, analyze the Alaska Misconduct Involving Weapons statutes and economic development in Alaska, respectively. Finally, the Practicum that Marika Athens and I wrote examines a recent amendment to Alaska's DNA database statute.

I am extremely honored to lead the staff of the *Alaska Law Review* this year. We are lucky to have talented, intelligent, and enthusiastic law students on our staff and I thoroughly enjoy working with them. It is also an honor to work with members of the Alaska Bar. After visiting Alaska last spring and meeting so many impressive members of the Alaska legal community, my interest in Alaska and its legal issues continues to grow. As always, we are delighted to receive your feedback, comments, and questions regarding the issue. I would like to thank the Alaska Bar for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Alyssa A. Rower