NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The staff of the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our June 2003 issue. This issue includes *The Year in Review*, our annual compilation of summaries of state and federal cases dealing with Alaska law, as well as one Article, one Comment, and one Note. The Article by David Blurton presents a useful explanation of tribal court jurisdiction in various types of cases, and argues that tribal courts should not maintain jurisdiction to decide child custody disputes where the tribe is not based in Indian country. Tillman Finley's Note examines the current merit selection system of judicial appointments and evaluations in Alaska and suggests possible reforms for maintaining the appropriate balance between judicial independence and accountability.

We were extremely fortunate to include a Comment by Professor Erwin Chemerinsky in this issue. Professor Chemerinsky taught at Duke Law last semester and was adored by his students. From my conversations with members of the Alaska bar, he is also well-respected amongst the legal community in Alaska. We are honored to have the opportunity to publish the work of such an outstanding legal scholar and teacher. In his Comment, Professor Chemerinsky critiques two recent Alaska Supreme Court decisions which denied privacy rights to individuals despite the broad grant of privacy protections under the Alaska Constitution.

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to lead the staff of the *Alaska Law Review* this year. It has been quite a rewarding experience to work with such a talented group of law students and such impressive members of the Alaska legal community. I have learned so much about Alaska, and continue to be intrigued by the unique legal issues that arise there. I greatly enjoyed my visit to Alaska last spring, and on behalf of the *Alaska Law Review*, I sincerely thank the members of the Alaska bar for their generosity, kindness, and encouragement during our annual trips to Alaska and throughout the academic year. As the new Editorial Board takes over, we look forward to continuing working with all of you in the years to come in addressing the needs of the Alaska legal community.

Jacquelyn L. Sumer