

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The state of Alaska's distinct geography, history, and demographics afford practitioners and scholars an opportunity to examine and shape unique areas of the law. These topics have enriched the *Alaska Law Review* and challenged our readers to contemplate complicated and novel legal issues. An area that has influenced almost every issue of our journal is the federal and state legal treatment of Alaska Natives. Statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions have touched upon many aspects of Alaska Native life, including land distribution, native corporations, aboriginal title, tribal sovereignty, child welfare, and subsistence, to name a few. The specific needs of the Alaska Native community have drawn much scholarly attention as a result.

The *Alaska Law Review* is proud to offer its June 2005 issue, exclusively devoted to issues of Alaska Native law. The conception of this themed issue was purely accidental; we received an extraordinarily large number of outstanding submissions on Native issues. As a result, we chose to pay tribute to this exciting area of the law that has continued to enlighten our publication and has attracted readers from across the country. The pieces we selected for the June 2005 issue by no means provide an exhaustive survey of Native legal issues, but do address a variety of topics for all readers to enjoy. The Article by Strommer and Osborne analyzes the current state of Alaska Native tribal sovereignty under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Theriault, Otis, Duhaime, and Furgal examine the legal protection of subsistence and food security, focusing on the Inuit people of Alaska. Hill's Comment offers an alternative approach to the placement of Alaska Native children under the Indian Child Welfare Act. Finally, the Note by Briggs-Sykes argues for a formal court interpreter program to address the specific needs of Natives in the Alaska court system.

In my final issue as Editor-in-Chief of the *Alaska Law Review*, I would once again like to thank all the lawyers, scholars, and students who have made this an enriching experience. We at Duke University School of Law are proud to publish the *Alaska Law Review* and are always looking for ways to improve the journal for our readers. We encourage you to continue to submit articles and offer feedback. Additionally, you will notice that our popular *Year-in-Review* feature is moving exclusively online. Please refer to Appendix A for more details. I wish my colleagues, successors, and friends in Alaska the best wishes for the future.

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