

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The editorial staff of the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our December 2009 Issue. Our goal is to present articles and notes that will be useful to practitioners and provide thoughtful analysis about topics that are immediately relevant to Alaska's legal landscape. This group of articles and notes presents in-depth analysis on a broad range of issues currently affecting the Alaska legal community. We selected four articles and two notes for publication, and we hope these pieces will be of interest to our readers.

The first article, written by James Fayette and Stephanie Busalacchi, discusses evidentiary rule 104(b) and the concept of conditional relevance. The second article, written by Teresa W. Carns, provides a statistical analysis of Alaska's judicial selection process, based on a report produced by the Alaska Judicial Council. The third article, written by Leslie Dubois-Need and Amber Kingery, discusses the issues surrounding legal change of gender for transsexuals in Alaska, and examines the constitutional and practical implications of permitting change of gender petitions in the state. Sonja Kerr's article examines the rights of parents to litigate pro se on behalf of their children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and proposes reforms designed to aid parents in protecting the interests of children with disabilities.

The first note discusses the recent United States Supreme Court decision in *Polar Tankers, Inc. v. City of Valdez*, and argues that the Supreme Court misinterpreted prior jurisprudence relating to the Tonnage Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The final note, written by Elizabeth Johnston, discusses the prevalence of the third-party custodian requirement for pretrial release in Alaska, and proposes that Alaska develop an independent pretrial services agency to aid judges in making effective bail decisions.

The *Alaska Law Review* is comprised of an extremely talented group of student editors. It has been a pleasure working with them to on this Issue, and I look forward to the remainder of the year.

We invite our readers to visit our website to access both the current Issue and archived Issues in electronic form. We hope that the articles and notes in this Issue will encourage reflection and debate within the legal community. As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions regarding the journal.

*Angelo Suozzi*