NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to publish our December 2023 issue. The members of the *Alaska Law Review* are grateful to the many people, past and present, who have made this journal possible both in North Carolina and in Alaska. With each issue over the last forty years, the editors of this journal dedicate themselves anew to publishing scholarship that focuses on the questions, issues, and developments of Alaska Law. That dedication is a privilege we do not take for granted.

This issue features four student notes, each addressing an important and interesting issue.

In *Among the Rarest: Saving the Eastern North Pacific Right Whale*, author and *Alaska Law Review* Online Editor Elza Bouhassira wrote about one of the rarest and most endangered whale populations in the world, the North Pacific Right Whale, and the legal landscape that affects the whale population’s future.

*Alaska Law Review* Year-in-Review Editor Joe Perry authored *In the Dark: State v. Alaska Legislative Council and Public-School Funding in the Face of the Dedicated Funds Clause*. His note covers the legal issues around a recent state legislative attempt to shore up funding for public education in Alaska. Mr. Perry unpacks the meaning of the Dedicated Funds Clause in the Alaska Constitution and the existing constitutional status quo, post-*State v. Alaska Legislative Council*.

Morgan Pettit of the University of New Mexico School of Law wrote a student note on challenges facing new mining projects in Alaska. Her note, *Sustainable Mining Challenges: Alaska Water Permitting and the United States Green Energy Transition*, considers the misalignment between President Joe Biden’s goal of bolstering the domestic mineral supply chain and the existing regulatory framework governing mining in Alaska. Ms. Pettit highlights the inefficiencies and complex problems that arise for any company seeking to mine in Alaska and proposes reforms for the future.

In our fourth and final piece, *Alaska Law Review* Executive Editor Jake Sherman analyzes the constitutional questions surrounding unorganized boroughs. *Towards Better Local Governance in Alaska’s Unorganized Borough* posits that the present unorganized borough situation is unconstitutional under the Alaska Constitution. Mr. Sherman further suggests that incorporation of those boroughs could improve local governance and amplify rural voices.
This issue of the *Alaska Law Review*, in addition to each of our previous issues, is available on our website, alr.law.duke.edu. There, anyone can access PDFs of our volumes, which are easily printable and searchable. Our website also houses our “Year-in-Reviews,” summaries of important cases decided by the Alaska Court of Appeals, the Alaska Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court of Alaska, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit each year. We welcome your comments, responses, and feedback at alr@law.duke.edu.

On behalf of the entire journal, I hope you enjoy the work of our diligent authors and editors within. As always, we remain grateful to the Alaska Bar Association and to the Duke University School of Law for allowing us to continue in this special project. North to the future.

*Flora Lipsky,*
*Editor in Chief, 2023–24*