

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The staff of the *Alaska Law Review* is pleased to present our December 2005 issue. We received many interesting submissions to choose from for this issue. The four pieces we selected reflect our commitment to providing topical pieces that are of practical and academic interest to the many different sectors of the Alaska legal community. The Article by Professor William Rodgers, Jr. and his students at the University of Washington School of Law urges the State of Alaska, the United States, and Alaska Native entities to seek enforcement of the Reopener Clause to the Exxon Valdez settlement agreement. The Article by Kenneth Kirk examines the recently-enacted Alaska Health Care Decisions Act. Next, Rich Curtner and Melissa Kassier discuss methods to measure the impact of pretrial publicity on criminal trials, focusing on presumed prejudice and change of venue litigation. Finally, Michael Schwaiger's Article discusses the role of originalism in interpreting the Alaska Constitution and argues that Alaska courts should use historical context as the basis for recognizing expanded civil rights.

We hope that the articles in this issue will generate discussion and debate throughout the State of Alaska. We encourage all members of the Alaska Bar to submit responses, articles, comments, and practica for publication in the *Alaska Law Review*. For details regarding manuscript submission and selection criteria, please visit our website at <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/alr>.

Each year, the *Alaska Law Review* attracts an impressive group of students committed to producing a first-class legal publication. I am honored to lead this year's group of enthusiastic and talented editors. I am also thankful to the members of the Alaska Bar who hosted and met with us during our annual visit to Alaska last March. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the state and learn more about the Alaska legal community. As always, we are delighted to receive feedback, comments, and questions regarding the publication.

*Lauren Shurman*