

# LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS CELEBRATES VOLUME 75

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David Cavers founded *Law and Contemporary Problems* in 1933 as an alternative to the traditional law review. Cavers created *L&CP* to focus and emphasize interdisciplinary and empirical research and to synthesize rather than to merely classify in the manner of other law reviews at the time. Classification implies division; Cavers's goal for *L&CP* was to foster thoughtful discussion among the many non-legal disciplines under which putatively legal problems might also be included.

As we celebrate *L&CP*'s 75th volume, we reflect on its evolution and achievements. Today *L&CP* is a leading legal periodical, with the highest voluntary subscription volume of Duke's law reviews. Our symposium format poses unique challenges for authors and editors alike, but also has unique advantages. This symposium structure promotes engaging a wide range of thinkers from inside and outside the legal community; each issue's specialization on a single subject facilitates in-depth and balanced analysis of the aspects of that subject. The opportunity to explore a single topic with interdisciplinary thinkers is what attracts student editors and authors to work on and publish with *L&CP*.

Originally *L&CP* was faculty-edited, with no student involvement. In the 1970s a small student editorial board was added to the journal to work in conjunction with Duke Law's faculty. Since then the student editorial board has grown to forty-five members. Although the faculty's involvement in the editing process has decreased over the years, *L&CP* continues to enjoy substantial contributions from Duke's faculty and from academics and practitioners inside and outside the Duke community. These include contributions from its Faculty Board, which conducts reviews of all symposium proposals and ultimately selects which symposia to publish, and the Special Editors of each issue, who recruit the authors, submit the proposals, and help facilitate publication. Student editors are trained in editing conventions aimed at making articles accessible to a broad readership and instilling in students an appreciation for the art of writing.

For each issue *L&CP* selects a single topic of *contemporary* concern. The

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This introduction is also available at <http://www.law.duke.edu/journals/lcp>.

\* Editor-in-Chief, 2011–2012. Thanks to Professors Joan Magat, Stuart Benjamin, and Fred Kameny for their suggestions.

\*\* Editor-in-Chief, 2010–2011.

themes *L&CP* Special Editors and authors have addressed have offered valuable perspectives on where we have been and on where we are heading. For example, in *L&CP*'s first issue, six years before the passage of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act,<sup>1</sup> *L&CP* authors discussed the prospect of federal protection of consumer food and drug products. In the following issue, one year after the enactment of the Agricultural Adjustment Act,<sup>2</sup> *L&CP* featured articles on the impact of agricultural readjustment on cotton and tobacco in the South. This current volume features articles on pleading standards in securities cases, psychology and criminal law, the constitutionality of healthcare legislation, and theology and the law.

We are honored to be part of an innovative journal with a long, influential history. In our limited time with the journal, we have had the opportunity to meet and work with an exemplary group of Special Editors and authors from a wide variety of different disciplines. The *L&CP* issues that follow those published under our tenure, we expect to be no less perceptive of the role of law at the cutting edge of social, regulatory, business, and environmental change, among others, than the first volumes published by David Cavers. We look forward to seeing what future volumes bring.

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1. 21 U.S.C. § 301 (1939).

2. Pub. L. 73-10, 48 Stat. 31 (1933).