

## **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREIGHTON LAW REVIEW**

The publication of the 50th volume of the *Creighton Law Review* represents a significant milestone for the Creighton University School of Law. During my transition into the position as Editor in Chief, Spencer Murphy, the Editor in Chief of volume 49, and I discussed ways to celebrate the Law Review's achievement. We discovered the undertaking by the 1991-92 Board of Editors, who requested Editors in Chief from volumes one through 24 to pen a short essay reflecting on their time leading the journal. As such, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the *Creighton Law Review*, the 2016-17 Board of Editors has similarly requested Editors in Chief from volumes 26 through 49 to submit brief essays reflecting on their memories of leading the journal. The essays that were received will be published throughout the four editions of the 50th volume. The 2016-17 Board of Editors would like to thank each former Editor in Chief who took the time to submit an essay.

*Claire E. Wilka*  
*Editor in Chief 2016-17*



## **TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH VOLUME OF THE CREIGHTON LAW REVIEW**

The Creighton Law Review reaching its 50th anniversary demonstrates the hard work and dedication of generations of young lawyers. During my tenure as Editor in Chief of volume forty-three, my board and I encountered numerous struggles including having only two returning staff members, creating a website, and organizing a symposium. Together, we met and overcame each of these challenges—all while balancing third year, jobs, and family commitments.

I am eternally proud of, and grateful to, the members of my editorial board, Devin Quackenbush, Mark Hill, Kate Prasse, Joel Taylor, Colleen McGarry, Aislinn Penkwitz Schultz, Sandy Mass, and Patrice Ott. Each of these individuals, through humor, grace, and understanding, helped keep me sane and ensure volume 43 reached the printing press. I am also grateful to the original “E.I.C.,” Professor Ronald Volkmer, whose advice and guidance was invaluable.

*Megan A. Carrick,  
Creighton Law Review Editor In Chief  
Volume 43: 2009-2010*



## TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH VOLUME OF THE CREIGHTON LAW REVIEW

Being a member of the Creighton Law Review was a fantastic experience. It is an experience I especially appreciate in light of the fact that I almost did not join. I performed well enough first semester of 1L year to participate in the two week write-on competition that included spring break. There was a packed room of very bright students when the competition packet was distributed, which only compounded my feelings of insecurity about trying to join a journal without any experience writing or editing publishable academic works.

As with all great competitions, finishing my submission came down to the wire. Along the way, I almost gave in to exhaustion and fear of rejection, but I pulled an all-nighter to complete the submission and I barely beat the deadline. Though I was selected to join, I always wondered, "How close was I to being rejected?" Fortunately for my curiosity, I became the Editor in Chief and scores for my class's write-on competition were among the documents I inherited from the outgoing EIC. I was relieved to find that, notwithstanding my exhaustion to meet the deadline, I finished at the top of all submissions.

Just kidding; I was in the middle of the pack and have nothing to brag about. A great lesson in being part of the law review and about practicing law: finish early so you can revise because first drafts are middling at best.

Working for the law review was extremely rewarding from a technical and organizational perspective. Leading the editorial process and communicating with law review members gave me great insight into perspectives people bring to legal work and pride placed on the product or service produced. Spading and reviewing works honed my attention to detail and gave me a helpful view into the sometimes monotonous but significant importance of legal work. Or is it sometimes important but significantly monotonous? Great minds may differ.

Nonetheless, seeing the Creighton Law Review turn 50 makes me remember that it will always be in good hands. I will always value the work I did for the law review. More importantly, though, I will always value the opportunities it presented me to work with such smart and capable individuals. Many thanks to my editors (Ms. Kelli Huser and Messrs. Michael Daly, Antonio Fornasier, Nicholas Sullivan, Robert Henderson, Grant Mullin, John Matson, Shane Strong, Eric New-

house, and Michael Anderson) and I wish members of Volume 50 good luck for the 2016-2017 year.

*Kamaal Patterson,  
Creighton Law Review Editor in Chief  
Volume 46: 2012-2013*

## TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH VOLUME OF THE CREIGHTON LAW REVIEW

I am privileged to have the opportunity to express my gratitude to and some thoughts about *Creighton Law Review* on its 50th anniversary. How incredible of an achievement for Creighton Law School, the *Creighton Law Review*, and the students and others who provide such a vital role on influencing the rule of law in our communities. Being part of *Creighton Law Review* has been one of the most worthwhile pursuits I have ever had the privilege to undertake. Before making the decision to go to law school, I spoke with many family friends and mentors who are attorneys. Each stressed the importance of two things: high grades, and being on law review. These discussions led me to work hard enough during my first year to be among those invited to become a part of what was then, a mysterious organization.

Although I had been told of the importance of law review by mentors and law professors, I had no idea what the organization did or was, why having those two words on a resume was so prized, or what went on within the walls of that enigmatic corner office in the basement of the library. Hours upon hours of spading brought those mysteries out of the darkness and into the light. That corner office shrouded in mystery quickly became more like a dark cave from a nightmare where the sun never shone. However, the bonds of friendship, unity, and accomplishment that came from what at the time seemed like very bleak hours, made all the time and sacrifice worth it.

Being part of law review is prestigious. To me, being part of *Creighton Law Review* is beyond prestige. The law review is and has been held in high regard by students, professors, and practitioners since its inception. I am and will be forever grateful for the sense of purpose, unity, and selfless devotion to the law review that Professor Volkmer, the review's first Editor in Chief sought to instill in each member. His words and attitude towards the law review provided much needed aid during many late nights and early mornings during the pursuit of my editorial duties.

My intent in writing this memorial is to inspire, in some small way, more incoming and upcoming law students at Creighton Law School to seek to add those two crucial words to their resumes. Perhaps to better illustrate the importance of law review, I will provide examples of opportunities I had at Creighton Law School and in my short time since, due to my membership on the law review.

When Chief Justice John G. Roberts visited Creighton, a small breakfast was held. Hannah Fischer, the Executive Editor, and I were

among the six students chosen to attend. This was due to our positions on the law review. That breakfast, lasting perhaps an hour, provided an experience of a lifetime - one I will never forget.

When a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit sat at Creighton Law School in the fall of 2015, the Board of Editors of the law review were the ones invited to have lunch with the judges and their law clerks. When a Harvard Law graduate pursuing his S.J.D. from Harvard had multiple offers to publish his article, he chose *Creighton Law Review*.

I am and will forever be grateful for the opportunity I had to serve and be a part of *Creighton Law Review*. Being part of the law review provided intangible skills, lasting friendships, professional connections, and the opportunity to land my dream job of clerking for the Honorable Lyle E. Strom, Senior District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. Congratulations to all who have and will continue to make *Creighton Law Review* the flagship journal it has become in fifty short years. Here's to the next fifty years!

*Skylar H. Pearson,*  
*Creighton Law Review Editor in Chief*  
*Volume 48: 2014-15*