

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH VOLUME OF THE CREIGHTON LAW REVIEW

“The only true wisdom is knowing you know nothing.”

This statement, attributable to Socrates, has guided me since my undergraduate philosophy classes. To me, this statement is about being centered, yet humble; never letting our egos interfere with our innate ability to continue to learn throughout our lives. My involvement with the Creighton Law Review was, and still is, a big part of this lifelong process for me.

Congratulations to the Creighton Law Review, and all of its staff, for a grand 50 years!

I was humbled and honored to serve as Editor in Chief of Volume 35 of the Creighton Law Review. Undoubtedly, my decision to participate in the law review was one of the best decisions I ever made. In hindsight, however, I am not sure I was fully prepared for the commitment and effort required of such a student-run organization, especially an organization with the high standards of the Creighton Law Review. At the same time, I was also unprepared for the assistance and teamwork I would be exposed to, on such a grand scale, by being part of such a great group of people. Being open to new truths includes being open to the assistance and ideas brought forth by others around us. There is no doubt that Volume 35 would not exist without the efforts of each and every author, editor, and staff member on our team. In my biased opinion, some of the best minds ever coming out of Creighton. I am proud to have known them, and enjoy following their successes in life.

During my time on the law review, I continued to grow and learn in unexpected ways: learning from the authors and content of articles and casenotes written, from the process of editing a quality law review, and, as noted above, from the great staff who produced Volume 35. In my experience, each article and casenote brought its own challenges and learning opportunities. I often felt we became experts on the topic at hand through the process of editing and spading the particular article or casenote. To this day I am reminded of my experience and the skills I developed on law review, as I continue to write, rewrite, rewrite, and rewrite my documents, always seeking excellence. I will not disclose the number of rewrites of this brief tribute—it is just another reminder that I really know nothing.

My experiences on law review have continued to guide me throughout my legal career. I continue to seek improvement in all that I do, and continue to seek knowledge from those around me. I

would like to express my sincere thanks to the Creighton Law Review for the opportunities afforded me because of these experiences, but more importantly, I want to offer my robust congratulations on another huge milestone. Fifty years—Go Bluejays!

*Richard D. Vroman,
Creighton Law Review Editor in Chief
Volume 35: 2001-2002*

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True to the style of I'm sure many Editors in Chief who came before me, I am still contributing to the *Creighton Law Review* long after I have graduated from the Creighton University School of Law. Ironically, after spending the past year reaching out to past Editors in Chief—no, begging past Editors in Chief—to submit a short tribute in honor of the fiftieth year, I of course did not take the time to write my own tribute until the final days of my preparation for the bar exam. It's a strange feeling; I have spent endless hours editing hundreds of pages of law review articles for the last year, but could not get myself to write a two page reflective tribute until the most inopportune time. So to all the past Editors in Chief who have submitted a tribute about your time leading the *Creighton Law Review* over the last fifty years, thank you again. While we may drag our feet because of how busy life can get, these tributes are truly an amazing contribution to recognize past achievements and make future *Creighton Law Review* members smile decades to come when they look back on these reflections.

The fiftieth volume of the *Creighton Law Review* was an incredibly successful year led by some of the hardest working individuals with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. The 2016-2017 Board of Editors led this effort to publish tributes similar to the 1991-1992 Board, which published tributes from the first twenty-five volumes. Side note: reading those tributes from the early days, when the Law Review was located in essentially a hut connected by a small hallway to the actual Law School, the members typed and re-typed every single draft of every manuscript on a typewriter (shout out to today's Track Changes), the Law Review had smaller membership numbers and fewer editions, the first Symposium hosted ten years ago, and so on, was one of my favorite memories as Editor in Chief. No matter how far back, each Editor in Chief shared a common thread: they worked long hours, had the notion that it is who we work with that matters, and knew that the skills of precision and thoughtful analysis taught by being on the Law Review are what last for years as a practicing attorney. I recommend that any member of the *Creighton Law Review* should read some of these past tributes.

Back to the fiftieth volume. We had great membership numbers this year, published articles on many different topics, and hosted one of the most successful Symposiums yet with almost four hundred attorneys attending our Symposium in March of 2017. We also began to create a database of all past members of the *Creighton Law Review*

with hopes that there can one day be an easily accessible way to email all *Creighton Law Review* alumni at once. In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the *Loving v. Virginia* decision, we partnered with Professor Palma Strand, the 2040 Initiative, and the Werner Institute to publish numerous reflective essays discussing the demographic changes of our times and the impact this has on the law and politics. We hosted a reception in honor of the 50th anniversary of the *Creighton Law Review*, where we presented Professor Ronald Volkmer, the Law Review's first Editor in Chief and faculty advisor from volumes two through forty-nine, with an award. We hosted publication parties and other events with current members throughout the year to get out of the law review suite and celebrate the accomplishments of fellow members. We even got a new printer in the suite, but still wait for what feels like an hour to sign in to the old computer in there in order to print anything. I've realized law students will wait as long as it takes for free printing.

There were many days during my time as Editor in Chief where I did not eat lunch until 4:00 in the afternoon. My days were always fast paced, as I ran up and down the stairs in the law library to talk to our faculty advisor, professors for whom we were publishing articles, or our business manager. I was always behind on emails, my to-do list was never complete, I had some very difficult conversations and tough decisions, and I am embarrassed by how many hours I spent studying the Bluebook to determine what rule to apply to a new editing situation. But I also worked with some of the greatest individuals. I got to know the members in the class below me, I saw them become better editors, more confident writers, and great leaders. Our Executive Editor, Pete Langdon, essentially memorized the Bluebook and could rattle off numerous rules in his sleep. This was a great help to me when I did not want to open the Bluebook for the nineteenth time in a day, so I would just call his cell and get the answer in under thirty seconds. One Board member became our social media guru, so thank you, Katie Matejka, for upping the *Creighton Law Review's* Twitter game. Sean Nakamoto, our Research Editor, took tons of time to thoughtfully revamp the position to help future members be even better writers. Our members, both on the Board of Editors and general 2L members, were some of the most successful students in the Law School. They were leaders in other activities, they won Moot Court competitions, they were competitive trial team advocates, and they have lined up great jobs after graduation.

Some of my greatest memories in law school were spent in the Law Review suite, procrastinating my Law Review work. Other members were always hanging out and working in there, and I cannot count how many political rants or laughs during our weekly Board

meetings we had throughout the year. These people made Law Review great. It really does take a village to send each edition to press, four times a year for us. My predecessor gave me some great advice once: each edition will be in a different stage all the time, and there will be times when you are doing something for all four editions at once, so ask for help, delegate, and work together. He was right. Whenever I was overwhelmed with things to do, other members of the Law Review volunteered to help in whatever way they could. While I may be the designated person to write about the success of the last year, I was only 1/34th of the fiftieth volume. So thank you to all members of the *Creighton Law Review*, past and present, for working tremendously hard. It is this work ethic that I know will make each member of volume fifty a great professional, and I will always consider each member a friend. Finally, I want to give a special thank you to the members of the 2016-2017 Board for working hard and being the best teammates: Pete Langdon, Sean Nakamoto, Tyler Seals, Ben Deaver, Katie Matejka, Mike Salloum, Shannon Behm, Cameron Finke, Noah Glover, and Morgan Kreiser. Here's to another 50 years for the *Creighton Law Review*!

*Claire E. Wilka,
Creighton Law Review Editor in Chief
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