

1-1-2009

## Letter from the Editor

Katie Wallmeyer Payne

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### Recommended Citation

Katie W. Payne, *Letter from the Editor*, 12 RICH. J.L. & PUB. INT. xlii (2008).

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr/vol12/iss3/2>

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

The Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest is pleased to present you with our annual spring issue. This issue is focused on family law, a topic near and dear to the heart of the University of Richmond Law School. This past fall, the Law School lost a dear member of its faculty, Professor Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. Professor Shepherd taught a variety of classes at the Law School, but is remembered for his passion for family law. It is in his honor that we dedicate this issue.

As such, this issue begins with a dedication to Professor Shepherd, written by his close friend and fellow Professor, Ronald A. Bacigal. The issue is then divided into three parts: three independent pieces and two student comments.

The first article, *Dividing Lives: How Deporting Legal and Illegal Immigrants With United States-Born Children is Separating Families and Why United States and International Laws are Failing Families* by Anna-Liisa Jacobson examines the impact of new deportation laws on immigrant families.

The second and third pieces are unique editorials written by family members Sue K. Varon, Jennifer Varon, and Martin S. Varon. The first of these, *New Options For Child Support Payments* by Sue K. and Jessica Varon, explores new and more reliable methods for enforcing consistent child support payments. The second, *The Domino Effect of the Current Economic Crisis* by Sue K. and Martin S. Varon, details the impact of the deepening recession on family law clients.

The first student comment, David Abbondanza's *The Pulpit Initiative: Fighting to Return America's First Freedom to Her Churches*, details the foundation of the Pulpit Initiative and its chances for success in the future.

The second student comment, *Adopting a New Approach to Medical Information for Adoptees* by Jessica Marie Yoke, illustrates the growing need for adopted children to be able to access their birthparents' medical histories.

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The third student comment, ‘Til Proposition 8 Do Us Part: The Rise and Fall of Same-Sex Marriage in California by Addie V. Kies, explains the ramifications of recent California legislation on the ability of same-sex couples to marry.

We hope that you enjoy learning more about timely family law topics through reading this issue. Please check back with us soon for our second annual General Assembly in Review issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie (K) Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray, textured rectangular background.

Katie Wallmeyer Payne  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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