LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

The *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest* is proud to present our annual fall issue. Marking our second publication of the year, we offer an impressive array of authorship discussing contemporary litigation matters, as well as the need for legislative overhaul in the areas of federal procurement and child protection programs. This issue combines diverse topics with quality writing to impart current reflections about ever-changing areas of the law.

The first article, *Compelling the Courts to Question* Gonzales v. O Centro*: A Public Harms Approach to Free Exercise Analysis*, explores the fallout from the Supreme Court's 2006 decision granting certain exemptions for religiously-motivated drug possession. The author, Ari Fontecchio, undertakes a survey of over a hundred "compelling interest" cases and argues that the *O Centro* decision makes it too easy for dangerous drugs to be used without penalty.

In *Plausible Screening: A Defense of Twombly and Iqbal's Plausibility Pleading*, Michelle Kallen discusses legal critiques of the controversial pleading standard set forth by United States Supreme Court and examines how the reformed standard interacts with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Through an extensive review of both the benefits and setbacks posed by plausibility pleading, Kallen effectively argues that the refined standard ultimately preserves the stated goals of the 1938 reformers who drafted the Federal Rules.

There is Always a Better Way: Proposed Legislative Improvements for the Federal Procurement Program, written by Jim Moye, provides a detailed account of recent legislative and policy changes implemented under the Obama administration to address the deficient management of federal procurement activities and government contracts. Moye critiques the current statutory framework and proposes various structural and procedural changes to improve the existing procurement system.

In *Grand Juries Gone Wrong*, Dr. Roger Roots explores the aggravating circumstances surrounding the failure of the federal grand jury system to serve as a check on the United States Justice Department. In this scholarly condemnation of the today's federal jury practice, Roots chronicles the

demise of the grand jury as an independent instutution while advocating for bold reformations of Rules 6 and 7 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to bar prosecutors from participating in grand jury investigations.

Towards a New Lens of Analysis: The History and Future of Religious Exemptions to Child Neglect Statutes, a comment written by our Publications Editor Gregory Engle, examines the manner by which religious exemptions embedded in child abuse prevention statutes deter necessary legal protection for children. Engle argues that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and, more significantly, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment treat such religious exemptions as unconstitutional violations of a child's fundamental rights.

Finally, we are pleased to present the winning literary piece of the 2010 Walter Scott McNeill writing competition, *SexTual Healing: Solving the Teen to Teen Sexting Problem in Virginia*, a comment written by Samuel Bernier. Bernier investigates the legal dilemmas that arise when minors engage in "sexting" and consequently charged with felony violations of Virginia's child pornography statutes.

We hope that the aforementioned articles and comments offer an intellectually stimulating and informative collection of works, as we look forward to providing you with our forthcoming issues.

Sincerely,

Sheila Moheb

Editor-in-Chief