

1-1-2012

Letter from the Editor

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Recommended Citation

Rachel E. Reynolds, *Letter from the Editor*, 15 RICH. J.L. & PUB. INT. vii (2011).

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr/vol15/iss3/2>

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

The *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest* is proud to present its annual spring issue, which this year focuses on the intersection between law and parenthood. The subject is of particular relevance and concern during this political season, given the discussions at both the national and state level regarding maternal decision-making. The debate has ranged from the requirement that insurance companies cover birth control as preventative care, to the enduring dilemma women face about whether their work at home or at the office holds more value. This issue seeks to supplement, and perhaps broaden that conversation.

In *Motherhood and the Constitution: (Re) Thinking the Power of Women to Facilitate Change*, author Angela Mae Kupenda urges a reevaluation of the political power of motherhood. Kupenda argues that white women have the unique ability to use the authority of motherhood to create a greater cultural shift toward racial equality.

In her article *Spoliation in Child Welfare: Perspectives and Solution*, Dale Margolin reviews the causes and effects of spoliation in cases pertaining to children. Margolin suggests best practices for attorneys confronting the difficulty of litigating without necessary records, and recommends avenues for reforming the handling of child protective case records. This article is an extension of her work in *Where Are the Records? Handling Lost/Destroyed Records in Child Welfare Tort Litigation*, published in the journal *ABA Child Law Practice*.

The third article, *My Daddy's Name is Donor: Evaluating Sperm Donation and Anonymity* concerns the lack of government oversight of the sperm donor industry. Author Mark Ballantyne analyzes proposals for a national registry system that would provide non-identifying medical information for donor children while permitting donors to remain anonymous, along with proposals to regulate the number of families able to use donations from a specific donor.

The issue concludes with Kate Baxter-Kauf's comment, *Breastfeeding in Custody Proceedings: A Modern-Day Manifestation of Liberal and Conservative Family Traditions*. Baxter-Kauf examines the influence that breast-feeding may have on custody decisions, and how such influence implicates supposedly obsolete jurisprudence like the tender years doctrine.

It is our hope that these articles provide context for the debate over the role of the state in protecting, and regulating parenthood. Please enjoy the issue, and we look forward to bringing you forthcoming publications.

Sincerely,

Rachel E. Reynolds
Editor-in-Chief