

Richmond Public Interest Law Review

Volume 20
Issue 2 *Symposium Issue*

Article 2

4-17-2017

Letter from the Editor

Emily Bowles

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr>



Part of the [Public Law and Legal Theory Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Emily Bowles, *Letter from the Editor*, 20 RICH. PUB. INT. L. REV. xxi (2017).
Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr/vol20/iss2/2>

This Prefatory Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Journals at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Richmond Public Interest Law Review by an authorized editor of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepositary@richmond.edu.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the *University of Richmond's Public Interest Law Review*, I am pleased to welcome you to the Symposium Edition of Volume XX. When we began the search for our 2016 symposium topic last spring, we did not have to look far. Our televisions, computers and newspapers were flooded with tragic stories surrounding the opioid epidemic that has taken hold of the Commonwealth and the nation. It seemed no matter where we turned, we were continually faced with unsettling stories regarding opioid abuse and addiction. As a result, we decided to use the symposium as a way to educate our local legal community about the horrors of the opioid epidemic in Virginia.

I would like to thank our keynote speaker, Attorney General Mark Herring, for his willingness to speak at our symposium and for all of the work he has done to help combat the opioid epidemic in Virginia. I would also like to thank the rest of our panelists and speakers for their graciousness in participating in our event and everything they have done to help bring attention to this matter of great importance. Lastly, I would like to thank the staff of the *Richmond Public Interest Law Review* for everything they did to make our symposium, and this edition, possible.

We will begin the issue with an introductory article by Brittany Anderson, Director of Legislative and Constitutive Affairs for the Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Anderson's article chronicles the rise of the opioid epidemic in the United States and outlines the steps the Attorney General's Office has taken towards addressing the epidemic and educating the public on the severity of this issue in the Commonwealth.

The transcript of our keynote address by Attorney General Mark Herring discusses in depth the strategy he and his office have taken towards the opioid epidemic including treatment, education, prevention, a bi-partisan legislative package, and working with law enforcement officers against drug dealers and those who profit from addiction.

General Herring's transcript is followed by the transcript of our outstanding panel consisting of Brittany Anderson; Timothy Coyne, Public Defender for the City of Winchester and Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren; and Shannon Taylor, Commonwealth's Attorney

for Henrico County. Professor Tara Casey, Director of the Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service, served as the moderator for this panel.

Next, in a duo of personal narratives, Judge Catherine Hammond and Henrico's Commonwealth Attorney Shannon Taylor provide unique insights into their personal experiences with opioid addiction and the law. Both authors have spent years witnessing the harmful effects of the epidemic in the Commonwealth, and provide thought-provoking reflections on the intersection of drug addiction and the law.

Finally, in *Resurgence of Heroin: Benefitting from the Current Political Climate*, Timothy Coyne discusses the successes and failures of recently enacted policies and suggests potential solutions, both legal and non-legal, to address this public health crisis. Mr. Coyne, a public defender from the Shenandoah Valley further provides insight into successful policies in his home region, an area that has been hit particularly hard by the epidemic.

We hope that you find this edition informative, and we further hope it illuminates the need for the legal community to become engaged in this public health issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Katharine Bowles

Symposium Editor