



# Brigham Young University Prelaw Review

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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

Producing a scholarly undergraduate journal devoted to legal topics can be an engaging, yet problematic enterprise. Since serious treatment of the law is largely absent in most undergraduate curriculums, undergraduate authors approach legal research and writing with several limitations. Chief among these is the fact that any author attempting to construct an original, significant argument is hampered by an inadequate understanding of the law. It does not help that the editors are subject to the same problem. Although we recognize these and other inherent difficulties, we believe a publication of this type is valuable in many ways.

First and foremost, conducting legal research provides an avenue for undergraduates to better understand the law and its relationship to everyday life. Second, legal writing allows authors the chance to distill what they have read, carefully organizing their thoughts into logical, well-written arguments. Third, publishing as undergraduates not only gives authors a sense of accomplishment, but is an encouraging motivator for them to continue writing and publishing. Lastly, for those of our authors going on to law school or legally oriented professions, the legal research and writing performed for these articles provides valuable preparation.

We have chosen to follow tradition and devote the journal to one legal subject. In this issue, every article discusses some aspect of family law. We asked several interested authors to read Jana B. Singer's article "Husbands, Wives, and Human Capital: Why the Shoe Won't Fit," appearing in the spring 1997 issue of *Family Law Quarterly*. In her article, Singer examines several significant family law issues, including no-fault divorce; career enhancement of nondomestic parents; women and children in poverty; and the opportunity costs of domestic parenting. Authors were asked to take a position on one of these issues using legal journal articles and other authoritative sources for support. Of the articles written, the ones appearing in this issue are, in our opinions, the most informative. Readers will, of course, want to refer to the full text of Singer's article to resolve any contextual questions.

The opening of a new millennium provides an ideal opportunity to seek improvement. Readers of past issues will notice in this volume what we hope are several positive changes. In terms of content and scholarly quality, we tried to select articles that take courageous stances on interesting issues while representing opinions of authors from diverse backgrounds. Articles underwent a stricter editing process and were carefully source checked for accuracy. To aid in this endeavor, those of our editors with little or no editing experience were required to take a credit-carrying editing course taught through the Brigham Young University English Department. In addition, all of our work has been closely supervised by both a caring faculty advisor, Eileen Crane, and a competent and helpful production advisor, Linda Hunter Adams. As for outward appearance, we have, for the first time, typeset the journal using professional typesetting software, rather than a standard word processor. This improvement, coupled with a more attractive cover and new logo design, is intended to give a professional appearance to the journal.

Finally, this publication could not exist without the generous financial sponsorship of people committed to student scholarship. We offer our sincerest thanks to the following at Brigham Young University: Honors and General Education, The David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, and the Prelaw Advisement Center. We also wish to thank several commercial entities for their continuing support of our work. **Alexander's Digital Printing** and **Alexander's Legal Copy** ([www.alexanders.com](http://www.alexanders.com)) consistently deliver a broad range of high-quality, affordable printing services. This journal is an example of their fine work. **Kaplan Educational Centers** ([www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)), world leaders in standardized test preparation, provide many BYU students with excellent LSAT training. **The BYU Bookstore** ([www.byu.edu/bookstore](http://www.byu.edu/bookstore)) serves an important role in helping BYU students prepare for law school, assisting them with economically feasible ways to fulfill their personal computing and other educational needs.

We hope you enjoy the articles in this issue.

Matthew R. Connelly  
Editor-in-Chief