Publisher's Note

Eileen Crane
This year's BYU Prelaw Review editorial board has faced enormous challenges. In spite of time crunches, staff changes, and delays in publication, we are happy to have produced the fifteenth edition of the Review for prelaw students and law school admissions officers in the U.S. and Canada.

For the first eight years of its existence, the Review published papers that were submitted to a course that I teach, Student Development 198R—Prelaw Seminar. Those papers were topical in nature, based on the content of the course in a specific semester. Each semester the topic rotates between constitutional, environmental, international, criminal, and family law and the U.S. Supreme Court, taking three years to complete the cycle.

In 1999 I decided to create a writing competition, similar to the year-end experience that first-year students in law school have. The 1999–2000 topic was “Husbands, Wives, and Human Capital: Dividing Assets at Dissolution of Marriage.” The 2000–2001 topic is “Elián Gonzalez: How Governments Impact Families.” The 2001–2002 topic will be “Violence in America’s Schools: Should Juveniles be tried as Adults in the Criminal Justice System?”

Students have responded positively to the writing competition. The number and quality of submissions have increased. Student editors have expanded their editorial staff. This year for the first time, a professional editorial board refereed the submissions to the Review. The professional editorial board consists of professionals in prelaw, legal, and legal education worlds. Their names are included here. We greatly appreciate their service to the BYU Prelaw Review staff and the writing competition participants.

The BYU Prelaw Review is one of my favorite parts of my job at Brigham Young University as the Prelaw Advisor. In 1991 when I first created the Review, I never envisioned the evolution and ultimate professionalism of the Review. I am indebted to the many student editors over the years who have challenged themselves to improve on past journals through many, uncounted hours of service. Thanks to each of them. We look forward to our continuing service to prelaw students at BYU and hope that the BYU Prelaw Review will be a fundamental part of their professional progression in the legal world.

Eileen Crane
Prelaw Advisor, BYU