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Editor's Note

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A mother, in an attempt to free herself and her son from an oppressive regime tries to escape to a land of liberty. On the way, the ship capsizes and only the young boy survives, drifting at sea until he is finally rescued by passing fishermen. After the rescue of six-year-old Elián Gonzalez, a political tug-of-war ensues. His case, a landmark in many branches of the law, matched Clinton against Castro, Reno against Rodriguez, and freedom against the family.

The words of author Brock Lyle capture the essence of this almost fairy tale story of a boy whose rapid ascent to fame brought to light many issues that caused a heated political battle unprecedented in recent history. The legal implications and discussions of the events surrounding the Elián Gonzalez case have and will continue to ripple through the legal and political worlds. Was it really such a victory for Cuba and Castro? Is U.S. policy really fair towards all? Questions have been placed before us that are now commanding attention... immediate attention.

The Brigham Young University Prelaw Review has a tradition of choosing a topic that is both germane and timely and inviting our authors to share their academic thoughts on the subject. This is both in an effort to help undergraduate students learn what it means to write for a legal-style journal, but also, hopefully, to contribute through our research and work, to the wealth and knowledge of the world of academia that we have become a part of. In this issue, every article discusses some aspect of the Elián Gonzalez case—the story of a boy who was brought to the United States to escape a life of communism and oppression, yet, due to the laws of this land, was returned to his father in Cuba. There are many angles from which one could examine this case to find productive and informative arguments. Of all the articles written, the ones appearing in this issue are, in our opinions, the most informative. Although several of our authors have included accounts of the proceedings that precipitated and then inflamed this case, we would recommend that the reader make a thorough review of the case from Elián’s departure from Cuba with his mother, to his return to Cuba and even the legal aftermath involving Elián’s U.S. relatives.
A law review for undergraduate students is rare. Forums such as this one are indeed important, to allow for the contribution of those who, while not yet trained specifically in law, have important ideas worthy of contribution. Since this is such a rare endeavor there are many to thank for their aid in bringing about this final project. Our publisher, Eileen Crane, whose baby this journal is, has been and is a tireless worker. She is able to direct and advise without an overbearance, and in this way has helped us to learn and grow as we participate as equal partners. Linda Hunter Adams has acted as our Production Advisor and has done more for this journal than anyone else could have ever possibly done. Thanks are owed to a wonderful staff of editors who are always striving for excellence, asking for guidance where it is needed, and taking the initiative to handle whatever might arise. They have worked in a truly selfless team effort to achieve success.

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. Brent Dunn, Founder and President of ACE LSAT Test Preparation (www.acelsat.com) has proven himself as a person dedicated to helping students excel, through organizations such as this journal and also his LSAT Test Preparation courses that provide students with a professional, well-developed, and affordable plan to achieve higher. Kaplan Educational Centers (www.kaplan.com), world leaders in standardized test preparation, provide many BYU students with excellent training for the LSAT and other standardized tests. The BYU Bookstore (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.

Trent E. Christensen
Editor-in-Chief