Preface

Law School Roundtable Editors

Follow this and additional works at: http://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/roundtable

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/roundtable/vol1/iss1/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Chicago Unbound. It has been accepted for inclusion in The University of Chicago Law School Roundtable by an authorized administrator of Chicago Unbound. For more information, please contact unbound@law.uchicago.edu.
PREFACE

A University School of Law is far more than a training institute for admission to the bar. It implies a scientific knowledge of law and of legal and juristic methods. But these are the crystallization of ages of human progress. They cannot be understood in their entirety without a clear comprehension of the historic forces of which they are the product, and of the social environment with which they are in living contact. A scientific study of law involves the related sciences of history, economics, philosophy - the whole field of man as a social being.

- William Rainey Harper
  First president, The University of Chicago

Continuing the vision of our University's founders, we have the distinct honor with this issue of inaugurating the University of Chicago Law School Roundtable, a journal of interdisciplinary studies devoted to works from both legal and non-legal scholars. This issue is the culmination of efforts begun more than two years ago when several students at the University of Chicago Law School sought support for the addition of a third student-edited scholarly journal. The goal was to create a journal broad enough to provide a forum for a wide range of topics, yet unique enough to stand out among the sea of law journals already in existence. With the Roundtable, we believe we have accomplished both of these tasks.

The University of Chicago Law School has traditionally been a leader in the application of other disciplines to the study of law. From Ronald Coase's use of economic theory to demonstrate the problem of social costs to Harry Kalven and Hans Zeisel's application of sociological principles to their study of the American jury, the Law School has contributed some of the most important illustrations of interdisciplinary legal study. To this day, University of Chicago professors continue to use such
subjects as political science, international relations, history, women's studies, business, sociology, economics and religion to further their knowledge and understanding of the law.

The Roundtable provides students with an opportunity to participate in the production of interdisciplinary legal scholarship. We host an annual symposium at the Law School to focus on a particular topic of interdisciplinary interest. This first issue's symposium concentrates on the rights of minorities in the new East European constitutions. Scholars from a variety of disciplines and nations involved in the study of this topic were brought to the Law School for a "roundtable" discussion of their works-in-progress. Several of the works resulting from this symposium are presented together in the opening section of the Roundtable. The second section of the Roundtable is open to works from both professors and students on a variety of topics. This issue is fortunate to have articles and comments exploring legal issues from the perspective of disciplines such as economics, history, computer science and sociology.

We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to thank the people who made this journal possible. Our founding editorial board, led by Antigone Stoken and Kathryn Chanin, provided the original inspiration and foundation upon which this issue is built. Dean Geoffrey Stone, who has since been named Provost of the University, and our faculty advisers, Professors Mary Becker, Geoffrey Miller, and Anne-Marie Slaughter Burley, were untiring in providing their advice and support from inception to publication. Our colleagues on the editorial boards of the Law Review and the Legal Forum offered invaluable advice and assistance in compiling the necessary elements for a student-edited journal. We also owe a sincere debt of gratitude to our benefactor, Isaiah S. Dorfman, whose generosity underwrote many of the initial expenses in the creation of the Roundtable, and to the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, which helped defray some of the costs of the symposium featured in this volume. Ultimately, our greatest thanks go to the faculty and students at the University of Chicago Law School for creating an environment of intellectual curiosity and discourse essential to the nurturing of any scholarly endeavor.

Steven Bank Stephanie Gore
Editors-in-Chief