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Editor-in-Chief Note

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NOTE:

The completion of Volume 91 of the Kentucky Law Journal will mark the Journal's 90th Anniversary of publication. The 2002-2003 Editorial Board is extremely proud to be a part of this landmark occasion. As we embark on leading the Journal toward its tenth decade of contribution to the legal community in Kentucky and the nation, we would like to share a few observations about the Journal's past, present, and future.

The Kentucky Law Journal, which is the nation's tenth oldest academic law review in continuous publication, was established in 1913, four years after the founding of the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1908. James Sorry, Henry Spencer, and brothers Harry and Ike Miller founded the publication, unaided by a faculty advisor. At the onset, the Journal was a monthly publication with a subscription cost of fifteen cents per copy or one dollar per year. The first volumes provided a veritable array of content, including short Articles by faculty and practitioners, Case Comments and Notes written by students, information about law alumni, jokes, and even advertisements for local law offices.

The early Journal aspired to be "useful and entertaining to both the practitioner and the student of law," and sought to provide a medium of interaction between the College of Law, its students, and the legal community. The Editorial Board was not without an agenda, seeking to "promote the cause of legal education in Kentucky whose laws upon this subject are behind those of many of her sister states." To this end, the student editors suggested that three years of law study be required prior to Bar admission and that a permanent state board of Bar examiners be created. According to Professor Paul Oberst, a long-time supporter of and

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1 The disparity in the volume numbers of the Kentucky Law Journal and the actual years of continuing publication is attributed to the fact that the first two volumes were both published in 1913, whereby Volume 91 actually represents the ninetieth year.

2 See Paul Oberst, Essay, The Kentucky Law Journal—75 Years, 78 KY. L.J 129 (1989-90) (outlining a comprehensive history of the College of Law and of the Journal to mark the 75th anniversary of the Journal's continuous publication). See also id. at 133-34 (noting that the University of Kentucky was then known as The State University, Lexington, Kentucky, and that in March of 1908 the legislature directed that a law department be established).

3 Id. at 134.

4 Id. at 134-35.

5 Id. at 134.

6 Editorial Notes, 1 KY. L.J 17 (1913).

7 Id.

8 Id.
advisor to the Journal, this proclamation by the inaugural Editorial Board “was a daring suggestion at a time when the State Bar was a voluntary association, there were no pre-law requirements, and law office study could be substituted for law school study.”

The past ninety years have seen profound developments and changes in many aspects of the Kentucky Law Journal. For instance, the Journal is now published on a quarterly basis, and subscriptions regrettably cost not one, but twenty-eight dollars per year. The content of the Journal has shifted from the former catch-all, Kentucky-specific material to a purely academic format, thus providing a forum for research concerning both local and national legal issues.

The role of students in the Journal’s publication has also evolved over time. The Journal was established by students alone, but was assigned its first faculty advisor in 1919. For many years, the faculty advisor took an active role in choosing and editing the pieces selected for publication. The Editorial Board was not responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Journal, and was afforded no editorial authority to determine what scholarship was presented in each volume. Instead, the Editorial Board was solely responsible for cite-checking the works selected by the faculty advisor. The Journal staff members, who received neither academic credit nor monetary compensation for their work, produced the Notes and Comments section of the Journal and were committed to supplementing the College of Law’s library by generating exchanges of law journals between several schools.

Today, the entire process of publishing the Kentucky Law Journal is entrusted to those students selected for membership. The Editorial Board, comprised of ten student members and guided by the advice and experience of a faculty advisor, manages the daily affairs and coordinates all editing and production of the Journal aided by a full-time staff assistant. Each with their own tasks and responsibilities, the Editorial Board is currently the collection of three Articles Editors, three Notes Editors, a Business Manager, a Symposium Editor, a Managing Editor, and an Editor-in-Chief. The true force behind Journal publication is the staff members, who

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9 Oberst, supra note 1, at 134.
10 See id. at 135.
11 See id. at 135-41.
12 Id.
13 Id.
14 Pamela Turner, the current staff assistant, has been with the Journal for seventeen years. Pam has provided needed continuity between Editorial Boards and has been an invaluable source of knowledge and insight into the publication process.
perform editing assignments and administrative tasks under the guidance of the Editorial Board. All staff members are students who were selected for membership based on outstanding academic achievement and excellent writing skills. Each member of the *Journal* now receives three credit hours for completion of *Journal* work and has access to scholarship funds and opportunities for publication.\(^{\text{15}}\)

The *Kentucky Law Journal* is proud to provide its student editors and members with the opportunity for participation in the publication of a scholarly journal. The writing, researching, and editing skills enhanced by firsthand exposure to the publication process are an invaluable co-curricular supplement to a legal education, thus leading to lasting professional and personal development of *Journal* members. Moreover, students provide perpetually fresh and vigorous enthusiasm for *Journal* production, ensuring the provision of a diverse forum for scholars to express progressive and provocative ideas alongside research important to the continuing development of the law.

Despite all the developments and changes over the past ninety years, the *Kentucky Law Journal*’s commitment to excellence has remained a conspicuous constant. The *Journal* has and continues to publish innovative legal research, vigorous comment, and daring debate for the benefit of the entire legal community. The Editorial Board and all *Journal* members remain committed to producing a quality publication that will serve as a resource to the bench, the bar, and the halls of academia—mindful of every area of the law and beneficial in both our home state and beyond. As the *Kentucky Law Journal* ventures toward its second century of publication, we hope to build upon the successes of our predecessors and exceed expectations—both our own and those of the legal community.

*Jessica Case*

\(^{\text{15}}\) The *Kentucky Law Journal* Alumni Association provides the *Journal* with much needed funding used to pay for the everyday expenses of the *Journal*. 
Robert Francis Stephens
1927 – 2002

The editors and staff respectfully dedicate this issue to the memory of Robert F. Stephens.