

# 2018–2019 Year in Review: Forging a Way Forward in a Digital Age

Joshua S. Wallace

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### Forging a Way Forward in a Digital Age

JOSHUA S. WALLACE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2018–2019 publication year presented formidable challenges as the *Buffalo Law Review* worked to forge a future in an increasingly digital world. Each Associate and Editor made invaluable contributions to the *Review* this year and our success would have been impossible without their respective efforts.

The Editorial Board began the year by committing to build upon the *Review's* strengths, and nurture previously underdeveloped abilities to grow the journal. The introspective reflection identified three major focus areas by which to increase our global impact, including the breadth of published topics, the *Review's* online presence and access, and the need for scholarship that is immediately citable by practicing attorneys in addition to the more traditional pieces that seek to establish and push the boundaries of the law.

The Articles Team cast a broad net for articles to include content relevant to legal scholarship and to the routine practice of law. The year began with a series of articles focused on reforming current legal systems including a call by Lars Noah to realign tort law to address payments by big pharma to prescribers, and a critical analysis of federal student loan forgiveness programs by Gregory Crespi.

Our focus remained on salient legal issues, including a piece on the unanticipated role of the First Amendment in end-user data privacy by Jack Balkin. We decided to further branch out by publishing a pair of empirical studies in

January examining the effect of in-court objections on jury perceptions by Krystia Reed, and the effect of entitlement on lawful opportunism in contract enforcement by Gastón de los Reyes and Kirsten Martin. In preparation, we established a panel of technical experts across four departments at the University at Buffalo to serve as an expert review board, with expertise in quantitative analysis, geospatial and land use analytics, economic modeling, and financial and actuarial sciences. We invite submissions for upcoming publications cycles, which attempt to bridge the gap between legal scholarship and other academic disciplines.

In order to improve the impact of the published articles, we partnered with the Charles B. Sears Law Library to enhance our online presence and global availability. In January, we launched our new Digital Commons web platform. Articles are now indexed on our website first, with every manuscript ever published available at the click of a button. Since the move, we experience as many as 650 downloads per week, with downloads from seventy-seven countries across all sectors. We hope to continue this momentum by publishing a number of pieces on *The Docket*, our online-only platform. We were honored to publish a piece by Judge Daniel M. Coble of Richland County, South Carolina, which provided keen insights into the “*Time in Between*” implementation of alternative courts, and current legal practice. Edits are currently underway for three pieces discussing invalid non-compete covenants, the opioid crisis, and as-applied constitutional challenges to the felon-in-possession statute. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to sign up for email or RSS feed updates online at [buffalolawrev.org](http://buffalolawrev.org).

In addition to the wide array of topics, we were fortunate enough to be able to publish the conference papers from the Baldy Center’s 40th Anniversary conference on Tempering Power, featuring nine interdisciplinary articles, forthcoming. The articles represent a broad selection of legal scholarship and provide a truly global perspective on tempering power in

many contexts throughout the world. Our sincere thanks to Prof. Errol Meidinger and Prof. Anya Bernstein for engaging the *Buffalo Law Review* to publish these papers.

We would like to express our most sincere thanks to Dean Abramovsky for her continued support. We would like to further express our deepest gratitude to Prof. Christine Bartholomew for her hard work and unending support, which have been invaluable to the *Review's* efforts this year. We look forward to the challenges to come next year.