Preface

Arguably few fields of law in the last 20 years have been as innovative, prolific, or evolving as the intersection of law and sexuality. Our psychological understandings of such incredibly personal and private matters as sexual orientation and gender identity have changed remarkably. Yet it is within the public domain that we have seen vehement debate over the eternal questions of truth, justice, and knowing oneself.

At times we find ourselves at a crossroads, caught between embracing a new understanding and holding steadfast to our history. The Journal found itself at this juncture this year, and we chose to forge ahead by honoring our past while recognizing and preparing for the future. This resolution has been expressed by changes to the Journal’s title and subtitle.

I am happy to announce our new name of Tulane Journal of Law & Sexuality: A Review of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Law.

We added “Tulane” to our title to elucidate to the reader what the production team has known all along: Tulane Law School is our institutional home. We are funded by Tulane; we are housed at Tulane; and most importantly, the Journal articles are selected, edited, and published by Tulane students, staff, and faculty advisors.

We also decided to change the content of the subtitle from “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender” (LGBT) to “sexual orientation and gender identity.” The question compelled by this change is: are we getting away from LGBT issues? Of course not. This Journal has been a key development of the movement by LGBT persons and allies for equal rights and sexual freedom. Yet the Journal enjoys a reciprocal relationship with the movement by producing knowledge, subverting paradigms, and imagining new social and legal landscapes.

We recognize that identities, no matter how profoundly felt or authentically embraced, are not eternal; they are historical, cultural, and fluid. Instead of adding every new sexual or gender identity to our title to convey inclusion, we decided to choose a name that could anticipate and accommodate shifting identities.

Along with the new title and subtitle changes, we have ushered in a new cover design. The design is simultaneously bold, modern, and classic, and it reflects our strong affinities with the movement for sexual
freedom and equality, Tulane University, and New Orleans. A special thanks to Amanda Watson, Tulane Law School Access Service and Research Librarian, for her hard work, time, and gorgeous design.

It has been an honor and a blessing to guide the Journal into its next era. I look forward to the inevitable changes yet to come.

As for the articles, comments, and notes, I will let these works speak for themselves.

Please enjoy!

Toward freedom and equality,
Max V. Camp, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief, Volume 21