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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

The *New Mexico Law Review* is pleased to present the first issue of Volume 36. The purpose behind this issue, comprised of articles written by professors and practitioners, has been to further the *Law Review's* mission of providing the New Mexico Bench and Bar with relevant and practical articles, as well as articles of great academic interest.

The issue begins with an article by the late Seth D. Montgomery and his son, Andrew S. Montgomery. Their article, *Jurisdiction as May Be Provided by Law: Some Issues of Appellate Jurisdiction in New Mexico*, discusses the New Mexico Supreme Court's implementation of rules of practice and procedure regarding appellate jurisdiction and how that implementation departs from the New Mexico Constitution's directive that certain aspects of appellate jurisdiction be provided by the legislature. Next in the issue is Douglas R. Richmond's article, *Lawyers as Witnesses*, which addresses lawyers serving as either fact or expert witnesses and the complications and confusion that can arise in either situation.

Following these practical considerations is an internationally focused article by Josh Hsu. Hsu's article, *Looking Beyond the Boundaries: Incorporating International Norms into the Supreme Court's Constitutional Jurisprudence*, explains how the U.S. Supreme Court has moved in and out of an international constitutional jurisprudence discussion and elucidates where the Court appears to be headed in future years based on the Court's past decisions as well as on pressure from foreign courts to address international discourse.

Janice Kay McClendon's and Adrienne Jennings Lockie's articles explore contentious social issues within the legal construct. McClendon's article, *A Small Step Forward in the Last Civil Rights Battle: Extending Benefits under Federally Regulated Employee Benefit Plans to Same-Sex Couples*, offers a critique on same-sex employee benefits and proposes that federal laws, such as ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code, be amended to afford same-sex couples the same employment benefits offered to their opposite-sex counterparts in states in which same-sex relationships have been recognized under specified laws. Lockie's article, *Salt in the Wounds: Why Attorneys Should Not Be Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse*, recommends that in cases involving children, attorneys representing victims of domestic violence be removed from the statutory requirements in many states that mandate that attorneys report child abuse. Lockie's article also focuses on the particular impact these requirements have on women of color and women with limited economic resources.

Concluding this issue is an article by Robert F. Blomquist, *Judge Posner's Dissenting Judicial Oeuvre and the Aesthetics of Canonicity*, that systematically analyzes the nature and style of Judge Posner's dissenting opinions over the course of a ten-year period. Blomquist uses Posner's opinions as a springboard to discuss, generally, the aesthetics of judicial canonicity and how pleasure, change, and chance work into that analysis.

Please enjoy the first issue of Volume 36!