

PREFACE

by Lyndsey Delamont and Meaghan McWhinnie

This year, the *Appeal* Editorial Board focused on increasing the diversity, quality, and quantity of our student submissions. We made significant progress towards this goal, having received a record number of submissions for Volume 17, including submissions from almost every law school in Canada as well as an appreciable quantity from international common-law schools. Over the years, *Appeal*'s mandate has been to operate as a student-run journal that publishes solely student work; *Appeal* is proud to be a forum for presenting strong student writing. This year, we received numerous requests to reproduce our published articles, which is a testament to the ever-increasing quality of student legal scholarship published in the journal.

As part of our effort to further increase the quality of the journal, the Board introduced the 2012 McCarthy Tétrault Law Journal Prize for Exceptional Writing. This \$1000 award is bestowed upon the student who in the opinion of the *Appeal* Board, in conjunction with our faculty supervisors, has produced the article that best exemplifies the presentation of a legal topic in an insightful and persuasive manner.

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Rebecca Ross, author of *Blasphemy and the Modern, "Secular" State*. Rebecca's piece asks whether a law against blasphemy can be consistent with freedoms of expression and religion. In doing so, Rebecca thoughtfully illustrates the problems associated with the balancing of competing rights, particularly in a multicultural society like Canada.

It has been an honour to oversee the creation of Volume 17 of *Appeal*. This volume would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our generous sponsors, our faculty supervisors Neil Campbell and Michael M'Gonigle, student volunteers, external reviewers, and the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law. We sincerely appreciate every contribution we received, and we hope you enjoy the finished product.