

PREFACE

by Rachel Corder and Dana Phillips

A student law journal offers a rare and important venue for burgeoning legal minds. As law students, we are consistently asked to reflect upon current legal developments and cutting edge critiques, but are rarely given the chance to share our ideas, and our hard work, with the wider legal community. With this in mind, the 2012/13 *Appeal* Editorial Board seized upon every opportunity to strengthen the quality and reputation of the University of Victoria's law journal.

Our amazing Editorial Board worked tirelessly this year to increase readership, fully transition to open access, and promote *Appeal's* fundraising events and volunteer involvement. Looking inwards, we endeavoured to improve many of our internal processes. Given the tight timelines and yearly turnover of the Board, *Appeal* has a steep learning curve and can feel like a mad dash to the finish. We wanted to ensure that the work and wisdom acquired by each Board carries forward, allowing future students to launch new initiatives.

This year *Appeal* received our highest number of submissions to date, representing law schools from across North America. While this can make for a lengthy selection process, the level of interest and the quality of the submissions make the effort entirely worthwhile. We are forever thankful to the Board for persevering through countless rounds of paper reviews, and surviving our epic six-hour Saturday paper selection meeting—also known as the three-meal potluck. Our hope is that the number of submissions can grow with each passing year; having too many excellent papers to choose from is a problem that we are happy to have.

A special undertaking of this year's Board was to compile alumni data in the hopes that we can strengthen the relationship between those who share the common bond of serving on *Appeal*. It is our hope that as *Appeal* celebrates its 20th anniversary next year, we can come together as an academic community and celebrate the achievements in scholarship over the last two decades, and the dedication of those who have encouraged and supported them.

We could not have produced this law journal alone. We would like to thank the University of Victoria Faculty of Law for its constant and continued support. In particular, Erin Hallett and Dean Donna Greschner provided much assistance and encouragement to *Appeal*, despite their busy schedules. We also want to thank our patrons and sponsors, whose ongoing financial support ensures *Appeal's* future viability. To all of those who have given to *Appeal*, thank you for investing in academic excellence and providing us with a forum in which to showcase exceptional student work in the Canadian legal community.

Likewise, without the input of our many external reviewers, *Appeal* would not be possible. We rely on the expertise and professional opinion of our reviewers to guide our authors and editors to create articulate, well-written, and strongly reasoned articles that reflect current law. Our gratefulness to the reviewers who donate their time and expertise to *Appeal* cannot be overstated.

As for the papers we have ultimately chosen to publish, we are truly thrilled with the breadth and quality of analysis they provide on a wide range of timely legal issues. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of all of our authors, who worked so hard to improve their papers throughout the editing process (even in the course of world travel), often with transformative results.

Serving as the *Appeal* Editors-in-Chief this year has been both a privilege and a joy. While the publishing process is fraught with highs and lows, the rewards of promoting excellent student scholarship are well worth the trouble.

We hope you enjoy Volume 18 of *Appeal*.