

PREFACE

by Mark Witten and Sarah Runyon

This year's *Appeal* Board came onto the scene bursting with fresh ideas and new visions for *Appeal*. Why do we publish only student work? Why is the journal green? Nothing was sacred; we wanted to change everything. Rebrand the journal, non-student authors, more online content, potential partnerships, the list went on.

Yet as the year progressed a maturation process ensued. We began to ask: is there really a need for another traditional law review? Probably not. Make no mistake, we didn't settle for the status quo. We have strived to improve *Appeal* in an amalgam of ways. The transition to open access online publishing is almost complete, and a modified format remains in the works. However, in the end, we settled upon a more respectful change trajectory. We came to see *Appeal*'s evolution over the last 16 years — from a glossy magazine to a robust academic journal — as an invaluable inheritance shaped by countless contributors. Slowly but surely we returned to our core: edgy, quality, student scholarship.

We also came to appreciate that there are immense advantages to publishing student work. To begin, as the scholarship in this volume attests, there is no shortage of powerful student writing. Without *Appeal*, some of these works would be damned to languish eternally on long forgotten hard-drives. And this actually leads to another advantage. Student authors recognize that opportunities to publish their work are rare, and as a result, they are (for the most part) a joy to work with. Our edits were received with grace and our suggestions with enthusiasm. But perhaps the most important advantage of student scholarship is that student writing epitomizes academic freedom. Several of our authors are well aware that their papers may receive sour receptions in their respective legal communities. Yet unconcerned with politics, research funding, or tenure, they were free to voice their thoughts — unfiltered, uninhibited, uncensored.

And our authors' voices will be heard. Each of these articles will be read, studied, and cited. Every month requests for reproduction drop into our inbox, and a steady stream of royalties trickle in. A quick Google Scholar search reveals that, amazingly, our student authors are cited in academic journals around the world.

But enough about our talented authors lest we begin to swell their heads. Some thank yous are in order. This volume of *Appeal* would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our generous sponsors, faculty supervisors, volunteers, external reviewers, past boards, and the University of Victoria, Faculty of Law. We are very grateful for every contribution we received, whether money, experience, or time.

It has been a great honour and a tremendous experience to edit this year's *Appeal*. Though you now hold in your hands a sleek, polished, finished product, we can assure you that the production process was anything but sleek. Producing a law journal involves a steep learning curve and a surprising amount of work. Thousands of e-mails, countless meetings, and more than a few heated debates shaped the production of this 16th Volume of *Appeal*. We hope you enjoy it.