

# INTRODUCTION

by Katherine Ratcliffe

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First and foremost, I acknowledge with respect the history, customs, and culture of the Coast Salish and Straits Salish peoples upon whose traditional lands the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and *Appeal* reside.

When I first met with Ted McDorman last September, he told me that my experience as Editor-in-Chief would be different from those of the past few years' for two reasons. Although it had become usual for *Appeal* to have two Eds-in-Chief, I would be on my own. It was also typical for one of the Eds-in-Chief to be a returning Board member with prior institutional knowledge and experience, but I was new to *Appeal*. Thankfully, the journal has an incredible support structure to ensure its success.

First I want to recognize the efforts of the 2014-15 *Appeal* Editorial Board. Each member, in addition to their duties on the Board, participated in the paper selection process and worked with an author to prepare their article for publication. Editors and authors exchanged multiple drafts, working tirelessly to create the strongest volume possible.

The *Appeal* Board is also indebted to the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. We have received invaluable guidance and support from our faculty advisors, Ted McDorman and Michael M'Gonigle; for this they have our endless gratitude. We thank the students who came out to help evaluate submissions, as well as the faculty members who provided expert reviews of our top choices. Thanks also to the external reviewers from outside the UVic community. We could not have completed our tasks without your insightful advice.

On behalf of the Board, I also extend sincere thanks to our patrons and sponsors. Without their generous support, we would not have been able to produce this journal. They have provided so many students with incredible experiences and opportunities.

Last, but certainly not least, I acknowledge the talent and dedication of our authors. This year we have featured articles from law students at UVic, McGill, and Osgoode Hall. I extend my thanks to every author for the time and effort they have invested in working with us. The Board is particularly pleased to present "Rethinking *Baker*: A Critical Race Feminist Theory of Disability" by Alyssa Clutterbuck, winner of the McCarthy Tétrault Prize for Exceptional Writing, as well as "Expanding the Role of Culture in British Columbia's Adoption Scheme" by Michael M.J. Choi, the writing prize runner-up. The quality of this year's submissions made for a heated debate in selecting a winner.

On a final celebratory note, I am especially proud to have been the Editor-in-Chief of the 20th Volume of *Appeal*. On behalf of twenty Editorial Boards, I thank the readers who have kept the journal alive. Please enjoy Volume 20.