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Letter From The Editor-In-Chief

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Dear Reader,

I am proud to introduce Volume 12 of the University of the District of Columbia Law Review. This journal traces its origin to the Law Review's 2008 Symposium, *Katrina's Wake: Emergency Preparedness and Response from the Bayou to the Beltway*. The works within these pages garnered inspiration from the laudable attention focused on the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina by the students, educators, and scholars at the David A. Clarke School of Law.

Professors William G. McLain, Laurie A. Morin, and Susan L. Waysdorf immediately recognized that, along with tumult and pain, Hurricane Katrina brought lessons and opportunities for young lawyers and activists. From their effort and ingenuity arose a course entitled *Katrina & Beyond: Disasters and the Law*. This course is now offered annually and includes a service learning practicum in New Orleans during the spring break. Since 2006, numerous students, faculty, and administrators have provided *pro bono* legal services to New Orleans residents. Through this course, the David A. Clarke School of Law has developed and maintains significant ties with this city, its inhabitants, and its struggle. Professor McLain continues to teach *Katrina & Beyond* each spring. The writings of Professors Waysdorf and Morin grace the pages herein.

Several facets of the legal and social legacies of Hurricane Katrina are investigated within this journal. Professor Waysdorf's article, *Returning to New Orleans*, provides an anecdotal account of a legal activist's journey to bear witness and recount the stories and lessons of Katrina. In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Professor Morin explores the systemic issues that exacerbated the effects of the storm and offers solutions for addressing similar concerns should disaster strike the District of Columbia. With *Priam's Lament*, Sarah Tompkins proposes a benchmark for measuring the governmental response to disasters by scrutinizing the post-mortem treatment of both Katrina's victims and the victims of other catastrophes in light of the respect traditionally afforded burial of the dead. Lastly, Wayne Turner's comment, *The False Claims Act*, examines a powerful tool for private citizens to combat abuse and fraud in the spending of government funds.

This endeavor could not have been undertaken without the support of my infinitely resourceful and tireless Editorial Board: Julie Akemann, Vanessa Hagen, Keri Nash, Nicole Schroeder, Beth Stephens, and Rebecca Wrightson. I could not have asked for a better team. Thank you.

I extend my gratitude to the Senior and Associate Editors, who expended a great deal of time and energy preparing this journal for publication. Wayne Turner deserves special recognition for his efforts to organize the Symposium from which this journal was born. I also want to thank our faculty advisors, Helen Frazier, William G. McLain, and Matthew I. Fraidin, as well as Dean Katherine S. Broderick.

On August 29, 2005, I acquired a lifelong connection to this journal's theme when I awoke to the realization that my home and possessions had been swept away by Katrina. At the time, it was inconceivable that one year and one thousand miles later I would encounter a thoughtful, motivated group of professors and students dedicated to the analysis and preservation of the legal lessons presented by this disaster. With this literary collection, the Law Review hopes to present new perspectives on the discussion about Hurricane Katrina and to remind our readers that this story is not over. To the contrary, much work remains to be done.

Sincerely,

John Brian White
Editor-in-Chief