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THE CORNELL JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Jeffrey J. Rachlinski*

Founding a new law journal requires a leap of faith. According to one respected website, the United States alone boasts some 947 law journals.¹ No one really wants to found the 948th best journal, so any new law journal inevitably arises from a mix of hubris and optimism.

The environment into which the *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy* (*CJLPP*) twenty-five years ago was born was only somewhat less crowded. Optimism thus certainly fueled its origins, but so too did the notion that Cornell Law School needed another journal. Unlike many of our peer institutions, Cornell has kept its publications to a manageable number. For decades, the school produced only the *Cornell Law Review* and the *Cornell International Law Journal*. Two journals, however, were not enough to display the full talents of the Cornell Law students—especially those who did not have an international focus. Recognizing that the broad interests and abilities of the law students would produce something much better than the 948th best law journal, the students and faculty created the *CJLPP*, with the mission of producing quality legal scholarship at the intersection of law and policy.

And indeed, a quarter century later, the *CJLPP* has more than satisfied its optimistic aspirations. Reviewing the *CJLPP*'s five most-cited articles shows that the Journal has been busy advancing a wide variety of areas of scholarship. The most-cited piece is Professor Ann McGinley's contribution to Volume 9,² *!Viva La Evolucion!: Recognizing Unconscious Motive in Title VII*. The piece presages a spate of scholarship on unconscious racial bias that followed over the following years. Another article among the Journal's top five includes an early piece by Llewellyn Gibbons on what eventually came to be called cyber law, also demonstrating the student editors' abilities to spot emerging trends in law and legal scholarship.³ Rounding out the top five, one sees impressive con-

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¹ *Law Journals: Submissions and Rankings, 2008–2015*, WASH. & LEE UNIV. SCH. OF LAW, <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx> (last visited Apr. 23, 2016).

² Ann C. McGinley, *!Viva La Evolucion!: Recognizing Unconscious Motive in Title VII*, 9 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 415 (2000).

³ Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons, *No Regulation, Government Regulation, or Self-Regulation: Social Enforcement or Social Contracting for Governance in Cyberspace*, 6 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 475 (1997).

tributions to scholarship addressing family law,⁴ the judicial selection process,⁵ and the role of federalism in crime control (again, long before recent interest in the interplay between federal and local drug laws).⁶ Rankings of the top law journals put the *CJLPP* at 85th overall,⁷ which is an impressive record for a journal that is much younger than virtually all of the law reviews that rank higher.

The *CJLPP* thus enters its next quarter century with a quality reputation and great expectations. They have a great history behind them on which the next generation of students can build. It will be a treat to watch the Journal grow and advance further.

⁴ Katharine K. Baker, *Bargaining or Biology—The History and Future of Paternity Law and Parental Status*, 14 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 1 (2004).

⁵ Mark A. Behrens, *The Case for Adopting Appointive Judicial Selection Systems for State Court Judges*, 11 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 273 (2002).

⁶ Tom Stacy & Kim Dayton, *Underfederalization of Crime*, 6 CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 247 (1997).

⁷ *Law Journals: Submissions and Rankings, 2008–2015*, *supra* note 1.