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Note from the Chief Legislation Editor

The *McGeorge Law Review's* (*MLR*) annual Review of Selected California Legislation, commonly called Greensheets, has been an institution since the journal's inception. As the Chief Legislation Editor for Volume 45, I am honored to present this year's Greensheets, as well as announce some exciting changes to the Greensheets issue moving forward.

MLR is the only law review in America that devotes an entire issue to student-written articles that provide an in-depth analysis of recently enacted California legislation. Over the past forty-four issues staff writers have devoted their summers to researching and writing two articles on bills moving through the California legislature. Historically, bills chaptered into law have become eligible for publication in the Greensheets issue. Due to the tireless work of the Legislation and Managing Editor teams and the Board of Editors, the articles examining these newly minted laws appear on our renowned pale-green pages.

My goal as the Chief Legislation Editor is to provide the most effective analysis of California Legislation for members of the bench and bar as well as legislators. With the old road of print journalism rapidly aging, I wanted to move Greensheets online in order to provide a more timely and accessible product. To achieve this, Danielle Lenth (our Editor-in-Chief) and I had the privilege of working with the McGeorge Capital Alumni Board to improve Greensheets. Looking to the future, I can firmly state there is nothing so stable as change.

This Spring, *MLR* will unveil the McGeorge California Law and Policy website, a hub of online content for California law. In addition to featuring Greensheets articles, the site will contain legislative blogs and articles by law review staff as well as legal scholars and practitioners on important California legislative issues. The site will also integrate content from programs within the McGeorge Capital Center on Law and Policy. In order to facilitate the move online, *MLR* will add a new board member, the Chief Online Editor, to oversee all *MLR* content on the Internet.

Greensheets articles will also experience change. We will publish Greensheets earlier in order to coincide with the new laws coming into effect at the start of the new year. Staff writers will now write a single in-depth piece, giving authors the flexibility to analyze issues surrounding a piece of legislation rather than focusing exclusively on the legislation. We will also publish articles of bills that do not pass, something we have not done in the past. Publishing these articles will provide the legislature with crucial analysis that may assist lawmakers in reforming and passing legislation that previously failed to make it past the Governor's desk. Finally, I am excited to announce that members of the Capital Alumni Board have graciously offered to serve as mentors for our Legislative staff writers. This continued relationship will improve the quality of our articles

and help to focus the Greensheets issue on topics that are most important to our target audience.

As my time as *MLR's* Chief Legislation Editor winds down, the times are a changing in the best way possible. I would like to thank Professor Leslie Gielow Jacobs for her guidance and support with the new changes to Greensheets, the staff writers for their hard work and ability to decode my analogies and feedback, the Primary Legislation Editors for making my job easier through their talent and effort, and the Board of Editors for their leadership, selflessness, and dedication to *MLR*.

Joshua Hunsucker
Chief Legislation Editor
McGeorge Law Review, Volume 45

Foreword

As California goes, so goes the nation. From greenhouse gases to foreclosure legislation, California historically has set itself apart from other states when it comes to forward thinking and addressing cutting edge legislative solutions to the problems facing not only the state, but also the world. Of the hundreds of new laws that came out of the 2013 legislative session, it is clear that California once again is setting the trend in many areas of law. While continuing its innovative spirit, California also strived to protect traditional constitutional rights of due process, privacy, and voting. The articles in this year's *McGeorge Law Review* "Greensheets" issue reflect both the innovative spirit and the historical trend of protecting constitutional rights that establishes California as the frontrunner on today's global issues.

A prime example of a California law that is breaking new ground is AB 277, which is a ratification of an Indian gaming compact with the state. Gaming compacts are not new to the state. However, what is unique about the law is that it allows for the first Indian casino to be built on land outside of an Indian reservation. Not only could this new law revolutionize Indian gaming in California, it presents new issues and possibilities for California and federal lawmakers in creating future compacts.

California also took steps forward in adding a new source of revenue to its economy when Governor Brown signed the industrial hemp legislation, SB 566. This new law was the culmination of three previous attempts to pass similar legislation. A federal court ruling decriminalizing industrial hemp and bi-partisan cooperation led to the bill's passing, which creates a new industry for California's large global economy. The long term impact of this legislation can create significant changes in the state economy as well as change the way industrial hemp is viewed around the world.

The legislature also made great strides in protecting individual rights. AB 1266 requires public schools to offer gender-neutral restrooms and allow students to participate in school activities based on their gender identity. While this legislation has already prompted litigation and circulation of an initiative, this is the sign of another progressive step California has taken in its effort to promote equality.

California also expanded the class of individuals who could validly obtain a driver's license. Allowing the over two million immigrants in the state the ability to apply for a driver's license addressed a public safety issue that had been pursued for several years by immigrant rights advocates. While many have concerns about the marked licenses for undocumented immigrants, California roads safer by ensuring more drivers have insurance.

The legislature also identified areas of the law where California could improve the protection of Constitutional rights. SB 458 added requirements for law enforcement to inform minors of entry into the California Gang Database. This law provides minors with notice of their entry and gives them a chance to dispute this entry. California also increased online protections for minors in SB 568 by protecting minors' Internet privacy by

restricting advertising to minors and allowing them to remove online content. Finally, SB 589 allows people who voted by mail an opportunity to verify if the government received their ballot.

The 2013 legislative session brought new and exciting changes to the law. As you will see in this year's "Greensheets" issue, California continues to be a trendsetter. Now, let's watch the world follow.

Fredericka McGee
Deputy Chief of Staff & General Counsel
to the Speaker of the Assembly
Class of '91

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**REVIEW OF SELECTED 2013
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION**

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