



1-2-2022

Notes from the Chief Legislation Editor

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Recommended Citation

Aliya Gorelick, *Notes from the Chief Legislation Editor*, 53 U. PAC. L. REV. (2022).

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/uoplawreview/vol53/iss2/4>

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Note from the Chief Legislation Editor

It is my distinct honor to bring you the “Greensheets” edition of the *University of the Pacific Law Review* Volume 53. Our Staff Writers interviewed legislators and spoke with community members about how California’s newest legislation affects the day-to-day lives of Californians. They dedicated countless hours to understanding, researching, and writing about shifting the burden of legislative pitfalls to lawmakers, rather than community members. These pieces analyze a wide array of topics, from fake news to reproductive autonomy and psychedelic drug reform in California.

When political power triumphs over truth and economic well-being is favored greatly over environmental sustainability, scholarship—such as this “Greensheets” edition—becomes increasingly necessary. The Staff Writers, Primary Editors, and Board of Editors prioritized fact-checking and reliable sources to bring you a holistic interpretation of California’s evolving legislation. These articles highlight untold stories of minorities’ rights, express dissatisfaction with criminal justice reform, and offer plausible avenues for taking the next steps to amend California’s legislation. Some Staff Writers found their issues required a national solution and that piecemeal reform was either not fast enough or inefficient altogether. Understanding how California’s legislation evolves is just one piece in a larger puzzle to tackle modern injustices and widespread inequity. It was an honor to work with and challenge each Staff Writer to look for solutions in unlikely places.

Legislative reform, by its very nature, is a slow process. The task now is to navigate balancing the need for legislative reform with the obstacles that prevent its timely approval and implementation. Notably, the inextricable tie between economic advantage and political power can work towards advancing or stunting legislative reform. The Staff Writers faced this dynamic head on and provided the most realistic solutions to modern day legislative challenges.

Learning about the law is a privilege within itself. Our society operates under a set of rules that are not necessarily readily available to members of the public. The Staff Writers in this “Greensheets” edition aimed to present complex legal information in a digestible and intentional way. I have the utmost respect for each Staff Writer’s consideration of how to restructure, reform, rework, and reimagine legislation to fit with our values as a more conscious society.

I would like to thank the Staff Writers, Primary Editors, and other Board of Editor members for their immeasurable contributions to ensuring the accuracy and relevance of information in this “Greensheets” edition. Specifically, I would like to thank the members of our Board of Editors who investigated and substantiated every claim and idea presented in these articles. I will look back on my experience as Chief Legislation Editor fondly, as one of the most meaningful roles in my academic career.

Aliya Gorelick
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University of the Pacific Law Review
Volume 53