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Letter from the Chief Comment Editor

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

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Note from the Chief Comment Editor

I am honored and delighted to join in presenting the third issue of the *University of the Pacific Law Review*, Volume 53.

Every year, the *University of the Pacific Law Review* provides law review Staff Writers with the opportunity to develop their own convincing Comment on a specific legal topic of their choice. As the Chief Comment Editor, I assist the Staff Writers in developing these Comments and mentor each writer throughout the almost nine-month writing process. From my own personal experience, I know the Staff Writers worked tirelessly—while balancing law school, extracurricular activities, and other personal stressors—to produce the impressive pieces you are about to read. Although this third issue reflects only a subset of the Comments in this Volume, each piece ponders a complicated legal issue that the staff writer meticulously curated and diligently researched.

The first, and arguably the most important, step in the writing process is topic selection. Many Staff Writers start the writing process with only a vague idea of what they want to write about. Throughout this initial phase, the Staff Writers undertake the tremendous task of developing their chosen topic, while simultaneously honing a narrow research question. This process requires extensive research, “preemption” checks, conversations with advisors, and constructive feedback from the editors. However, the buck does not stop there—the Staff Writers also must ensure their topic is novel and one they wish to spend countless hours devoted to. Consequently, the Comments reflect the Staff Writers’ unique academic interests and deepest passions.

An additional challenge, unique to the Staff Writers whose Comments are in this Volume, was that these writers had to navigate the writing process from home solely through a computer screen. The pandemic forced the editors to hold meetings online or via telephone, in fact, many Staff Writers never had the occasion to meet their editors in person. Staff Writers conducted all research online without the typical support one would receive from a library visit. Typically, Staff Writers would meet with their editors to discuss their ideas and research in person. Despite the shortcomings of having an atypical law review experience, each staff writer pushed themselves far beyond what they ever thought was possible to produce absolutely brilliant pieces of legal scholarship. Each staff writer should be incredibly proud of their Comment and the mark they are leaving on the *University of the Pacific Law Review*.

In addition to the Staff Writers’ hard work, the Board of Editors of Volume 52 dedicated countless hours to the development of these Comments. Specifically, I thank Lauren Hirota, Chief Comment Editor of Volume 52, and her primary editors for overseeing the development of these Comments. Moreover, I thank Thomas Gerhart, Editor-in-Chief of Volume 52, for pushing each staff writer to their fullest potential. Without each of you, these Comments would not be as impressive as they are now.

Finally, I would personally like to thank my parents and grandmother for always believing in me. Without your guidance and support, I would have never had the courage to go to law school and join the law review—let alone apply for a position on the Board of Editors. I also thank my love, Justin Whitman, who constantly encourages me to push the envelope with everything I do and continues to read everything I write. I love you all more than you know!

I hope you all enjoy the issue. Happy reading!

Francesca Torres
Chief Comment Editor
University of the Pacific Law Review
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