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Message

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Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present the first issue of the second volume of the *FIU Law Review*. Our authors and editorial staff have worked tirelessly over the past six months to create, modify, and edit this issue, and it was a great privilege to have worked with such a visionary, industrious group. I think you—the reader—will be pleased with the results.

The subject matter for this issue—Mass Media in the Twenty-first Century—is thought-provoking and timely. The mass media “explosion” that occurred in the last hundred years has fundamentally changed our relationship with our government, our peers, and even ourselves. At no point in history have we been exposed to more mass media messages than we are today, and we can only expect the frequency and sophistication of those messages to increase over the next hundred years. Indeed, many of the most prevalent forms of mass media from the first half of the twentieth century are already being slowly replaced as we turn the corner into the new millennium.

This kind of change means that we will need more than simple legal answers for the challenges that lie ahead. As a result, the relationship between law and mass media is inherently interdisciplinary. Many of this issue’s authors bring experience in more than one academic discipline to the table, and the relationship between law and emerging technologies in mass media requires those authors to be part legal scholar—critically examining the history of a given issue—and part prognosticator—addressing new and often unsettled questions in unfamiliar areas.

The newness of this relationship between mass media and the law, or at least the perception of newness, is one of the things that make this area so exciting. In many areas, the law speaks more or less as it has spoken for centuries. Often the only relevant questions left in these areas revolve around what happened; we rarely ask what we should do about it. In mass media law, however, it is the latter question that rules the day. Questions are being asked and answered regarding topics that have never been addressed in our history. The tapestry of the law is being woven in our time and before our eyes. It is our staff’s privilege and honor to assist these excellent scholars as they help weave that tapestry, and to present their work to you, the reader.

Enjoy the issue.

Jeremy B. Scott
Editor-in-Chief