

Introduction

The Williams Institute and student editors at the UCLA School of Law are pleased to publish Volume 19 of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*, which annually recognizes the best legal scholarship on sexual orientation and gender identity issues. Each year, we award Dukeminier Prizes and publish this journal not only to recognize outstanding achievements in legal scholarship, but also to stimulate critical engagement with—and visionary thinking on—pressing issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. We also publish the *Journal* in order to widely disseminate the important ideas and research contained in the winning articles to judges, legislators and other policymakers, professors and other teachers and researchers, lawyers and other advocates, and the public—with the goal that these articles come to inform ongoing legal, political, and academic debates. Because the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* is published by the Williams Institute in partnership with law students, this journal provides a unique educational opportunity for students to critically assess contributions to a vibrant and evolving field of study.

This year, we are pleased to announce the following winners:

- Jessica A. Clarke, *They, Them, and Theirs*, 132 HARV. L. REV. 894 (2019);
- J. Shahar Dillbary and Griffin Edwards, *An Empirical Analysis of Sexual Orientation Discrimination*, 86 U. CHI. L. REV. 1 (2019);
- Katie R. Eyer, *Statutory Originalism and LGBT Rights*, 54 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 63 (2019); and
- Melissa Murray, *Consequential Sex: #MeToo, Masterpiece Cakeshop, and Private Sexual Regulation*, 113 NW. U. L. REV. 825 (2019).

For summaries of these articles, we point you to the abstracts reproduced at the beginning of each. Eligible articles for this year's prizes were published between September 2018 and August 2019. In early September 2019, the student editors of the *Journal* ran relevant search terms in legal scholarship databases to cast a wide net for relevant articles. The students then narrowed that large group to over 120 articles that the students deemed sufficiently focused on sexual orientation and gender identity issues. At this stage, the students were not determining merit; instead, the students focused on the degree of attention given to relevant issues, broadly understood. For example, an article that merely cited the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* likely would have not made the cut, but an article that included an in-depth discussion of *Obergefell* would have.

In November 2019, we solicited nominations from law professors who regularly work on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, many of whom are themselves former winners of Dukeminier Prizes. We provided the professors with the students' list of eligible articles, but did not limit nominations to articles appearing on that list. Numerous professors submitted nominations, and the student editors also reviewed the eligible articles and made their own nominations. We then reviewed all of the nominations received to create a list of ten finalists.

We convened a committee to select the winners among the finalists. The committee was comprised of the Williams Institute's Director of Legal Scholarship and Federal Policy (Adam Romero), three of the law professors who won Dukeminier prizes last year (Marie-Amélie George, Courtney Joslin, and Deborah Widiss), two representatives on behalf of the *Journal's* student editors (Jennifer Gibbins and Rachel Pendleton), and the two of us. Each committee member reviewed the finalists before meeting in late March 2020.

Each year, the committee members decide the precise selection criteria for that year, guided only by the goals of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* noted above. This year, our criteria included timeliness, scholarly contribution, rigor, sophistication, innovation, originality, impact, and quality of research and writing. The committee members also valued the idea of recognizing younger scholars, as well as scholars building a body of scholarship in this area. We viewed each article holistically and extensively discussed the finalists in light of these criteria, and selected the above four articles for prizes this year.

In addition, each year the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* publishes the winner of the Williams Institute's annual student writing competition. This year's winner is:

- Ian Tapu, *Is it Really Paradise? LGBTQ Rights in the U.S. Territories*, 19 DUKEMINIER AWARDS J. 273 (2020).

For the student note competition, the student editors of the *Journal*, as well as Adam Romero and Luis Vasquez on behalf of the Williams Institute, selected the winner among entrants from law schools across the country. In selecting the winner, we focused largely on originality, scholarly contribution, and overall quality.

We hope that everyone finds the winning articles to be as compelling as we did.

Jocelyn Samuels
Executive Director

Luis A. Vasquez
Daniel H. Renberg Law Fellow

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