

Introduction

The Williams Institute and student editors at the UCLA School of Law are pleased to publish Volume 17 of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*, which 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 of 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 inform ongoing legal, political, and academic debates. Because the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* is published by the Williams Institute in partnership with law students, the 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:

- Susan Frelich Appleton, *Obergefell's Liberties: All in the Family*, 77 Ohio St. L.J. 919 (2016)
- Marie-Amélie George, *Expressive Ends: Understanding Conversion Therapy Bans*, 68 Ala. L. Rev. 793 (2017)
- Jordan Blair Woods, *LGBT Identity and Crime*, 105 Cal. L. Rev. 667 (2017)
- Sonia K. Katyal, *The Numerous Clauses of Sex*, 84 U. Chi. L. Rev. 389 (2017)
- Douglas NeJaime, *The Nature of Parenthood*, 126 Yale L.J. 2260 (2017)

For summaries of these articles' arguments, I point you to the abstracts reproduced at the beginning of each. 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:

- Chan Tov McNamarah, *Sexuality on Trial: Expanding Pena-Rodriguez to Combat Juror Queerphobia* (2018)

Eligible articles for this year's prizes were published between September 2016 and August 2017. In late August 2017, the student editors of the journal ran search terms in legal scholarship databases to cast a wide net for relevant articles. The students then narrowed that large group to nearly 100 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 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* likely would have. I then closely reviewed all of the articles in this pool; I narrowed the pool further to seventeen finalists that, in my opinion, were the top articles in terms of impact, rigor, and originality.

We convened a committee to select the winners. The committee was comprised of the Williams Institute's Executive Director (Jocelyn Samuels), two law professors who won Dukeminier prizes last year (Danaya Wright and Courtney Cahill), one representative of the journal's student editors (Sarah Spiegelman), and myself. Each committee member and the student editors reviewed the finalists. The committee met in April 2018. 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 scholarly contribution, rigor, sophistication, innovation, originality, impact, and quality of research and writing. We viewed each article holistically. The committee members also valued the idea of recognizing younger scholars, as well as scholars building a body of scholarship in this area; however, those factors were not determinative or even very significant to our decision. We extensively discussed the finalists in light of these criteria. We selected five articles for prizes this year. Two of the winning authors had previously won Dukeminier prizes. The committee decided to award the named prizes this year to the three winners who had not won previously. For the student note competition, the student editors and I selected the winner in December 2017, utilizing similar criteria to those noted above.

We hope that everyone finds the winning articles to be as insightful and provocative as we did.

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