

Introduction

The Williams Institute and student editors at the UCLA School of Law are pleased to publish Volume 18 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:

- Marie-Amélie George, *Bureaucratic Agency: Administering the Transformation of LGBT Rights*, 36 YALE L. & POL'Y REV. 83–154 (2017);
- Courtney G. Joslin, *Discrimination In and Out of Marriage*, 98 B.U. L. REV. 1–54 (2018);
- Deborah A. Widiss, *Intimate Liberties and Antidiscrimination Law*, 97 B.U. L. REV. 2083–2151 (2017); and
- Jordan Blair Woods, *Unaccompanied Youth and Private-Public Order Failures*, 103 IOWA L. REV. 1639–1709 (2018).

For summaries of these articles, I point you to the abstracts reproduced at the beginning of each. Eligible articles for this year's prizes were published between September 2017 and August 2018. In late August 2018, 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 140 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* would have.

In January 2019, we solicited nominations from law professors who regularly work on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, many

of whom are 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. The students also reviewed the eligible articles and made their own nominations, as did I. I then reviewed all of the nominations received and created a list of 14 finalists.

We convened a committee to select the winners among the finalists. The committee was comprised of the Williams Institute's Executive Director (Jocelyn Samuels), two law professors who won Dukeminier prizes last year (Susan Appleton and Douglas NeJaime), one representative of the journal's student editors (Thomas Costello), and myself. Each committee member and the student editors reviewed the finalists. The committee met in April 2019. 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 and extensively discussed the finalists in light of these criteria. We 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:

- Allison Smith, *Preserving the Possibility of a Future Biological Family: State-Mandated Insurance Coverage of Fertility Preservation for Youth Patients When Primary Treatment Causes Sterility*, 18 DUKEMINIER AWARDS J. 267 (2019).

For the student note competition, the student editors and I selected the winner among entrants from law schools around the country. In selecting the winner, the student editors and I focused largely on originality, contribution, and overall quality.

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

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