

# INTRODUCTION

The Williams Institute and the student editors at the UCLA School of Law are pleased to publish Volume 24 of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*, which annually recognizes outstanding achievements in recently published legal scholarship that engages with pressing sexual orientation and gender identity issues. With this release, we are honored to recognize the following Dukeminier Prize winners:

## **The Michael Cunningham Prize**

*Gender Regrets: Banning Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care*, 2024 UTAH L. REV. 763 (2024)

Noa Ben-Asher & Margot J. Pollans

## **The Stu Walter Prize**

*Bending Gender: Disability Justice, Abolitionist Queer Theory, and ADA Claims for Gender Dysphoria*, 137 HARV. L. REV. F. 237 (2024)

D Dangaran

## **The M.V. Lee Badgett Prize**

*Transgender Students and the First Amendment*, 104 B.U. L. REV. 435 (2024)

Dara E. Purvis

## **The Ezekiel Webber Prize**

*Gender Data in the Automated Administrative State*, 123 COLUM. L. REV. 2249 (2023)

Ari Ezra Waldman

In addition, each year the Journal publishes the winner of the Williams Institute's Annual Student Writing Competition. This year's winner is:

## **The Jeffrey S. Haber Prize for Student Scholarship**

*Queer Outrage: Why the Legal Vindication of LGBTQ Feelings Can Transform Dignitary Tort Law*, 24 DUKEMINIER AWARDS J. 209 (2025)

Gabriel L. Klapholz

## ABOUT THE PRIZE WINNERS

Eligible articles for this year's Dukeminier Prizes were published between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024 and engaged with sexual orientation and gender identity legal issues in a sustained way. In September 2024, the articles editors ran relevant search terms in legal scholarship databases to cast a wide net for eligible articles. The students then narrowed that large group to nearly 200 articles that students deemed presumptively eligible for this year's awards. At this stage, the students were not reviewing the

articles for merit; instead, the students focused on the degree of attention given to relevant issues, broadly understood.

The Institute then invited nominations for articles through an open call and from over 50 law professors who regularly publish legal scholarship focused on sexual orientation and gender identity. We provided the professors with the students' list of eligible articles, but did not limit nominations to articles appearing in the list. Numerous law professors submitted nominations, as did the student editors and scholars affiliated with the Williams Institute. All articles that received nominations were automatically sent to our prize committee. Williams Institute legal scholars reviewed the remaining articles and selected a number to join the nominated articles and be considered by the prize committee.

The Institute convened a committee to select the winners from among those finalists in March 2025. Each Volume's prize committee is comprised of a group of Williams Institute legal scholars, former Dukeminier Prize winners, and *Dukeminier Awards Journal* senior editors. The Volume 24 Prize Committee was comprised of: Nancy Polikoff, visiting scholar at the Williams Institute and Professor of Law Emerita at American University Washington College of Law; Chan Tov McNamara, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Cornell Law School; Cori Alonso-Yoder, Associate Professor at George Washington University Law School; Giam Nguyen, Judicial and Legal Education Director and Scholar at the Williams Institute and incoming faculty advisor for the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*; Ishani Chokshi, Williams Institute Daniel H. Renberg Law Fellow; Joshua Arrayales, Williams Institute Legal Fellow; Jet Harbeck, Editor-in-Chief of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*; Jacob Ostermann, *Dukeminier* Chief Articles Editor; and myself, Will Tentindo, Staff Attorney at the Williams Institute and advisor for the Journal.

Each year, the members of the selection committee decide the precise criteria for that year, guided by the goals of the *Dukeminier Awards Journal*. The winning articles embody the best in this year's sexual orientation and gender identity legal scholarship. We recognize these articles for their original arguments and intersectional approaches, timeliness and impact, academic rigor, and quality of research and writing. The Selection Committee also valued the idea of recognizing developing scholars and works covering a broad range of issue areas. 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.

For the student note competition, a committee comprised of *Dukeminier* Editor-in-Chief Jet Harbeck, Senior Editor Shane Ball, Managing Editor Randall Jones, Chief Notes Editor Ania Korpanty, current faculty advisor for the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* and Williams Institute Legal Director and Interim Executive Director Christy Mallory, and myself selected the winner among entries received in the Fall of 2024 through an open call for submissions. To be eligible, articles must be authored by a student enrolled in a law

school during the 2024–25 academic year, regardless of degree track or progress. In selecting the winner, we focused on originality, scholarly contribution, timeliness, academic rigor, and overall quality of the research and writing. All entries were reviewed blind by the student note selection committee.

Three of our winning articles in this volume are authored by first-time Dukeminier Award winning scholars. In addition to our first-time winners, Professor Ari Ezra Waldman has won his second Dukeminier Award in as many years. On a special note, the number of presumptively eligible articles identified by our articles editors was larger than in any previous year. When the *Dukeminier Awards Journal* was first published, few scholars published on sexual orientation or gender identity law and policy, let alone focused on the area. Now, we see many individuals dedicate their careers to this field. While this makes the process of selecting merely four articles extraordinarily challenging, the legal profession—and society at large—is all the better for this growth.

This year's winning articles were published prior to the second Trump Administration, which in its first few months has brought significant changes to the realm of LGBTQ law and policy specifically, but also to law and academia generally. Despite these changes, the award-winning articles in Volume 24 remain timely, a testament to the arguments presented within and the authors' dedication in taking on challenging topics. It is especially important to highlight these articles at a time where certain rhetoric around queer studies as a scholarly endeavor has sought to diminish the field's merit. The articles published in Volume 24 represent a few of the many outstanding pieces published by a passionate community of scholars unafraid to research, teach, and debate some of the most contested legal issues of our time. The *Dukeminier Awards Journal* editors are thrilled to highlight these five pieces of scholarship, a small portion of the academically rigorous, well-reasoned, and prescient work recently authored on sexual orientation and gender identity law and policy. As always, we hope that republishing these articles in our Journal helps their authors' work reach an even larger audience of practitioners, professors, policymakers, and the public.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

Will Tentindo, J.D.  
Staff Attorney  
The Williams Institute  
UCLA School of Law

