

FOREWORD: VERMONT LAW REVIEW CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS

Fifty years ago, the first volume of the *Vermont Law Review* was published by students of the first graduating class. I was a recent law school graduate with law review experience, and Dean Thomas Debevoise had asked me to serve as the editor to guide the students through the process of creating the first volume. I told the story of that process in the Law Review's 20th anniversary volume.¹ I offer the following remarks in celebration of the 50th anniversary of this important and influential publication.

Dean Debevoise's vision was not just that the new law school would have a law review, but that it would be one with credibility and stature. In part as a result of his professional connections, we were able to solicit articles for the first volume from nationally recognized jurists and scholars. The foreword was written by the Hon. Sterry R. Waterman, Judge of the Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit. The articles were by Donald T. Trautman of Harvard Law School, an expert on conflict of laws; Norman J. Williams, Jr. of Rutgers Law School, a leading scholar on planning and zoning practices who had just begun to teach at Vermont Law School; Charles D. Ablard, General Counsel for the Department of the Army, an authority on wetlands protection; and Peter F. Coogan, a leading bankruptcy scholar who taught at the University of Southern California and Harvard and Yale Law Schools.

As was the law review custom, shorter Notes were written by the students. These focused on Vermont topics. Robert J. Angres (whose last name made him the very first student to graduate from Vermont Law School) wrote about juveniles' right to counsel in criminal pre-charge diversion programs in Vermont. He later had a successful civil practice in Nevada and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States in 2009. George K. Belcher did a critique of a Vermont Supreme Court case upholding the constitutionality of the state law authorizing driver's license suspension for failure to pay the poll tax. He was in private practice in Vermont before serving as the Washington County Probate Judge for 21 years, followed by assignments as an administrative judge. Frederick C. Giandomenico, the law school's first valedictorian, dissected the legal strategies used in the case of *Vermont v. New York*, in which the state sought remedies for pollution of Lake Champlain. After law school he returned to his hometown of Walpole, Massachusetts where he maintained a law practice with his brother. Louis J. Cattani wrote about inequity in the Vermont law of valuation of business inventory for tax purposes. He was the first student Editor-in-Chief of the *Vermont Law Review* the following year,

¹ Mary Miles Teachout, *Vermont Law Review Celebrates Twenty Years*, 20 VT. L. REV. 1, 1 (1995).

and after graduation he maintained a solo private practice in both Vermont and New Hampshire until his untimely death from cancer. Lawrence Berger's note addressed a Vermont legislative proposal to exclude evidence of a victim's character in forcible rape cases. He practiced law in New York State for decades, representing federal law enforcement officers.

For the last 50 years, the *Vermont Law Review* has published pieces on broad national and international interests as well as articles and notes on issues of law specific to Vermont. The legal public has benefited from this scholarship, and the law review experience has enhanced the participating students' appreciation for the importance of thoughtful and detailed analysis, helping to prepare them for successful careers in the law. This resource had not existed in Vermont before that first volume, but it continues to enrich the work of lawyers, teachers, legislators, and judges in Vermont and elsewhere. We owe a debt of gratitude to those early pioneers and those who have followed in their footsteps through the pages of the *Vermont Law Review* over these last 50 years.

—*Mary Miles Teachout*