Preface to the Tenth Volume

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Ten years ago, the *Harvard Law & Policy Review* was founded by Michael Negron and James Weingarten along with a group of dedicated progressive Harvard Law School students. As the official journal of the American Constitution Society, *HLPR* remains unique in its normative mission: publishing high-impact ideas, inspiring debate, and promoting progressive reforms. Rather than specializing in a particular substantive area, *HLPR* issues are tied together by a common perspective—"universal respect for human dignity and rights, a commitment to equal access to justice and opportunity, and the proposition that where an individual starts in life must not determine where she finishes."[1]

The past ten volumes encapsulate the advances and setbacks of progressivism's last decade. Inspirationally, the Progressive Vision of the Family in 2010 (Volume 4.1) is closer to reality in 2015. In other areas, reform has been truncated or has regressed. Progressive Visions of the Corporation (Volume 2.1) was published before *Hobby Lobby*. Elections in America (Volume 8.1) was published after *Citizens United* and in the wake of *Shelby County*. Certain topics repeat, testifying to their challenging breadth and complexity. Criminal justice reform was examined in Confronting the Costs of Incarceration (Volume 3.2), Smart on Crime (Volume 8.2), and Policing in America (Volume 10.1). *HLPR* has also repeatedly analyzed venues for progressive change—Progressive Federalism (Volume 3.1), Progressive Cities: Innovative Solutions to Urban Problems (Volume 7.2), and State of the States (Volume 10.2).

The ideas published in *HLPR* have begun to shape law and policy. Over 80% of the journal's articles have been cited. Judges in federal and state appellate and trial courts have used articles on sentencing and implicit bias in jury selection. Advocates have deployed arguments made here on gun rights and voter ID laws. Policymakers have drawn inspiration from *HLPR* on topics including education reform and the tension between security and privacy. Academics have debated and refined analyses of subjects from employment discrimination to civil legal aid.

Despite these successes, we approach the tenth volume with humility. Although the journal does not expect to solve vexing social problems like climate change, discrimination, terrorism, and state violence, the repetition of broad themes is a stark reminder of the limits to progress achievable through academic publication. In addition, legal scholarship is increasingly dismissed—as Chief Justice Roberts put it, law reviews are often too eso-

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[1] Michael A. Negron & James H. Weingarten, *By Way of Introduction*, 1 Harv. L. & Pol'y Rev. 1, 1 (2007).

teric to be useful. Finally, trends away from hard copy publication and content consumption challenge law journals' traditional model and survival.

We believe these challenges should not signal *HLPR*'s demise. Rather, continued dedication to rigorous legal scholarship that transcends the ivory tower with practical policy proposals, a robust online presence since the journal's founding that complements the print volumes, and connection with the American Constitution Society's national network positions *HLPR* to thrive in its second decade. We hope that *HLPR* builds on its past and continues to examine and reexamine seemingly intractable social problems; overlapping articles and issues should be in dialogue with each other and serve as seeds for future change.

The issues the journal publishes on will not be solved by one article, symposium, act of legislation, or presidential administration. Progress will be achieved by our readers over a lifetime of service. Our hope for the *Harvard Law & Policy Review*'s next ten years is for it to be a partner in that work by continually providing ideas and provoking debates that, as Michael Negron and James Weingarten wrote ten years ago, challenge, occasionally infuriate, and inspire our readership.