

4-18-2019

Happy Golden Anniversary, St. Mary's Law Journal!

Stephen M. Sheppard

St. Mary's University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/thestmaryslawjournal>

Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Law and Society Commons](#), [Legal History Commons](#), and the [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sheppard, Stephen M. (2019) "Happy Golden Anniversary, St. Mary's Law Journal!," *St. Mary's Law Journal*: Vol. 50 : No. 1 , Article 1. Available at: <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/thestmaryslawjournal/vol50/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the St. Mary's Law Journals at Digital Commons at St. Mary's University. It has been accepted for inclusion in St. Mary's Law Journal by an authorized editor of Digital Commons at St. Mary's University. For more information, please contact jllloyd@stmarytx.edu.

FOREWORD

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, *ST. MARY'S LAW JOURNAL!*

STEPHEN M. SHEPPARD*

Half a century ago, a handful of dedicated St. Mary's law students and faculty begat a premiere experience in legal education, the *St. Mary's Law Journal*. Volume one's 286 pages in two issues represented the diligence, imagination, practicality, and sheer effort of a collaboration between the faculty and our best students, most notably Professor James Norvell and a brilliant, energetic third-year, Martin ("Marty") D. Beirne, Jr.

From the beginning and then without cease, the *St. Mary's Law Journal* has been a sparkling workshop in which over 1,500 students have honed their skills, not only producing outstanding legal commentary but also, with the help of alumni and faculty, attracting important scholarship from across the country and around the globe. Among the authors whose work was edited by our students are Chief Justice William Rehnquist, then-Justice Nathan Hecht, the redoubtable Wendell Hall (of standards-of-review fame), Chief Justice Phil Hardberger, and Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson. Theirs, and a thousand other authors' works, have enriched and improved the law over this fifty years.

Articles and comments of the *Journal* have been cited over 8,500 times in core U.S. law reviews and journals; at least 500 times in international and foreign journals; over 200 times by the Article III federal courts; nearly 1,000 times in treatises and practice guides; and over 1,300 times in published state

* B.A., University of Southern Mississippi; J.D., LL.M., J.S.D., Columbia Law School; Litt.M., Oxford University; Dean, St. Mary's University School of Law.

court opinions.¹ Like any great media franchise, the *Law Journal* has a spin-off, the *St. Mary's Law Journal on Legal Malpractice & Ethics*, an annual begun in 2011 and already establishing a following, with nearly 100 citations in journals and a growing following among opinion-publishing judges.

Volume 50 was bound to be special, and it is. We must all thank Judge Barbara Neller-moe and Professor Vincent Johnson, whose labors illuminated the history of the *Journal* and of the law school in this first issue. Through oral histories augmented by research, they brought to print stories essential to our past. Judge Neller-moe's interviews, particularly with Marty Beirne, shed a welcome light on the early years of the *Journal*. Professor Johnson facilitated the oral history of Dean Emeritus Charles E. Cantú, whose time here represents over half the law school's life.

What shall we expect of the next fifty years? For myself, may we see continued emphasis on the practical needs of the law. The *Journal* has brought progress: seeking justice in the law, clarity in its rules, and utility, equity, and fairness in the demands it places on the citizenry. A great beginning, and one not to be lost.

Critical to the *Journal's* success were articles from lectures enticed here with a gift of the Rosenfield family, honoring Mark J. Rosenfield, a generous gift they have recently increased. Such external support is essential to bring great scholarship to the *Journal*, scholarship that is cited worldwide. I hope we can expand this support and foster more of this work.

Such opportunities will strengthen the *Journal's* voice, a voice that seems increasingly needed today. In an age when everyone has a megaphone, the quiet voices of jurists and scholars need artful curators to protect and encourage the rule of law, the practical aspects of justice, and the clear but adaptable rules. Veracity, not volume, must win the day, but it will need all our help to enlarge its share in the crowded marketplace.

Thus, I am confident that the *Journal* will continue to present relevant, powerful scholarship that is respected by the bench, bar, and academy. I believe we can attract ever more charismatic writers, whose voices our students will help to cut through the increasing din. That will be a future we can be as proud of a century on, as we are so very proud of the *St. Mary's Law Journal* today.

1. Citation rates are based on searches performed in March 2019 in HeinOnline (core U.S. law reviews and journals, as well as international and foreign journals); other categorical searches were made on Westlaw.com.