

# STETSON LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 43

FALL 2013

NUMBER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Robert Batey\*

Law reviews evolve. Almost forty years ago, Stetson's Law Review moved from an embryonic "intramural" stage, publishing only student works, to a rather brash entrant into the world of academic journals, seeking works from prominent professors and practitioners.<sup>1</sup> When, with but a few exceptions, the prominent proved to have little interest, a chastened review staff (under the leadership of then faculty advisor Darby Dickerson<sup>2</sup>) opted for an all-symposium format in order to allow each symposium organizer to select and recruit top notch authors.<sup>3</sup> After several years of success—notably with the annual local government law issue<sup>4</sup>—the decision has now been made to supplement the symposium format with one "open" issue each year. With the exception of one recently retired professor, the authors in the current issue seem to have reached the level of prominence that proved elusive many years ago.

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1. See Robert Batey & Scott W. Fitzpatrick, *The Early Days of the Stetson Law Review*, 30 Stetson L. Rev. 213, 217, 239–240 (2000).

2. Later associate dean, acting dean, and dean at Stetson, and now dean at Texas Tech. Texas Tech University School of Law, *Faculty Biographies, Darby Dickerson*, <http://www.law.ttu.edu/faculty/bios/Dickerson/> (accessed Nov. 5, 2013).

3. I was privileged to organize one such issue: *Law, Literature, and Film*, 39 Stetson L. Rev. 1 (2009).

4. Professor Emeritus James J. Brown, also an active member of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, dedicated himself to each of these symposia, making them landmarks in this vital but underappreciated area of legal practice. Tampa Bay Business Journal, *Stetson Receives Real Estate Law Teaching Gift*, posted Feb. 15, 2005, 1:11 p.m. EST (available at <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2005/02/14/daily18.html>).

What does the future hold? The symposia will no doubt continue, especially on local government law, as will the open issues. The mix may change, or stay the same. There will definitely be “live” symposia like next spring’s session on *Citizens United*,<sup>5</sup> and there may also be an online supplement, or some other, currently unimaginable permutation. Whatever comes, it will be another important stage in the evolution of the *Stetson Law Review*, itself an integral aspect of legal education at Stetson University College of Law.

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5. *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm’n*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010).