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INTRODUCTION

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LAW

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In this issue of the *Stetson Law Review*, we present four prescient articles that focus on the transformative power of the law. The articles were selected pursuant to a call for papers issued by the New Law Professors Section of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). As a professor at Stetson University College of Law, I had the opportunity to chair the New Law Professors Section during 2009, conduct the call for papers, and devote this issue of the *Stetson Law Review* to highlighting the works chosen. The effort would not have been possible without the help of my fellow section officers (Professors Linda Jellum, Steven Vladek, and Keith Blair) and the faculty advisor of the *Stetson Law Review*, Professor Mike Finch. The author of each of the pieces included here was able to present his or her article at the New Law Professors Panel during the AALS annual meeting held in New Orleans in January 2010. The goal of the call for papers was to give newer law professors the opportunity to present and get feedback on their work in that broad academic forum. The authors then continued to refine their theses and the finished products are being published here.

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As with the New Law Professor's first call for papers in 2007, the theme of the submissions coordinated with the theme for the AALS's annual meeting. The theme for the AALS's annual meeting in 2010 was *Transformational Law*. The theme was chosen at a time of economic and political uncertainty both in the United States and globally. The theme was intended to highlight the power of law to transform and improve legal, economic, political, and social institutions and norms. Specifically requested in our call for papers were any papers that proposed legal reform, papers that focused on legal initiatives to help remediate any current issues or problems, and papers that suggested a new or different framework for analyzing issues or problems. Transformative law more generally also involves suggestions for legislative reform, policy initiatives, or particular judicial perspectives or interpretations. The call for papers was also open to papers that focused on the intersection of law with other social sciences to better address needs and suggestions for social and political transformation.

We received many submissions and are very proud to have selected the transformational works included here. Professor Monica Teixeira de Sousa has focused on educational reform. In her article, she critically examines the current approach to educational reform, and provocatively suggests that the discussion should be shifted from how to improve the schools to how to improve the socioeconomic conditions that many struggling families confront—conditions that themselves make the possibility of educational achievement largely illusory.

Professor Jessica Knouse's work suggests transformations central to questions of identity. She proposes new legislation to flatten existing workplace hierarchies or to make the workplace less central to concepts of identity generally, in order to improve the democratic content of those workplaces and thereby society more generally.

Professor Nicole Buonocore Porter is also concerned with workplace norms. In the article we publish here, she continues her important and transformative work on restructuring the workplace to accommodate the concerns of employee workers who are also caregivers in their private lives. Her article proposes a synergistic approach that should apply to all caregivers in the workplace, whether they be high-income professionals or hourly employees.

In his article, Professor Thaddeus Hoffmeister tackles emergency situations through his work on the Insurrection Act. Using history, including the recent history of hurricane Katrina as an example, Professor Hoffmeister explains that certain events do trigger the Insurrection Act and thereby allow the federal government to deploy military troops domestically. In an effort to make the Insurrection Act more clear, Professor Hoffmeister proposes creating uniform standards for governors to request federal military aid, and he suggests the reinstatement of judicial advisory opinions to aid determinations of when federal military deployment is appropriate.

Again, we are delighted to have had such a strong response to our call for papers and are proud of the submissions that were selected and published here. In particular, we hope that readers will be impacted by the power of legal scholarship to propose meaningful transformational solutions to vital issues affecting our society. Further, the fact that the works here were authored by relatively new law professors should be an inspiration to our readers, many of whom may similarly be in the dawn of their legal careers. It is often just those newer perspectives that drive transformational change.