

## FOREWORD

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I am honored to have been asked to write the Foreword for this 5th Anniversary issue of the *Albany Government Law Review*. As founding co-faculty advisor, I am pleased to acknowledge that the dedication and hard work of each student member of the editorial board as well as general members, have worked to ensure that this Law Review not only met our initial hopes, but that it exceeded our expectations. Starting with the initial team led by Monique Mazza in 2008, and her successive editors in chief—Molly Adams Breslin, Benjamin Loefke, Robert Barrows, Andrew Stengel, and currently Katie Valder—the *Albany Government Law Review* has continued to flourish to meet its mission.

As noted by Monique Mazza in the Foreword of the first issue of volume 1, “the goal of the *Government Law Review* is to provide our readers with high-quality articles and other materials by those who have competence in the legal aspects of government and public policy. Our strong connection to Albany Law School’s nationally recognized *Government Law Center* and our location in the state capital will provide us with the unique opportunity to publish scholarly articles on significant government topics . . . .” To this end, over the last five years this Law Review has been a forum for the exchange of ideas on cutting edge law and policy issues including campaign finance reform, gun control, eminent domain, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the subprime mortgage crisis, immigration, education reform, and executive power. Leading scholars, public officials, and Albany Law School students have contributed to the wealth of high quality information published through the *Albany Government Law Review*.

An important addition to the *Albany Government Law Review* has been the Fireplace Blog—created as the first student-run law

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review blog. Through this unique blog, student members of the Law Review engage in substantive law review-like legal analysis and academic speculation by publishing short comments on recent developments in government law and policy, especially as they relate to New York state government. These well researched and thoughtful commentaries have enabled the Law Review to be even more relevant and a greater resource to governments due to the timely nature of the blog. A sampling of topics addressed include: the NLRB's social media policy, local home rule control and regulation of drilling in the Marcellus Shale, regulation of segways in New York City, U.S.-Canadian border drug trafficking, mediating medical malpractice claims, the domestic violation firearm protection law in New York, dissolution of out of state civil unions, kinship care, and no fault divorce. The blog's popularity also resulted in the publication of an issue of the Law Review highlighting select commentaries.

Two years ago, an issue focusing on state legislation was also added to the annual volume. This has been an opportunity to examine cutting edge issues being debated and tested by the New York State Legislature. The Legislation issues have featured articles by students, alumni, and leading lawmakers and policymakers who have been close to the particular legislative development. By capturing the writings and views of those in government working on a given issue, in the future this Law Review is likely to be credited with contributing to the knowledge and development of legislative history.

It has been a professional privilege to have advised the *Albany Government Law Review* with my colleague, Professor Paul Finkelman. As I leave Albany Law School and the Government Law Center after more than two decades to lead the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Touro Law Center as Dean and Professor of Law, I will take with me strong admiration and respect for the hard working students (and now alumni) who I have had the pleasure to meet and work with. These students are connected through a shared legacy of linking law and public policy and they have all contributed to helping others develop and reform laws and regulations for the betterment of a just society.

Congratulations on the 5th anniversary of the *Albany Government Law Review*.