

## Editor's Corner

I am pleased to present Volume 16 of the *ALSB Journal of Employment and Labor Law*. Since our last volume in 2014, the Journal has been through several changes. Our long-time Editor In Chief, Denise Smith of Eastern Illinois University, took on some administrative assignments and stepped down. The journal was then headed by Dr. Patricia Pattison of Texas State University. I took over in August 2015 and am grateful for their advice, guidance, and help.

A review of the news will show that employment issues are at the forefront of American culture. From disputes about Uber driver status as employees or independent contractors to the scope of the Federal Arbitration Act in DIRECTV, Inc. v. Imburgia, anyone who follows employment and labor issues has a lot of reading and reflecting to do. This volume of the JELL gives us all two important topics to ponder.

First, in “The Uncomfortable Incorporation of Marijuana Legalization in Workplace Policies,” authors Donald Sanders, John Ross, and Bruce McClung, all of Texas State University, look at the employment implications of the nation’s current marijuana policies, the conflict between state law and the federal drug laws, and the few claims that have made it through the court process dealing with issues such as disability accommodation. While the federal government currently has a hands off approach to pursuing marijuana prosecutions under the Controlled Substances Act, the issues addressed in this article assist us in analyzing the potential futures of the legal standing of marijuana and how it may impact the workplace.

In our second article, Benjamin Douglas, an attorney with Ashcraft & Gerel, LLP, in Washington, DC, challenges the status of mental injuries in worker’s compensation systems. While acknowledging that mental injuries may require some different treatment when it comes to verification and definition, Mr. Douglas makes a strong case for covering mental health injuries through our worker’s compensation systems.

In August, 2015, the JELL became registered with the ExpressO system, which generated two interesting situations. First, the ease of using that system allowed for an increase in submissions for us to review and make editorial decisions about. In addition, those who submit through ExpressO often submit to more than one journal, including student law reviews, increasing the pressure on the reviewers to do fast but thorough reviews. I am happy to say that we received approximately 20 submissions between mid-August and mid-December (in addition to the submissions received before registering with ExpressO), making our acceptance rate for this volume under 10%. Because we registered with ExpressO somewhat late in the law review submission season, I expect even more submissions next year. In addition, I am extremely grateful for the faculty reviewers who stepped up and completed thorough, thoughtful and timely reviews. The work of those reviewers allows the JELL to continue the blind, peer-reviewed process for quality analyses of employment and labor law issues.

Eric D. Yordy  
Editor-in-Chief