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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law & Public Affairs (JLPA)*. *JLPA* is a non-partisan student run organization that publishes thought-provoking articles on contemporary federal, state and local policy issues. In addition to publishing articles, *JLPA* holds an independent student-led seminar that allows each editor to engage in meaningful discussions and conduct targeted research regarding various governmental issues and solutions. The theme for Volume 1, entitled “Is Government Broken?,” was inspired by Yale Law Professor Peter Schuck’s book, *Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better*. The *JLPA* team selected this theme because it was both timely and appropriate in light of Volume 1 being produced during the 2016 presidential election.

JLPA began as an idea I pitched to Jonathan Kaplan (Volume 1 Managing Editor) in the fall of 2014. Prior to our discussion, I had conducted research about public policy journals at other law schools and learned that most other premier and established law schools had public policy journals. After sharing the idea, Jonathan committed to working with me to found a non-partisan online policy journal. Shortly thereafter, Jonathan and I invited Dori Molozanov (Volume 1 Senior Executive Editor), and Marlon Amprey (Volume 1 Symposium Editor) to join the team. Collectively, we worked to develop a journal that would address critical policy issues in a way that was both accessible and useful to policy makers and readers around the globe.

The journal was initially known as the Journal of Law & Public Policy. But through internal deliberation, guided by words of advice from *JLPA* faculty advisor Professor Cary Coglianese, the *JLPA* team ultimately decided to change the journal’s name to *JLPA* to capture our expansive vision.

* Volume 1 Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law & Public Affairs*

At the outset, we understood it would not be an easy feat to establish a new journal at the University of Pennsylvania Law School (“Penn Law”). It had been more than 18 years since Penn Law had approved a new journal. Undeterred by the magnitude of our committed course, we intentionally and relentlessly pursued a largely uncharted path toward the establishment of an innovative and dynamic public policy journal at Penn Law. Throughout this journey, Professor Coglianesi provided unparalleled guidance and support.

On July 4, 2015, after months of diligent effort, Gary Clinton, Penn Law’s former Dean of Students, sent a letter to Penn Law students inviting them to join *JLPA*. Within a very short period of time, *JLPA*’s inaugural team of four grew to a team of twenty-three students. Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, the *JLPA* team continued to make measurable progress in laying a strong foundation for *JLPA*’s future success as a valued resource in the public policy space.

In addition to publishing its first edition, *JLPA* hosted a “mini symposium” every week to expose Penn Law students to myriad public policy makers and to encourage interactive discussions on such topics as: immigration, criminal justice, health care, marijuana decriminalization, and municipal pension plans. Various *JLPA* members wrote reflection papers and policy advisory papers after each class, as part of the independent seminar. *JLPA* also partnered with the Fels Institute of Government to host Pamela White, United States Ambassador to Haiti, and Jon Brennan, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

JLPA’s ability to host its weekly symposium was the result of partnerships with several key supporters. *JLPA* extends a special thank you to Marjorie Margolie and Brittany Keesling for allowing *JLPA* to participate in your incredible work at Penn; and Egbert Perry, Board Chairman of Fannie Mae and a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, for connecting *JLPA* with Amy Montgomery at the Penn Institute for Urban Research.

JLPA also extends a thank you to all of our 2015-16 seminar speakers for making *JLPA*’s inaugural independent seminar a success:

- Hank Johnson, U.S. Representative for Georgia’s 4th Congressional District;
- Edward Gene “Ed” Rendell, 45th Governor of Pennsylvania and former Mayor of Philadelphia;
- Lee Whack, Press Secretary for the 2016 Democratic National Convention;
- Cristina Hamilton, Chief of the National Security and Benefits Integrity Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services;

- Shelley Smith, City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia;
- R. Seth Williams, District Attorney for the City and County of Philadelphia;
- David Oh, Councilman At-Large and Minority Whip for the City Council of Philadelphia;
- Dr. Cedric Alexander, Dekalb County, Georgia Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Public Safety, CNN Commentator and President of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives;
- Stephen P. Mullin, Former Chairman of the City of Philadelphia Board of Pensions;
- Mychael Bond, Founder of #ThePatriotismProject and Granddaughter of Julian Bond;
- Maureen Rush, Vice President of Penn Public Safety and Superintendent of Penn Police;
- Tom Baker, William Maul Measey Professor of Law and Health Sciences at Penn Law;
- Howard Chang, Earle Hepburn Professor of Law at Penn Law;
- Kedric L. Payne, Adjunct Professor of Law at Penn Law; and
- Sophia Lee, Professor of Law and History and Deputy Dean at Penn Law.

On March 24-25, 2016, *JLPA* hosted its inaugural symposium, also entitled “Is Government Broken?” The symposium attracted more than 200 attendees from the Penn Law community, communities in and around Philadelphia, and various states around the country. Symposium attendees not only asked timely questions about the current state of public affairs in the United States, but also received responses from experts in the field. This two-day event was made possible by the philanthropic support of the Model Government Service and Public Affairs Initiative, the Wharton Public Policy Initiative, Penn Program on Regulation, the Fels Institute of Government, and the Penn Law Dean’s Speaker Fund.

A special thank you to all of our symposium donors and *JLPA*’s symposium speakers:

- Kasim Reed, Mayor of the City of Atlanta and keynote speaker;
- Lani Guinier, Bennett Boskey Professor of Law at Harvard Law School;
- Diana C. Mutz, Samuel A. Stouffer Professor of Political Science and Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Institute for the Study of Citizens and Politics;
- Nate Persily, James B. McClatchy Professor of Law of Stanford Law School;

- John J. Dilulio Jr., Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania;
- Philip K. Howard, Founder and Chair of Common Good;
- Matthew Lee Wiener, Executive Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States;
- Richard L. Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at New York University Law School;
- John Holloway, Executive Director at the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice;
- Peter H. Schuck, Simeon E. Baldwin Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School;
- Anne Meuwese, Professor of Public Law, Jurisprudence, and Legal History at Tilburg Law School;
- Eric M. Patashnik, Julis-Rabinowitz Professor of Public Policy and Politics at University of Virginia and Director the Brown Public Policy Program;
- Rebecca A. Maynard, University Trustee Professor of Education and Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania;
- James L. Gibson, Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government at Washington University in St. Louis;
- Roger Smith, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean for Social Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania;
- Anne Greenberg, Senior Vice President at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research; and
- Cary Coglianese, Edward B. Shils Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science at Penn Law and Director of Penn Program on Regulation.

JLPA also appreciates the support of Suliaman Rahman (Penn '97), who used his extensive network to ensure that Philadelphia citizens were able to participate in *JLPA*'s inaugural symposium. Thank you, also, to Penn Law's communications team for helping *JLPA* design event flyers and for publicizing *JLPA*'s events.

To allow theory to meet practice, on April 8, 2016, *JLPA* traveled to Washington, D.C., and met with United States Vice President Joseph "Joe" Biden's staff at the White House. *JLPA* also met with staff from the United States Department of Justice, staffers from select congressional offices on Capitol Hill, and staff from the Bipartisan Policy Center. Thank you to Jeffrey Cooper, Penn Vice President of Government Affairs and auxiliary advisor to *JLPA*, for helping *JLPA* secure its meeting with Vice President Biden's

Office and various congressional offices, and for providing advice to the *JLPA* team throughout *JLPA*'s development. Thank you, also, to Dr. Andrew "Andy" Coopersmith, Managing Director of the Wharton Public Policy Initiative, for helping *JLPA* secure funding for *JLPA*'s trip to D.C. and for arranging *JLPA*'s meeting with the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Additionally, a special thank you to Theodore Ruger, Penn Law Dean, for your continued support and recommendations and for writing the introduction for *JLPA*'s Volume 1 edition. Additionally, thank you to: Claire Wallace, Penn Law Registrar, for your meaningful and invaluable guidance during the creation of *JLPA*'s independent seminar; Heather Frattone, Penn Law Associate Dean for Professional Engagement, for your sincerity, support, and advice; Gary Clinton, former Penn Law Dean of Students, for providing the *JLPA* team with invaluable information about journals at Penn Law and for your support; and Monica Monroe, Penn Law Dean of Students, for meeting with *JLPA* in your first few weeks as Dean of Students.

A special thank you to Professor Coglianese, *JLPA*'s advisor, for your mentorship and brilliance throughout *JLPA*'s development. *JLPA* would not have realized its unprecedented level of achievement in its first two years of existence without your steady guidance and high expectations. *JLPA* is incredibly fortunate to have you as both its advisor and fervent advocate.

Finally, but most importantly, thank you *JLPA* team! Hopefully it is clear from my previous expressions of appreciation that *JLPA*'s success was the result of an inordinate level of support and commitment from an outstanding team. Teamwork truly made this dream work. Thank you, *JLPA* team, for entrusting me with the honor of serving as *JLPA*'s founding Editor-in-Chief.

Best wishes to the incoming *JLPA* editorial board and all future *JLPA* editorial boards.