

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of the *Journal of Workplace Rights*. Until this issue, we were known as the *Journal of Individual Employment Rights*, but we now have fifteen new Editorial Board members, a new Manuscript Editor, and a new research focus. Our new Editorial Board members are Paul Adler, Victor Devinatz, Theresa Domagalski, Kelly Dye, John Hassard, Steve Jaros, John Jermier, Tom Keenoy, John Logan, Bernhard Mark-Ungericht, Mary Meisenhelter, Albert Mills, Jean Helms Mills, Leah Ritchie, and Maxim Voronov. They will join our five returnees from the old Editorial Board: Phillip Beaumont, Charles Coleman, Douglas McCabe, Hedayeh Samavati, and Hoyt Wheeler. Our new Manuscript Editor is Ann O'Hear, and the quality of her work is impeccable.

The *Journal of Workplace Rights* is dedicated to the proposition that human rights should not be compromised by employers. It uses an expansive definition of human rights, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as passed by the United Nations in 1948. A list of proposed topics can be found on our website at <http://baywood.com/journals/previewjournals.asp?id=jwr>. The *Journal* invites prospective authors to submit articles that are completely unrelated to these topics as long as their focus is on workplace rights.

Before I preview this issue's articles, I wish to pay special thanks to the following Editorial Board members who did a terrific job of reviewing them in a timely yet thorough manner: Phillip Beaumont, Victor Devinatz, Kelly Dye, Steve Jaros, John Jermier, Douglas McCabe, Hedayeh Samavati, and Hoyt Wheeler. In addition, Trevor Bain, David Jacobs, Jeff Mello, and Rahul Varman took time from their very busy schedules to excellently serve as ad hoc reviewers for this issue.

The first article is by Steve Jaros, and it is entitled, "Labor, knowledge, and value in the workplace: Implications for the pay of low-wage employees." It contains a great deal of practical advice to assist workers in pressing their claims to fair pay. The second article, by Susie Jacobs, is "*Doi Moi* and its discontents: Gender, liberalisation, and decollectivisation in rural Viet Nam." Its proposals, if

enacted, would improve the quality of work life for millions of women in that country. The third article, by Tanya Marcum and Elizabeth Campbell, is entitled, "Peer review in employment disputes: An employee right or an employee wrong?" The authors argue that proper application of peer review procedures could be greatly beneficial to workplace rights. The fourth article, by Marsha Katz and Helen Lavan, is "Legality of employer control of obesity." Its aim is to increase the success rate in the courtroom for victims of obesity discrimination in employment.

The final two articles in this issue constitute the New Scholars section. Each issue of our journal will feature work by doctoral students and untenured faculty, as they have fewer rights than those of us who have completed the tenure and promotion process. Anthony Yue wrote "Acquired disability and returning to work: Towards a stakeholder approach." This article advocates a more humane and employee-centered process through which injured employees could negotiate the terms of their return to work. Last but not least is a article by Connie Bygrave and Scott Macmillan, entitled "Spirituality in the workplace: A wake-up call from the American dream." This article points out the moral bankruptcy of work in the United States and offers the Canadian way as an employment system worth emulating.

If you have as much fun reading these articles as I did while editing them, you are in for a very good time indeed. We trust that our existing readers will enjoy the transition and appreciate the increased publication frequency of our journal. Our plan is to retain our subscriber base while simultaneously reaching out to progressive thinkers throughout the world. Readers with any questions about this journal should contact me electronically at [jwr@rowan.edu](mailto:jwr@rowan.edu)

*Joel P. Rudin*  
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