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## From the Editor

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Once upon a time, there was an old, faded blue Victorian home that went by the unimaginative name of 1818 Sheridan Road. The front first-floor room of the house, a room that must have been the parlor when the house served its intended function, looked out over Lake Michigan. During my time as a student at Northwestern University, the room was the office of Red Schwartz, who was serving as the first editor of the *Law & Society Review*. Red took great pride in the *Review*, and before writing this note, I went back and looked over what he published.

Much has changed in the ensuing years. As best as I can tell from the names of the authors, only one woman was published during Red's time, Karan Huckleberry, who co-authored an article with Paul Bohannan. Topics that once were at the center of public and scholarly interest have faded and been replaced by different concerns. The first special issue ever published by the *Review* was on school desegregation.

But it is also true that much is the same. Then, as now, the association was concerned with social justice. The first article in the first issue was about civil justice and the poor. Then, as now, people in socio-legal research were concerned about methodology and the larger epistemological questions of how we know. Rick Lempert published an article in the first issue on research designs for legal impact studies. Then, as now, there was a strong interest in the socio-legal world outside the United States. Masaji Chiba published an article on the legal legacy of Japanese feudal structures, and Gregory Massell published his wonderful article on law as an instrument of change in Soviet central Asia.

My goal as editor over the next three years is to encourage the field to grow in new and promising directions while holding on to these traditions. In this task, I am assisted by four outstanding associate editors: Patricia Ewick, Department of Sociology, Clark University; Herbert Kritzer, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Sally Merry, Department of Anthropology, Wellesley College; and Rob Sampson, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. I also am assisted by a formidable Editorial Advisory Board comprising scholars from around the world and representing the many ways we approach the study of law and society. The editorial office in Houston is

ably staffed by Nita Lineberry, the managing editor, editorial assistants Christina Hughes and Craig Goodman, and an energetic group of law students.

The view out my office window is not as nice as Red's view from the parlor of 1818 Sheridan Road. Inside, however, the endeavor is as it was for Red and the ten other editors who preceded me. As Susan Silbey wrote in her first issue three years ago—it is to publish the very finest research on law and society. And, Red, thanks for the inspiration.

Joseph Sanders