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Always Something New: Thoughts on the Journal's 25th Birthday

Kenneth A. Manaster
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THE JOURNAL’S 25TH BIRTHDAY

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I was pleased when the Journal asked me to write something for
this 25th anniversary issue. My first reaction was that it is nice to be
remembered as the Journal’s original faculty advisor during its
creation and first four years of publication. I even dared to think that
perhaps someone now on the Journal staff actually had gone back and
read the preface I wrote to the Journal’s first issue.1

Along with these comforting thoughts, however, was the sense
that there might not be much I could write about the Journal now that
would be worthwhile for anyone to read. Although I am proud to have
helped the students who conceived and launched the Journal, my
involvement with it thereafter has been limited. My early service as
faculty advisor has been eclipsed by many successors in that role, all
of whom have had far more expertise than I ever did in the areas of
law covered by the Journal. Nonetheless, even from the sidelines, I
am very happy to offer a few comments.

First, I extend my hearty congratulations to all of the people—
students, faculty, administrators, authors, donors, advisory board
members, alumni, and others—who have not only kept the Journal
going for 25 years, but have steadfastly maintained its high standards
of intellectual inquiry and service to the profession.

† Kenneth Manaster is a Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law. His
areas of specialization include environmental protection law, administrative law, and torts.
Professor Manaster received his A.B. from Harvard College and his J.D. from Harvard Law
School. He previously served as an assistant attorney general of Illinois, heading the Chicago
Office of the Attorney General’s Environmental Control Division. He also has taught at the
University of Texas and the University of California’s Hastings College of the Law. He has held
the position of visiting scholar at Harvard Law School and Stanford Law School and studied in
Peru on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Second, I want to call attention to one of the best and most distinctive things about the Journal. If you go back, as I recently did, to dip into the very first issue, you will find one word that keeps popping up: "new." It is obviously not surprising that this word would be used to describe the first issue of a law review. What is striking is that the word and variations on it are repeatedly used with respect to the Journal's subject matter as well: "newly emerging and rapidly changing legal issues," "subtle new legal questions," "new law firms concentrating on these questions," "new areas of private practice," "area of law ... still new and in a very fluid state," and, of course, "new technology." At the outset, the Journal set out to ride the wave of change in the relationship between the law and advancing technology. As the Journal's first Editor-in-Chief recalled some years ago, the Journal's first marketing motto was "Combining the state of the art with the state of the law."

Perusal of recent issues of the Journal will demonstrate that it remains focused on the new: on new technologies and the new legal questions they raise. In light of this continued, forward-looking orientation of the Journal, it is probably just as well to make the look backward over 25 years short and sweet: well done! More fitting, however, is to look forward and to reiterate my original hope "that the Santa Clara Computer and High-Technology Law Journal will have a long and constructive span of years."

4. Id. at 4.
5. Id.
6. Id. at 5.
9. Manaster, supra note 1, at 5.