

MISSISSIPPI LAW JOURNAL SUPRA

FOREWORD

*Arthur J. Park**

Although I just missed the five-year anniversary, I am honored to be given this opportunity to reflect on how the online companion to the *Mississippi Law Journal* came to be, how it has grown, and its role as a vehicle for legal scholarship.

The online companion to the *Mississippi Law Journal* was founded by Editor-in-Chief Steve Woodliff during the 2009-2010 school year. Steve needed someone to run the new program. Most of the journal members preferred to play it safe and became Executive Articles Editors or something of that ilk. But I was naïve enough to agree to Steve's request, probably because he was one of my best friends in law school and I didn't have the heart to tell him no. I was given the title of Electronic Journal Editor and became affectionately known as "the Architect." I was given that nickname because there was no blueprint for what we were trying to do. We could try copying what the other online journals were doing, but most of them were "major" law journals with "major" clout. We would need to work a little harder to create a name for ourselves.

The online journal was originally called *MISSing Sources* and has undergone a number of name changes. The first year of the online journal became part of Volume 79. I was assisted by 3L's Bette Killebrew Bradley, William J. Dukes, and Stephen P. Smith along with countless hours of editing by 2L's Patrick Timony and Jaklyn Wrigley. The online journal would have never gotten off the ground without their hard work.

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Through begging, minor bribery, and dumb luck, we ended up publishing 273 pages that year, basically a fifth volume of content. We featured sixteen articles, from recent decisions to responses to comments to short articles. The authors included students, young practitioners, law professors, and seasoned lawyers. And that's one of the great things about the online journal: different perspectives. While law professors dominate the "regular" law journals with fifty page articles, the online journal gives practitioners an opportunity to write a manageable (but meaningful) short article.

Probably my favorite project that year was "Reply, Why States Should Not Adopt Consumption-Tax-Only Tax Structures" by Herwig Shlunk.¹ Having already published a response by Professor Karen Green,² we were thrilled to have the opportunity to publish a reply from the original author—and a Vanderbilt University Law professor to boot. We even had to come up with a name for a response to a response! A close second was the opportunity to work with Professor Robert Weems, my favorite teacher in law school who also set me down the path of civil tort litigation.

It has been a thrill watching the online companion to the *Mississippi Law Journal* grow and really make a name for itself. So what's next? In my view, the future of legal writing for practitioners really does lie with online journals like *Supra*. It gives everyday lawyers a chance to publish (which never hurts on a bio) and write meaningful analysis on critical issues of the day. And that article can be published in a matter of weeks, instead of months for the hard copies of traditional law journals. I look forward to seeing *Supra* expand its reach as more and more practitioners realize the value it offers.

¹ 79 MISS. L.J. MISSING SOURCES 105 (2010).

² Karen O. Green, Response, *How States Risk Their Own Fiscal Stability*, 79 MISS. L.J. MISSING SOURCES 101 (2010).