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In the few short months since our last edition of *Judicature* was published, nearly 50 of our top law firms have stepped up to provide annual sponsorships for the journal, providing us with the means to greatly expand our distribution of *Judicature* to the nation's judges. The list of firms is appears at the back of this jour-

**FROM THE PUBLISHER**

nal. You will see plaintiffs and defense firms, all of them of exceptional quality and with a commitment to the rule of law and judicial independence. We consider this remarkable support to be a ringing endorsement of the journal's work to support and strengthen the judiciary, create a forum for the exchange of ideas and education, and bring judges, lawyers, and scholars together to consider solutions to the challenges of our day. Ultimately, the rule

of law and judicial independence reside in the hearts and minds of our judicial officers, and their fortitude and attitudes are in turn shaped by the legal culture around them. *Judicature* is our contribution to maintaining a strong judicial culture.

We are grateful to all who have contributed as well as to the judges, lawyers, and scholars who engage with *Judicature* and who share articles and feedback. I am particularly grateful to David W. Ichel, a recently retired Simpson & Thacher partner and the incoming chair of our new editorial board (read more on page 3), who has done so much already to invigorate *Judicature*. (He also contributes an excellent article to this edition; see page 64.)

Judicature is a community effort. As a community, we understand how critically important it is to exchange ideas, to share the best practices of our colleagues in the profession, to engage with the research and knowledge emerging from the academy, and to continually reinforce the traditions and values that have sustained our judiciary and our legal system over many years. These are the ways in which we strengthen our community and ensure that we are well equipped to navigate the many challenges we face now and in the future.

Thank you for your support and engagement. As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions at judicature@law.duke.edu.



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Stay in touch!

thank you.

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