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From the Editor: A New Century

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From the Editor: A New Century*

Janet Sinder**

¶1 Don't worry, it's not Y2K all over again; this is one transition that doesn't threaten to cause your computer or your plane to crash. The exciting news is that this issue of *Law Library Journal* is the first of volume 100, completing a century of publication.¹ To mark the occasion, the *Journal* will be publishing a series of articles celebrating its history. In this issue you'll find an article compiled by Frank Houdek on "*The Essential Law Library Journal*"—in which law librarians write about the LLJ articles that had the biggest influence on them. It's a perfect subject for Frank, who retired as Editor of LLJ at the end of 2007, and who has done so much to celebrate the history of AALL.²

¶2 So this issue also marks another transition—the end of Frank's editorship and the beginning of mine. I certainly could not publish an issue of *Law Library Journal* without thanking Frank for his great work over the past thirteen years. Even a quick perusal of the volumes he edited³ will demonstrate to anyone how he encouraged scholarship about our profession and consistently published articles of interest to a wide variety of readers. Frank has been incredibly generous with his time over the past six months as I learned a little about how to do this job. And from talking to several LLJ authors I know, he has been just as generous with his time as an editor in helping writers improve their articles.

¶3 Interestingly, after the announcement of my appointment as the new *Law Library Journal* editor, I received almost as many commiserations as congratulations. In fact, the general attitude seemed to be, "How great that someone (else) is willing to take on all that work!" While understandable, this reaction still surprised me. After all, what could be better than spending your time putting together the "official" publication of your professional association, and encouraging your colleagues to write and publish thoughtful articles? I also go into the editorship

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1. The first volume of *Law Library Journal* was published in 1908, but a combined volume was published for 1984-85. For an excellent review of the early years of LLJ's history, see Bernita J. Davies, *A History of the Law Library Journal*, 49 *LAW LIBR. J.* 157 (1956).
2. See, e.g., Frank G. Houdek, *AALL's History through the Eyes of Its Presidents*, 98 *LAW LIBR. J.* 299, 2006 *LAW LIBR. J.* 17; sources cited in Frank G. Houdek, *The Essential LLJ*, 100 *LAW LIBR. J.* 137, 2008 *LAW LIBR. J.* 6, n. 54.
3. Frank began his editorship with volume 87 (1995) and ended with volume 99 (2007), the last issue of which is probably landing on your desk as I write this.

clutching tightly to the belief of several past editors that editing LLJ was the professional highlight of their careers.⁴

¶4 As this issue is the first I've edited, and it also begins the centennial volume of *Law Library Journal*, I thought I'd take a look back to Volume 1, the first issue of which is dated January 1908. At the end of that issue is an Editorial, unsigned, but likely written by the Managing Editor, Frederick W. Schenk.⁵ It says in part:

In the journal portion⁶ there will appear in each issue at least one original leading article on a subject of especial interest to law librarians, bibliographies of special legal subjects, and a list of new text books, statutes, and digests published during the quarter. . . .

THE INDEX TO LEGAL PERIODICALS AND LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL has no connection with any existing enterprise. It is the independent publication by the Association, subject to no influence other than an earnest desire to serve its mission faithfully and to advocate, as far as is consistent, a higher standard and usefulness of law libraries.

Inasmuch as this is the official organ of the Association and one in which each of its members is asked to take some part, the editors urgently request that any criticisms or suggestions be submitted to them. Communications and original papers on subjects of interest to librarians and to members of the legal profession are solicited. The editors will endeavor to make the journal worthy of their patronage. . . .⁷

¶5 While issues of the *Journal* are longer these days,⁸ its mission has not changed. As the Editor, I can only hope to continue the *Journal* on its path of publishing articles that will promote “a higher standard and usefulness of law libraries.”

4. See Frank Houdek, *From the Editor: Endnote*, 99 LAW LIBR. J. 937, 2007 LAW LIBR. J. 59, n.14.

5. *Editorial*, 1 LAW LIBR. J. 30 (1908).

6. For its first 28 volumes, *Law Library Journal* was published with the *Index to Legal Periodicals*. See Frank G. Houdek, *Frequently Asked Questions about AALL's First Hundred Years*, 98 LAW LIBR. J. 157, 160, 2006 LAW LIBR. J. 6 ¶ 5.

7. *Editorial*, *supra* note 5, at 31.

8. For example, vol. 1, no. 2 was only seven pages long.