
Editor's Note

This issue is the second of three devoted entirely to articles from our 2018 symposium conference, entitled *Fake News and "Weaponized Defamation": Global Perspectives*, a global participation event sponsored by the Journal in partnership with the *Southwestern Law Review* and *Southwestern International Law Journal*. In 2020, the topics in these articles resound with new urgency, as countries, including the United States, face the scourge of disinformation in their efforts to contain a worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

The first article, "Credibility-Enhancing Regulatory Models to Counter Fake News: Risks of a Non-Harmonized Intermediary Liability Paradigm Shift," by Professor Theresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell, posits a need for uniformity in the reassessment of online liability policies to enlist digital intermediaries and platform operators in the battle to enhance credibility and counter misinformation. "Criminal Defamation: Still 'An Instrument of Destruction' in the Age of Fake News," by Professor Jane E. Kirtley and Casey Carmody, describes how criminal defamation statutes are a cudgel against a free press that hobbles efforts to curb fake news in the U.S. and abroad.

In "Stemming the Tide of Fake News: A Global Case Study of Decisions to Regulate," Professor Amy Kristin Sanders and co-authors Rachael L. Jones and Xiran Liu categorize three approaches to addressing fake news in social media: private-sector scrutiny, government-run scrutiny, and, the authors' main focus, legislation that would punish fake news purveyors with fines and jail time. And, finally, Tommaso Tani offers "Legal Responsibility for False News," a deep dive into the nature of fake news and the legal infirmity of efforts to regulate it beyond existing criminal and tort remedies.

In the summer of 2020, the Journal will publish its last set of fake news and weaponized defamation articles revised from papers delivered at our 2018 conference. For this issue, I want to acknowledge the hard work and can-do spirit of the Journal's student editors, who persevered to complete this volume, and much of the next one, from the socially distant confines of their homes. Special thanks also to Emily A. Rehm, an adjunct professor at Southwestern and a former student supervising editor, and to my long-time Biederman Institute colleague Michael D. Scott.

This volume is dedicated to Professor Robert C. Lind, the fissile material that sparked the chain reaction that became the Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute at Southwestern Law School.

Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are always welcome.

Professor Michael M. Epstein
Supervising Editor