

Foreword

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BURGEONING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE *JOURNAL* AND BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

On August 1, 1979, the American Society of Law & Medicine executed an agreement with Boston University providing for the gradual sharing by the University and its law school faculty and students of the Society's role as publisher of the *American Journal of Law & Medicine*, and giving the University an option to purchase the *Journal* as of June 30, 1981.

With the execution of this agreement by Elliot Sagall and myself, the Society embarked on another of those unique ventures for which the Society is now famous: creation of a new type of law-school-based publication edited jointly by practitioners, academics, and students. If successful, we expect that this arrangement might become a model for specialty-publication developments on other subjects at other major law schools throughout the country.

This agreement represents a further development in the productive relations between the Society and Boston University School of Law and its Dean, Richard Speidel. Under the agreement's terms, the *Journal* will retain its present subject matter and editorial policy, while benefiting from the additional scholarly resources made available by close association with Boston University School of Law.

The agreement specifies guidelines for a two-stage transition period that will extend for five years from the date of execution. During the first phase of this period, through June 30, 1981, the *Journal's* Board of Editors will continue to exercise its current supervisory functions. An Editorial Policy Committee, including myself as Editor-in-Chief and Judith Lesser as Managing Editor, as well as representatives of Boston University School of Law and of the American Society of Law & Medicine, will have day-to-day editorial control over the style and content of the *Journal*. During this first stage, the Society will retain its ownership and responsibility for production as at present.

By the close of the 1979-80 academic year, the involvement of Boston College Law School in the *Journal* will cease. At the same time, Boston University School of Law students will assume full editorial responsibility for student notes, as well as an important role in the evaluation and editing of professional articles. In carrying out these expanded functions, however, the student editors will continue to be subject to the overall supervision of

the Board of Editors, of the Editorial Policy Committee, and of myself as Editor-in-Chief. Consequently, readers will find that the increased participation of Boston University law students in production of the *Journal* will permit us to maintain its present scope, format, and editorial quality, while also permitting us to increase its size.

At the close of the first phase of the transitional period, July 31, 1981, I will retire from my position as Editor-in-Chief, an office I am proud to say I have filled for all six years of the *Journal's* existence; however, I will continue my association with the *Journal* in the capacity of Founding Editor-in-Chief Emeritus. Similarly, the existing Board of Editors and Editorial Policy Committee will remain in their positions after this date. My successor Editor-in-Chief will be chosen by the Editorial Policy Committee from the full-time faculty of Boston University School of Law. As a result, the *Journal* will continue over its lifetime to be a professionally edited medico-legal publication, rather than an entirely student-run law review.

If Boston University exercises its purchase option, it will succeed to full ownership and responsibility for production of the *Journal* as of June 30, 1981. Under the terms of the agreement, the University has committed itself for at least the balance of the five-year transition period to maintain the *Journal's* current name, format, and content, as well as to ensure that faculty members of the School of Law exercise editorial control over professional articles appearing in the *Journal*. Further continuity is assured by the retention of two seats on the Editorial Policy Committee by representatives of the American Society of Law & Medicine. Finally, the agreement binds Boston University for the full five-year transition period to continue publication of the *Journal* essentially in its present form.

In summary, the agreement makes clear the commitment of Boston University to maintain the same subject matter, editorial policy, and professional quality that have characterized the *Journal* in the past. Moreover, the agreement builds on this foundation by securing for the *Journal* the academic resources offered by close association with a major law school, and for the Society's members a means of continuing to receive the benefits of the *Journal* without additional charge, as a benefit of their membership dues. I am confident that the agreement will develop further the value and usefulness of the *Journal* to the medicolegal community, and I believe that *Journal* readers will share in this conclusion.

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Editor-in-Chief