

Correspondence

Licensure of Nurses

Dear Editors:

As a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Law & Medicine, I have always known that our publication, *Law, Medicine & Health Care*, was a front-runner and major contributor to the field of health law. What really brought this home to me was the article by Sarah Cohn entitled, *Revocation of Nurses' Licenses: How Does It Happen?* in the February 1983 issue.

Given the constraint of space in *Law, Medicine & Health Care*, Cohn could only highlight several state statutes and could not raise many issues such as the power of automatic suspension, the variety and increasing number of appealed cases on nursing discipline, and the relationship

of state grounds to those suggested by the American Nurses Association and the National Council of State Board of Examiners of Nurses in their respective model nurse practice acts. In addition, the increasing trend of state nursing boards toward developing specific definitions, thus increasing their power to promulgate rules and regulations, needs to be monitored carefully.

I applaud Cohn and others who write for *NLE Rounds*, and well as those who write for ASLM publications. We need more dialogue on these issues.

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New Directions for *Law, Medicine & Health Care*

Since its earliest inception in 1973, *Law, Medicine & Health Care* has come to play a central role as a forum for scholarly articles and commentaries on the complexities of medicolegal issues. The task of publishing a journal which covers the area has grown more difficult, since health law has grown into a major legal specialty, medical care has become more complex, and the institutions for health care delivery have grown more elaborate.

With this issue, I take over as Editor-in-Chief of *Law, Medicine & Health Care*. As part of my new responsibilities, I am effecting several changes intended to improve the ability of *Law, Medicine & Health Care* to provide first-rate scholarship. The editorial board has been enlarged and divided into two sections—the Board of Editors and the Associate Editors. The Board of Editors is designed to help us select and review articles in areas ranging from medical malpractice to public health. The Board is composed of distinguished leaders in the health care and legal fields—both academics and practitioners. The Associate Editors provide additional support and are more heavily involved in the editorial process.

Law, Medicine & Health Care is

uniquely positioned to reach a diversified readership. We are planning in future issues to have not only scholarly articles with a legal orientation, but also original empirical research which bears on medicolegal matters; debates in which individuals with opposing views lock horns; essays giving personal perspectives on particular problems; and extended book review essays. We are also soliciting articles from a greater variety of disciplines in an effort to broaden our coverage of important issues.

Our goal is to provide our readers with a richer understanding of the many facets of the health care field, while offering insights and proposing reforms for pressing problems. The relationship between the legal system—the courts, governmental agencies, and legislatures—and the medical system—hospitals, practitioners, and insurance companies—is an intricate one. If *Law, Medicine & Health Care* can succeed in clarifying some of this complexity, while informing our readership on contemporary trends, then we will have accomplished a great deal. With the help of our readers, the journal shall continue to grow and improve.

Barry R. Furrow, J.D.
Editor-in-Chief