

## DEAN ALICIA OUELLETTE: SCHOLAR, MENTOR, LEADER

*Rosemary Queenan\**

I am honored to write this dedication to my close friend and colleague, Alicia Ouellette. As the second female and eighteenth dean of Albany Law School, Dean Ouellette joins the ranks of a long list of distinguished Albany Law School alumnae.

In the short time since she was appointed dean, it has been my privilege to watch Dean Ouellette lead the law school through the development and implementation of an exciting strategic plan that now serves as the design for the law school's future. The process was achieved, in large part, because of Dean Ouellette's unique ability to work collaboratively with various law school constituencies toward the united goal of developing a plan with a strong vision for the law school and her deep commitment to the law school's continued long-term success.

As a graduate of Albany Law School, Dean Ouellette has contributed to the law school in every capacity—as an engaged student, an active alumna, a beloved teacher, a renowned scholar, an effective administrator, and now, the school's leader. During law school, Dean Ouellette was elected Editor-in-Chief of the *Albany Law Review*. After graduation, she began her legal career as a confidential law clerk to the Honorable Howard Levine, former Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and one of her long-time mentors. She continued her career as an assistant solicitor general in the New York State Attorney General's Office, where she briefed and argued more than 100 appeals.

Dean Ouellette returned to Albany Law School as a professor in 2001, and was soon recognized as a talented teacher and gifted scholar. She is the recipient of both the Faculty Award for Distinguished Educator for Excellence in Service and the Distinguished Educator for Excellence in Scholarship Faculty Award. In her prior role as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Intellectual Life, Dean Ouellette focused her efforts on

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\* Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Professor of Law, Albany Law School

mentoring and supporting the work of her colleagues, frequently sharing the news of their scholarly achievements. Her support and mentorship extended to the student body, including many members of the *Albany Law Review*, whom she encouraged to take advantage of publishing opportunities.

It is particularly fitting that the *Albany Law Review* has dedicated this issue to Dean Ouellette. As a nationally recognized scholar in the field of bioethics, Dean Ouellette is the author of nearly thirty publications. Much of her work addresses legal issues centered on disability, gender, and body modification issues—issues that intersect with this year's theme of *Miscarriages of Justice*, which focuses on the ways in which social and legal constructions of gender, identity and sexuality are expressed in the legal system, and, most importantly, how those expressions serve, or fail to serve, the interests of justice. Her recent work includes articles such as *Conversion Therapy: Legal Bans and the First Amendment*;<sup>1</sup> *Patients to Peers: Barriers and Opportunities for Doctors with Disabilities*,<sup>2</sup> which was cited by the Iowa Supreme Court in *Palmer College of Chiropractic v. Davenport Civil Rights Commission*;<sup>3</sup> *Body Modification and Adolescent Decision Making: Proceed with Caution*;<sup>4</sup> *Organ Transplantation and Disability Discrimination*;<sup>5</sup> *Hearing the Deaf: Cochlear Implants, the Deaf Community, and Bioethical Analysis*;<sup>6</sup> and *Shaping Parental Authority over Children's Bodies*.<sup>7</sup> She is also the author of *Bioethics and Disability: Toward a Disability-Conscious Bioethics*,<sup>8</sup> which has recently been reproduced in paperback and translated and published in Japanese.

Dean Ouellette is honored to be part of the *Albany Law Review* family and is extremely proud of the *Albany Law Review's* success.

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<sup>1</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Conversion Therapy: Legal Bans and the First Amendment*, LAHEY CLINIC J. MED. ETHICS (forthcoming 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Patients to Peers: Barriers and Opportunities for Doctors with Disabilities*, 13 NEV. L.J. 645 (2013).

<sup>3</sup> *Palmer Coll. of Chiropractic v. Davenport Civil Rights Comm'n*, 850 N.W.2d 326, 345 (Iowa 2014).

<sup>4</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Body Modification and Adolescent Decision Making: Proceed with Caution*, 15 J. HEALTH CARE L. & POL'Y 129 (2012).

<sup>5</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Organ Transplantation and Disability Discrimination*, LAHEY CLINIC J. MED. ETHICS, Spring 2012, at 4.

<sup>6</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Hearing the Deaf: Cochlear Implants, the Deaf Community, and Bioethical Analysis*, 45 VAL. U. L. REV. 1247 (2011).

<sup>7</sup> Alicia Ouellette, *Shaping Parental Authority over Children's Bodies*, 85 IND. L.J. 955 (2010).

<sup>8</sup> ALICIA OUELLETTE, *BIOETHICS AND DISABILITY: TOWARD A DISABILITY-CONSCIOUS BIOETHICS* (2011).

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As stated by Meredith Dedopoulos, the *Albany Law Review's* Executive Editor for *Miscarriages of Justice*, the *Albany Law Review* is honoring Dean Ouellette because she is “such a big supporter of the *Albany Law Review*, and we are so proud that a former Editor-in-Chief has become the leader and face of our school.” Like so many of Dean Ouellette’s students and colleagues, I have benefitted greatly from her encouragement and mentorship. I have been inspired by her leadership and her strong vision for Albany Law School. She is an excellent example of what it means to “give back” to both Albany Law School and the *Albany Law Review*, and I can think of no person more deserving of this honor.