
Editor's Note

This issue is entirely devoted to articles from our 2018 symposium conference, entitled *Fake News and "Weaponized Defamation": Global Perspectives*, which drew scholars and practitioners to a packed lecture hall at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, California. Organized in partnership with the *Southwestern Law Review* and *Southwestern International Law Journal*, the symposium's Call for Papers yielded submitted abstracts from more than 100 scholars and practitioners from every corner of the world. Thirteen of the accepted articles were selected for publication in the Journal, the first four of which are published herein.

The first article, "Fake News and Freedom of the Media," by Dr. Andrei Richter, analyzes recent initiatives to curtail fake news at the United Nations, the World Conference of International Telecommunications Union, the European Union, and before the European Court of Human Rights. Special attention is paid to the policy deliberations that resulted in the 2017 Joint Declaration on fake news announced by the U.N. and other treaty organizations, which Richter helped negotiate in his capacity as the Representative on Freedom of the Media at the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Professor Anthony Fargo's article proposes a federal shield law for the United States that could serve as a model for the American states in need of revisions to their laws and for nations around the globe that lack source protections. The proposed shield law would define journalists as persons engaged in fact-based reporting and opinion writing in any medium for distribution to the public. The proposal would bar federal investigators from fishing through telephone or internet service provider data in search of journalists' and suspected sources' e-mail, social media, and calling patterns. To address national security issues or imminent lawlessness, the government would have to prove to a judge that a discernible or imminent threat existed.

Professor Monroe Price and media lawyer Adam Barry write about the Internews initiative in Ukraine, which brings together international and Ukrainian experts to encourage governmental restraint against speech curbs and to create consensus-based standards and guidelines on free speech and media during conflict. Ultimately, Ukraine's media, civil society and government must find a way forward to balance free speech and national

security concerns in response to an avalanche of false and damaging propaganda from Russian government-controlled channels.

Professor Jelena Surculija Milojevic writes about media legislation in complement with the journalism profession's Code of Ethics in the Republic of Serbia. Milojevic posits that Serbia's national courts misconstrue the terms "defamation" and "public figure" in ways that are inconsistent with the decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights. The paper also examines the non-legal power of the profession-based Press Council to protect one's reputation, and the rise of Serbian social networking as a tool to weaponize defamation by those in power.

In the coming months, the Journal will be publishing nine more fake news and weaponized defamation articles revised from papers delivered at our 2018 conference. For those who cannot wait, you can learn more about what happened at *Fake News and "Weaponized Defamation": Global Perspectives* by going to www.swlaw.edu/globalfakenewsforum.

In Volume 7:2, three paragraphs from an archived article were appended to Jonas Nordin's Introduction "The Swedish Freedom of Print Act of 1776." The Journal regrets the error, and it has been corrected in electronic editions. As always, your comments, suggestions, and feedback of any kind are welcome.

Professor Michael M. Epstein
Supervising Editor