

# HELVIDIUS

The Columbia Undergraduate  
Journal of Law and Public Policy

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# Letter from the Editor

For an undergraduate publication that some people consider to be "pre-law," *Helvidius* has shown little respect for precedent. In virtually every issue since our founding in 1989, we have continuously altered and improved format, style, and content. This term, we are grateful to a new Graphics and Layout Staff, under the direction of Teresa Wu, for creating a professional, standardized format.

Although we are restrained by the budgetary and logistic constraints that hamper any student organization, we have managed to extend *Helvidius's* reach by distributing copies of this issue throughout the Ivy League. Besides increasing readership, *Helvidius* has also broadened its forum to include articles by students at other universities. Alongside guest articles by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and former Senator Gary Hart, you will find articles by students at Princeton, the University of Florida, Barnard, Columbia, and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

We are proud to circulate the journal widely because our writers are worth reading. With thorough analysis and thoughtful commentary, students have written on popular topics such as Ross Perot, NAFTA, and immigration. Other subjects include the Fairness Doctrine to regulate media coverage, federal policy toward Pacific Northwest forests, statehood for Washington DC, and the inconsistencies between Clarence Thomas's nomination testimony and Justice Thomas's record on the Supreme Court. Although many of these issues significantly impact upon our everyday lives, they receive shallow coverage in the media. How much do you really know, for example, about Justice Thomas after the nomination hearings? Read our articles to find out.

I was enthused to hear a prominent member of the Political Science Department at Columbia University remark "yes, I read it, I learn from it" when asked about *Helvidius*. We hope that the desire to learn more about national policy and its leading proponents will continue to draw a diverse group of readers to these pages. For those persons interested in pursuing legal or policy-oriented careers, we have included evaluations of three law schools and two schools of public policy. As with the issue-oriented articles, you are invited to read them carefully and evaluate the schools for yourself. In doing so, you will undoubtedly find that *Helvidius* is not a "pre-law" magazine but rather a journal of law and public policy with articles that appeal to anyone interested in a thorough consideration of the policies, and people, that influence our nation.



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*Helvidius* is named after Helvidius Priscus (AD 70-79), a Roman statesman and Stoic philosopher known for his virtue, independence of mind, and staunch advocacy of republican government. His beliefs brought him into direct conflict with the emperors Nero and Vespasian, both of whom banished him. Helvidius's defense of liberty and freedom of speech, as well as his opposition to dynastic succession, eventually led to his execution. Thus, he is remembered as the first martyr for free speech.