

# Welcome to the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law

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As Dean of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law, I welcome readers to the inaugural issue of the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*. The *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* is a peer-evaluated journal, to be published semi-annually, and this inaugural issue illustrates the broad and dynamic lens that the *Journal* will provide on criminal justice scholarship.

The inter-disciplinary goals of the *Journal*, and its unique format, are explained in the Introduction that follows by Professors Joshua Dressler and Douglas Berman, who are the *Journal's* Managing Editors. Professor Dressler is the author of numerous textbooks and treatises in the field of criminal law and procedure and has served as Editor-in-Chief of the inter-disciplinary Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice. Professor Berman is an important and thoughtful commentator on sentencing law and policy, and he also serves as Managing Editor of the premier sentencing journal, the *Federal Sentencing Reporter*. Professors Dressler and Berman are assisted in producing the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* by a group of capable and dedicated Moritz College of Law students.

The founding of the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* is only the most tangible example of the strength and energy of the criminal law community at the Moritz College of Law. The College is very fortunate to have six other leading criminal law academics—Professors Sharon Davies, Kate Federle, Larry Herman, Alan Michaels, John Quigley and Ric Simmons—all of whom have contributed insights and support that find reflection throughout the pages of the *Journal*. Moreover, it was the impassioned expressions of interest and commitment by Moritz students that served as an initial catalyst for creating a new journal in the field of criminal law.

The publishing of the inaugural issue of the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* is only one of many recent exciting developments at the Moritz College of Law. The College's dynamic and diverse community of students and scholars was recently enhanced by the arrival of six new faculty members in the Fall of 2003, and our physical facilities have been transformed in recent years by the creation of eight state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms and modern renovations of our moot court room and student lounge.

All of these exciting developments, including the creative initiative that finds fruition in the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, have become a reality because of the earlier vision of a Moritz Law alumnus, Michael E. Moritz. Mr. Moritz capped a distinguished career as an attorney by making in 2001 a remarkable and

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institution-transforming gift to the College of Law—the largest gift to Ohio State in the history of the University and perhaps the largest cash gift ever made to a law school. The gift endowed the Strong Chair (now held by Professor Dressler) and three other faculty chairs. It also created a Moritz Scholars program to attract and train a select group of students with outstanding academic and personal histories (some of whom have already played an integral role on the *Journal*). The Moritz gift also created the Gregory H. Williams Dean’s Discretionary Fund for Excellence and Innovation, which has been the main funding source for the start-up and initial dissemination of the *Journal*. Thanks to Mr. Moritz’s foresight and generosity, the College can, in perpetuity, provide resources for innovative new efforts like this journal.

I trust you will find the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* an important and lively scholarly publication, one that lawyers, scholars, and criminal justice professionals will find of great value.