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## Introduction to the Tulane Case Notes

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE TULANE CASE NOTES

Each year in the states along the Gulf Coast, the hurricane season brings the threat of inconvenience, business interruptions, and worse. While those in the South remember clearly the trauma of Hurricanes Camille, in 1969, and Andrew, in 1992, few could have imagined the devastation and death wrought by Katrina in August 2005. Only after years of analysis and discussion will its far-reaching effects on the Gulf Coast—in particular, on Mississippi, Louisiana, and the grand old city of New Orleans—be understood.

The storm devastated the legal community and disrupted the practice of law and the administration of justice to a degree unprecedented in the modern era. Records were destroyed; defendants awaiting trial were stuck in limbo; courts were shut down. Attorneys from around the nation traveled to the region in Katrina's aftermath to offer assistance. The legal system is still recovering and will be for some time.

The storm struck a few days into the new academic year, and the law schools in Katrina's path were disrupted. While Mississippi College School of Law was undamaged and closed for only a week due to the massive, region-wide electrical power outage, law schools in New Orleans suffered far more and were closed for the rest of the semester. The students of Tulane University Law School and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law were forced to evacuate. In response to the realization that these law schools would be unable to resume classes for several months, law schools throughout the nation opened their doors to the displaced. Mississippi College School of Law contributed to this effort by inviting students from affected schools to enroll tuition-free and by assisting in the clean up and recovery effort.

The editors of the *Mississippi College Law Review* realized that the Tulane and Loyola law journals would not be able to publish for a while and that the student work that was slated for publication in those journals might not get published at all. We decided to offer a forum for those pieces, and so in this issue we include the following two case notes. We are honored to be able to present the work of these outstanding student authors in the *Review*.<sup>1</sup>

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1. This marks what the editors hope and expect will be a one-time departure from the *Law Review's* policy of not publishing work by students currently enrolled at other law schools.

