

## Note from the Advisory Board

In August 2020, I received an intriguing proposition from a Master student I had met in the 2019 *Nordic Conference on Legal Informatics* in Rovaniemi, Finland. The proposition was to launch a journal where law students from across Nordic countries could, much in the style of law reviews from across the Atlantic Ocean, present their legal research findings in a professional manner for a broader audience. The effort would be supported by staff at the University of Lapland, if so willing, and said student would take care of the rest: the technical hurdles and much of the editing, too.

The proposition sounded intriguing since it raised many doubts. Our law faculty in Lapland had seen its fair share of attempts at own journals, which always seemed to involve too much work for too little award. Would students actually want to publish their original research? Who would have time to review the manuscripts? Who would have time to read the journal?

The student in question was, of course, the now Editor-in-Chief of this journal, and his proposition was much more realistic than we initially thought. With much pleasure I can now say that we have provided an answer in the affirmative to the first two questions. In an encouraging and engaging environment, students are indeed interested in publishing. Furthermore, peer review need not be the bogeyman it is often played out to be.

However, with regard to the third question, we are still in the realm of the unknown. Will the *Nordic Journal of Legal Studies* have the capacity to engage with a broader audience? To what extent can students who publish therein gain visibility and even influence legal debates? As of now, we have no idea. The odds are always against ventures like this, and psychology even has a name for the phenomenon of people tending

to ignore base rates (“new journals typically fail”) in favour of case-specific information (“*Nordic Journal of Legal Studies* is special”). The phenomenon is called base rate fallacy, and it equally applies to academic and non-academic matters.

By having picked up this issue, You will have played a vital part in improving the Journal’s chances of gaining traction. By sharing it among colleagues – even if only to show what kind of lunatics occupy the Lapland law faculty nowadays – You will have played an even greater part in that process. For this, we are sincerely grateful.

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