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Message from the Editor

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Message from the Editor

We are in the midst of change – America’s historic election of the first African-American President, California’s gravest and most prolonged budget crisis, and the federal government’s first multi-billion dollar bailout. The study of the United States’ political landscape and dynamic public policy has never been so complicated yet so exciting.

This year’s edition highlights great work from some of the School of Public Policy’s (SPP) most prominent students. A scholarly article penned by Hans Zeiger debates the arguments in favor and against the Army’s chaplaincy program. Joint MBA and Public Policy student Rich Danker suggests lessons to be learned from Greenspan’s acclaimed yet turbulent legacy as Fed Chairman. Arun Pal meshes personal experiences with rigorous research to explore microcredit as a viable method of improving conditions in Bangladesh. SPP first years Shannon Anderson and Morgan Beach also write very compelling articles – an economic analysis of the US support of the sugar industry and a presentation of cultural issues in modern-day Turkey, respectively. Finally, SPP alum and former speechwriter for President George W. Bush Troy Senik writes about how the Republican Party can survive recent setbacks and come out ahead.

The second edition of the *Pepperdine Policy Review* has been a challenging and rewarding endeavor which aims to further its legacy at the School of Public Policy. The *Review* remains a publication relying upon and led by Pepperdine’s public policy students, and while we’ve maintained the individual feel that makes our journal unique, we’ve also made significant improvements to increase its rigor and standing among public policy schools.

With the help of former Editor-in-Chief Matthew Piccolo, the *Review* drafted and finalized a Charter of Bylaws that preserves the mission and purpose of the journal, establishes a structure for administrative support and ensures that the journal will endure long into the future. In addition, we have registered the journal with the Library of Congress to attain a unique ISSN designation, allowing for convenient and reliable referencing of future publications.

This year’s Editorial Board did a fantastic job reviewing, preparing and perfecting each and every article for publication – this edition could not have been accomplished without them. I would also like to express my thanks to Matt Piccolo, for his efforts in enhancing the *Pepperdine Policy Review*, and for remaining a friend of the journal long after his obligations as head of the journal’s inaugural issue had concluded. I would also like to

give special mention to the effort and zeal of editor Lindsay Young, who pushed the mission of the journal even further with her creative mind. Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to incoming Editor-in-Chief Nicole Hutchinson, who I am confident will lead the journal to new heights at the School of Public Policy.

Please enjoy the second edition of the *Pepperdine Policy Review* with my thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolas Valbuena", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicolas Valbuena

Editor-in-Chief