

Preface and Issue Overview

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Underneath the *Golden Boy* is the dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal* that focuses on legislation, public policy, and democratic and parliamentary reform. This issue is released on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first issue of this ongoing series.

“Personnel is policy,” the saying goes. The idea is that the actual priorities of an institution may depend as much or more on who is making and implementing than on the officially stated goals and priorities. Much of this latest annual installment of *Underneath the Golden Boy* deals with a variety of “personnel” issues.

Anna Evans-Boudreau and Kevin Walby survey staff who implement access to information legislation in their article, “Canadian Freedom of Information Personnel: Views and Lessons Learned.” They draw on this information to propose improvements in the resourcing and clarity of policies in this area of the law. At the front end, they advocate for more proactive government disclosure. At the back end, they suggest increased efforts to screen out applications for disclosure where the legitimate interest is outweighed by the diversion of resources from other applications.

Andrew Flavelle Martin makes two separate but related contributions to this issue. In the first of these, “Lawyers and Public Service: Duty, Faith, and the ‘Good Republican’ in *The West Wing*”, he uses the fictional White House of *The West Wing*, the drama created by Aaron Sorkin, and airing on the NBC television network from 1999 to 2006, as the basis to demonstrate that ethical lawyering in the public sector does not necessarily demand a particular ideological bent.

In his second contribution in the volume, “Legal Ethics for Government Lawyers: Lessons from Nunavut,” Andrew Flavelle Martin explores the tensions between the duties of government lawyers as members of a regulated profession and their obligations to serve their government. This is a client with a unique role in a democratic society, tasked with establishing priorities in both policy and material resources among competing societal values and interests.

Illia Roskoshnyi, in “Legal-Technological Unemployment in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” examines how the delivery of legal services by artificial-intelligence engines should be regulated. He invites readers — including lawyers and regulators of the profession — to consider, in an open-minded and pragmatic manner, the actual and potential capacities of machine intelligence in relation to real-world needs and the relative ability of human agents to provide these services, either independently of, or in collaboration with machine intelligence.

We conclude the issue with a second contribution from Anna Evans-Boudreau. This article, titled “Aligning Manitoba's Sustainable Development Legislation with the 2030 Agenda,” is the exception to the general theme of the volume. Instead of focusing on the “who” of decision-making, this article is concerned with the content of policy and administration. Specifically, the author urges Manitoba policymakers to adjust policies within provincial authority to better align with international recommendations in terms of sustainable development