

# Bellarmino Law Society Review

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## **Editor's Note: Volume XIII No. II of the *Bellarmino Law Society Review***

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In the second issue of the Bellarmine Law Society Review's (BLSR) thirteenth volume, a diverse group of scholars, including four undergraduates and a standout high-school senior, delve into compelling legal topics. The exploration encompasses a broad spectrum, ranging from Supreme Court rationale and psychiatry to the intricacies of LGBT+ rights and rap music—all viewed through the discerning lens of legal analysis. First, high-school senior Alex Chen navigates the uncertainties surrounding *stare decisis* interpretation with a thematic approach that unveils the foundational aspects of the Court's opinions and anticipates their future applications. Second, Joshua Darrish's analysis highlights cases like *McCreary County v. ACLU* and *Van Orden v. Perry* to accentuate the widening gap between separationist and accommodationist interpretations of the Bill of Rights. In doing so, Darrish argues that maintaining the Establishment Clause's vague nature will safeguard the secularity of the judicial system. Third, Simon Hoefling explores the insanity defense through a cognitive lens rather than one of volition. His argument posits that this approach establishes a higher standard for comprehending criminal culpability. Fourth, Brendan Mahoney dissects the implications of RICO charges, examining their impact on the admission of rap lyrics in the judicial system. Notably, Mahoney invokes topical cases such as *State of Georgia v. Kahlieff Adams et al.* to argue that restricting charges threatens a rapper's civil liberties. Finally, Darya Treanor examines the historical interpretations of the Second Amendment under *D.C. v. Heller* to advocate for a broader perspective that not only incorporates but also expands the liberties of LGBTQ+ Americans.

The release of this edition marks the inaugural venture of the BLSR under the guidance of Managing Editor Tommy Dee and myself. Since the fall, Tommy and I have taken strides to expand the Editorial Board by welcoming new associate editors, whose dedication has made the entire editorial process both effortless and gratifying. As a Board, we were genuinely impressed by the abundance and caliber of submissions this year and fervently anticipate that you, our esteemed readers, will discover them as engaging as we did.