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INTRODUCTION

*Robert F. Williams**

This year we reach the milestone of our Twentieth Annual Issue On State Constitutional Law. We have all learned a lot during these twenty years, and believe that we have made an important contribution to the understanding of state constitutional law.

This year's Foreword, by Robert A. Schapiro,¹ advances the literature of federalism, in the context of state constitutional law. Professor Schapiro has also just published a new, extremely thoughtful book on federalism more generally, but also touching in significant ways on state constitutional law.²

This year, we also feature an article by the author of last year's Foreword, John Dinan. His piece makes a substantial advancement in the study of comparative subnational constitutional law.³ He examines,

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1. Robert A. Schapiro, *Forward: In the Twilight of the Nation-State: Subnational Constitutions in the New World Order*, 39 RUTGERS L.J. 801 (2008).

2. ROBERT A. SCHAPIRO, POLYPHONIC FEDERALISM: TOWARD THE PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (2009).

3. John Dinan, *Patterns of Subnational Constitutionalism in Federal Countries*, 39 RUTGERS L.J. 837 (2008).

comparatively, a number of issues in subnational constitutional law across a number of federal countries. This piece, and its methodology, will make a major impact on this new specialty within the area of comparative constitutional law.

Complementing, to some extent, Dr. Dinan, the article by Elizabeth Pascal⁴ brings to bear on welfare rights arguments under American state constitutions an important comparative perspective from several other federal countries.

This year an important new book, in addition to that by Professor Schapiro, has been published. Professor Jeffrey Shaman has published a very thorough book on state constitutional equality and liberty guarantees.⁵ Professor Shaman thoroughly analyzes state constitutional equality and liberty arguments and the state case law.

This Issue also includes, as every year, a number of excellent student Comments on the most important state constitutional cases decided in the past year. These Comments reflect a wide range of issues that arise in state constitutional law, together with the variety of interpretation techniques utilized by state courts. Less detailed coverage of other cases is included online.⁶

We look forward to continued contributions in this important area of law in the coming years.

4. Elizabeth Pascal, *Welfare Rights in State Constitutions*, 39 RUTGERS L.J. 863 (2008).

5. JEFFREY M. SHAMAN, *EQUALITY AND LIBERTY IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW* (2008).

6. These "State Constitutional Law Case Summaries" can be accessed directly on the *Rutgers Law Journal* website. See RUTGERS LAW JOURNAL, *Journal Summaries*, <http://camlaw.rutgers.edu/summaries/> (last visited May 4, 2009).