

## Introduction

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As we navigate our daily lives as global citizens, we constantly grapple with issues that affect us as individuals and as members of larger communities – families, places of employment, scholarly societies, social groups, geographical regions, nations, etc. Legal systems across the globe endeavor to address complex societal issues that balance the rights of individuals and the goals of broader communities. The five articles in this issue of the *Trento Student Law Review* encapsulate this theme: harmonizing individual rights with community dynamics.

The article "*Taming*" *Legal Privileges: An Analysis of the U.S. and Italian Law* takes a comparative approach, analyzing the differences in how civil and common law jurisdictions – the United States and Italy, in particular – treat and regulate the shield of attorney-client privilege. This article highlights the role of confidentiality protections in providing an individual client the ability to speak freely with counsel, but situates the attorney-client relationship within the broader context of corporate dealings and cross-border alliances.

The reality of the collision of individual and community politics and a free press comes to life in the article *Defamation Actions as Weapons Against Political Speech in Europe*. The author examines the intersection of defamation law and freedom of speech in the context of political dialogue across America and Europe. At issue are the rights of individuals (even those in the public eye) to be protected from slander or libel, the rights of authors, journalists, and publishers to exercise

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freedom of speech, and the societal benefits of public discourse about pivotal and complex political issues.

Multi-national agreements are the focus of the article entitled *The Problem of Reservations to Human Rights Treaties: A New Challenge to the Traditional Concept of International Law*, specifically with regard to individual states' reservations attached to human rights treaties. The author highlights how the goal of human rights treaties to protect individuals can be undermined by sovereign states' strict adherence to foreign policy platforms when negotiating and entering into agreements with other nations.

The article *The History and Practice of Substantive Due Process: A Question of Legitimacy* provides background on a perceived paradigmatic shift in an "economic-and-property-rights-based approach" to the concept of substantive due process to "one that is dedicated to safeguarding individual liberties". Through the lens of civil rights cases, this article explores different approaches to building consensus in judicial decision-making.

Finally, in the article *WESE©: A Teaching and Learning Experience on Sustainability*, the author recounts an innovative, experiential, educational adventure in which one professor and twelve students walked the Via degli Dei (Way of the Gods), a historical route between Bologna and Florence, while learning about "sustainability". In doing so, the author explores how effective environmental sustainability necessitates a balance among personal choices, group dynamics, and institutional priorities.

This medley of articles furthers the mission of the *Trento Student Law Review* to foster the exchange of knowledge among law students, professors, and practitioners on a global level. As individuals, members of diverse communities, and global citizens, we can foster collaborative and inclusive dialogue about the foregoing complex legal challenges.