

RICHMOND JOURNAL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 1, FALL 2008

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Journal of Law & Technology

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October 30, 2008

Richmond Journal of Law & Technology
University of Richmond School of Law
28 Westhampton Way
University of Richmond, Virginia 23173

Dear Readers,

The *Richmond Journal of Law and Technology* is proud to present its first issue of the 2008–2009 academic school year. Our authors assess a variety of controversial legal topics that embrace the intersection of technology and law.

Two of the articles discuss subject matter patentability and its dramatic impact on research and development. Gregory C. Ellis assesses the value of gene patents and their impact on innovation. His article, “Emerging Biotechnologies Demand Defeat of Proposed Legislation That Attempts to Ban Gene Patents,” considers gene patents’ dramatic effect on the economics of research and development.

Emir Aly Crowne Mohammed evaluates different approaches that exist for determining what is patentable and how to define an “invention.” He weaves in policy arguments with an analysis of current laws and requirements that impact patent applications and innovation around the world in his article, “What Is an Invention? A Review of the Literature on Patentable Subject Matter.”

Finally, author Megan B. Caramore takes an up-close look at the unique challenges of creating images, property, and other content, in an online world that has real-world implications for property rights. Her article, “Help! My Intellectual Property Is Trapped: Second Life, Conflicting Ownership Claims and the Problem of Access,” addresses the methods that limit users’ intellectual property rights and access to content that they create in Second Life, a virtual world website.

The *Journal* is especially grateful for the continuing support and assistance of the faculty and staff at the University of Richmond, most

especially the guidance we receive on a regular basis from our advisors, Professors Melanie Holloway and Jim Gibson.

We hope you enjoy Issue One. On behalf of the entire 2008-2009 *Richmond Journal of Law and Technology* staff, I extend our deepest gratitude and sincerest thanks for your readership and support. Thank you for visiting the *Journal's* website, and as always, comments and suggestions are welcome from our readers at jolt@richmond.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bridget Murray
Editor-in-Chief

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