Letter from the Editors

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Dear Reader:

On behalf of the Editorial Board and staff, we proudly present Volume 11, Issue 2 of the *Health Law & Policy Brief* (HLPB). HLPB is an online publication run by law students at American University Washington College of Law (WCL). Since its formation in 2007, HLPB has published articles on a wide array of cutting-edge topics in the areas of health law, disability law, and food and drug law. Such topics include international and domestic issues of health care compliance, fraud and abuse enforcement, health insurance payment and reimbursement issues, intellectual property issues, international human rights issues, FDA initiatives and policies, and a host of other matters. HLPB also maintains a blog on current health law issues which can be found on our website at www.healthlawpolicy.org. Furthermore, each year, HLPB organizes an original symposium on an emerging health law topic. At this year’s symposium in November 2016, distinguished speakers and moderators discussed the ethical concerns of defendants with mental disabilities receiving the death penalty.

This issue features a thought-provoking article by Neiloy Sircar. Sircar argues that mental health sufferers are discriminated against as a result of structural impediments to accessing care. Sircar analyzes the requirement that mental health services be “medically necessary” and the labyrinthine frameworks for determining medical necessity. Finally, Sircar urges state and federal agencies to take action and protect mental health sufferers.

We would like to thank HLPB’s articles editors and staff members who worked diligently on this issue, the blog, and our programming throughout the year. They are greatly appreciated and should be proud of their work.

For questions or information about the *Health Law & Policy Brief*, or for questions on how to subscribe to our electronic publication, please visit our website at www.healthlawpolicy.org.

Sincerely,

Payal and Mamie

Payal Mehta   Mamie Aoughsten
*Editor-in-Chief*   *Executive Editor*