

# Law & Social Inquiry

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# Law & Social Inquiry

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*Legal Institutions, and Legal Processes*

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The editors of *Law & Social Inquiry* are pleased to announce a competition for the best journal-length paper in the field of socio-legal studies written by a graduate student. The winning paper will be published in *Law & Social Inquiry*, and the author will receive a cash prize of \$500. Submissions will be judged by the editorial board, and the winning submission will be internally reviewed for publication. The author must be a graduate student or law student at the time of submission. Entries should be received by March 1, 2002. The winner will be selected by May 1 and the prize will be awarded at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association.

*Law & Social Inquiry* publishes both empirical and theoretical studies of sociolegal processes from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Please send your best work to:

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The American Bar Foundation (ABF) is an independent research institute committed to sociolegal research. Consistent with its mandate to create and disseminate knowledge about law, the legal profession, and legal institutions, *Law and Social Inquiry: Journal of the American Bar Foundation* invites the submission of articles that make original contributions to understanding sociolegal processes. *Law and Social Inquiry* publishes both empirical and theoretical studies from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The analyses, conclusions, and opinions are those of the authors alone.

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## The 2001 LSI Graduate Student Paper Prize

*Law & Social Inquiry* is pleased to name Elizabeth A. Hoffman as the winner of the 2001 Graduate Student Essay Competition for her article, "Confrontations and Compromise: Dispute Resolution at a Worker Cooperative Coal Mine." Hoffman, a graduate student in the Sociology Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, demonstrates both creativity and resourcefulness in identifying and capitalizing upon a remarkably unique event: the transformation of a Welsh coal mine from a government-owned, highly bureaucratized organization to a worker-owned, private cooperative. Through interviews with workers and managers at the cooperative, Hoffman investigates perceptions of how disputes have been handled since the transformation, as well people's recollections of and comparisons with disputing during the government-owned era. The author finds ample evidence of more positive perceptions of the workplace culture generally and dispute resolution in particular. She argues that all stages of the so-called "disputing pyramid"—naming, blaming, and claiming—have been affected by the change in organizational structure. Among other things, the author links the changes in culture to Tyler and Lind's recent distinction between behavioral responses to situations that reflect a "group mode" versus those reflecting an "individual mode." Her work suggests that by heightening procedural justice, the cooperative allows workers to operate in the group mode, and the author describes both direct and indirect effects of the radical transformation in organizational culture. *LSI* editors were impressed with Hoffman's thoughtful consideration of potential rival explanations and view the work as an intriguing contribution to organizational sociology and procedural justice literatures.

—The Editors

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