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Call For Papers: *Preserving Democracy: How the U.S. Can Protect Democracy Amidst Constitutional Challenges*

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The Nevada Law Journal invites submissions for its upcoming symposium issue, *Preserving Democracy: How the U.S. Can Protect Democracy Amidst Constitutional Challenges*. This symposium will explore the threats to our democracy, consider the constitutional and statutory reforms necessary to restore and protect democratic governance, and the implications of these solutions for our society, nation, and world. We are seeking papers from scholars regarding this topic for publication with the opportunity for an in-person or virtual symposium event.

We invite interested parties to submit abstracts of at least **375 words**; we welcome longer summaries and draft papers. The abstracts should be proposals for articles of **less than 30,000** words. Submissions should be sent to Alisson Rodriguez, Symposium Editor, at rodri245@unlv.nevada.edu with the subject line “NLJ Call for Papers.” Abstracts are due **May 16, 2025**.

Selected authors will be notified by **May 30, 2025**. Complete drafts will be due **August 15, 2025**. Accepted submissions will be published in Issue 3, 26 Nev L.J. (forthcoming May 2026). The Nevada Law Journal will review all proposals and make selections based on quality and relevance. We encourage submissions from both established and emerging scholars, as well as practitioners. Below, we outline key themes for submissions, highlighting contemporary threats to democratic governance.

Preserving democracy in the United States is a complex, ongoing challenge, that requires maintaining an equilibrium between too much and too little democracy. The problem of too little democracy has become especially troubling, with the new administration acting to expand presidential power and ignore congressional authority, to reduce accountability for the executive branch, and to suppress critical press. The ever-increasing power of extremely wealthy Americans has also threatened democratic rule, through the role of money in elections and legislative policymaking and now the outsized role that Elon Musk is playing in shaping national policy.

On the other hand, concerns have long existed about too much democracy. As James Madison warned in Federalist No. 10, “When a majority is included in a faction, the form of popular government . . . enables it to sacrifice to its ruling passion or interest both the public good and the rights of other citizens.” Hence, the Framers included a number of provisions to insulate the governance from simple majority control, including the Bill of Rights, the Electoral College, and a Senate whose members serve six-year terms and who would be chosen by state legislatures (until the 17th Amendment). More recently, concerns about too much democracy have been raised about the shift in the presidential nomination process from party insiders at national conventions to party members in primary elections. And the ability of anyone to speak on digital platforms has been blamed for a weakening of the press, giving us fake news instead of shared facts, shouting matches instead of democratic deliberation.

Ultimately, preserving democracy in the United States requires finding ways to ensure both broad participation and fair representation, while curbing the excesses that threaten our democratic values. As the United States navigates these challenges, it is essential to evaluate whether the intended benefits of democracy are undermined by under or over-extending democracy.

The Nevada Law Journal issue seeks to explore issues threatening our democracy, proposals on how to best address imbalances in democratic governance, and what implications we may have moving forward. Submissions should address these, and other specific issues addressing some aspect of the constitutional challenges relating to our democracy, **broadly defined**. We are soliciting work on any aspect of democratic values in the United States, the current laws and regulations surrounding it, recommendations for law making bodies, and other issues to consider when assessing the intersection between constitutional law and democracy. Potential paper topics include but are not limited to the following: Constitutional challenges and statutory reforms; executive overreach and separation of powers; voter suppression and electoral integrity; political polarization; balancing national security and civil liberties; effects of democracy on various demographic groups; proposals addressing these issues, such as legislative reforms for democratic renewal, and implications of potential solutions moving forward.

For more information, please contact Dr. David Orentlicher at david.orentlicher@unlv.edu, Alisson Rodriguez at rodri245@unlv.nevada.edu, or Hailey Hamilton at hamilh2@unlv.nevada.edu. We look forward to your innovative contributions on how legal reform can address current democratic challenges and safeguard constitutional rights.

With gratitude,

Judge Jack and Lulu Lehman Professor of Law, David Orentlicher
Nevada Law Journal Symposium Editor, Alisson Rodriguez
Nevada Law Journal Editor-in-Chief, Hailey Hamilton