Issues at the interface of psychiatry and the law are often complex and controversial, and the competing and conflicting values of the law and psychiatry may lead to dispute even about the application of generally accepted findings or truths. With this issue, the Bulletin begins a new section which will offer our readers controversial issues presented from differing points of view. In general, the format of “Discourse and Dispute” will consist of two papers presenting opposing views on a particular topic. In keeping with the high quality and standards of the Bulletin, all manuscripts submitted for consideration for “Discourse and Dispute” will undergo the usual editorial review process.

Manuscripts to be considered and suggested topics should be sent to: Mark J. Mills, JD, MD, Chief, Psychiatry Service, VAMC West Los Angeles (B-116-A), 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90073.