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Peter Shane: Looking Back and Looking Forward

JAMES J. BRUDNEY*

The *Ohio State Law Journal* fittingly honors Peter Shane's distinguished career. I have known Peter since my first year of law school. As a 3L, he was a mentor to me on multiple levels, as he has been to students and fellow academics through the years. Many of us can relate to conversations with Peter in which light bulbs went on, ideas were sparked, and perspectives were illuminated through his urbane yet cutting sense of humor. I belong to a veritable legion of colleagues who benefited from Peter's wicked smarts and worldly insights.

In a career spanning decades, Peter Shane has established himself as a Polymath of Public Law. Professors Bruff, Kitrosser, and Mashaw justly celebrate his contributions on separation of powers tensions and on rule of law values.¹ But Peter's wisdom and teaching extend much further: into telecommunications law, the internet and cybersecurity, the First Amendment, voting rights, war powers, and presidential pardons, to cite a few examples. His scholarly work has been complemented and enriched by his government service. Peter's nuanced understanding of the executive branch reflects periodic engagements on the inside—for the Justice Department, the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Administrative Conference.

At four universities,² Peter has taught thousands of students and produced scholarship of significance, while serving as a highly valued administrator and service contributor and a robust public intellectual. In this context, Martha Chamallas has been Peter's fellow distinguished scholar and steadfast partner throughout the journey.

Apart from his prodigious output and service, measured in books, law review articles, op-eds, blog posts, legislative testimony, and executive branch tenure, Peter has additional if lesser known talents—as an author of nimble song lyrics in divergent musical genres, a sometimes gourmet chef, and an inveterate dog-lover. Through all of his accomplishments, Peter is unfailingly modest, and indeed humble. His career illustrates how one can be a polymath in the public arena and a mensch in everyday life.

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¹ See generally Harold H. Bruff, *Toward a Workable Government*, 83 OHIO ST. L.J. 185 (2022); Heidi Kitrosser, *On Peter Shane's Engaged Excellence*, 83 OHIO ST. L.J. 199 (2022); Jerry L. Mashaw, *Peter Shane and the Rule of Law*, 83 OHIO ST. L.J. 207 (2022).

² Peter has been a star at Moritz from 2003 to the present. He previously played leading roles at the Carnegie Mellon University Heinz School of Public Policy and Management (2001–2007), the University of Pittsburgh School of Law (1994–2001), and the University of Iowa College of Law (1981–1994).

Although the occasion for this festschrift is Peter's retirement from academia, I don't foresee him taking a seat on the sidelines. His latest book,³ critically examining recent iterations of our constitutional presidency, will shortly be published. He continues to contribute essays, op-eds, and social media posts on developments and disagreements in the executive branch. We should expect to hear more from Peter Shane on the pressing issues of American democracy. That is something we can all look forward to for years to come.

³PETER M. SHANE, *DEMOCRACY'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE: INTERPRETING THE CONSTITUTION AND DEFINING THE FUTURE OF THE PRESIDENCY* (forthcoming May 2022).