

EDITORS' NOTE

By Tanya Qadir and Krystyn Schmerbeck

This issue of *Policy Perspectives* addresses the ways in which the field of public administration has been effected by decision-making that arises from crisis, competition, conflict and compromise.

Admiral Thad Allen, who earned an MPA from The George Washington University and was recently named Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, considers Hurricane Katrina from a new angle: its effect on public administration. While endless commentators assessed the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the real estate, economy, and future of the Gulf Coast, Admiral Allen, the chief federal official “on the ground” to oversee the clean-up, describes the storm’s effect on emergency preparedness and federal policymaking.

Four current students evaluate the tensions inherent in three compelling issues of public policy. Using economic and health policy research, **Kara Danielle Majkut Ryan** examines the accelerating adoption of workplace smoking bans and discusses the implications of this trend for the uniform protection of *all* U.S. workers from exposure to second-hand smoke. **Jordan Head** and **Seth Gabriel** describe the Private Finance Initiative, an innovative procurement tool developed in the United Kingdom, and hypothesize about its adaptability for the provision of public services in the United States. **Charlotte Kirschner** uses cost-benefit analysis to provide a framework for understanding the complex nature of the decisions made by local officials in response to the risks posed by terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

All the authors are to be commended for the enthusiasm and perseverance they displayed throughout the editing process. These authors dedicated countless hours to converting papers into polished, publishable articles for the general policy audience. While the creativity and intellect of the

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Co-Editors

