

Our Humble Beginnings

Legal Management Through the Years

In 2006, we are celebrating the 25th year of publication of *Legal Management*, the official journal of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA). Since 1982, the journal — one of the principal benefits of ALA membership — has undergone several “facelifts” and other changes.

The journal began in 1982 as *Legal Administrator*, with the debut issue promising revelatory insights from the stars about “The Future of Legal Administration.” The publication assumed its current moniker, *Legal Management*, in 1989.

Over time, a few trends — some to be expected, others not-so-much — have become evident. The journal has always focused heavily on technology, from the “Exploding World of Technology” in the early 1980s (Computers! ScanTron cards!) to a celebration of Bill Gates’ brilliance in the mid-1990s. And, of course, money has always been a hot topic, with big dollar signs in evidence on many covers over the years. The journal, however, has also demonstrated strange fascinations with watercraft (from sailboats to rowboats to brave souls riding the rapids) and games and toys (from word-find puzzles and PacMan-style knock-offs to Tinkertoys and dominoes).

Ultimately, however, our favorite “historic” cover has to be the one with the legal administrator perched uncomfortably on the moon with an unnamed — and, frankly, creepy-looking — astronaut. In fall 1986, we proclaimed, “Yesterday’s ‘Tomorrow’ Has Arrived.” We’re not sure what that means, but we’re scared! ❁

