FREEZE A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW: CRYONAUTS AND THE LAW

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New scientific discoveries seem to hold the promise of rebirth through cryopreservation. In Section II, this Article addresses the issue of the cryonaut’s identity, and discusses whether cryonauts are the same person that they were prior to cryopreservation. This Section argues that such cognitive losses may equate to a new identity altogether. Section II discusses the cryonauts’ potential criminal liability. This Section places the cryonaut within a liability spectrum. Section III explores some of the property issues facing cryogenics, such as ownership of corpses; means for maintaining the wealth of cryonauts during preservation; and whether the cryonaut may regain control of prior property. Section IV examines how cryonauts’ introduction into society will impact social programs, particularly the Social Security program. This Section surveys the current landscape of trust law and explores the new form of trust that cryonauts are taking advantage of known as “personal revival trusts.” Section IV posits a solution to lessen the impact of the demographic shift that cryonauts
will cause by proposing legislation that will set a maximum age at which a cryonaut may be reanimated in order to qualify to participate in the Social Security program during his or her post-reanimation lifetime. This Section also explores two legal challenges such a law might face—age discrimination and impeding free exercise of their religion.