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The Dean's Foreword

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The Dean's Foreword

Volume 1975, Issue 1. The publication of the first issue of the *Brigham Young University Law Review* ranks as a major milestone in the Law School's short history since the formal opening of the instructional program in August 1973.

From the early planning stages, it was anticipated that there would be a student-edited scholarly journal and that opportunity for participation would be available to students at the beginning of their second year. While we felt that our student editors should have the benefit of law review experience during the full period of their second and third years, there was never any faculty-imposed deadline or even suggested guideline date for first publication. Indeed, the only publication guideline was a preference for quality over speed. The quality of this first issue, especially in light of the fact that publication occurs prior to the end of the school year in which formal law review work began, is a credit to the dedication and competence of the original managing board (consisting of three faculty members), the practicing attorneys with law review backgrounds who served as senior editors, and the students.

The *Brigham Young University Law Review* is traditional in that its underlying policies have proceeded from the premise that the primary objective served by a scholarly legal journal is the development of the lawyer's most important skills, legal analysis and writing. Yet this journal breaks from tradition (and, we hope, will make concomitant contributions to legal scholarship) in several respects. First, it is an integral part of a broader cocurricular program at the Law School, designed to provide unusual opportunity for the development of legal skills during the law school years to a larger number of students, approximately one-half of the members of each class. Second, its format will be distinctive. The journal will consist of three issues per year: a symposium issue devoted to constitutional law subjects, a symposium issue on a topic to be selected annually by each editorial board, and an issue with unrestricted subject matter. Thus, while the primary objective of the *Brigham Young University Law Review* is educational, it is our hope that this format, in addition to providing greater student incentive and interest (with accompanying learning benefits), will also prove more interesting and informative to the profession.

This issue is the nonsymposium number for the year 1975. The lead articles, two by outstanding legal scholars, one by a presidential candidate who has also distinguished himself in the world of legal scholarship, another by a member of the practicing bar, and a fifth by a scholar in a related but nonlegal discipline, reflect both the quality and the breadth that we anticipate for this journal.

For the current year, a symposium issue will be published in the sum-

mer. It will present some of the empirical and other research, principally interdisciplinary, that this and other law schools are conducting on the use of videotape in the litigation process. The research results to be presented respond in particular to the question of how the presentation of evidence through videotape and other media influences juror perceptions and trial results.

The symposium issue on constitutional law, to be published in December, will feature four papers presented at a special colloquium to be held November 7 at the Law School. The topic is substantive due process, and the distinguished participating authors are Professors Edward L. Barrett, Jr., University of California Law School at Davis; Robert G. Dixon, Jr., George Washington University National Law Center; Gerald Gunther, Stanford University School of Law; and Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard University Law School.

On behalf of the faculty and the school, I extend appreciation and commendation to our colleagues, Professors Backman, Hansen, and Thomas; to the attorney editors; and to the students for this first issue. I challenge all future editors to realize the potential of the *Brigham Young University Law Review* so brightly presaged in this first issue.

REX E. LEE