

## PREFACE

This publication originated in 1968 as the *Urban Law Annual* and focused entirely on issues surrounding land use, urban development, and other legal concerns of urban communities. The scope broadened in 1983 when the *Journal* expanded (and became the *Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law*) to encompass a broad range of topics while still emphasizing urban and land-use law.

This past year we began a lengthy process of reevaluating our role in the advancement of legal scholarship. The center of our revised mission is to facilitate discussions about a variety of issues that will challenge scholars, students, and practitioners to think critically about the intersection of law and policy and hopefully to transcend traditional boundaries, such as academic disciplines. The inaugural issue under the new name—*Washington University Journal of Law and Policy*—does just that. It is a compilation of essays from the Access to Justice speaker series, one goal of which is to encourage and challenge audiences to use their legal education for the ultimate betterment of our society. We will continue to publish this series every year, and we are collaborating with faculty members to publish symposia along a broad spectrum of topics—including our next volume on intellectual property. Finally, each volume of the publication will engender collaboration between students and faculty members (instead of the traditional practice of a solely student or faculty edited publication), promoting unmatched learning and scholarship. The new name is a result of the changes in both format and practice. In discontinuing the publication of the *Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law*, we trust that we are not leaving behind the longstanding tradition that began with the *Urban Law Annual*. Instead, we hope that with these changes we are realizing our potential in a new and better way.

It is with profound respect and indebtedness to Professor Daniel Mandelker, the founder of the *Journal*, that we began this process. Likewise, this opportunity would not exist without the prodigious energy, dedication, and ingenuity of Professors Karen Tokarz and Charles McManis. The wisdom of these three individuals inspires and guides us on this journey, and it is to them that we dedicate this inaugural issue.