

PREFACE

The American Bar Association's Special Committee on Housing and Urban Development Law is pleased to have participated with the *Urban Law Annual* in this most unusual undertaking: *Symposium Issue—Volume 17*, produced in conjunction with the ABA-HUD National Housing Justice and Field Assistance Program. We are particularly appreciative of the fine efforts of the many authors, as well as the cooperation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We hope that this Volume illuminates issues that will assist in evaluating our national court and dispute resolution apparatus as it relates to landlord-tenant and other housing matters. We learn from the authors that many communities are struggling with reforms that will enhance the ways in which housing-related disputes are handled. Foremost among the reforms are the specialized "housing courts" now functioning in approximately ten cities. The major progenitors of these housing court innovations are described herein; some have met with success, others have met with serious criticism.

Other procedures are described as well: approaches that are "non-judicial" or outside of the courts. Some are run by city governments and others by the private sector entirely. A sample of such innovations is contained in this Volume.

In all, this Volume—*17 Urban L. Ann.* (1979)—is one of four complementary studies. The others include: *Housing Justice Outside of the Courts* (1979), *Housing Justice in Small Claims Courts* (1979), and the forthcoming final report, *Housing Justice in the United States: Recommendations for Change and Innovation in Our Courts* (1980).

The ABA-HUD Program follows in a tradition of useful research performed by the Special Committee's staff and its members, liaisons, and national advisors in a succession of HUD-supported studies. All of the Special Committee members serve in a *pro bono* capacity, and in the current program, this has meant intensive and frequent meetings, extensive reading and review of draft materials, and even the preparation of papers and articles by the Special Committee's advisors and liaisons. Similar contributions were made in the Special Committee's three-year project for HUD, which resulted in the major reference work titled *Housing for All Under Law* and its "Lawyers in Housing Program," which placed lawyers in eight major cities to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions for the construction of federally subsidized housing.

The Special Committee on Housing and Urban Development Law looks forward to continued and active involvement in the fields of housing and urban development as we enter the 1980s and the fourteenth year of this Special Committee's work.

Laughlin E. Waters, Chairman
Special Committee on Housing
and Urban Development Law