PREFACE

For fourteen years, the *Urban Law Annual* has covered the ebb and flow of legal developments affecting urban communities. With this volume, the *Annual* is transformed into the *Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law*. Lest our readers become concerned that their purveyor of urban law seeks other pastures, the editors would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the *Annual's* traditional domain. For a variety of reasons, however, we determined that the time had come for the *Annual* to continue its mission under a new identity.

The editors contemplate that the *Journal's* editorial philosophy will differ only slightly from that of its predecessor. The *Journal* will continue to publish articles and student works on those traditional "urban" topics: land use and zoning law, housing and urban redevelopment law, and local government law. In our new form, however, we hope to expand the range of topics deemed relevant to students of urban law. We recognize that attorneys, government officials, and other policymakers working in an urban environment confront a broad array of legal issues, some of which might seem quite attenuated from urban law narrowly conceived. While consideration of such topics may sometimes take us far afield, we believe that if the *Journal* is to assist practitioners and academics working in this area, we, as editors, must take a broad view of what the problems are and what legal and nonlegal doctrines may be useful to resolve them. We selected as our name the *Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law* to reflect our broad conception of what constitutes urban law.

In discontinuing publication as the *Urban Law Annual*, we leave behind a well-respected name in the urban law field. The editors wish to thank the many people who contributed to establishing that reputation, especially Professor Daniel Mandelker. We hope the *Journal* succeeds in carrying on the tradition that the *Annual* established.

Dennis P. Birke
Editor-in-Chief