



Volume 30 | Issue 6

Article 1

1985

Editor's Preface

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Recommended Citation

J. E. Goff, *Editor's Preface*, 30 Vill. L. Rev. 1309 (1985).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/vlr/vol30/iss6/1>

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VILLANOVA LAW REVIEW

VOLUME 30

1985

NUMBER 6

Symposium Federal Rules of Evidence: A Decade Later

EDITOR'S PREFACE

ON January 2, 1975, President Ford signed into law the Federal Rules of Evidence. That enactment culminated a thirteen-year process of study and public debate that involved not only the bench and bar, but Congress and the President as well. It was the first codification of a body of evidence law that previously had been a "veritable hodgepodge." For the first time, federal courts had a modern, rational, and well-conceived set of uniform rules of evidence. Many states have adopted similar or identical statutes as well. Thus, 1985 marks the tenth anniversary of a genuine leap in the organization and unity of the law of evidence in this country.

During the decade that has passed since the enactment of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the study and public debate on appropriate standards for the law of evidence has continued in the courts and scholarly journals. This symposium issue is designed to present an overview of many of the subjects of current debates, as well as deeper inquiries into several topics.

The *Villanova Law Review* is proud to continue the tradition of scholarly reflection and debate on the Federal Rules of Evidence. It is our fervent hope that this symposium issue will lead to further refinements in the body of law governing the admission and use of evidence in this country.

J. Edward Goff
Research and Projects Editor

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