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## Foreword: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Issue

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## FOREWORD

### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

*DORSEY D. ELLIS, JR.\**

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With the publication of this, its forty-fifth volume, the *Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law* celebrates a quarter century of publishing important scholarship in its specialized fields of concentration. Founded in 1968 as the *Urban Law Annual*, it set out (in the words of its founder, Stamper Professor of Law Daniel R. Mandelker) “to publish the results of empiric research into the legal problems of urban areas, and to publish articles on new and innovative ideas for legal controls, especially as they take statutory form.”

The *Urban Law Annual* was an early entrant into the field of student-edited specialized law journals. It was thus a pioneer trailblazing a path to be followed by many other specialized law reviews founded in subsequent years. It would surely not have flourished without Professor Mandelker’s stature among scholars and decision makers in planning law and his patient devotion to establishing a tradition of excellence among successive student editorial staffs.

Credit is also due to those students who served on the early editorial boards for launching a successful and enduring publication whose reputation would grow over the years. Their devotion of time and energy to a fledgling, innovative, and experimental journal required faith in the perseverance of their successors, in the willingness of leading scholars to submit articles for publication, and in the ultimate reception by its intended audience.

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\* Dean, Washington University School of Law.

The record of the *Journal* to date fully justifies the faith of those early editorial board members. After fourteen fruitful years as an annual publication devoted exclusively to the legal issues affecting decision makers in urban communities, the *Urban Law Annual* was transformed in 1982 into the biennial *Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law*, the masthead under which it celebrates its twenty-fifth year of continuous publication. Its mission was also expanded at that time to encompass a broader conception of urban legal concerns.

To anyone even superficially familiar with contemporary issues affecting urban communities, it comes as no surprise that environmental law, a subject not even found in law school curricula when the *Urban Law Annual* began in 1968, soon became a major focus of the *Journal's* editors. That its founder and long-time faculty advisor, Professor Mandelker, was one of the first academic lawyers to develop a reputation as an authority in that new field undoubtedly played a major role in the *Journal's* early success in establishing itself as a leading publication of important scholarly work in environmental law.

The *Journal* effectively weathered a second transition in 1991, when Professor Mandelker surrendered his role as faculty advisor. The *Journal* has continued to thrive with Professor Richard Lazarus as its advisor. A change in faculty advisors is not ordinarily a particularly noteworthy event in the life of a law review. Yet, Dan Mandelker had been such an integral part of the *Journal* from its birth that it was difficult to imagine it continuing without him. It is a tribute to Professor Mandelker's early commitment to its foundation on solid principles of scholarship and his clear vision of its mission that the *Journal* has endured as an institution that will surely celebrate its half century mark in due course.

Others are better able to assess the *Journal's* effect on the law in its areas of focus. But I take special note of important symposia published in recent years, including the "Housing Symposium: Responses to Urban Housing Needs" in volume 36 (1989), the "Symposium on the Role of International Law in Global Environmental Protection" in volume 42 (1992), and the "Symposium on the United States Supreme Court's 'Environmental Term'" in volume 43 (1993). In each of these, the *Journal* provided a forum for an exchange of views among major commentators on issues of significance for urban, national, and international communities.

Congratulations to the current editors and their predecessors on the editorial boards of the *Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law* and the *Urban Law Annual* for a successful quarter century of contributions to the greater understanding and betterment of the law, and best wishes to those who follow in the years to come, which I am confident will be many.

## ARTICLES

