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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Founded in 1981, the *St. Louis University Public Law Review* has continually strived to provide an open, uncensored forum for legal scholars, practicing attorneys, legislators, community leaders, and students to debate current topics in the field of public interest law. In furtherance of that mission, this issue aims to assemble a wide variety of opinions, serve as a guide for fostering change within the St. Louis region, and become a resource for other regions facing similar situations and challenges.

The majority of the articles herein were derived from the *Public Law Review*'s symposium, held on February 28, 2014, entitled *United We Stand or United We Fall: The Reunification of St. Louis City and County*. The symposium focused largely on issues surrounding a potential reunification or reorganization of St. Louis City and County. Panelists at the symposium identified the obstacles of a potential reunification, tools and solutions to many of these challenges, and alternatives to a city-county merger, including an incremental regional approach to growth. Arguments from both sides of the debate were voiced, and the reunification topic led to valuable discussions of education, poverty, and race. In addition, other city-county mergers were analyzed, and the discussions can undoubtedly be applied to different metropolitan areas in the future.

Along with articles discussing the reorganization of local government in the St. Louis region, this issue includes articles written by three outstanding members of the *Public Law Review*. Administrative Editor Alyssa Calhoun advocated for youth's right to counsel in Missouri's juvenile justice system. Fall Managing Editor Emily Cory contributed an intriguing article exploring Richmond, California's plan to use eminent domain to seize underwater mortgages. And finally, Editor-in-Chief Tom Hoffmann authored a piece on state authorization of municipal bankruptcies. On behalf of the *Public Law Review*, we would like to thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to their articles, which we are honored to include herein.

The *Public Law Review* would also like to thank Professor Anders Walker for his guidance and support throughout the planning and execution of the symposium. Professor Walker was also instrumental in the success of this issue itself. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the panelists for their contributions to both the symposium and this issue. The debate and candid discussion contemplated by the *Public Law Review*'s mission statement could not have been accomplished without them. Finally, the *Public Law Review* is

greatly indebted to Susie Lee, our journal coordinator, and Theresa Campbell, our editorial assistant, for their assistance throughout this entire process.

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