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## Introduction: Pacific Law Journal

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*Supreme Court of the United States*

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# *Introduction*

Anthony M. Kennedy\*

The dynamics of the American legal system cannot be understood without an appreciation of the position occupied by our law schools. Time and again, I find it difficult to impress this essential fact upon foreign visitors. To help make the point, I take a current issue of a law journal from my desk or a nearby shelf and explain that ours is a profession in which its newest aspirants, indeed neophytes not yet admitted to practice, are assigned the responsibility of commenting upon recent leading decisions and statutes. This tradition of respect for student commentary is one of the great strengths of our profession, for it puts into real and concrete form the principle that the members of the bench and bar are but temporary trustees of a law that must soon be entrusted to a new generation.

The *Pacific Law Journal* has earned a respected place in the law. Through its annual *Review of Selected California Legislation*, the *Journal* has accomplished the mission Chief Justice Warren saw for it: to “fill a gap in the materials currently available on legislative development in California.”<sup>1</sup> The *Journal* has made its mark as well by publication of articles along a fascinating spectrum of subjects—subjects that must be confronted by a society committed to the proposition that its challenges can be met through law.

Law journals exist because we have confidence in our law schools. The *Pacific Law Journal* demonstrates that this confidence is well-placed. I congratulate the faculty and the students of the McGeorge School of Law for the distinguished contribution they have made to the legal profession through the pages of the *Journal*, now entering its twenty-fifth year.

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\* Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States.

1. Earl Warren, *Introduction*, 1 PAC. L.J. 1 (1970).

