

Denver Law Review

Volume 44
Issue 1 *Symposium - Selected Problems on Law
and the Individual*

Article 17

April 2021

Vol. 44, no. 1: Editor's Note

Lowell J. Noteboom

Timothy B. Walker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/dlr>

Recommended Citation

Lowell J. Noteboom & Timothy B. Walker, Editor's Note, 44 Denv. L.J. [vii] (1967).

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Denver Law Review at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu, dig-commons@du.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

THE SYMPOSIUM—WHAT VALUE?

This is the second in a series of remarks on the value and purpose of various segments of a law review.

In Ancient Greece, a symposium was the discussion following a banquet or social gathering, at which there was a free interchange of ideas. Plato, in one of his dialogues, reported such a symposium on the subject of ideal love. Since that time the symposium has developed into a literary vehicle—a collection of opinions on a selected subject, having as its purpose a composite analysis of the significant aspects of that topic. Its value must be measured in terms of its ability to achieve that goal.

The most important element of the symposium is unity of theme. As in Plato's dialogue, the opinions of the different authors may vary, but throughout the symposium the theme appears, like a musical refrain, to weave their ideas into a single strand of legal inquiry.

The symposium is the one issue of a law review that can offer "scope" to legal journalism. Concentrating on a particular area within the vast sphere of legal activity, the symposium can probe the depths of interrelated problems and provide a compendium of inquiry and suggested resolution to issues involved. In more "established" areas of the law, the symposium can serve as a valuable research tool; a synthesis of important developments in that field.

Possessed of the qualities of unity and scope, the symposium need not always deal with single topics of substantive law. Instead, the law itself as an instrument of social order can be the subject of discussion. In this manner various substantive areas may be analyzed under a central guiding motif. This must be reflected in the symposium by an awareness of the needs of the present and the promises and problems of the future.

Limitation of an entire issue, or a major portion thereof, to a single topic poses obvious problems of soliciting articles which are not only valuable in themselves, but which contribute to the development of the central theme. However, it must also be remembered that the potential which can be tapped in the creation of a symposium is virtually without limit. Careful selection of a topic, judicious solicitation of articles from competent authors, and conscientious efforts to integrate each article into the total scheme will result in a truly valuable contribution toward a better understanding of the chosen area.

Thus, by the qualities of unity, scope and timeliness can the value of the symposium be measured as a contribution to legal education. As with so many other areas of endeavor, the challenge is great, but if overcome, the reward is of equal magnitude.

LOWELL J. NOTEBOOM

TIMOTHY B. WALKER