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Foreword: Artificial Intelligence: Thinking About Law, Law Practice, and Legal Education

*Jan M. Levine**

On April 26-27, 2019, the Duquesne University School of Law hosted a conference titled “Artificial Intelligence: Thinking About Law, Law Practice, and Legal Education.” Over those two days, more than 100 attendees were able to listen to nineteen presentations offered by thirty-one professors, educators, technology experts, and lawyers. The four articles in this symposium issue of the Duquesne Law Review resulted from that conference. All of the presentations from the conference are available on the Duquesne website, at: <https://www.duq.edu/academics/schools/law/academics/legal-research-and-writing/2019-artificial-intelligence-conference>.

What in my childhood was only found in the province of science fiction has become, almost without us realizing it, an integral, pervasive, and world-changing part of our personal and professional lives, reflecting our hopes and our fears, for good and for evil. Even now we are all more like cybernetic organisms than we would like to acknowledge, addicted to our computers, smart phones, and the internet, and are left floundering and unable to function when the electrical power goes out or the network is down. And we are only at the starting point of learning what computers and artificial intelligence are going to mean for humanity. This conference explored some of the ramifications of developments in artificial intelligence for law and policy, for the practice of law, and for teaching law students.

The conference would not have happened without the help and support of many people and organizations. My colleague, Professor Wesley Oliver, had the idea of holding a one-day conference on the effects of artificial intelligence on the law, and he and I put that idea together with our legal writing program’s biennial conference on law school pedagogy. We were supported in our efforts by Dean Maureen Lally-Green. Jeanine DeBor, our Director of Law Alumni Relations and Development, secured most of the funding for the

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event, notably from the renowned international law firm Reed Smith. Additional funding came from Gravity Stack, LexisNexis, Cozen O'Connor, and the many Duquesne University School of Law alumni who have supported the legal writing program. Dr. David J. Dausey, the Provost of Duquesne University, welcomed the attendees and presenters to the conference. Jennifer Rignani, our Communications Director, and Carrie Samarin, the legal writing program's Administrative Assistant, were critical to our efforts to publicize and administer the conference. And thank you also to the outgoing and incoming Editors-in-Chief of the Duquesne Law Review, Taylor Wantz and Danielle Mrdjenovich, for agreeing to consider for publication papers from this conference.