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Preface to the Inaugural Issue

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Preface to the Inaugural Issue

WELCOME to the JOURNAL OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY LAW. As a new legal publication, the JOURNAL seeks to earn its place among the other scholarly law journals of the University of Maryland School of Law and the nation. This is no minor undertaking. Launching a new law journal is like trying to join a conversation that is already in progress: It can be difficult to break into the discussion with something original and worthwhile to say.

With the help of our faculty advisers, however, we have devised a plan to do just that. First, the JOURNAL will take the novel approach of focusing on the intersection of business and technology, where legal issues are pervasive and increasingly complex. Many of the JOURNAL's authors will be participants in conferences exploring these issues in depth at the School of Law. Articles by these respected academics, practitioners, and judges will offer the latest thinking in their fields.

Second, future issues of the JOURNAL will include student case notes analyzing leading decisions of the nation's new business and technology courts at the state level. Almost twenty in number, these courts represent a burgeoning collection of states that are taking an innovative approach to deciding complex business and technology cases. The JOURNAL will serve as the preeminent publication for analysis of their opinions.

This new publication would scarcely have been possible without the help of some important friends. Karen Rothenberg, the Dean of the School of Law, has been an enthusiastic advocate of the publication from the outset, and this inaugural issue stands as a token of our appreciation for all she has done for us. We have also been fortunate to be able to draw on the wisdom and experience of our faculty advisers, Professors Richard A. Booth, Lisa Fairfax, and Lawrence Sung, and Dean Teresa LaMaster. With their assistance, the JOURNAL should chart an upward trajectory in the coming years.

In some ways most especially, I would like to thank the JOURNAL's inaugural staff and Executive Board, who faithfully dedicated themselves to the publication's mission, even when that meant longer hours and greater effort than they might have bargained for. To them and to everyone who worked on this inaugural issue, I offer my sincere thanks.

We are also grateful to our friends at the law firm of Miles & Stockbridge, P.C., for their generous financial support through the Fund for Excellence in Business Law. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Section of Business Law at the

American Bar Association and to the 2005–06 staff of *The Business Lawyer* for providing a model on which this new publication could be based.

To our subscribers and other readers, thank you for your interest in this new undertaking. We invite you to stay with us as the conversation continues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lee Carpenter
Editor in Chief
Baltimore, Maryland
October 2006