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FOREWORD A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER

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There is good reason to count Robert W. Kastenmeier among the greatest legislators the field of copyright has ever produced.

Copyright legislation has been a staple of congressional activity since the Copyright Act of 1790 was passed during the second session of the first Congress. Four major revisions of the statute have been enacted since that time—in 1831, 1870, 1909, and most recently in 1976. The 1976 Act stands above all the others as a model of fairness, efficiency, and sound policy. Of course these are qualities fairly to be attributed to the efforts of many individuals who labored to produce the Act over a long period. But it is equally fair to acknowledge the efforts of one person, above all, whose investment of time, personal integrity, and sound judgment served finally to make the Act possible. That person is Chairman Kastenmeier.

So long as Congress and the courts continue to bring to the field of copyright his keen appreciation of the rule of law, and devotion to the interests of authors and the public alike, the wisdom embodied in the 1976 Act will continue to illuminate, and grace, the field.

This symposium, comprising articles and comments from many who have been privileged to work with him, honors both the man and his achievement.

