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## Forward

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## Foreword

A law is valuable not because it is law, but because there is right in it.

—Henry Ward Beecher

I am extremely honored to write the introduction to the annual *Illinois Law Survey* of the Loyola University Law Journal. The *Survey* is of invaluable assistance to both practitioners and students of the law. It summarizes, in one volume, the most significant developments in Illinois law during the past year. It thus serves as an important educational vehicle and a record of the current status of Illinois jurisprudence. In order to be effective, lawyers must keep up to date with current trends of the law. The *Survey* is extremely useful in this regard.

In reviewing the articles submitted for publication in this volume, I was struck by the human element of the law. We must never forget that, at bottom, the purpose of the law is to serve man. Lawsuits affect people's lives for better or worse. We, as lawyers, have an obligation to make the law into an instrument of justice. We should reflect upon the contribution we can make to mold the law into a more responsive instrument for the common weal and to bring about a change in people's lives.

As the Chief Legal Officer of this state, my office handles thousands of cases in both state and federal court every year. I am particularly proud that many of the reported decisions discussed in this volume were handled by my office. Many of these decisions involve significant legal issues affecting basic human rights. During my tenure, advocacy divisions have been established for seniors, handicapped, crime victims and farmers. This has added a new dimension to the Office of the Attorney General. It has brought a new commitment by the office to public service.

As we move into the 21st century, our biggest challenge is to provide essential human services to our citizenry while conserving precious state resources. Our judicial system will be instrumental in determining whether the state is properly safeguarding our most precious human resources. I therefore call the reader's attention to those cases dealing with such basic concerns as civil rights, environmental protections and health regulation.

Justice Brandeis said that, "[i]f we desire respect for the law, we must first make the law respectable." All lawyers are duty bound

to read the article on Professional Responsibility and take heed of its teaching. During the past year, our Illinois Supreme Court has made great strides in strengthening ethical standards for Illinois lawyers. In the *Himmel* decision, a case of first impression for the entire country, the supreme court ruled that lawyers had a duty to report wrongdoing by another lawyer when the attorney-client privilege was not present. This precedent-setting decision will help to engender public trust in the Illinois bar. The supreme court also has opened up the attorney disciplinary process to public scrutiny and involvement by non-lawyers. These resolute measures will enhance the legal profession and contribute to making the law more responsive to the needs of our citizens.

The tremendous amount of effort that went into creation of this *Survey* is most impressive. Loyola University law students as well as the entire Law Journal staff worked very diligently to insure that the *Survey* would be an excellent product. As an alumnus of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, I am particularly proud of the work of the students. The private practitioners who contributed to this volume also should be commended. The scholarship and erudition represented by this volume is a tribute to Loyola University Law School. This effort augurs well for the future of our profession.

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