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## Note from the Chief Legislation Editor

Thomas A. Gerhart

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### *Note from the Chief Legislation Editor*

Laws have been an essential part of society since humankind's earliest writings. Historians pour over laws from a vast array of cultures and time periods to learn about societal values and how those values have developed over time. Likewise, judges and attorneys study ancient, medieval, and early-modern legal systems to gain a better understanding of today's laws. For example, Hammurabi's Code (Mesopotamia, circa 1750 BCE) contained laws that required witnesses or contracts for specific transactions. Salic law (Gaul, circa 500 CE) enacted property laws, a table of consanguinity, and monetary penalties for *malum prohibitum*. Toward the end of the Viking Age, Icelander Njáll Þorgeirsson explained, "With law our land shall rise, but it will perish with lawlessness." Thousands of years of legal scholarship aid legislators as they develop new laws.

Societies must understand the history of law to best understand the future of law. Today, legal scholarship has evolved to incorporate the study of contemporary law. As President Theodore Roosevelt observed, "Impartial justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong." Akin to historians, judges, legislators, and attorneys utilizing the history of law to shape modern legal systems, *The University of the Pacific Law Review* strives to further the legal field by analyzing California's most recent legislation.

This "Greensheets" edition contains student-authored publications that aim to provide legal practitioners with timely, objective, and unique insight into how California's newest laws will impact the state. Our Staff Writers met with legislators, attended hearings, researched issues, and analyzed some of the most important bills from this legislative session. Many of these bills became law, and some died along the way. Nevertheless, it is essential that we preserve the history of these bills to contribute to scholarship and the legal profession. It is our sincerest hope that these articles help California practitioners uphold the notions of impartiality and equitability that President Roosevelt discussed.

I would like to thank the Staff Writers and Primary Editors for their hard work, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence. Additionally, I would like to thank the other members of our Board of Editors who scrutinized and authenticated every fact, word, and idea presented within these articles.

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Chief Legislation Editor  
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