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Introduction

University of the Pacific; McGeorge School of Law

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Introduction

As the incoming Legislation Editor, I admit to having struggled with the utility of the annual *Review of Selected California Legislation*. I pondered whether it contained any useful information that could not be gleaned from the Legislative Counsel Digest, thereby making the *Review* a superfluous addition to a legal practitioner's library. I considered whether it did in fact, "fill a gap in the materials . . . available on legislative development in California."¹ I found the answer in the word "development."

The *Review* is more than an unbiased technical analysis of current legislation. It condenses into a single source the how and why of the changes in California law. Through the perusal of past volumes of the *Review*, the reader discovers an overview of the progression [or digression] in twenty-four years of California law. The cover-to-cover reading of any particular year's *Review* demonstrates the law's general development in that single legislative session. Finally, a thorough reading of a single write-up provides specific details about the legislative process of a particular bill.

To aid the reader in this developmental study, the *Review* staff writers research and analyze a diversity of materials.

Comparison: The text of each write-up clearly describes the new legislation, comparing and contrasting it with the prior or existing law.

Legislative history: Through committee reports and periodicals, the *Review* supplies an overview of the social and political milieu when the legislation was being debated, amended, and adopted.

Legislative intent: Although there are disagreements within the legal community on the value of legislative intent, the *Review* offers committee reports and notes from personal interviews to serve as indicators of the purpose of the Legislature.

Related cases, statutes, and other materials: Copious footnotes provide direction for the reader's own legal analysis, promoting more productive research.

1. Earl Warren, *Introduction*, 1 PAC. L.J. 1 (1970); Anthony M. Kennedy, *Introduction*, 25 PAC. L.J. i (1993).

Introduction

Considerable time and effort goes into making this *Review* accurate, brief, and concise. I believe we receive ample reward for our efforts by the honor traditionally bestowed upon those able to claim membership on a law school journal. This is sufficiently acknowledged by virtue of the presence of our names on the masthead. Due to the critical nature of their additions to the success of the *Review*, several staff members, however, do merit special accolades. I am deeply indebted to the *Journal's* Secretary/*de facto* publisher, Ms. Sheri Shuteroff, and both Legislative Review Advisors, Mr. Owen Kuns, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel Retired, and Mr. Edward Purcell, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel Retired.

In conclusion, “[i]t would be peculiarly improper to omit . . . my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge.”² To this effect, I beseech His guidance upon future Legislatures, that they might produce good and beneficial laws, for the purpose of restraining evil, promoting good, and preserving justice.

Legislation Editor

2. George Washington, First Inaugural Address (1789), in 1 A COMPILATION OF THE MESSAGES AND PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS 44 (1897).

