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Editor's Note

University of the Pacific; McGeorge School of Law

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Editor's Note

Most people spend their lives in the pursuit of personal wealth, honor, fame, or merely the necessities of existence. Likewise, many become quite adept in that pursuit and achieve levels of success that inspire awe and admiration within society. But there is a distinction between success and greatness—when a successful individual dies, her achievements edify her memory; when a great individual dies, her achievements edify the world.

Greatness comes when one takes that next step beyond the pursuit of personal aggrandizement and begins to serve a purpose higher than his or her own needs. For it is only when we look beyond ourselves and our individual requirements that we can clearly see those needs which, when satisfied, will make our legacy a gift to the world rather than to our lives.

Just as this is true of great persons, it is also true that great institutions, organizations, and endeavors are born when their custodians take that first step and decide to lift their eyes to a point beyond the hand-to-mouth plodding of self service. A nation can take that first step as can a corporation, a university, and yes, even a law review such as the *Pacific Law Journal*. God forbid that we should be so presumptuous as to pronounce our young publication to be “great”—for greatness can never be found by seeking it. It is not until we look away from the pursuit of greatness that we will truly find it.

The *Pacific Law Journal*, like the McGeorge School of Law that has nurtured and inspired it, has taken that first step down a course that I believe will see an excellent publication eventually mature into a great one. I have been fortunate enough to observe and learn—as editors, writers, faculty members, and administrators have taught me—what it means to have the dedication and vision to look beyond the mere satisfaction of an obligation to produce a book or the task of administering a student program. The stewards of Volume 27 of the *Pacific Law Journal* have instead set themselves the goal of producing the finest effort in the history of our publication—finest in terms of the legal scholars whose work we publish, the erudition of their articles, the excellence of student contributions and, above all, finest in terms of our small but meaningful drop in the ocean of legal knowledge that will allow our book to do as the great person does: edify our world.

To the reader of Volume 27 I offer this challenge: read with a critical eye, compare it with our past efforts, and continue reading future volumes to observe our journal's progress along the course we have set. Do this and I know you will see that our pursuit of excellence in our contribution to the body of legal scholarship and our service to the legal practitioner have grown and will continue to grow.

To the future editors, writers, faculty members, and administrators who take up where our efforts end, I challenge you as well: always look beyond the road at your feet, always place the needs of the journal above your own, and always embrace and reward the efforts of those who hold an earnest desire for the betterment of the publication.

We have tried with all our abilities to perform a service to our chosen profession and to our world that will outlive us. Although we as individuals will be thankful with success, may the path we have set for the *Pacific Law Journal* take it to greatness.

Mark W. Owens
Editor-in-Chief

