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## Foreword

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## FOREWORD

Founded in 1981, the *St. Louis University Public Law Review* has continually strived to be an open forum for academics, students, civic leaders, government officials, and business leaders to discuss issues of the utmost importance to public interest and public policy. With a vision shared by some of our predecessors, this issue aims to serve a greater purpose than simply discussing these important issues within the context of a legal journal. Rather, it aims to serve as a guide for fostering change within the St. Louis region and beyond. It aims to not only demonstrate the *Public Law Review's* dedication to these important issues, but also to serve as a model for immersing a law journal within its local community and region.

The *Public Law Review's* Symposium, held on March 1, 2013, was titled *Saving the Cities: How to Make America's Urban Core Sustainable in the Twenty-First Century*. Although the Symposium contained topics applicable to urban areas throughout the United States, it specifically targeted issues within the St. Louis region ranging from population decline to demographic and sociological shifts. Panelists at the Symposium not only identified the difficulties of the region, but additionally discussed tools and solutions for improving the region through urban planning, tax-increment financing districts, and land banks. The panelists discussed how a collective effort of citizen participation, community development, and a focus on sustainability could truly bring to light all the opportunities that St. Louis has to offer.

In addition to the articles based on the *Saving the Cities* Symposium, this Issue includes articles written by three outstanding *Public Law Review* members. *Public Law Review* Notes and Comments Editor Abby Duncan contributed to the Issue with an intriguing article regarding the growing human trafficking problem in the State of Missouri. Spring Managing Editor Dean Hunter contributed with an article discussing the difficulties that the United Nation's Arms Trade Treaty will face in the near future. Finally, and especially relevant to this Issue, Articles Editor Gil Williams authored a proposal for reforming current Missouri tax-increment financing laws. On behalf of the *Public Law Review*, we would like to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to their articles, which we are honored to include as a part of this Issue.

The *Public Law Review* would also like to thank Professor Peter Salsich, Jr. for all of his guidance and advice throughout the *Saving the Cities* Symposium planning and execution. Additionally, we would like to thank all

of the panelists for committing themselves to the Symposium and those who contributed by writing in this Issue. The candid discussion that took place is precisely what *Public Law Review* aims to do as a public interest-focused law journal. We are also incredibly grateful for all those who attended the *Saving the Cities* Symposium, one of our most successful symposiums to-date. Finally, the *Public Law Review* owes an infinite amount of gratitude to Susie Lee, our journal coordinator, and Theresa Campbell, our editorial assistant. Their assistance throughout the Symposium planning was instrumental to the Symposium's success. Their assistance with the editing of this Issue has been paramount to its completion and publication.

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