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## The Public Law Review at 30 – An Important Milestone

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**PREFACE:**  
**THE *PUBLIC LAW REVIEW* AT 30 – AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE**

PETER W. SALSICH, JR.\*

The publication of Volume 30 of the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* provides an appropriate occasion to reflect on its beginnings and subsequent growth. Originally named the *Public Law Forum*, it began as an annual publication to provide an outlet for conference proceedings and student writings under the auspices of the Thomas J. White Family Center of Public Law and Government at Saint Louis University School of Law.

In the mid-1970s, the late Thomas J. White, a 1940 graduate of the School of Law and successful developer of office and retail centers in St. Louis County and Port St. Lucie, Florida, made extremely generous donations to Notre Dame Law School, his undergraduate alma mater, and Saint Louis University School of Law in order to encourage law students at both schools to aspire to careers in public service. Mr. White's generosity made possible a number of student fellowships, including full or partial scholarships, stipends for summer internships in Washington, D.C. or a state capital, and stipends for full or part-time research or public service during one semester of law school. The summer internships were "arranged in Congressional offices, executive agencies, and administrative agencies to give the fellows and associates insight and experience in policy formulation, legislative interpretation, and program implementation."<sup>1</sup>

The Thomas J. White Educational Foundation "also provided funding to promote the discussion of public policy issues in the law school, the legal community, and in society as a whole."<sup>2</sup> Participating students were required to research and write papers on matters of national or state significance, and to circulate their papers to public officials in the belief that law students should "put their legal talents to work on society's pressing problems."<sup>3</sup>

After several years of annual conferences and student research papers that were delivered or mailed to Federal and state bureaucrats and legislators, Professor Emerita Eileen Searles, Director of the Omer Poos Law Library at

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1. *Preface*, 1 ST. LOUIS U. PUB. L. FORUM i, i (1981).

2. *Preface*, 7 ST. LOUIS U. PUB. L. REV. (1988).

3. *Preface*, *supra* note 1, at i-ii (quoting Thomas J. White).

the time, suggested to Thomas J. White Fellows John Munich, Erwin Switzer and George von Stamwitz that they consider establishing a regular journal that could be listed on the Index of Legal Periodicals. Such a journal could give the students' research papers a home; placement of the journal on the Index of Legal Periodicals could give that journal national and international visibility.

The Public Law Review was born in 1981 as the Public Law Forum. Assistant Professor Nicolas Terry, now Chester A. Myers Professor of Law, offered to assist in the editing of the first volume, a collection of papers from a School of Law-hosted national conference, "The Economic Aspects of National Security and Foreign Policy: The Challenge to a Free Enterprise Society." Dean Rudolph Hasl, now Dean and President of Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California, agreed to create and fund a separate budget line for the new journal.

Erwin Switzer and George von Stamwitz were chosen to be the first student editors. John Munich and ten other Thomas J. White Family fellows and associate fellows served as associate editors. It was published annually by the Thomas J. White Family Center of Public Law and Government of the School of Law. The name was changed to the Public Law Review and it became a biannual publication with Volume 5 in 1986. With Volume 7 in 1988, the School of Law took over publication of the Review. Financial support was provided through an endowment established by the Thomas J. White family.

Over the years, the Public Law Review has published numerous articles and symposia of national and international interest. The first public presentation of the Voluntary Metropolitan School Desegregation Plan for St. Louis, adopted in settlement of landmark school desegregation litigation, *Liddell v. Bd. of Ed. Of City of St. Louis*,<sup>4</sup> was published in Volume 2. The first of several symposia on Health Law appeared in Volume 4 (1984). A symposium examining the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the U. S. Economy appeared in Volume 5 (1986). Volume 9 (1990) featured a symposium on the European Union, including essays by then-Senator Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and former Congressman Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.). Bioethics and the Law was examined in Volume 15 (1996); Smart Growth and Urban Sprawl in Volume 21 (2002), and the Future of Immigration Law in Volume 29 (2010). Social issues such as abortion, AIDS, the death penalty, gun control and sexual orientation have been symposia topics, as well as homelessness, housing policy and international trade.

Volume 30, featuring articles from the symposium "Voting 45 Years After the Voting Rights Act," maintains the tradition of in-depth analysis of modern

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4. 491 F. Supp. 351 (E.D. Mo. 1980).

2010] *PREFACE: THE PUBLIC LAW REVIEW AT 30 – AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE* 3

national and international issues. May the Public Law Review continue its excellent work for another 30 volumes and more.

