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## Foreword

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## FOREWORD

*We need more players and fewer cynical spectators.*

Thomas J. White, Class of 1940, Saint Louis University School of Law

In deciding the theme of this issue of the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*, we began with the idea of legal ethics. We approached Prof. Carol Needham, who teaches and writes about ethical issues and professional responsibility. And surprisingly her immediate response was to cover immigration. She had recently spoken with a student who clerked in an immigration court in Los Angeles, and he told her about the deplorable legal circumstances faced by immigrants. Not speaking English well, preyed upon by criminals, and crushed beneath an unwieldy and incomprehensible body of laws and regulations. This was also shortly after the Postville raid in Iowa. Serious ethical issues for the legal profession were evident, and immigration law became our new theme.

And then, after so many failed efforts, comprehensive immigration reform finally seemed possible under the new presidency and new Democrat-led Congress. Ah, but how much has changed in a year and half. Today the President's promise of immigration reform "has come to naught."<sup>1</sup> It is fortunate that the tired, the poor, and the huddled masses do not rely solely on the United States government. They have the highly skilled advocates and thinkers like our authors in this volume. We are delighted by their contributions and hope they will be widely read.

One of our goals for this immigration issue was to find authors who practiced in immigration and would be able to address real concerns and problems they had seen firsthand. We succeeded in doing that, and believe this has resulted in articles that are substantially more accessible to attorneys, judges, and policymakers than the average law-review article. All credit goes to our authors, Professors Jamie R. Abrams, Kristina M. Campbell, Amany Ragab Hacking, and Karla Mari McKanders.

We also have the pleasure of publishing an article by one of our favorite professors, John C. O'Brien. Prof. O'Brien is a leading expert on the law of evidence and author of the *Missouri Law of Evidence* and *Missouri Evidentiary Foundations*. When he approached us with his article, we immediately

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1. *The Democratic Left: Disappointed, Down, Despondent*, ECONOMIST, Aug. 14th–20th, 2010, at 23.

accepted. The *Public Law Review* has a reputation for constitutional law, and it was too fitting that Prof. O'Brien's article cast hearsay in its new position within constitutional law, specifically, the Confrontation Clause.

Finally, we are proud to announce that the *Public Law Review* will be staying with the immigration topic in the spring. Our new editorial board is organizing a symposium called *A New Era for Plea Bargaining and Sentencing?: The Aftermath of Padilla v. Kentucky*. It will be held on February 25, 2011, and already has an exciting line-up of premier immigration scholars and jurists.

We sincerely thank Prof. Carol Needham for originating the immigration theme and suggesting the complex moral and ethical concerns involved today in this area of law; she could not have been more right. We were also humbled by the careful attention and thoughtful suggestions given to us by Prof. Stephen Legomsky. We are honored that he will be speaking at the *Padilla* symposium in February. We sincerely thank the following individuals for their valuable contributions and support: Prof. John Ammann, Steve Chapman, Susan Schreiber, Kristina Karpinski, and two attorneys who asked to remain anonymous. The Hon. Robert Katzmann has served as an inspiration to us, as he has to many. To Prof. Matthew Bodie, thank you for listening and offering much-needed advice; our law review could not have asked for a better faculty advisor. Finally, Susie and Jessica, thank you for making the publication process as close to painless as it could possibly be. The *Public Law Review* is indebted to you for your sparkling service.

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