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Foreword

Tim B. Niedbalski

Jessica Sleater

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FOREWORD

A nightmare came true for the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 29, 2005. The city, along with the surrounding areas of the gulf coast, experienced one of the deadliest, costliest and overall catastrophic natural disasters in our history, Hurricane Katrina. However, even today, years after the Hurricane flooded 80% of the city of New Orleans, the city, along with areas across the country, are still struggling with an ongoing crisis, homelessness. Despite the inefficiency of the responses to the hundreds of thousands left homeless from the Hurricane, the storm has served as a wake-up call to our country on the issue of homelessness and has renewed brainstorming on possible solutions to the problem that continues to plague our country.

On February 23 and 24, 2006, the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*, in conjunction with The American Bar Association, held a symposium titled “Creating Healthy Communities: Ending Homelessness.” The conference focused on permanent solutions to addressing the housing needs of low-income families and individuals. In particular, various panels held discussions on how healthy communities were defined, how affordable housing with services could be provided for the homeless, how recent weather disasters impacted programs for the homeless, and the criminalization of the homeless. The goal of the conference was to help the participants focus on permanent solutions to the housing crisis for the poor.

Building off the success of the symposium, this issue of the *Public Law Review* addresses much of the same issues. We have reached out to experts from private practice, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. As a result, we are privileged to have such a diverse group of both scholars and community leaders who have submitted their work for publication in this issue:

Henry Korman is the Associate General Counsel of the Community Home Builders, Inc. located in Boston, Massachusetts. In his article, he discusses the opportunities available to people with significant disabilities for integrated housing. He contends that the clash between supportive housing programs and federal housing programs undermines the efforts of those trying to establish integrated, community-based housing opportunities. Nestor Davidson is faculty member at the University of Colorado Law School. Professor Davidson’s research and scholarly interests focus on property, land use, affordable housing, and local government law. In his article, he addresses the

rights-based approach to homeless advocacy. He believes that this type of approach should shape the support systems for homeless individuals and their families. Professor Davidson also outlines recent work that shows how this approach is working. Lisa Tunick is an associate at Hessel and Aluise, P.C., a firm located in Washington, D.C. She is an alumna of Saint Louis University Law School and a former Editor-in-Chief of the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*. Her article focuses on the regulatory landscape created by the HUD Office of Multifamily Housing and the difficulties of practicing within such a scheme. She argues that such a problematic environment ultimately has negative effects on those residents who the system intends to help. The Executive Director of Beyond Housing, Chris Krehmeyer, along with fellow Beyond Housing associate, Robert Harness, discuss the goals and philosophies behind Beyond Housing's community-based approach to battling homelessness. Their article demonstrates how these ideals have worked in the town of Pagedale, Missouri.

The *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* would like to take this opportunity to thank the various authors who shared their invaluable insights and immense talents with our journal. We would also be remiss if we did not thank the *Public Law Review* board and staff for their tireless efforts and dedication to the publication of this issue. Specifically, we would like to thank Professor Peter Salsich who was not only instrumental in the publication of the journal, but was key to the organization of the February symposium. Finally, a special thanks to Susie Lee. She is responsible for guiding us through the publication process to its completion, and without her, none of this would be possible.

TIM B. NIEDBALSKI
MANAGING EDITOR

JESSICA SLEATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF