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Foreword

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FOREWORD

This issue presents a collection of topics concerning the accountability, integrity, and efficiency of law enforcement, both on the individual and organizational levels. The articles published in this volume are the works of speakers at the 2002 Sanford E. Sarasohn Memorial Lectureship entitled *Law Enforcement: New Approaches to Insuring Police Accountability*, which was held at the Saint Louis University School of Law on April 5, 2002. These commentaries represent the cutting edge of thought on the issue of police accountability.

The articles herein address law enforcement issues from three perspectives. The first perspective focuses on the controversial practice of racial profiling, an aspect of police conduct that rose to national attention during the 1990s, discussions of which have taken a more urgent tone in national debate since the events of September 11, 2001. Many law enforcement agencies have taken significant steps to prohibit the practice of racial profiling. Professor Harris, Professor Ware, and General Nixon address this issue as it has been discussed in recent years, with African-Americans and Hispanics being the primary targets of racial profiling, particularly with regard to traffic stops and searches, and discuss the law and policies that have been put in place to address the problem. In addition, Professor Harris discusses the subject of racial profiling from the perspective of whether it is an efficient law enforcement tool, and provides an in-depth analysis of law enforcement's use of ethnic profiling of young Middle Eastern men in attempts to thwart terrorism.

Professors Goldman and Puro approach the issue of police accountability on a national scale, proposing methods of cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. While police power is traditionally within the prerogative of the states, the federal government does play a role in local law enforcement with respect to civil rights guaranteed by federal law. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for carrying out that function. Professors Goldman and Puro suggest that the DOJ's role should be expanded and that there should be additional cooperation among federal authorities and state and local authorities through a sharing of information regarding disciplinary matters. The authors offer innovative solutions designed to ensure that police officers are held accountable for their actions and prevented from having further opportunities to commit violations.

The final perspective offered in this issue is based on the personal employment of the authors regarding local law enforcement agencies. These

authors, Merrick Bobb, Clarence Harmon, and John Middleton-Hope, explain the practices that local authorities have adopted in order to provide efficient and fair procedures for ensuring that the discipline of officers has the intended effect of preventing further abuse of authority. The local law enforcement agencies discussed in these articles have implemented procedures that may serve as models for other localities, including progressive hiring and training practices and innovative procedures for reviewing allegations of police misconduct.

The first article in this issue is authored by Professor Walker, who presented the keynote address at the symposium in April. Well-suited for his role as keynote speaker, Professor Walker provides an expansive overview of the issue of integrity in policing. As implied by the title of his article, *The New Paradigm of Police Accountability*, Walker describes the landscape of policing issues today and provides context by analyzing the issues as they appeared in the past and how they have evolved. His article provides a most appropriate introduction to this issue.

The *Public Law Review* thanks Professors Roger Goldman and Steven Puro for their efforts in organizing the 2002 Sanford E. Sarasohn Memorial Lectureship and for presenting us with the opportunity to publish this important issue.

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