

FOREWORD*

Since its inception in 1970, the *Review of Law & Social Change* has hosted a series of symposia and colloquia on topics which its members have considered timely and important. These events, which bring together leading academics and practitioners, have concerned a wide range of legal issues, as reflected in past editions of the journal.

In the Spring of 1988, the *Review's* incoming editorial board chose the death penalty as the topic for its 1989-90 colloquium. Our decision was based on several considerations. First, we understood that the subject had become more complex in recent years, due largely to a series of increasingly narrow decisions by the United States Supreme Court. Second, the death penalty had recently played a very visible role in several significant political campaigns at both the state and national levels. Third, we recognized that both Congress and the Court were likely, in the near future, to make significant changes in federal habeas corpus, traditionally the most important forum in which death row inmates have challenged the constitutionality of their conviction or sentence.

With the invaluable assistance of Professor Anthony G. Amsterdam and then-Associate Dean Eleanor M. Fox, to whom we offer our deepest gratitude, the *Review* organized an event which filled the law school's Great Hall for two full days. That event generated some twenty Articles, the first ten of which are printed in this issue. The remaining pieces will comprise the issue following this one.

Indeed, the death penalty colloquium is the largest project the *Review* has ever undertaken, and one of the most substantial efforts to date by a law review in this topic area. We thank all of those who attended or participated in the colloquium, and we hope that the Articles presented here will be of some use to those who seek to understand and practice in this very complex and fast-changing area of the law.

Jonathan Abady
J. Mark Lane
Whitney Tymas
Colloquium Editors, 1989-1990

* It is the policy of the *Review of Law & Social Change* to use feminine pronouns for the third person singular when the pronoun is used generically. However, because of the significance of the fact that the overwhelming majority of death penalty defendants and death row inmates are male, the *Review* has chosen to respect author preference with regard to the gender of generic pronouns when used in this issue to refer to members of these groups.