DEAN'S DEDICATION

It is with special pleasure that I add these dedicatory words to this inaugural issue of the Journal of Law, Philosophy and Culture, a new interdisciplinary publication of the Center for Law, Philosophy and Culture of The Catholic University of America and the Columbus School of Law.

This new journal promises to fulfill aspirations at the heart of both The Catholic University of America and its law school. In 1895, William C. Robinson, formerly dean of the Yale Law School, accepted his commission to spearhead a new law faculty at The Catholic University with the express purpose that this new faculty would excel in advancing knowledge about the philosophy of law and the meaning and value of law from the vantage of allied disciplines in the humanities. The unique promise of the new Journal will continue to fulfill this purpose and appears suited in an extraordinary way, by its very nature, to advance the integrative and transformative aspects of legal study illuminated by theories of philosophy, religion and social science.

Law schools occupy a unique place in the American legal system by reason of their intimate connection to the legal profession and the practice of law, whether before the bench, bar, or legislature. The law journal system is the epitome of this relationship, giving evidence of the achievements that are possible when students, faculty, and legal practitioners join together in a common academic endeavor. The Journal of Law, Philosophy and Culture is ready to take its place within this living tradition by drawing on the strengths of the Columbus School of Law and the Catholic University of America, in order to make its own lasting contribution to the common good of our society and profession.

Because of the importance of legal journals in the legal community, the contributions of this Journal can be a boon, in particular, to the field of jurisprudence. By drawing on the strengths of leading scholars and emerging talent in the field, particularly as these talents are gathered through the activities of the Center for Law, Philosophy and Culture, as well as on the talents of our students as writers and editors, the Journal stands ready to carve out a place for itself in the sphere of scholarship in the philosophy of law and law and the humanities. The legal, social, political, and philosophical ideas it contains address the most pressing questions of our time. As such the Journal will encounter its own challenges. Yet, through the fruitful interchange between author and reader, teacher and student, scholar and bench and the bar, I am confident that the Journal can surmount these challenges and, in doing so, help shape our world for the good of all.

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