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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

HON. MATTHEW J. JASEN\*

The *Buffalo Law Review* has come a long way since its initial publication in the spring of 1951. In the thirty years of continuous publication, the editors of the Review have established a strong and viable institution in which all those associated with the law school may take pride. The Review has kept its content fresh and its style lively through its changing group of editors who have been not only eager and able, but also confident in their efforts to improve on the successes of their forebearers. Its progress has been great and its contribution to legal literature notable. The editors sought from their authors scholarship which penetrated the black letter of the hornbooks to treat the weightier concerns of justice and equity.

Recognizing that a law review by its nature stands removed from the workaday maelstrom of legal practice, the editors realized that this very distance creates an opportunity to provide a unique forum for legal scholarship. Former Chief Justice Roger Traynor of the Supreme Court of California has well stated this quality: "There is no other profession and in no other country anything to equal the student-edited American law review, nurtured without commercial objective in university law schools alive to the imperfections of the law, and alert to make space for the worthy commentary of an unknown student as well as for the worthy solicited or unsolicited manuscript of a renowned authority."

The American law review is the major medium in this nation, as it is not elsewhere, for critical appraisal of legislative act and judicial decision and for that exposition and reevaluation of legal theory so essential to the shaping of our law. As someone has sagely observed, the American law review is the profession's free press; it is indeed the very marketplace for free trade in legal thoughts and ideas. In a nation which, wisely or not, places such great reliance upon judicial participation in the art of governance, a free agency of "law review" is essential. Many years ago Supreme

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Court Chief Justice Hughes noted that reliance on law reviews, which he characterized as the "fourth estate of the law," had "become an accepted part of the then judicial process in this country." In the period which followed that observation, especially the thirty years the Review had been in existence, their influence has become even more pronounced.

In the future, the *Buffalo Law Review* will be called upon to fulfill in an ever-growing degree the dual functions that it has performed in the past: to give to its editors a form of education which will continue to produce lawyers of outstanding quality, and to encourage through its articles, notes and comments an understanding of the law as it is today so that increasing success can be achieved in making the law as it ought to be in the future.

May the next thirty years be as rewarding as the last.