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Foreword

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FOREWORD

It is indeed a privilege and pleasure for the *Buffalo Law Review* to publish this symposium edition on the New York Family Court Act of 1962. Though expectations necessarily run high, it is our hope that the articles included herein will not only serve to familiarize readers with the new legislation but also enlighten them with an understanding of the philosophies and feelings of those professionals so intimately concerned with the functioning of the court in its entirety, the lawyer and the social worker, whose writings comprise this symposium and whose efforts, in some cases collaborative contributions, demonstrate the value and necessity of cooperation in the vital area of the law with which this symposium is concerned.

The Family Court Act is a result of dedicated work of many groups; it is an implementation of a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in November 1961. Termed by its revisers an "experimental court" because of its dealings with so supersensitive and knotty areas of life, areas where differences of opinion flourish, it replaces the Domestic Relations Court of the City of New York and the Children's Courts in the remaining counties of the State. As such, it concerns itself with many aspects of familial activity: adoptions, neglect proceedings, support actions, custody proceedings, juvenile delinquency, paternity determinations, family offenses, and conciliation proceedings. Though in its embryonic stages, the court and its legislation are intended to remain flexible and subject to improvement, and already during the current legislative session, changes, in line with the court's actual needs, have been brought about after an early assessed evaluation of its workings.

The writings which follow in this symposium constitute an attempt to acquaint readers with specific changes from the old law, to inform them of the powers of the new court, its jurisdiction and its limitations, and to provide suggested direction to the court. They are designed to highlight its administration, the roles of the lawyer and social investigator in its operation and functioning. Besides all else, they are our vehicle aimed at the fostering of better understanding and perceptibility among members of both the legal and social work professions, groups which must function harmoniously to be effective in the field of family law.

THE EDITORS