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## INTRODUCTORY COMMENT

*John Paul Stevens\**

Many of us have both personal and professional reasons for commemorating this vintage year in the history of what I still think of as the *Illinois Law Review*.<sup>1</sup>

My father was a student at the Northwestern University School of Law when the first issue of the *Review* was published in 1906. Approximately forty years later, I made my first attempt to understand the Sherman Act in an unsigned Comment on a topic that Professor Nathanson had suggested to me.<sup>2</sup> It was in the *Law Review* office that the coeditors-in-chief of Issues 2 and 3 of Volume 42—whom the faculty had decided to sponsor as law clerks for Chief Justice Vinson and Justice Rutledge—flipped a coin to determine which vacancy each would seek.

My professional interest in the *Review* cannot be separated entirely from my personal experience. Familiarity with the educational function that is performed by work on the *Review* is an important reason why I regard law review experience as significant evidence of professional qualification. Memories of the independent attitude that was associated with law review research and writing enhances my confidence as a reader of today's scholarly output. The *Review*—and I refer not only to Northwestern's but also to the select few of comparable quality—plays an essential role in the legal process, not merely as a training ground for future professionals, but as a critic of the lawmaking process and as a source of ideas and inspiration as well. Indeed, in a true sense, it is a source of law.

Knowing that old friends for whom I have the greatest admiration will be contributors to this issue, I especially welcome the opportunity to participate in this written celebration.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Review* was known as the *Illinois Law Review* from its creation in 1906 until 1952, when it received its present name. The name-change and other aspects of the *Review's* history are ably discussed in MacChesney, *An Old Tradition—The Same Review—But a New Name*, 47 Nw. U.L. Rev. iii (1952), and *The Northwestern University Law Review, 1906-1956*, 51 Nw. U.L. Rev. 2 (1956).

<sup>2</sup> Comment, *Price-Fixing in the Motion Picture Industry*, 41 ILL. L. REV. 630 (1947).

