Introduction to the Volume 95 Symposium Issue

The work included in this Issue reflects the culmination of two symposia sponsored by The Georgetown Law Journal and held at the Georgetown University Law Center in the Fall of 2006.

Fair and Independent Courts: A Conference on the State of the Judiciary was a two-day event chaired by retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Justice Stephen Breyer. The conference addressed the effectiveness of our nation’s courts and was attended by six sitting Supreme Court Justices and hundreds of other nationally recognized leaders in law, government, business, journalism, academia, and the nonprofit sector.

Ten scholarly papers from the Conference are published in this Issue, along with a statistical survey on the public’s perception of our court system, introductory remarks by Justice O’Connor, a lunchtime speech by Justice Breyer, and the final recommendations that Conference attendees gave for improving the judicial branch of our government.

The Law of Politics: The Role of Law in Advancing Democracy was sponsored and managed exclusively by The Georgetown Law Journal. The Symposium gathered election law scholars from across the country to participate in a pre-election discussion concerning congressional redistricting and the regulation of politically active non-profit organizations. Four scholarly papers from this Symposium are published in this Issue, along with the Symposium’s concluding remarks by Robert Bauer and Professor Samuel Issacharoff.

The Law Journal is proud to have participated in these events and to publish the great work that came out of them. Though it is by chance that these two important topics came together for this Issue, we hope that both discussions will move forward with purpose and that our country can continue to improve on our democracy one event at a time.

The Georgetown Law Journal
Volume 95 Symposium Committee