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Front Matter

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SYMPOSIUM
THE UNIFORM PROBATE CODE:
REMAKING AMERICAN SUCCESSION LAW

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FROM THE EDITORS

A distinguished array of scholars and practitioners assembled at the University of Michigan Law School on October 21, 2011 to discuss the state of American trust and estate law and explore emerging issues in the field. The event, a symposium entitled “The Uniform Probate Code: Remaking American Succession Law,” was hosted by the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform in partnership with the Legal Education Committee of the American College of Trust and Estates Counsel (ACTEC).

The symposium was held in honor of Professor Lawrence Waggoner and his more than 30 years of work to advance the cause of American probate law reform. Professor Waggoner served as the chief reporter for the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Trust and Estate Acts and was the principal drafter of the 1990s revisions to the Uniform Probate Code. He was also the reporter for the Restatement (Third) of Property: Wills and Other Donative Transfers.

The Articles in this issue are the fruit of the symposium. Symposium speakers included the authors presented herein; the keynote speaker, John H. Langbein, Sterling Professor of Law and Legal History at Yale Law School; and commentators Gerry W. Beyer, Governor Preston E. Smith Regents Professor of Law at Texas Tech University School of Law; Ronald Chester, Professor of Law at New England School of Law; Ira Mark Bloom, Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law at Albany Law School; and Amy Morris Hess, UTK Distinguished Service Professor and Williford Gragg Distinguished Professor of Law at University of Tennessee College of Law. Video of the entire event is available at http://www.mjlr.org/actec-symposium.

ACTEC and the Volume 45 editors of the Journal, under the leadership of Symposium Editor Frank Buda, Editor-in-Chief Phillip Hurst, and Managing Editor Erin Eckles, organized the symposium and performed initial editorial revisions on the Articles in this issue.

The Journal is grateful to the authors and other participants in the symposium, ACTEC, past editors of the Journal, and the Publications Center and administration of the University of Michigan, without whom the symposium and this symposium issue would not have been possible.
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