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## Editor's Preface

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

A professor of administrative law at The University of Michigan, while drawing upon classical literature to make a point about the legitimacy of governmental power, once likened the institution of the law review to the Greek chorus. Predictably, this remark was received by the audience with snickers and guffaws. Undoubtedly the professor intended such a response. After all, he probably was referring to the plays of Euripides, where the chorus members frequently seem to be on the spot accidentally, where they may be detached from the hero and the action, and where, it has been said, their chants at times seem to be almost callously irrelevant. We would prefer, however, that the law review be compared favorably with the chorus as viewed in the plays of Sophocles, where the chorus members have been seen as a reflection of the wise and right-minded spectator, not deficient in relevance or appropriateness, or even those of Aeschylus, where they are a vehicle of [the author's] most profound reflection and where they may take an important share in the development of the action.

The *Michigan Law Review* is now celebrating its seventy-fifth year of reflection and participation in the development of the law. To commemorate this anniversary, the Editorial Board of Volume 75 asked the law faculty of The University of Michigan to contribute essays for a special issue. We told our authors from the start that they would be freed from the traditional standards of size, style, and format that occasionally turn law reviews into compendiums of encyclopedic articles. Essays of moderate length were welcome, but

many are much shorter than the usual law review fare. Several are fully documented and heavily footnoted, but this was not required or even encouraged. We sought in this issue to give our contributors an opportunity to contemplate, comment, speculate, or criticize in a forum not usually congenial to such pursuits and in a manner that would reveal something about the authors themselves.

The faculty responded with great enthusiasm and energy, and they were most cooperative throughout the entire process of publication. It was a pleasure for the Editorial Board to work with them. We hope that the present collection of essays indicates that the encyclopedic article is not the only format conducive to thoughtful legal analysis. Furthermore, we hope that this issue demonstrates that this law review retains its commitment to reflection and participation in the development of the law.