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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
JOURNAL of LAW REFORM

VOLUME 45 • ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2012

SYMPOSIUM
THE UNIFORM PROBATE CODE:
REMAKING AMERICAN SUCCESSION LAW

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Why I Do Law Reform <i>Lawrence W. Waggoner</i>	727
The UPC Substituted Judgment/Best Interest Standard for Guardian Decisions: A Proposal for Reform <i>Lawrence A. Frolik</i> <i>Linda S. Whitton</i>	739
Family Caregiving and the Law of Succession: A Proposal <i>Thomas P. Gallanis</i> <i>Josephine Gittler</i>	761
The Probate Definition of Family: A Proposal for Guided Discretion in Intestacy <i>Susan N. Gary</i>	787
Fiduciary Duties and Exculpatory Clauses: Clash of the Titans or Cozy Bedfellows? <i>Louise Lark Hill</i>	829
Toward Economic Analysis of the Uniform Probate Code <i>Daniel B. Kelly</i>	855
Children of Assisted Reproduction <i>Kristine S. Knaphund</i>	899

Deliberative Accountability Rules in Inheritance Law: Promoting Accountable Estate Planning <i>Shelly Kreiczler-Levy</i>	937
Non-Judicial Estate Settlement <i>John H. Martin</i>	965
Toward Equality: Nonmarital Children and the Uniform Probate Code <i>Paula A. Monopoli</i>	995

NOTE

Embracing Tribal Sovereignty to Eliminate Criminal Jurisdiction Chaos <i>Lindsey Trainor Golden</i>	1039
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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 Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis 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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The *Journal* seeks to improve the law and its administration by providing a forum for discussion that identifies contemporary issues for reform efforts, proposes concrete means to accomplish change, and evaluates the impact of law reform. As contributions to this discussion, the *Journal* also welcomes multidisciplinary and empirical work.

We encourage the submission of unsolicited manuscripts for publication via ExpressO or to jlr-submissions@umich.edu. Articles should generally conform to *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (19th ed. 2010) and *The Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed. 2010).

Views expressed in the *Journal* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial staff.

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