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PREFACE

The Consortium Editorial Board of the **BLACK LAW JOURNAL** of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law takes great pride in presenting this issue of the *Journal*. This product is a demonstration of the zeal with which black law students will devote themselves to scholarly expression. It also further attests to the magnanimous expression of support of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law as well as the Homer S. Brown Law Association Chapter of the National Bar Association in Pittsburgh for the high quality of legal education for minority law students in Western Pennsylvania.

Acknowledgments

The preparation for this issue of the *Journal* began in November of 1983 when Mr. Vincent J. Napoleon, then a third year student in the School of Law, presented the concept of a Black Law Journal to a small gathering of minority law students. A handfull of the participants in that gathering pursued further the discussions began at that meeting. Mr. Napoleon took the initiative to obtain some formal materials from the national office of the **BLACK LAW JOURNAL** at UCLA and Ms. Janet R. Hightower began searching for contributors.

By early June it became necessary to recruit additional support. At that time Ms. Theda Whittington Page joined us and assisted in the solicitation of articles. By late July a full administrative board had emerged to steer organization of the **BLACK LAW JOURNAL** at the University of Pittsburgh. In September, while responses to solicitations were still incoming, the Board of Directors was formalized, the Editorial Board was elected and a publication prospectus was approved for presentation to the dean of the law school and to the National Editorial Board of the **BLACK LAW JOURNAL**.

Throughout these processes, Professors Robert Berkley Harper and Jules Lobel served as faculty advisors to the *Journal*. Their involvement has eliminated many of the obstacles which otherwise might have existed throughout such a process. Further, their support paved the way for the enthusiastic support which has been rendered by the dean of the law school, Dean Richard J. Pierce, Jr.

Attorneys Janie Pressley and Sheila Ford of the BLSA Committee of the Homer S. Brown Law Association played the critical role of providing the support of the local minority bar. Ms. Pressley served as a consultant to the *Journal* at nearly every phase of the operation, dealing with matters of organization, solicitation editing and publication.

The Board of Directors, chaired by Mr. Thomas O. Shepherd, Jr. demanded the highest quality which was reasonably attainable by the Editorial Board, and has held the Editor-in-Chief to a rigorous standard of accountability. Thus the quality of this issue is especially attributable to the role which the Board of Directors has played.

Managerial responsibility for this issue of the *Journal* rested in the hands of the Consortium Editorial Board. The members of this body were elected to office based on their individual presentations of interest and experience. Each member presented impressive credentials for the position s/he sought and once elected performed magnificently in the execution of the duties entrusted to them.

Numerous individuals, other than editors and directors, volunteered from time to time to assist us in our cite and source efforts. We are especially grateful to the following persons for their contributions:

LAUREN P. STOUT
NANCY S. GROSSMAN
FRANCIS J. D'ERAMO
PAMELA NEHRING
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Word processing services for this publication were directed and managed by Ms. LuAnn Driscoll. In addition to the efficiency and precision by which the documents for this publication were produced, her timely editorial suggestions have been invaluable. We sincerely appreciate her, and all who have worked with her, for the support given to this project.

The contributors to this issue must also be acknowledged. Each one has been extremely cooperative in this endeavor. We cannot thank them enough for the generous enthusiasm with which they have responded to our calls and letters and the confidence which they have displayed in our work.

Finally, thanks are in order to you (the reader) for your patronage and devotion to this *Journal*. Our energies have been harnessed to prepare material worthy of your investment. We hope that you will be satisfied.

Thank you sincerely.

MILES HENRY MITCHELL
Editor-in-Chief