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FOREWORD

REFLECTIONS ON CYBERSPACE
GOVERNANCE, STANDARDS, AND
CONTROL

by GEORGE B. TRUBOW†

Center for Information Technology
and Privacy Law
The John Marshall Law School

We are pleased to present this symposium issue on “Governance, Standards, and Control in Cyberspace.” We hope you agree that we have gathered some outstanding authors for lead-article discussions of “hot topics” in the realm of Cyberspace.

David W. Maher is in the thick of dealing with rules and protocols for trademarks and domain names on the Internet. We are glad to have his appraisal of the status of developments regarding Cyberspace standards that need to be addressed in trademark and domain name law.

Self-regulation is a recurring theme for dealing with Internet management issues and April Major provides an overview and comment on some of the leading proposals for “do it ourself in Cyberspace.”

Jamie Nafziger gives us her perspective on the effect of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 regarding service obligations of Internet service providers; that legislation surely has generated a storm in Cyberspace regarding what it means and how it will work.

George C.C. Chen, Director of Science & Technology (“STLC”), Institute for Information Industry in Taiwan, writes about all aspects of electronic commerce on the Internet in Taiwan. Mr. Chen gives us his perspective on standards and controls that should be instituted regarding electronic commerce in Cyberspace.

† A.B., University of Michigan; J.D., University of Michigan; Professor of Law and Director of The Center for Information Technology and Privacy Law, The John Marshall Law School. Professor Trubow also chairs the annual John Marshall National Moot Court Competition in Information Technology and Privacy Law. He is the Editor of the three volume treatise Privacy Law and Practice (1987), and is the Co-Author of Privacy: Cases and Materials (1992). Additionally, Professor Trubow chairs various American Bar Association committees, writes, and speaks widely on information and privacy law, and advises state and federal agencies.
We also present some very interesting “takes” on self-governance vis-à-vis antitrust law; tort solutions for cyber-crime; and, a case commentary on the “Hot News Doctrine” by Alan Lieb, counsel for the defendant in NBA v. Motorola and Stats, Inc.

As good as these presentations are, they only touch upon a portion of the many issues facing us under that broad umbrella of “Governance, Standards, and Control.” We certainly do not suggest that one symposium issue will be sufficient. Readers can expect future article in the Cyberspace dimension to deal with the Constitution in Cyberspace, questions of jurisdiction and choice of laws, anonymity and traceability of electronic communications, protocols for and dispute resolution in international electronic commerce, privacy, encryption policy and a host of other matters on the horizon.

We trust our readers will enjoy this issue of the Journal; they can look forward to a continuing stream of great material on relevant topics. The Journal is truly a unique publication and our editors and staff work hard to keep its content on target and its quality high. Thanks for keeping us on your reading list!