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FOREWORD

REFLECTIONS ON COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND THE LAW

by GEORGE B. TRUBOW†

*Center for Information Technology
and Privacy Law
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We are pleased to begin this issue of the Center's *Journal* with some "think pieces" from two of this country's giants in computer law. While computer and communications technologies continue to advance at a dizzying pace it seemed appropriate to pause to consider where we have been and whither we might be going in this information age. It also seemed appropriate to ask two of those who were "present at the creation" to share with us their considerable experience and insights regarding the technology.

Roy Freed is a founder of the Computer Law Association; Lee Loevinger is a founder of the Section of Science and Technology of the American Bar Association. Each of these gentlemen has been actively engaged in law practice from the early days of the digital computer and has helped to shape the growth of "high tech" law. We are proud to have their contributions here and believe that you will enjoy looking back with them—as well as looking forward, because neither of these worthies dwell in the past!

We are also pleased to initiate with this issue a section devoted to Cyberspace, that global network of computers that presents its own new challenges to law and society. The linkage of computers around the world creates a new, borderless environment that must accommodate national interests, commercial needs and personal rights and duties founded on differing and often conflicting legal and cultural norms. No other inven-

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tion of mankind has made the world so small and every person's forum so large as has this new territory, Cyberspace.

While we're on that subject, we take this opportunity to tell our readers about the establishment of the "Cyber://Con" biennial conference series. "Cyber://Con.97" will be held June 4-7, 1997, in Chicago; the theme will be "Rules for Cyberspace: Governance, Standards and Control." Formal program announcements and arrangements will be made in November; inquiries can be sent to the Law School or addressed to <cyber97@jmls.edu>.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Journal*; its content reflects our attention to information technology questions of national interest while meeting our commitment to consider matters of international import. We look forward to serving you in the future and welcome your comments or suggestions; advice from our readers will help us to remain on target in meeting the needs of the worldwide community of information technology lawyers.