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FOREWORD

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS ON THE GLOBAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

As the technology allowing both consumers and businesses to easily conduct transactions over the Global Information Infrastructure advances, lawyers will be faced with numerous challenges to traditional legal concepts. The development of user-friendly technology will affect all areas of the law from intellectual property to torts to contracts. Lawyers and governmental regulatory agencies around the globe must be prepared to address these challenges to ensure an equitable division of both the risks and profits arising from the use of new technology.

The articles in this issue were first presented at the American Bar Association Science and Technology Section's meeting on August 6, 1995, in Chicago, Illinois. They address the topic Commercial Transactions on the Global Information Infrastructure from three different perspectives. The article by Raymond T. Nimmer, author of *The Law of Computer Technology* and Reporter for the committee to revise Article 2B of the Uniform Commercial Code, discusses many of the issues that arise in electronic contracting with a review of some of the proposals to adapt contract law for the information age. Diana J.P. McKenzie, a prominent Chicago computer law practitioner, identifies many of the areas of potential liability for businesses engaging in transactions on the Global Information Infrastructure. The final article, by Christopher Millard and Robert Carolina, attorneys in the Media, Computer and Communications Group of the international law firm, Clifford Chance, presents a view of commercial transactions from a European perspective with an emphasis on the United Kingdom.

With adequate foresight and proper planning, the Global Information Infrastructure will become the international marketplace of ideas of the future. As technology advances, the law will change, as it always has in the past, to reflect the issues raised by the use of new technology in commercial transactions.

Brian G. Gilpin
Editor-in-Chief

