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Foreword, 9 J. Marshall J. Prac. & Proc. 1 (1975)

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FOREWORD

In the not too distant past, the problem of drug control evoked a great deal of controversial discussion, causing great minds to become embroiled in heated arguments championing a myriad of answers to what some believed was an unanswerable question. More recently, however, the discussion has subsided and the media have switched their focus to areas which they no doubt feel are of more pressing concern to the public. Unfortunately, while the illicit drug problem persists, it has ceased to be a *cause celebre* in the United States.

My awareness of this situation matured at a two week conference held in London, England, during the summer of 1974. Sponsored by the American University, the program was on the subject of Crime, Justice, and Heroin in England. During that conference I had the pleasure of speaking with Wesley A. Pomerooy and Thomas B. Kirkpatrick, both from the Drug Abuse Council, Inc., about a portion of the program description I found particularly interesting:

Despite the apparent easing of the American heroin epidemic and related crime, there is no indication of a fundamental change in the persistent problem of heroin addiction, the crime it spawns—and the fact that the U.S.A. takes the position that heroin addiction is preeminently a problem for criminal justice. In England, heroin addiction is primarily a medical problem and is handled by the medical profession. . . .

Out of the discussions on the above quoted passage, a *Symposium on the Social Control of Drugs* began to take shape. With financial support from the Drug Abuse Council, I took our idea to acting Dean Fred F. Herzog of The John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Dean Herzog generously offered the facilities of the law school for the symposium. He also wisely suggested that we utilize the abilities of Assistant Dean Ronald Olson, who agreed to undertake the task of conference coordinator along with Thomas Kirkpatrick of the Drug Abuse Council. Together they tended to the countless details that go into the creation and planning of a successful symposium of this type.

A decision was reached during these planning stages that the symposium's impact would be greatly increased by publishing the presentations, so that interested persons, unable to attend the program itself, could nevertheless benefit from the expertise of those assembled in Chicago. Therefore, the law review of The John Marshall Law School accepted the invitation to publish this special issue covering the symposium. This issue of *The John*

Marshall Journal of Practice and Procedure represents the finished product of the symposium.

Held on April 18th and 19th, 1975, the entire proceedings of the symposium were taken down by a court reporter. Each speaker was then given a transcript of his speech and could suggest editorial and substantive changes. This explains why some of the speeches are footnoted. The final job of editing, however, was done by the staff of the law review.

Since *The John Marshall Journal of Practice and Procedure*, as the name implies, emphasizes that area of the law referred to as practice and procedure, the Editorial Board of the *Journal* decided to supplement the speeches of the symposium with articles written by practicing attorneys, all of whom deal in the prosecution and defense of drug cases. In addition, members of the law review were encouraged to submit student articles on drug related subjects, some of which were selected for publication.

As a final note, I would like to say that it was a pleasure for me both to listen to and participate in this fine symposium. I truly felt that the symposium succeeded in bringing together the thoughts of experts, thereby serving as a vehicle to enlighten those in attendance on the pressing problem of drug control. I am confident that, with the publication of this symposium issue of *The John Marshall Journal of Practice and Procedure*, the fruits of the conference will be preserved and will serve to add to the body of the law in drug control.

Hon. George N. Leighton
Illinois Appellate Court