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Editor's Note: The Symposium - What Value?

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EDITOR'S NOTE: THE SYMPOSIUM—WHAT VALUE?

This is the last in a series of editorial notes, modelled after editorials published by the Review during the 1966-67 academic year. These editorials are published as one of several special features during the Centennial Year.

Twenty-five years ago, Lowell Noteboom and Timothy Walker noted in the *Denver University Law Review* that “[i]n Ancient Greece, a symposium was the discussion following a banquet or social gathering, at which there was a free interchange of ideas.” Long after Plato discussed the topic of ideal love, editors of journals and magazines have often concentrated entire issues on specific themes for different purposes—to address or meet the changing needs of society or to pose unanswered questions for discussion and debate. In 1967, Noteboom and Walker wrote that “the symposium has developed into a literary vehicle—a collection of opinions on a selected topic, having as its purpose a composite analysis of the significant aspects of that topic. Its value must be measured in terms of its ability to achieve that goal.”

For decades, the *Denver University Law Review* has annually attempted to achieve that goal by publishing a Symposium Issue. Despite the problems posed in presenting a Symposium Issue, each year the editors of the *Review* take on that challenge. For their efforts, the *Review* has profited from increased interest by attorneys who find these single topic issues a valuable resource in their chosen areas of practice. Over the past one hundred years, the *Review* has published symposiums on various areas of law (e.g. Intellectual Property, Natural Resources, Securities, Constitutional Law), special interests topics (Children, Employment Discrimination) and even current events (the Watts Riots). Because each Symposium Issue brings its own rewards, the *Review* continues its tradition of publishing an annual symposium despite the difficulty of integrating each article into a common scheme.

This year's Symposium Issue takes a fresh look at environmental litigation and regulation from the perspective of law and economics. Colorado Attorney General, Gale Norton introduces this Issue with a discussion of the “market incentives approach” to pollution prevention and the economic impact of environmental regulation on private property. Two other articles discuss a recent United Supreme Court case, each from a different perspective. One article analyzes the impact of the *Lucas* decision on shoreline protection programs, while the other reviews the concept of “regulatory takings” after *Lucas*. In another article, Professor Imwinkelreid, noted evidence scholar and author, writes of the role of the expert witness in proving medical causation in toxic tort cases. Another article addresses the effects of superfund site designation on property values, using Smuggler Mountain in Aspen as a case study. This year's Symposium Issue also features two student pieces.

One provides an economic analysis of environmental policy as enforced by whistleblowers in contaminated facilities. The other discusses the Supreme Court's reversal of a much-lauded Tenth Circuit opinion in *Arkansas v. Oklahoma*, a landmark water law case involving competing state interests and the classic "downstream versus upstream" battle.

By adding to the store of annual Symposium Issues during this Centennial Year, we hope to continue a tradition of value measured only by its "contribution to legal education."

Diana A. Cachey