

FOREWORD

From its inception, the University of California, Davis, Law Review has used a somewhat unique format. Published annually, each hard-bound volume has focused on a particular area of current legal interest. The range of topics covered, from water pollution to evidence, indicates the diversity inherent in this approach. Each volume not only interprets the current law, but also offers new legal solutions to the problems discussed. Research and study is not limited to law, but extends to related academic disciplines such as political science, economics, applied sciences and sociology.

Another characteristic of the U.C. Davis Law Review is that it is primarily student written. Combined with high standards of publication quality, this system was adopted in order to provide the greatest possible educational benefit consistent with the goal of legal scholarship. Although still committed to this basic philosophy, this volume initiates a new concept — the student/practitioner article. The combination of student participation and practical attorney experience is designed to integrate the dual goals of education and contribution to the legal community. Student/practitioner articles will be a feature of future editions.

None of the ten volumes published to date purports to cover the entire field of law involved. Instead, each has been directed toward particular legal problems of current interest and importance as reflected in judicial and legislative developments. Volume 10 typifies this general approach. A single volume could not cover all or even most of the major problems facing cities today. The very complexity of the individual issues, involving as they inevitably do, a mixture of state and federal, constitutional and statutory law, social considerations and political realities, makes single volume comprehensive coverage an impossibility. And yet, the problems facing cities today are some of the most important and challenging in the law. Our goal is to provide the practitioner and the student with analyses of highly specific issues which suggest approaches to more general problems. For example, the articles dealing with particular revenue and regulation issues incorporate approaches to state preemption which are applicable in other contexts. Similarly, the articles dealing with labor problems are relevant to the general impact of federal regulations on local governments.

Thus, while not exhaustive, we hope that this volume will be of some assistance in aiding those who deal with the problems of local

government on a recurring basis. In addition, these articles are intended to focus attention on the importance of local government law in general. Many of the problems discussed can only be dealt with on a local basis. And, it is on the local government level that the law in the abstract becomes a reality of everyday life.

James R. Busselle
Editor-in-Chief
1976-77