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Letter from the Dean

Robert J. Desiderio

University of New Mexico - Main Campus

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

With this year's volume, the *New Mexico Law Review* begins its second decade. Throughout the past ten years, the primary goal of the *Review* has been to bring to the New Mexico legal community a journal dedicated to the discussion of relevant legal topics. This effort has been based on our belief that a local law review is essential for the review and analysis of legal issues affecting New Mexico.

The *Review* has been meeting this goal. Each issue has contained articles directly related to New Mexico law. The *Review* has been a forum for discussions dealing with the corporate, tax, criminal, procedural, commercial, property, evidentiary, tort, probate, welfare, and other public law of this State. Moreover, in the past, the *Review* has published symposia which have allowed detailed examination of important legal topics. In 1973, for example, after the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, the *Law Review* published a symposium dealing with a number of issues related to that amendment. (*See Symposium: The New Mexico Equal Rights Amendment—Assessing Its Impact*, 3 N.M.L. Rev. 1 (1973)). In 1980, the International Year of the Child, during a period when children's rights and the New Mexico Children's Code were subjects of much public discussion, a children's rights symposium was published. (*Children's Rights Symposium*, 10 N.M.L. Rev. 235 (1980)).

It is fitting, therefore, that with this issue the *Law Review* embark on what is at the same time a new venture and an extension of its past practice: the publication of a survey of New Mexico law. A survey allows us to address legal issues arising both judicially and legislatively during the preceding year that contribute substantially to the development of the law in New Mexico. Thus, not all cases and statutes will be considered. The objective of the *Survey* is not only to present an exposition of important issues and their sources but also to analyze them thoroughly and critically. In this way, the development, reasoning, and effect of each legal decision can be scrutinized. What is intended is a review of New Mexico jurisprudence. It is hoped that all of us, as students of the law, will learn from this presentation.

Dean Robert J. Desiderio
University of New Mexico School of Law