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Editors' Introduction

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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

The roles of civil practice and procedure in federal judicial proceedings, historically significant in the landscape of American political and juridical affairs, have achieved increased prominence in recent years. The rising litigiousness of our society, the growth of complex civil litigation, and the increased tendency for governmental controversies to result in litigation demonstrate this development. As such, topics involving federal civil practice and procedure are worthy of focused academic attention and analysis.

It is for this reason that the *Notre Dame Law Review* instituted its annual Federal Practice & Procedure Issue, which the Editors hope will serve as a forum for scholars, judges, and practitioners to address the status and reform of the federal courts, federal rules of procedure, and similar subjects. The inaugural Issue, published in May 1998, included pieces by Professors Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., John H. Robinson, Thomas D. Rowe, Jr., David L. Shapiro, and the Honorable Diana Gribbon Motz, as well as several student submissions.

This year, we are pleased to publish the papers from the annual meeting of the Federal Courts Section of the American Association of Law Schools. This 1999 symposium on the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine includes a foreword by Professor Rowe, articles by Professor Suzanna Sherry, Professor Barry Friedman and James E. Gaylord, and Professor Susan Bandes, as well as a comment by Professor Jack M. Beermann. The Issue also features an article by Professor Joseph P. Bauer that analyzes the plausibility of applying choice of law scholarship to the *Erie* doctrine and a book review, by Professor Jack Friedenthal, of *Complex Litigation and the Adversary System*, a casebook by Professors Jay Tidmarsh and Roger Transgrud. Finally, the Issue again includes several student pieces.

Next year's Federal Practice & Procedure Issue will build upon this foundation. Expected contributors for the 2000 Issue include Professors Stephen B. Burbank, Bruce Hay, Linda S. Mullenix, and Martin H. Redish.

The Editors of the *Notre Dame Law Review* would like to extend their thanks to Professor Tidmarsh, for his advice and assistance in formulating the Issue, and to Professor Rowe, chair of the Federal Courts Section of the American Association of Law Schools, for agreeing to publish the *Rooker-Feldman* symposium in this year's Issue. Additionally, Mark C. Cawley deserves significant credit for the success of this Issue, and Professors Bauer, John H. Garvey, William K. Kelley,

and Patrick J. Schiltz provided assistance regarding next year's Issue. We hope you will find the *Notre Dame Law Review's* 1999 Federal Practice & Procedure Issue informative and provocative and will continue to look for the Issue in coming years.

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Federal Practice & Procedure Editors