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## Preface

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## Preface

It is an exciting privilege to introduce this first issue of the *Pace Environmental Law Review*. The *Review* is the product of dedication and hard work by recent Pace Law School graduates and student editors whose efforts were inspired by their interest in environmental law. Publication not only honors Pace and its commitment to the highest quality of legal education, but also provides rigorous editorial training which complements our *Juris Doctor* program.

The best law schools now boast of several law reviews that provide students with opportunities for legal research and writing. To justify their creation, however, new law reviews must do more than simply provide such opportunities. These journals should also advance the competency, ethics, and civic service of the bar and bench. A publication which specializes in a single area of law can help to promote these goals. The selection of environmental law as the subject of this *Review* will enhance its usefulness to practitioners, students, and scholars.

It was not much more than a decade ago that the word "environment" became part of everyday speech. Since then, environmental laws have become a pervasive presence in our lives. Federal and state governments have enacted comprehensive environmental laws; the press has documented stories about toxic wastes, contaminated groundwater, and resource development on federal lands; and attorneys nationwide have counseled a variety of clients on compliance with these laws. The rapid expansion of this field has generated a continuing need for scholarly commentary on and analysis of environmental issues.

This *Review* will provide a forum for discussion of such issues as standing to sue for violation of non-economic rights, often a threshold barrier in environmental lawsuits. The issue of standing in an environmental land use dispute arose as one of first impression in the Iowa courts during my tenure

as a judge on the Court of Appeals. In *Reynolds v. Dittmer*, 312 N.W.2d 75 (Iowa App. 1981), property owners near a planned subdivision challenged a proposal to convert farmland to a new development. The trial court dismissed the Complaint for lack of standing. I was privileged to write the opinion for the court. Relying on the example of New York, Florida, and other states, we reversed and expressly embraced the New York Court of Appeals' charge that courts should not dispose of environmental land use disputes because of artificially narrow obstacles couched as a lack of standing.

The *Pace Environmental Law Review* also enriches our Law School by reinforcing its specialized curriculum in environmental law. The Faculty's Certificate in Environmental Law, available to Pace J.D. candidates and to members of the bar, reflects successful completion of an advanced course of study, and the Law School's Center for Environmental Legal Studies furthers legal reform and lawyer competency. The editors and staff of the *Review* will promote these programs and will participate in the Center's research.

On behalf of the Law School faculty and administration, I welcome this new publication to the Law School community.

Janet A. Johnson\*  
May, 1983

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