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FROM THE EDITOR

Of all the dilemmas facing our contemporary society, perhaps none is at once so universal in scope yet of such local immediacy as that posed by environmental policymaking. Proposed policies must meet the challenge of serving national and regional needs, while attending to the concerns of local property owners. The scientific, economic, and legal ramifications of any attempt to legislatively grapple with environmental problems are varied and far-reaching. Policy goals are easy to identify, depending on the interest group consulted: preservation of natural resources, control of pollution, promotion of economic development. The transformation of such objectives into effective, balanced statutory solutions, however, remains elusive.

When one considers the number of areas of scholarly expertise that are implicated in the resolution of such problems—economics, biology, ecology, law, agricultural science, industrial and environmental engineering, to name a few—it becomes increasingly clear that an interdisciplinary approach may offer the greatest opportunity for success. In keeping with this view, the *Maryland Law Review*, in conjunction with the University of Maryland School of Law, sponsored an interdisciplinary symposium on the special problems of environmental regulation of coastal and estuarine resources—an area of particular concern to Maryland, given its intimate relationship with the Chesapeake Bay. Participants included scientists, economists, lawyers, government officials, and a journalist. We at the *Maryland Law Review* are proud to publish the papers presented at that symposium, along with an introduction prepared by Professor Robert Percival, noted environmental lawyer and Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Maryland.

Unfortunately, troublesome dilemmas are not unique to the environmental arena. Legislatures and the courts have struggled with the emotional havoc wrought by the increasing numbers of broken

marriages, and in particular the fate of the offspring of these divorced couples. One solution that has recently received great attention is "joint custody," each parent retaining some equivalent share of legal or physical control. Professors Singer and Reynolds provide a penetrating analysis of the realities of joint custody, suggesting that it is an impractical solution to the problems encountered by divorced parents.

Also included in this issue are two student articles. David Morgan reviews Ronald Dworkin's latest tome on jurisprudence, *Law's Empire*, an extremely significant and thought-provoking work. Carville Collins examines the flaws in Maryland's campaign financing laws, recommending changes that would bring these statutes more in line with the goals they were intended to achieve.

As we enter this election year, many of the issues raised within this volume take on added importance as they fuel the political debate. As always, we welcome our reader's response on these matters.