Introduction: Mission Accomplished

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The process of selecting a symposium topic is an extremely difficult mission that every editorial board confronts each year. There are several challenging questions that must be addressed in order to produce a high-quality symposium, such as: Is the topic relevant? What will be our contribution to legal scholarship? Can we engage the brilliant scholars in this area of the law? Can we engage our student body? Each positive response to these questions inches us closer to our goal: Publication of a Law Review book in which the strength of each Article provides unique insights that make us—the reader—better lawyers. This Book accomplished just that.

This year’s Symposium Book—Restitution Rollout: The Restatement (Third) of Restitution & Unjust Enrichment—surpassed all of the Review’s expectations. We selected authors by invitation and by a call for papers. The call for papers broadened and enriched the Symposium’s scholarship by attracting beginning scholars and lawyers in addition to the usual (restitution) suspects. The quality of discussion during the Symposium and the extraordinary Articles submitted gives us great confidence that this Book will shape the way lawyers analyze the Restatement.

As a brief preview, this Book consists of Articles written by esteemed professors, scholars, and practitioners, and includes a student Note on restitution. Each Article invites the reader to think critically, challenge assumptions, and reach conclusions when analyzing the Restatement. There will be agreements, disagreements, praise, and criticism, all of which are elements of a great conversation that will lead to further Symposiums and Articles. This Book is the first collection of scholarly and professional commentary; we welcome the curiosity and candor of the professional world to continue the conversation.

The Review would like to thank the American Law Institute and the Frances Lewis Law Center who co-sponsored the Symposium. The Review would also like to thank all of the participants and organizers. Specifically, the Review would like to thank Professor Doug Rendleman, Wendy Rice, and Lisa Gearheart for all of their efforts.

* Editor in Chief of Volume 68 of the Washington and Lee Law Review.