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Editor's Page

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EDITORS' PAGE

The coal resource development area has faced severe marketing problems in the past year. Nevertheless, a number of legal issues concerning coal mining, transportation, and use have arisen. It was the opinion of the National Coal Issue Advisory Board and the editors of the *West Virginia Law Review* that no single issue has predominated this area. However, several critical issues were identified for discussion in this year's National Coal Issue.

Perhaps the foremost goal of the 1984 Issue has been to provide a forum for the scholarly discussion of these timely legal issues from a variety of perspectives — a balanced approach. Therefore, essays and articles have been included from the government, industry, labor, and public interest perspectives.

Topics were identified and developed in several ways. The most important source for article development is the National Coal Issue Advisory Board. The Board has been the steering force in the decisions concerning potential topics and authors. Special thanks must be extended this year to Mr. Vish, Professor McGinley, and Mr. McAteer. Their contributions to this and past Coal Issues have been a major factor in its success.

Two new members have been added to the Board this year. Mr. Robert Stauffer of the National Coal Association has previously demonstrated his value as a source for topics and authors. His ideas and contacts have been a valuable asset and the *West Virginia Law Review* is proud to add him to the Board.

The second new Board member has been the most valuable asset of the 1984 National Coal Issue. In both representative and personal capacities, he has provided guidance, ideas, liason, information, and encouragement. The *West Virginia Law Review* is honored to add Mr. William G. Williams, Executive Director of the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation to the Advisory Board.

The continued success of the National Coal Issue is a tribute to the contributions of the Advisory Board and others. The steadily increasing subscription list attests to the Issue's vitality. It is our hope that the 1984 Issue continues the tradition of providing a quality and timely contribution in this important area.