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## Editor's Page

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The *West Virginia Law Review* enters a new decade facing a number of challenges both old and new. This editorial will outline those challenges as well as progress in other operational areas of the *Law Review*.

The problem of financing plagues not only our *Law Review* but most others in the nation. The increased costs of printing and mailing have forced us to raise the subscription price to fifteen dollars—a hefty twenty-five percent increase. Yet even with this substantial increase the *Review* could not be published without the aid provided to it by this University. This year we have renewed our drive for subscriptions and have met with some limited success; if the *Review* can double its paid subscription base, currently at 1100, then it would be on a sound financial footing.

It is unsound economics to bill subscribers after the volume is published; it is far sounder to bill prior to actual publication so as to allow each year's board to plan the size of the volume. As long as the *Review* can publish on a reasonably regular schedule this should not be unfair to our subscribers. Beginning with Volume 84 billing for each volume will be sent out at the end of June. Over the past month we have caught up on our billing for Volume 83. Finally, in response to this year's fiscal condition, the board has opted to limit the size of the *Review* to no more than a thousand pages.

The "computer revolution" which has swept through this nation over the past decade has been awesome. The legal profession has felt this revolution no less than any other field and has adapted to it through the increasing use of computerized legal research and electronic information retrieval systems. Over the next five years most law reviews will have acquired a word processing system. Such a system will allow direct editing, clean copy, and substantial time saving. As more reviews turn to this system it is only natural that printers will gear their system to "interfacing" with word processors. This will result in a faster and smoother publication process and overall cost reductions. Reviews which do not adapt to this technology will have no choice but to continue

to publish in the present cumbersome method at a higher cost. This challenge cannot be overcome immediately, but it can be overcome in the not too distant future with some foresight and planning.

The final challenge which the *Review* faces is the staffing of our offices over the summer. This past year Tom Rubenstein was able to devote his time to keeping the system running in the evenings even while working for a local law firm during the day. This devotion to the *Review* is deeply appreciated and without such devotion it is doubtful whether any issue of Volume 83 could have been published as of this date. Quite frankly it was the *Review's* good fortune that Tom was working in Morgantown and was able to devote his time to this task; relying on good fortune year in and year out is not the way to run an efficient organization. It is virtually impossible to ask a member to forego summer employment in order to staff the offices with no financial compensation. Other reviews have such a system of compensation and it has worked out very well. There is no reason for the *Review* to lose three months of work each year.

On a positive note, the *Review* has finally been able to computerize its mailing list thus streamlining an operation which had been both time consuming and cumbersome. Further, with the publication of this issue the *Review* is back on schedule so that advanced billing can be resumed.

The *Review* has been given access to secretarial service by the administration of this law school. This will allow us to send "cleaner" manuscripts to the publisher as well as providing a person to take calls and messages from 9 to 5. Many thanks to the administration of the law school for providing this long sought for and much needed service.

Finally, on an upbeat note, I am pleased to announce that the *West Virginia Law Review* has become a member of the National Conference of Law Reviews, an organization of law reviews throughout the nation. More importantly, the *West Virginia Law Review* has been chosen as a member of the 1982 executive board of that organization. The *Review* can only expect to benefit from its participation in such a nationally prominent organization.

The board of Volume 83 invites your comments and criticisms. It is through healthy criticism that we can continue to publish a quality *Review* serving first and foremost the needs of the West Virginia attorney.

*Ernie K. Demanelis*