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Foreword

Kenneth C. Jenne

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FOREWORD

KENNETH C. JENNE*

The commencement of a legislative session marks the incipience of opportunity, that instance when the spirit of beginning induces fate to yield to truth. For the legislators of our state, truth is a confrontation with responsibility, the challenge of molding the laws which govern our existence and our future. It is a truth laced with historic purpose.

A similar historic purpose characterizes this volume of scholarship, *The Review of Florida Legislation*. The editorial board and staff of the *Florida State University Law Review* are the publishers of a book that has no equal in Florida. It is a first of its kind: a comprehensive examination of significant legislation enacted by the 1985 Florida Legislature. A special edition of the *Review*, the inaugural *Review of Florida Legislation* features articles which present a unique and critical insight into Florida lawmaking. The authors don't merely report the law, they dissect it. Each article presents a thorough summary of the cases, statutes, and administrative decisions within the subject area and penetrates beyond the surface to provide a detailed recounting of the legislative history and an analysis of the legislative intent.

The significance of this publication is mirrored by the relevance of its topics. The lead article, written by attorney Bob Rhodes, updates the use of extrinsic aids in statutory construction. Rhodes revisits a topic he first examined in 1978 and, with student co-author Susan Seereiter, concludes that our courts are becoming increasingly receptive to the use of extrinsic evidence when questions of legislative intent are litigated. Another prominent attorney, Tom Pelham, has co-authored a piece on growth management, unquestionably one of the most vital and far-reaching legislative concerns of this decade. Protecting and regulating Florida's environment was paramount as the 1985 Legislature attempted to comprehensively

* Senator, Dem., West Palm Beach (Senate President-Designate).

address the myriad of issues encompassed in managing Florida's rapid growth. Pelham, writing with attorney Bill Hyde and *Review* member Robert Banks, examines the effect of our new laws on all Floridians. And there is much more in this *Review of Florida Legislation*. Other articles examine medical malpractice reform, the Marketable Record Title Act, the proposal for a statewide prosecutor, the public financing of elections, assistance to minority and small businesses, the protection of children, hospital cost containment measures, a proposed state-run lottery, and the sunset of public records and meetings exemptions, among others.

I personally applaud the ambition of the editors and staff of the *Florida State Law Review*, who, through their keen foresight and tireless dedication, have provided Florida with this unique resource. Insightful, analytical, and precise, it is worthwhile reading not only for judges, legislators, attorneys, and students, but for all who share a genuine interest in our state.