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Forward

Stanley F. Birch, Jr.

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FOREWORD

By Judge Stanley F. Birch, Jr.*

The inauguration of the *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* by the students and faculty of the University of Georgia is at once a cause for celebration and, perhaps, puzzlement. Undertaking the publication of any creative intellectual work, particularly one that promises recurring contributions, should be cause for felicity. This publication will expand the benefits of a professional journal experience to more students and provide to academics and practitioners a new forum for commentary and debate. After this observation, the excitement of the occasion is restrained by the obvious question — why another law journal?

The answer to that inquiry should accentuate our excited anticipation rather than dampen it. The need for greater exposition on the law of intellectual property is apparent. Reading the daily newspaper or tuning into a news broadcast gives appreciation for the exploding concern for legally structuring the constantly expanding role of technology in contemporary life. Many are persuaded that the advances in technology and the concomitant impact on individuals, communities and nations have not been accompanied by parallel efforts to bring order to the societal conflicts spawned by such achievements. New advances in genetics, computer science, and numerous other fields daily challenge those charged with conflict resolution, whether through legislation or litigation, to adapt and change. Indeed, we repeatedly are admonished that one of the few things in this life that is constant is change.

Against this backdrop legislators and jurists, particularly those in democracies committed to capitalism, will benefit from an expanded dialogue focused on intellectual property law among academics and practitioners. A cursory examination of the table of contents of this inaugural issue reflects both the breadth and relevance of this intellectual property journal. Intuitively, we

* United States Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

understand that better informed decisionmaking will be enhanced by such exposition. While the level of abstraction in much intellectual endeavor is necessarily elevated, the board of advisors consulted by the students and faculty at Georgia's law school have counseled the editors to emphasize the current array of practical problems confronting legislators, jurists and practitioners. In this increasingly fast-paced world, the time for reflection and deliberation has become a precious commodity. Thus, the worth of a new journal that can advance the user's deliberative processes to the threshold of creative, potentially original, thought is invaluable. Perhaps it is only fitting that the branch of law devoted to creative innovation stands to benefit from this timely new addition to the body of legal scholarship.

Congratulations to the students and faculty of the University of Georgia for their foresight and efforts in embracing change by initiating this intellectual property clearinghouse and forum. You are positioned to make a difference in the scheme of emerging legal thought. Your audience applauds the opening performance and anxiously awaits the many encores to follow. Bravo!