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## Foreword

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## FOREWORD

Hon. Lorie Skjerven Gildea<sup>†</sup>

For more than 150 combined years, Hamline University School of Law and William Mitchell College of Law have left an indelible mark on Minnesota's legal community.

Graduates of these institutions reached the highest halls of power, litigated the most complex of cases, served our criminal justice system as both accomplished prosecutors and successful defense attorneys, became well-respected judges and scholars, and volunteered countless hours providing legal aid to those in need.

These institutions embraced innovative and flexible approaches to delivering legal education, opening the door to non-traditional law students and broadening the diversity of experience in the legal profession. By maintaining a focus on experiential learning and giving students extensive opportunities to gain real-world experience, they prepared generations of attorneys for the complex and unique challenges that come with a career in the law.

Just as these distinguished institutions helped shape our modern legal community in Minnesota, their respective law reviews—the *Hamline Law Review* and the *William Mitchell Law Review*—helped shape our modern legal discourse and scholarly debate. By serving as respected outlets for thoughtful, timely, and challenging articles, these publications helped inform and improve public policy, legal decision-making, and the practice of law in our state.

Now, we turn the page on these storied institutions, while taking time to celebrate their tremendous accomplishments and lasting legacy.

As we celebrate the successes of the past, we also look ahead to a new chapter for Minnesota's legal community. The founding of Mitchell Hamline School of Law is a step toward the future of legal education in our state, and it will shape how we prepare law

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<sup>†</sup> Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court.

students for successful, productive careers, while ensuring we are able to meet society's needs for legal services.

The decision to combine Hamline University School of Law and William Mitchell College of Law was the result of a long-term strategic vision aimed at improving the quality and depth of educational opportunities provided to students. Mitchell Hamline School of Law has promised to combine the best aspects of each respective institution, resulting in a law school that provides students diverse and flexible educational opportunities, hands-on learning, world-class faculty, and a genuine opportunity to make a real, measurable difference in their community.

Similarly, the Minnesota legal community stands to be well-served by the launch of the *Mitchell Hamline Law Review*. As a reader and contributor to the *Hamline Law Review* and the *William Mitchell Law Review*, I am eager to see the quality and breadth of writing that will be contained in this united publication, which is already on display in this inaugural issue. In the pages to follow, you will see engaging and thoughtful articles. Continuing the tradition of the publications it succeeds, the *Mitchell Hamline Law Review* promises to enhance and broaden our legal and public policy discourse.

The legal profession has undergone rapid change in recent years, and even our most respected and distinguished institutions have been challenged to adapt and respond. Hamline University School of Law and William Mitchell College of Law were never afraid of change and innovative thinking, and the founding of Mitchell Hamline School of Law represents a critical evolution in legal education. The last century saw Hamline and William Mitchell law students reach incredible heights, achieve remarkable accomplishments, and make immeasurable contributions in their communities. I fully expect that this century will see the same success and commitment to justice from the students at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.