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Foreword

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FOREWORD

With this inaugural issue, the *Journal of the National Security Forum (JNSF)* contributes its voice to the ongoing dialogue concerning the effectiveness of our nation's counterterrorism strategy and its impact on civil liberties and human rights.

The *JNSF* builds on the work of the National Security Forum at William Mitchell College of Law, which has been taking a leading role in engaging these critical issues. Under the direction of Professor John Radsan and with the assistance of an active, student-run National Security Society, the National Security Forum has generated a remarkable series of seminars, panel discussions, and other events that enrich the national debate. Those efforts will be complimented and enhanced by the launch of the *JNSF*.

This first issue illustrates the creative approach that will distinguish the *JNSF*. The *JNSF* combines the diligent scholarship of a traditional law review with the more accessible style of a public policy journal. For the opening section of this issue, for example, the *JNSF's* Board of Editors formulated ten questions concerning issues such as the state secrets privilege and the appropriate handling of the remaining detainees at Guantanamo Bay. The Board then asked several experts in national security law to provide short essay answers to them; respondents include Professor John Baker of Louisiana State University School of Law, Lisa Graves of the Center for National Security Studies, Professor John Cary Sims of the University of the Pacific Law School, Professor Robert Turner of the University of Virginia Law School, and Professor Robert Delahunty of the University of St. Thomas Law School.

The second section capitalizes on the work of the National Security Forum by publishing the remarks of the many prominent speakers who have appeared in the Forum's events. In the past year, for example, the National Security Forum provided a unique discussion of the Zacarias Moussaoui prosecution, with participation from the lead prosecutor, the lead defense lawyer, and the juror who held out on the death penalty in that case. The Forum also hosted an event examining conflicts between executive secrecy and the freedom of the press, drawing in reporters from the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and National Public Radio, as well as Judge Stephen Trott (a former Associate Attorney General who

now sits on the Ninth Circuit). Other events have included federal district court judges Michael Davis (who sat for a term on the FISA court), Gerald Rosen (who presided during the Koubriti prosecution in Detroit), and John Tunheim (who has presided over cases involving classified information in Minneapolis). Other participants have included Professor Neal Katyal (counsel for Salim Hamdan in the Supreme Court), author Mark Bowden (of *Black Hawk Down* fame), and Fred Hitz (formerly Inspector General of the CIA).

The third section of the *JNSF* is devoted to the work of students. Their work is often creative and influential, and makes an important contribution to the study of topics in national security law. Notably, the student notes in this issue were selected on the basis of a national competition.

The *JNSF* is a welcome and important contribution to the conversation on the law of national security. I am honored to help present this issue to the community of scholars and practitioners of national security.

- Robert Chesney