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Preface

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PREFACE

The *University of Richmond Law Review* is extremely pleased to present this special issue dedicated to Professor Akhil Reed Amar's *The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction*. The purpose of the issue is to celebrate the groundbreaking nature of Professor Amar's contemporary text by providing a collection of eleven scholarly commentaries in which some of the finest constitutional jurists in the United States react to the book. The commentators each offer a unique perspective on the dynamic text, utilizing legal, judicial, historical, philosophical, and even esoteric influences to analyze its contents. In an eloquent response to his academic peers, *Continuing the Conversation*, Professor Amar graciously addresses the individual commentaries by examining both praise and criticism alike, as proffered by each of the authors. The result is quite inviting to the reader; and the issue's appeal is enhanced by the fact that the Law Review Editorial Board went to great lengths to preserve the particular writing styles of the individual authors.

The extraordinary nature of this publication, however, does not end with these fine commentaries. The issue also features the written text of an intriguing and timely lecture on the current Holocaust litigation in the United States, as penned and presented by Professor Michael J. Bazylar, one of the top academics in the world on the matter of Holocaust reparations.

Given the size and nature of this undertaking, an extremely concerted effort by the *Law Review*, the individual authors, and the University of Richmond School of Law faculty was absolutely necessary to publish both in a timely fashion and with pinpoint accuracy. This effort was indeed administered on all three counts. First, the *Law Review* itself worked effectively and efficiently for five months to coordinate the complex editorial process that naturally results from an issue containing sixteen articles. This grand effort, however, was ultimately made possible by the tireless efforts of two frighteningly dedicated incoming editors, Molly Delea and Thomas Queen, and our ever-loyal and selfless Administrative Assistant, Glenice Coombs. It is to these three individuals that I extend a very sincere and special thanks—one that I am not sure I will ever be quite able to portray in words.

Second, I am grateful for the many authors in this issue that maintained active communication with me over a long five month period, and went to great lengths to provide timely assistance throughout the editorial process—often under the duress of short time lines and ambitious editors. I would like to especially thank Professor Amar, who offered continuous support, guidance, and praise, which helped make the always-arduous process very satisfying.

Finally, with deepest appreciation, I must thank Professor Michael Allan Wolf, the *Law Review's* Faculty Advisor, and my academic mentor and friend. It was from his mind that the idea for this issue spawned. But even more importantly, it was his time, advice, optimism, and quixotic—yet somehow realistic—encouragement that made me in particular, but also the *Law Review* as a whole, confident enough to achieve the great success that we did this year.

John P. Cunningham
Editor-in-Chief