FOREWORD

The publication at just this time of the first issue of the Vermont Law Review is most fortunate. Preparing the content of a law review sharpens the approaches to law, logic, and the reasoning process of its editors and comment writers; but a law review also creates opportune forums where both student and nonstudent authors may advocate to an informed audience pertinent issues of temporary or permanent importance.

During these past few months there has been much professional thinking and much professional activity dealing with the basic questions inherent in any evaluation of the proper relationship of the legal profession to the community at large which it is licensed to serve. There has been much written about judicial caseloads, the need for special advocacy preparation for lawyers, and the ethical bounds within which the conduct of lawyers and judges should be contained. There has been much debate about the tightening of the nuts and bolts of the machinery of the law, and, indeed, there have been sincere efforts by some to change our revered adversary process as time-wasting and anachronistic. These and other studies of our system have been occupying the thoughts of leaders in the field of legal education as well as leaders of the practicing profession, both of the bar and of the bench.

The pages of law reviews are ideal for the discussion of these subjects. The subjects need more than "nuts and bolts" thoughts. They desperately need and deserve independent approaches to the problems facing the profession. Law reviews can provide the needed new look; and, as independent approaches to the disquieting problems of our society have been associated for generations in the minds of Americans with the name "Vermont", this time is an ideal time in which to launch a Vermont Law Review. The new publication has a rare opportunity: an opportunity which its name provides, an opportunity to demonstrate the high standards of honest analysis and the forthright kind of pertinent comments which thoughtful Americans have always expected from Vermont and Vermonters.

Sterry R. Waterman