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Introduction - Symposium Articles

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INTRODUCTION – SYMPOSIUM ARTICLES

*Jerry Parkinson**

Two years ago we published the first issue of the *Wyoming Law Review*. Our law school has been publishing a law review since 1946, but for much of our history our publication was named the *Land & Water Law Review*, to emphasize the special importance of natural resources issues to the Rocky Mountain West. We changed the name of our law review in 2001 in part to reflect reality – while we have provided, and will continue to provide, a special focus on natural resources issues, our law review has always welcomed and published articles on topics of general interest outside the natural resources arena.

This issue of the *Wyoming Law Review* represents another important step in the evolution. This past year's editorial board determined early in their tenure to enhance the profile of the law review by developing a symposium issue of national prominence. With the spotlight on spectacular business failures and ethical lapses in business of a magnitude never before seen in our nation's history, a symposium issue and accompanying conference on the lawyer's role in business governance struck all of us as a natural fit.

Part of the editors' plan was to attract a cadre of writers who are the best in their field. They succeeded marvelously. The lead article in this issue is authored by Marc Steinberg, the Rupert and Lillian Radford Professor of Law and Senior Associate Dean for Academics at the Southern Methodist University School of Law. Professor Steinberg, once an enforcement attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and legal advisor to the SEC's General Counsel, is one of the preeminent authorities in the area of business ethics and securities law. He has authored over 100 law review articles and ten books, including a new book entitled "Lawyering and Ethics for the Business Attorney." Professor Steinberg's article for this is-

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sue of the *Wyoming Law Review* sets the stage by examining the ever-evolving Sarbanes-Oxley legislation and lawyer responsibilities that flow from that legislation.

Professor Marianne Jennings follows with an article providing valuable insight into the debacles that led to this legislative reform and offering a set of guiding principles to correct corporate abuses. As Professor Jennings observes, we can legislate all we want, but we are unlikely to see fundamental change unless we focus on core values and a sense of morality in corporate governance. Like Professor Steinberg, Professor Jennings is a prominent author and commentator on matters of business ethics. A lawyer, she is a professor of legal and ethical studies in the College of Business at Arizona State University. She has authored more than 130 articles in academic, professional, and trade journals, and she currently has six textbooks and monographs in circulation, including the fourth edition of her textbook, "Case Studies in Business Ethics," which was published in June 2002. Professor Jennings writes a syndicated column for such publications as the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*, is a regular commentator on radio and television, and has conducted more than 200 workshops and seminars on ethics around the country.

Our third author is Professor Irma Russell of the University of Memphis School of Law. Much of Professor Russell's career, both in law practice and in law teaching, has been devoted to ethical issues in the environmental arena. She has represented government agencies, lenders, and other clients on a wide variety of environmental issues, and she has served as Chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Bar Association's Environmental Section. A prolific author herself, Professor Russell's new book entitled "Issues of Legal Ethics in the Practice of Environmental Law" will be available soon from ABA Publications. In her article for this issue of the *Wyoming Law Review*, Professor Russell focuses on the ethical role of the lawyer in business governance.

We are also pleased to showcase the contributions of two of our own faculty members from the University of Wyoming College of Law. Professor Harvey Gelb, a nationally recognized expert in his own right in the area of securities and corporate law, addresses the impact of the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation on closely-held corporations. Finally, Wyoming's own ethics expert, Professor John Burman, examines the Wyoming Rules of Professional Conduct and offers valuable, practical guidance for attorneys who must be particularly vigilant in this new era when they advise and assist their corporate clients.

The College of Law was privileged to host all of these authors at a live symposium in Laramie in April 2003. Not only were the speakers engaging and thought-provoking, they proved to be warm and gracious people as well. We are much richer for the opportunity to get to know them as in-

dividuals. It was also our privilege to recognize Professor Steinberg as our 2003 Winston S. Howard Distinguished Lecturer. We regret that Winston was unable to be with us for the symposium, but I know he would have been proud.

My hat is off to Sam Cantrell, Sean Thueson, and the rest of the board of editors of the *Wyoming Law Review* for their vision, hard work, and dedication to the highest standards of quality for the law review. I am confident that you will find this issue to be among the finest that our law school has ever produced. Enjoy the articles.

