

## P R E F A C E

**T**HIS ISSUE OF THE BLACK LAW JOURNAL represents its most ambitious undertaking to date — an attempt to chronicle, analyze and predict the direction of the Nixon-Burger Court. Articles appearing in earlier issues of the JOURNAL examined recent Supreme Court decisions concerning School Desegregation and Voter Participation and their effect on Blacks and the poor. Notably Harold Horowitz and Kenneth Karst's "Emerging Nationwide Standards For School Desegregation — Charlotte and Mobile, 1971" which appeared in Volume 1, Number 3 of the JOURNAL and Armand Derfner's "Multi-Member Districts and Black Voters" in Volume 2, Number 2 examined the significant opinions from the Burger era in each of these areas. These subjects will not be discussed in depth in this issue. They will be reviewed, however, in the overview presented herein by Professor Kenneth Tollett.

Professor Tollett's article "The Viability and Reliability of the United States Supreme Court as an Institution for Social Change and Progress Beneficial to Blacks" will appear in two parts — the first, examining the state of the law at the end of the Warren era and the second which will be published in Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 1973, analyzing Burger Court opinions. These articles as well as the three more specific articles appearing here will be helpful in assessing the effect of the Nixon Court nominations on the interests of minorities and the poor. Was the Burger nomination the signal that the role of the Supreme Court as a protector of Black causes had come to an end? Were the appointments of Blackmun, Powell and Rehnquist indications that Black people could no longer depend on the court to deliver the justice denied them by other less sympathetic American institutions? Or should Blacks regard the Court as an adversary, dedicated to restoring minority groups in this country to their pre-Warren status? We hope that this issue of the JOURNAL and the forthcoming articles by Professor Tollett will allow BLACK LAW JOURNAL readers to articulate well-documented answers to these and other questions that have been raised about the direction of the Supreme Court.

### NOTE:

*Subsequent to the publication of the Armand Derfner article, "Multi-Member Districts and Black Voters," which appeared in the Summer, 1972 issue of the BLACK LAW JOURNAL, there have been a number of significant changes. Before citing this article, please contact the Board of Editors and a copy of these changes will be immediately forwarded.*

