

PREFACE

The focus of this, the first issue in Volume three of **THE BLACK LAW JOURNAL** is centered on the responsiveness of the present criminal justice system to the situation of Black people in America. Articles appearing in this issue discuss some of the variables that determine whether a Black man or woman can and will have a fair trial within the confines of the American legal system. It is of utmost importance that the many aspects of the racial dilemma be thoroughly understood in order that the legal practitioner be better able to fulfill the essential functions of his role as defense counsel and protector of the constitutional rights of minorities.

The first article is the second part of 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." Part One appeared in Volume 2, Number 3, the Winter 1972 **JOURNAL** and examined the law at the end of the Warren era. Part Two, presented in this issue, will examine the opinions of the Burger Court. The second article, by Howard Moore, entitled "Racism as Justice" presents an historical analysis of racism in the judicial system, as well as a present day and future analysis. Diane Potash contributes an article entitled "Mandatory Inclusion of Racial Minorities on Jury Panels." Ms. Potash has conducted extensive research to lay a theoretical and doctrinal framework that will be of great interest to the legal practitioner.

The National Conference for Black Lawyers presents a position paper advocating the establishment of a national legal defense network, which would encourage needed solidarity among Black attorneys in the United States for legal defense purposes. The feature story is about O. T. Wells, who, besides being a noted trial attorney is president of the National Bar Association. In the profiles, we are proud to include several attorneys who deserve our recognition for their superior performance as trial attorneys. It is our sincere desire to present in this issue some new and unexplored perceptions that will educate and stimulate the modern lawyer and layman involved with the American legal system.

