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Introduction

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Introduction

In 1984, the *Pepperdine Law Review*, in conjunction with the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Justice, presented a special symposium on victims' rights. Because this symposium in Volume 11 of the *Pepperdine Law Review* was one of the first publications to recognize and address the legal needs of crime victims, it was enthusiastically received by the legal community, and eventually became one of Pepperdine's most successful issues. However, since the symposium was published, many exciting changes and developments have occurred in the area of victims' rights, generating the need for a victims' rights update. Accordingly, the *Pepperdine Law Review* is pleased to present this follow-up issue to its 1984 symposium.

This issue contains six lead articles written by distinguished authors in the field of victims' rights. The first article is by two leading victims' rights activists, Frank Carrington and George Nicholson. The article, entitled *Victims' Rights: An Idea Whose Time Has Come—Five Years Later: The Maturing of an Idea*, updates their earlier article, *the Victims' Movement: An Idea Whose Time Has Come*, which appeared in the 1984 symposium.

The second article, *The Elevation of Victims' Rights in Washington State: Constitutional Status*, focuses on the steps taken by the Washington Legislature and the Washington State voters to guarantee crime victims certain rights. Authored by Ken Eikenberry, Attorney General for the State of Washington, the article discusses both the prosecutor's role in ensuring victims' rights and the effect of victims' rights laws on the criminal justice system.

The third article, written by David L. Roland, is entitled *Progress in the Victim Reform Movement: No Longer the "Forgotten Victim."* This article highlights the progress in the victims' movement since the 1984 symposium and surveys the current law governing victims' rights.

The legislative view of victims' rights is presented in the fourth article, *Crime Victims' Rights—A Legislative Perspective*. Authored by Representative William Van Regenmorter of the Michigan House of Representatives, this article demonstrates the necessity for creating laws to protect crime victims, who all too often are ignored by the

criminal justice system. Most importantly, it provides an in-depth analysis of Michigan's Crime Victim's Rights Act.

The fifth article, *Emerging Issues in Victim Assistance*, is written by Marlene A. Young, Executive Director for the National Organization for Victim Assistance. In this article, Ms. Young discusses the victim assistance movement in the United States and specifically outlines a number of issues facing victim assistance groups in the years ahead.

The sixth article is an essay written by Edward Tromanhauser, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Chicago State University. *The Offender and the Victim* is a unique essay as it presents the perspective of the offender, rather than the victim. Drawing on his past experience as a criminal offender, Mr. Tromanhauser explores the profile, *modus operandi*, motives, and thought processes of offenders who steal and rob.

The last article in the victims' rights section of this issue is a commentary written by Bryan S. Hance, a third-year student at Pepperdine University School of Law. Entitled *Methods of Compensating Victims of War: Combating the Problems of an Enduring System*, this comment explores the needs of victims of war and the steps various governments are taking to compensate these victims.

The *Pepperdine Law Review* recognizes the outstanding contributions made by these authors in the area of victims' rights, and would like to thank them for sharing their views and experiences in this special issue dedicated to victims' rights.

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