

FOREWARD

Vice President Walter F. Mondale[†]

September 11, 2001 continues to have profound impacts on our lives. The effects of that day can be seen in our airports, at our borders, in our schools, in our churches, temples and mosques, and at our kitchen tables. On that day, our nation - the most powerful on earth - was temporarily helpless to protect itself from this horror. We know that we risk further catastrophic terrorist attacks. While we know we have disrupted and damaged the terrorists who attacked us, we must assume that they, and others, may try again. Thus these risks raise new and profoundly challenging demands on our government and upon all of us. In that sense, September 11, 2001 marked the beginning of a fundamental change for our nation, and the challenges it faces in the world.

In times of great threat, Americans have wondered whether our system of justice is really a weakness against such enemies; whether, as someone once put it: "We must give up some liberties in order to preserve others." I have spent a lot of years during my career dealing with such issues and studying American history during times of great national stress. We need strong law enforcement and intelligence agencies; they need the resources to do the job; they need our respect; and I am sure they will have it. But I think the argument that justice is weakness, that our system of liberty can't deal with threats, is false. In fact, we have lived longer, grown to more strength, advanced our science, becoming the strongest nation on earth, and all of the while we have remained a democratic and just society. Societies that have believed that a strong state cannot afford justice have failed. It doesn't work. Justice does. What is essential to our nation's success, and to our

[†] Vice President of the United States, 1977-1981; 1984 Democrat Presidential Nominee; U.S. Ambassador to Japan 1993-1996; Minnesota State Attorney General 1960-1964; L.L.B. *cum laude* University of Minnesota School of Law, Law Review member.

nation's survival, is our respect for the rule of law, our respect for each other and our differences, and in our faith to sustain and build our community.

September 11th will not be forgotten. Nor should we forget. We cannot forget the mothers and fathers, children, sisters and brothers, relatives and friends that we lost on that day. We cannot forget the brave heroes, firefighters, police officers, and passengers on the flights, that we lost on that day.

We must remember September 11, 2001 so we never take for granted the freedoms and rights we are afforded in our country. We must remember that our nation's greatest strength is our democracy, our freedom and our commitment to justice.

There are many questions that we need to discuss again. In this publication, the *William Mitchell Law Review* seeks to foster a dialogue about these issues, to provide insight into the many responses to these questions, and to present a forum to offer solutions as, more than a year later, we as a community continue to heal.