PREFACE

It is with pride that I again write a brief preface for the Golden Gate Law Review. Although physically this is the fourth volume published by the staff of the Review, it is, in every other sense, the beginning. Gone this year is the traditional look of the past, the reliance on outside authors, and the traditional law review obsession with the subject matter about which no one but the author cares. In their place is complete student authorship and responsibility for the completed product, coupled with an intense desire to treat those subjects which touch some of the problems and concerns of our currently troubled society.

Further, one of the "rules" early established by the staff was that simple research, investigation, and comment - the traditional law review format - was not sufficient without treating the missing dimension added by becoming actively involved in curing the problems they identified.

The High School Education project is perhaps the best example of the missing dimension. To test the assumption that in some measure the current malaise about our judicial system which afflicts a great portion of our youth has its roots in the failure of our profession to communicate its purposes and methods, editors Judith Gordon and Lawrence Horn set out to design and offer in selected high schools an experimental curriculum dealing with the functioning of our judicial system.
Offered to controlled groups, the project hopes to test that thesis.

The problem that Gordon and Horn have approached is probably too complex and wrapped in too many variables to result in any definitive answer to their original query. What has become apparent, however, is that there is an urgently felt need on the part of educational administrators for such programs beginning at the elementary and high school levels. Although it is presently too early to determine whether or not there have been attitudinal changes based upon the tentative curricula that have been offered, the classes have been enthusiastically received. Building upon their experiences this year, the staff members hope to refine the program and make their design available on a state-wide basis next year. They offer here their tentative conclusions based upon their work this year.

Another project initiated this year which combines the traditional comment function of the law review with the dimension of involvement is Dave Ainsworth's study of Small Claims legislation. Building on totality of experience in American jurisdictions with handling small claims disputes, the Ainsworth group has proposed a comprehensive new legislative scheme to more adequately further the policy which has provided our current Small Claims Courts. This year, the output of the group is reflected in what they offer here; next
year the group hopes to implement some of their proposals by working with the legislature and judicial establishment.

As with most beginnings, the one reflected by the printing of this journal is modest. And that is appropriate. Each day has brought some refinement of the concepts with which the editors approached this original volume, and each day's experience has undoubtedly been but a microcosm of what one can expect the next few years to bring. But, morale, enthusiasm, and commitment are high. At this juncture can we ask more?