

PREFACE

In 1999, the *Seattle University Law Review* decided to use its 2000 Symposium as a vehicle to explore the topic of mental health law. When we began soliciting articles, our original purpose was to provide readers with a broad overview of this multifaceted field of law. Through the course of our solicitation process, we were delighted to uncover a community of legal scholars that has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to facilitating discourse in a particularly new and exciting area of mental health law—therapeutic jurisprudence. These authors overwhelmingly responded to our request for articles on this topic, providing our Symposium with a wealth of perspectives on therapeutic jurisprudence: scholarly, judicial, practical, and international.

The articles in our Symposium explore therapeutic jurisprudence, addressing issues such as the practical application of the doctrine in courts and classrooms, its role in the appellate courts, its effects on the legal process and its participants, and the need for the establishment of specialty courts that deal exclusively with the mentally ill. Although each author advocates a unique perspective, the works come together to form a body of scholarship that integrates this vitally important area of mental health law into our current legal discourse. With great enthusiasm, we present to you this diverse Symposium, demonstrating the depth and breadth of therapeutic jurisprudence.