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Issue Editor's Preface

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Issue Editor's Preface

The field of criminal law has been, for the last few years, riding a wave of national interest seldom rivaled in our nation's judicial history. The crest has not been reached, nor is it in sight, for criminal law has shown no indication that it will soon relinquish its role as the chameleon of the judicial world, and change begets attention and notoriety.

No single issue could hope to exhaust even one of the many subdivisions of this topic. Instead we offer a sampling from the broad spectrum, beginning with an article by the noted criminologist, Rollin M. Perkins. Professor Perkins, though a staunch supporter of the Model Penal Code, warns state legislatures that, if the proposed Code be adopted without alteration, the courts may be faced with some unusual problems and sometimes absurd results from its application.

Contrasting viewpoints are presented by Judge Alexander Holtzoff, who pleads for a return to the purpose for which criminal law exists—the protection of the public—and by Mr. Henry B. Rothblatt, who decries the emasculation by some courts of the rule of *Escobedo v. Illinois* and suggests that more courts adopt the approach of the California Supreme Court in supporting the spirit of *Escobedo*.

Mr. Gerald M. Schneider discusses the difficulties, encountered by both the prosecution and defense, arising from California Penal Code section 654, the prohibition against multiple punishments and prosecutions.

Mr. J. Thomas McCarthy portrays the obstacles encountered in affording a fair trial to those unfortunate enough to be accused of a crime which has engendered the attention of our news media. He then suggests a solution which is within the power of the legal profession to effect.

Following the lead articles are the student contributions. While considering narrower aspects of criminal law, they nonetheless comprise a most important part of this issue.

The issue concludes with excellent book reviews by Mr. Anthony M. Platt and Professor Joviniano Carvalho Neto.

TIMOTHY V. MCFARLAND
Issue Editor

