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## Dedication to Professor Timothy P. O'Neill, 41 J. Marshall L. Rev. xxv (2008)

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# DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR TIMOTHY P. O'NEILL

KATHRYN KENNEDY

As faculty advisor to *The John Marshall Law Review*, I applaud the decision of the law review's editorial board to dedicate this edition to my esteemed colleague, Professor Timothy P. O'Neill. The papers presented in this edition are the result of papers presented at a symposium hosted by *The John Marshall Law Review* on Friday, April 18, 2008.

Due to his interests in criminal law and criminal procedure, Professor O'Neill was well aware of The Criminal Law Edit, Alignment and Reform (CLEAR) Initiative and its commission, which began in 2004. This Initiative was formed with a single goal: to establish a new criminal code for Illinois that would be less complex yet still would include the same crimes and punishments enacted by previous Illinois legislatures. The CLEAR Commission was composed of respected policy makers and practitioners in the criminal justice system. Their collective goal was to begin the review process, formulate recommended changes, and draft replacement language to reduce the size of the current Illinois criminal code by about one-third.

Professor O'Neill was instrumental in formulating the concept of a symposium whereby the members of the CLEAR commission could present their findings to the legal community and then have *The John Marshall Law Review* memorialize those findings in this edition. The symposium presented the CLEAR Commission members in five distinct panels: introductory material relating to the CLEAR Initiative; CLEAR amendments and future reforms in the area of sex crimes; CLEAR's efforts to clarify the proof requirements applicable to first-degree and second-degree murder charges and the resulting jury instructions; CLEAR's method of including mental states throughout the criminal code, including the use of strict liability, mandatory presumptions, and permissive inferences; and the creation of a Criminal and Sentencing Review Commission. Members of the CLEAR commission, including State Senators and Representatives, members of the judiciary, academics, and practitioners, sat on various panels and discussed these issues.

Professor Timothy P. O'Neill has been a tenured full-time

professor of law at The John Marshall Law School for the past twenty-six years. He writes and lectures extensively in the areas of criminal law and criminal procedure. Prior to joining the faculty in 1982, he argued more than 30 cases before the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois Appellate Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender.

During his tenure as a faculty member, Professor O'Neill has authored numerous law review articles which have been cited in more than 50 state and federal appellate court opinions. His work was instrumental in the Illinois legislature's decision in 1987 to adopt a new system of degrees of murder. He subsequently served as co-counsel in the United States Supreme Court case that challenged the constitutionality of the prior Illinois homicide statutes and jury instructions. In 1990, Professor O'Neill was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the position of Reporter to the Illinois Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases. Over the next 10 years, he assisted in the production of the Third and Fourth Editions of the criminal jury instructions.

In addition to his scholarship, Professor O'Neill pens a by-lined monthly column on criminal law and procedure for the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*. His guest opinion columns on national and state legal issues have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Professor O'Neill is held in high esteem by his students at The John Marshall Law School. On numerous occasions, he has been voted "Professor of the Year" and "Favorite Professor." In 2006, he was recognized by the *Chicago Lawyer Magazine* in its list of "Ten of the Best Law Professors in Illinois." In May of 2008, he was recognized by his colleagues at the law school for his scholarly achievements and presented with a silver engraved bowl at the commencement exercises.

I personally thank Professor O'Neill for his leadership and for assisting the Law Review in its efforts to document the goals and recommendations of the CLEAR Commission in the cohesive and unified fashion that is now memorialized in this edition.