FROM THE EDITOR

It is fitting that the *Law & Society Review* begins its tenth year of publication by honoring the singular contributions of J. Willard Hurst to the rebirth and growth of law and society scholarship over the past quarter-century. In his graceful introduction my colleague Robert Gordon, who has brought together the present collection of papers, traces Willard Hurst's intellectual contributions. I shall confine myself to a few supplementary remarks on their implications for law and society scholarship.

The papers in this collection demonstrate the lively development of the contextualist, external perspective pioneered and championed by Hurst. Legal history has been liberated from the dominance of the professional paradigm that isolated it from larger currents in history. It has at the same time drawn closer to the study of law and society in other disciplines. The publication of these two issues authored entirely by historians is a landmark for this *Review*. We hope that it will mark the start of a closer linkage between historians and other students of law in society. It is this linkage that has been forged by Willard Hurst.

The contribution of Willard Hurst is not only an intellectual triumph, but an institutional one as well. If we can feel heartened by the growing interchange among various disciplines studying the legal process, we should pause to note the absence of any corresponding growth of institutional vessels in which such multi-disciplinary inquiry can be cultivated and developed. Reflection on the course of law and society studies over the past fifty years summons up the ghosts of many vaunted law and society centers, born and unborn—doctoral programs in law; research institutes; legal studies departments; law schools oriented to basic research, public service, or policy studies. In this land of shades, Wisconsin shines forth as a place where law and society perspectives have taken hold in an enduring and lively intellectual community. A discussion of the accomplishments of Willard Hurst should not pass without mention of his central role in the development and nurture of that community. We should be grateful not only for his intellectual contributions, but for his part in creation of this vibrant intellectual community from which all of us in the field have drawn sustenance. As Willard Hurst's work has prefigured much that is in contem-

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porary legal history, we may hope that his community at Wisconsin will prefigure other centers for multidisciplinary collaboration in social research on law.

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This special collection of essays in honor of J. Willard Hurst has been divided into two issues, Volume 10, Numbers 1 and 2, of Law & Society Review. Notes on all contributors appear in this issue.

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