

Editor's Foreword

EXCELSIOR!

New York's motto, *Ever Upward*, is emblematic of this issue, *New York: A Laboratory for Innovative Public Policy*. Scott Fein, Esq., our guest editor and Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Government Law Center, has organized a celebration of New York policy innovations. As Scott notes in his introduction, New York's innovations have influenced the shape of public policy and social welfare far beyond its borders. My thanks to Scott and this group of experts who show us how.

Dan Feldman's article, *Progressive Policy and Legislation in New York State, Continued: The Last Four Decades* provides a history of New York's legislative leadership in fighting crime, preserving the environment, protecting free speech and affording equal rights before the law.

In their article, *Pumping Oxygen into the Room*, Jonathan E. Gradess and Shari Silberstein examine the demise of the death penalty in New York and the influence of that decision on responses to crime here and in other states.

John Dunne and Nicholas Faso explore the difficult work of reforming the Rockefeller Drug Laws in *New York's Leadership Role in Drug Law and Criminal Sentencing Reform*.

Compstat, a public management innovation that originated in New York City to address crime prevention, successfully spread beyond crime. In their article, *Evidence-Based Public Safety Management: The Diffusion of Compstat*, Dennis C. Smith and William Bratton examine that development.

The next two articles, *Alternatives to Incarceration: The New York Story* by Greg Berman and Robert V. Wolf, and *NYC FUSE Reentry Housing: A Scalable, Data-Driven Solution for a "Wicked Issue"* by Martin F. Horn and Ryan J. Moser, explore New York's leadership role in diverting individuals from the prison system and helping those who are incarcerated return to their community successfully.

Hank Greenberg and the Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York, in their



respective articles, *Great Moments in New York Pro Bono History* and *Pushing the Envelope on Pro Bono: The New York Judiciary's Initiatives in Legal Education*, explore the past, the present and future of New York attorneys' efforts to bridge the gap in access to justice. In *State Intervention in Municipal Fiscal Distress*, Peter Kiernan

examines how New York State responded to the fiscal crisis facing New York City in the late 1970s and evaluates the soundness of that approach by considering responses to financial distress currently plaguing cities across the country.

Lastly, our guest editor, Scott Fein, discusses public authorities, one of his favorite topics, in *Public Authorities and Their Reform: A New York State Innovation*.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Executive Editor for 2014, Lindsay Danello, Albany Law School, Class of 2015, for her professionalism, enthusiasm and seemingly unending patience. She and her Albany Law School colleagues, Sarah Coligan, Alexander Cooper, Sarah Engster, Jacqueline Goralzyck, Kerri Tily, and Kimberly Waldin from the Class of 2015 deserve thanks for their forbearance in putting this issue together. My thanks also to the staff of the New York State Bar Association, Dan McMahon, Pat Wood, Megan O'Toole, Wendy Harbour, and Lyn Curtis, for their help and expertise. My thanks finally to Ray Brescia, the Government Law Center's Executive Director, for his help and support.

Responsibility for any flaws, mistakes, oversights or shortcomings in these pages rests in my hands. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome at rbail@albanylaw.edu or at Government Law Center, 80 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208.