Editor's Preface

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

The California Administrative Procedure Act was enacted in 1945–1947. The earliest and still one of the best comprehensive state statutes regulating administrative law, it was the product of a number of years of intensive study and discussion of administrative law in California.

The act itself appears to have been the crest of the tide of interest; the sea of study and argument has to a large measure subsided since the years surrounding its passage. Little has been done to amend or augment California administrative law since 1950. Why has this been so? Is everyone satisfied with the act? Or are there still problems inherent in our administrative processes? Or have administrative law and practice in recent years simply become less important to the public and to the lawyers of California?

Approximately a decade has elapsed since the passage of the act—certainly an adequate period for testing its efficiency and adequacy. This, then, would seem to be a propitious time to take a second long look at California administrative law. Through this symposium at least the start for a reappraisal has been provided.

The desire to re-evaluate the act was not the sole motivation for the symposium, however. Administrative law as a definitive and specialized branch of legal study and practice is a comparative newcomer to the categories of law. Dealing broadly with the individual's relations with his government in an era of increasing importance of government in the lives of everyone, it is a significant and dynamic subject. Many of the articles in this symposium are designed simply to bring the practitioner up to date in his knowledge of administrative law. Thus, our objective is not only that of investigating, but that of imparting information.

A perusal of the table of contents will demonstrate our purpose to have been that of presentation of the general picture rather than the individual problems peculiar to any one agency. Studies of primary problems arising from agency contact with the courts, the legislature, and the public are presented; general articles on agency procedure are included; and particular attention is given to one problem of most apparent importance today, the role of the hearing officer.

We hope that this symposium will succeed in reviving discussion and study of California administrative law.