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Foreword

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FOREWORD

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It is an honor and a pleasure to help the *American University Legislation and Policy Brief* carry on its fine tradition of scholarly inquiry into important issues facing the nation, the legislatures and the public policy arena. *AULPB* is an important forum within WCL for student authors to examine cutting edge, timely issues. It is also a focal point, beyond the bounds of the WCL campus, for authors to consider a broad range of pressing issues that combine law and policy questions.

This Volume 11 of the annual *AULPB* publication is a perfect example of the contributions made by the student-run, student-edited program and publication that are under the umbrella of the WCL Program on Law & Government. One article, FINTECH: A FIELD DAY OF ARBITRAGE GONE AWRY, focuses on concerns with the ever-expanding field of financial services. Another, prompted by litigation during the presidency of Donald Trump over the previously little-utilized “emoluments clause,” is entitled COMPETITOR STANDING TO THE RESCUE: SAVING THE EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE. Finally, the article entitled THE PANDEMIC AND PRIVACY: THE GLOBAL CULTURE OF INTRUSION, could not be more timely or important as the spread of Covid-19 and its variants continues to plague the world and to change privacy and sharing of information.

In addition to this important publication, *AULPB* held a very important symposium to explore the deepening partisan and ideological divides in the country and how to look for ways to knit the fabric of the nation back together. *Tempering Political Polarization to Restore Public Trust in Democracy* examined issues of distrust of the election process and corrosive effect that has on our democracy. The panelists were John Fortier of the American Enterprise Institute, Fred McBride of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and WCL alum Terry Ao Minnis of Asian Americans Advancing Justice. They discussed both the growing divide in the country and whether there are solutions to ameliorate the partisan gulf.

The *AULPB* blog also contributed important student-written analyses of critical topics in law and public policy. Among the most recent were articles examining: the legislative and policy debate over tightening up judicial ethics rules to avoid conflicts of interest; and the expansion of antitrust enforcement into the arena of big tech companies.

In all of these pursuits, *AULPB* has enriched the discourse over law and public policy at WCL and in the larger community of lawyers, legislators, judges, and policymakers in every facet of government. I thank the dedicated students for their contributions to our country’s debates.

* Stephen Wermiel is the interim director of the WCL Program on Law & Government and a professor of practice teaching constitutional law, First Amendment, and Section 1983 litigation.