

## FOREWORD

The articles appearing in this issue of the *University of Colorado Law Review* were presented at the Review's Symposium—Affirmative Action: Diversity of Opinions, which took place on February 8, 1997, at the University of Colorado School of Law. For an elegant discussion of each article, see Jean Stefancic's symposium overview.

In this issue's essay, Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit demonstrates how personal experiences often influence judges' decisions in the courtroom. Judge Kozinski draws on his own experience to highlight how a judge's background can affect the parties involved. He suggests that without some subjective influences, the law would consist of rigid rules, which would sometimes lead to unjust results. Judge Kozinski concludes that while diverse personal backgrounds help judges make decisions that are not too far removed from the world around them, judges should also exercise restraint and question the bases of their opinions in order to counter the risk that they will bend legal standards to fit their personal views.

THE EDITORS

