

## FOREWORD

The articles appearing in this issue of the *University of Colorado Law Review* were presented at the Review's Symposium—*Crime Is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America: Issues Arising from a New Book* by Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins. The Symposium took place on February 21, 1998, at the University of Colorado School of Law. For an overview of each article, see Kevin R. Reitz's symposium overview.

In an essay reprinted from the *New Republic*, Professor James Q. Wilson reviews *Crime Is Not the Problem*. Professor Wilson examines the factors analyzed by Zimring and Hawkins regarding the high rate of lethal violence in the United States. Professor Wilson concurs with Zimring and Hawkins's recognition of lethal violence as a problem particular to the United States, but he criticizes their dismissal of race as a factor and their failure to offer any solutions to the problem. Professor Wilson acknowledges the difficulty of finding solutions to these issues, but he offers some suggestions of his own, including more gun control, lengthening prison sentences, and increasing intervention efforts among young, at-risk children.

In an essay on the relevance of symposia in general, Kevin R. Reitz, Professor of Law, and Alice Donnelly Madden, Director of Alumni Relations, both at the University of Colorado School of Law, capture the reactions of criminal justice professionals and law students to the Symposium. This group was collectively called the "Colorado Group." Professor Reitz and Ms. Madden convened a meeting of the Colorado Group three days after the symposium to discuss its relevance to the group members' daily legal experiences. In particular, the group discussed the prudence of the overarching theme of *Crime Is Not the Problem*: that the focus of the criminal justice system should be on violent crime. Some group members concluded that the Symposium was pertinent to legislative decision making and broad policy issues; however, it was not especially helpful for everyday practitioners. Finally, the Colorado Group recognized the value of facilitating interaction between academia and practitioners, and suggested meeting again in the future for similar endeavors.

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