

# Symposium Introduction: Corporate Law in the Trump Era

By Gary J. Simson\*

This year's Mercer Law Review Symposium, like last year's, is the product of a partnership between the Law Review and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS). Each year the theme and speakers for the Symposium have been drawn from a discussion group or panel that presented at the SEALS Annual Conference, and the connection between the Law Review and SEALS has been supplied by me and my co-chair of the SEALS Scholarly Research Committee, Professor Colin Marks of St. Mary's University School of Law. Because last year was the first year in which the Law Review partnered with SEALS, I described at some length in the Symposium Introduction the origins and nature of the partnership,<sup>1</sup> and I refer anyone who would like to learn more about the partnership to that description. For now, I would only add that the widely shared sentiment among the Editors for the past two years that the partnership has been a success is reflected not only in the Editors' decision after the first SEALS-based symposium to do a second but also in their decision after the second to do a third in the fall of 2019—one that will focus on Election Law.

The live Symposium at which the authors of the six articles in this Symposium issue spoke took place on October 5, 2018, and the theme was "Corporate Law in the Trump Era." As you can tell simply from the titles of the articles in this issue, which were largely complete as of the time of the Symposium event, the speakers addressed a wide array of controversial topics. Moreover, they addressed those topics in a way that was unusually lively and provocative but very unlike what we are all too accustomed to getting from "talking heads" on TV. The

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1. See Gary J. Simson, *Symposium Introduction: Disruptive Innovation in Criminal Defense*, 69 MERCER L. REV. 671, 672 (2018).

Symposium speakers all demonstrated that they are gifted public speakers, but the liveliness and provocativeness of their speeches were only partly the result of their oratorical abilities. Above all, the speeches were so lively and provocative because of the genuine substance of what the speakers had to say.

Four people besides the six principal speakers also made important contributions to the success of the Symposium by their remarks at the event. One of the four, Paul Quirós, was the featured speaker at the Symposium banquet traditionally held on the evening prior to the full-day Symposium event. A 1982 Mercer Law graduate, former Editor of the Mercer Law Review, longtime partner in the corporate and healthcare groups at King & Spalding LLP, and current managing member of King Springs Pecans, LLC, Mr. Quirós drew on his experiences as well as his wide reading to offer valuable insights into corporate law and practice and the challenges that lie ahead. The other three speakers were commentators at the event: Mercer Law Professor Linda Jellum, a leading scholar of administrative law and statutory interpretation; Mercer Law Professor Jeremy Kidd, an expert in corporate law and economic analysis; and Billie Pritchard, a 2012 graduate of Mercer Law School, former Editor in Chief of the Mercer Law Review, and current associate with King & Spalding's trial practice and global disputes practice group. Each commentator was paired with two principal speakers and spoke briefly after the two principal speakers had made their presentations. In every instance, the commentator's comments and questions helped sharpen the focus of the discussion and raised valuable new ideas.

Finally, I note the enormous contribution to the Symposium's success made behind the scenes by the Law Review's officers and other members. The Editor in Chief, Clayton Kendrick, and Lead Articles Editor, Terrika Crutchfield, deserve special mention. Last but not least, the Law Review's longtime Publishing Coordinator, Yonna Shaw, once again proved that she is the best guarantee of a successful symposium that any law review could ever hope to have.