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Founding Editors' Page

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FOUNDING EDITORS' PAGE

Perhaps the most popular topic at computer law seminars around the country today is hardware and software contracting. As commercial transactions involving computers and other high-technology products continue to grow, even general practitioners will be exposed to this area of computer law. Accordingly, this issue of the *Santa Clara Computer And High-Technology Law Journal* focuses upon contracting for high-technology products.

As with the first issue, essays and articles written by practicing attorneys comprise the majority of the material. The three essays give practical advice on government contracting procedures, contracting for telecommunications equipment, and the Uniform Trade Secrets Act recently adopted in California. The articles provide a more in depth analysis of the issues involved in the drafting and use of volume purchase agreements in the electronics industry, warranties for mass-distributed software under the U.C.C., Magnuson-Moss and California's Song-Beverly Warranty Acts, and the potential bankruptcy problems in the use of source code escrows. In addition, the student contributions include a note concerning potential liability for errors in on-line financial transactions and analyses of two recent court decisions.

One of the most exciting aspects of publishing the first Volume of the *Journal* has been using new computer technology to reduce the workload and speed production. The editorial process required to prepare an article for publication involves several steps including; changes in grammar and style, citechecking for bluebook form and substance, and proofreading for typographical errors. The law students working as editors on the Journal are busy with classes and extra-curricular activities, and are therefore interested in streamlining the editorial process as much as possible.

Traditionally, when a manuscript is approved for publication, the text and footnotes of the article are typed into the law review's computer. All editorial and other changes are then made on the computer. This process, however, involves a wasteful duplication of effort. The manuscript, which has already been entered into the attorney's word processor, must be completely retyped by the law review staff.

Using new telecommunications processes, the *Journal* has been able to eliminate this duplication of effort. In most cases, the article is sent directly from the author's computer or word processor through the telephone lines, and captured on the *Journal's* computer.

Once the article is received, our editors can make the necessary changes. When the editorial process has been completed, the arti-

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cles are sent to our publisher in disk form. In a similar process the data is downloaded from our disks onto the publisher's computer.

While the telecommunications process does not reduce the actual time spent editing and citechecking articles, it does eliminate both the time and inherent errors involved in retyping manuscripts. An article which would take two days or more to retype can be telecommunicated within an hour. This allows the *Journal's* editors to focus their energies on more important tasks, and consequently to provide a better quality and more up to date product.

As this second issue is published, the school year is drawing to a close, bringing for the current board of editors final examinations and graduation. These editors of the first volume of the *Journal* have our unbounded appreciation and gratitude. By enthusiastically agreeing to join us and become the first editorial board, these students devoted their time, and effort with no guarantee that the *Journal* would be successful. Working late nights and weekends, often at the expense of their grade point averages, these editors saw the emergence of the first volume into print, and the development of a substantial national and international subscription base. These students are to be highly commended for not only their hard work, but also for committing themselves wholeheartedly to such a risky endeavour. We, the founding editors, recognize that much of the success of the *Journal* is due to their efforts. It has been a great pleasure working with all of you.

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Cory Van Arsdale
Scott Porter
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Founding Editors

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