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## Civil Rights and Race Relations

Law Review Editor

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# SYMPOSIUM CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACE RELATIONS

## Introduction

*This Symposium honors both Professor Theodore A. Smedley and the publication he served as director, the Race Relations Law Reporter. As Professor Smedley's own introductory remarks point out, the publication of this Symposium in 1978 is particularly appropriate. First, it marks the tenth anniversary of the final issue of the Reporter, a journal whose importance and usefulness to the civil rights field is well known to all who have been active in the area. In publishing this Symposium, Vanderbilt Law School continues an important tradition in which Professor Smedley has played a major role.*

*It is not completely coincidental that 1978 also marks the tenth anniversary of several other significant events in the history of the country's civil rights movement. Of course, the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 were events whose repercussions are still being felt today. Moreover, the release of the Kerner Commission report in 1968 revealed dramatically the major problems confronting the nation in the areas of civil rights and race relations. As the New York Times study alluded to in Professor Smedley's remarks and the five articles that follow indicate, the nature of some of the issues has changed, but a great deal of work remains to be done in these areas. We believe that this Symposium will contribute to those efforts.*

*The subjects discussed in this Symposium represent diverse strands in the field of civil rights and race relations. Nevertheless, a common theme runs throughout—while many of the legal aspects of the civil rights area have been resolved, new problems of implementation and reinterpretation have arisen, requiring the same kind of positive efforts that were devoted to the issues from which these new problems derive. For instance, in the past twenty-five years many battles have been fought in the courts over equal educational opportunity and segregation of the races in the schools. The constitutional issues have been addressed, but additional problems, such as "white flight" and the formulation of desegregation plans, make the implementation of judicial decrees an extremely complex task.*

*In this vein, the five articles contained in this Symposium will recall some of the issues that confronted those who used the Race Relations Law Reporter, describe the problems that those issues evoke today, and offer some suggestions on how the new issues may be analyzed and resolved. By so linking the issues of the past to current problems, this Symposium will add to the fine work already accomplished at Vanderbilt by Professor Smedley and the Race Relations Law Reporter.*