

## FOREWORD

### THE FOURTH AMENDMENT: VIEWS OF THE FUTURE

*Celebrating 10 Years of Symposia*

### 2011 FOURTH AMENDMENT SYMPOSIUM

*Thomas K. Clancy\**

The National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law,<sup>1</sup> which is a program of the University of Mississippi School of Law, focuses on issues relating to the criminal justice system, with its purpose to promote the two concepts comprising the title of the Center. In furtherance of its mission, the Center has established the *Fourth Amendment Initiative*. The purpose of the Center's initiative is to promote awareness of Fourth Amendment principles through conferences, publications, and training of professionals in the criminal justice system. The Center takes no point of view as to the direction that Fourth Amendment analysis should take but seeks to facilitate awareness of the issues and encourage discussion of search and seizure principles.

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\* Director, National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law, and Research Professor, University of Mississippi School of Law.

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A central pillar of the Fourth Amendment Initiative is its annual symposium on important search and seizure topics. 2011 was our 10th year of hosting symposia and the Center took that occasion to ask Fourth Amendment scholars to look to the future and offer perspectives on how search and seizure principles will or should develop. The symposium is roughly divided into six topics. Four of the topics mimic essential terms of the Fourth Amendment: “seizures”; “searches”; the right to be “secure”; and the concept of “unreasonable.” Professor Tracey Maclin then follows with an article that adds perspective on the exclusionary rule. The final group of topics examines what is rapidly becoming the most common form of a search or seizure—obtaining digital evidence from the ubiquitous devices that characterize modern life.

The authors in this volume of the *Mississippi Law Journal* offer an extensive treatment of the future. The symposium was the second day of an appellate judge conference on selected Fourth Amendment topics. In the audience were approximately forty-five appellate judges from across the country, as well as academics, members of the law school community, and others. It was webcast and the recorded presentations may be viewed at [www.NCJRL.org](http://www.NCJRL.org). I thank the authors for contributing to the symposium and to furthering our knowledge of Fourth Amendment jurisprudence.