

INTRODUCTION TO THE THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE SYMPOSIUM

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In a relatively short period of time, therapeutic jurisprudence—the study of the role of the law as a therapeutic agent—has evolved from a new look at mental health law¹ to a therapeutic perspective on the law in general.² Moreover, the enterprise is truly interdisciplinary as well as international in scope.

In July, 1998, more than one hundred participants—including two members of the *Arizona Law Review*—gathered in Winchester, England to attend the First International Conference on Therapeutic Jurisprudence, a conference organized by David Carson, a law faculty member and director of the Behavioural Science and Law Network at the University of Southampton. The conference attracted academics and professionals from the fields of law, psychology, psychiatry, social work, and criminal justice. Attendees came from the United States (including many law professors and nine judges), the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, Israel, Ireland, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

The occasion of the Winchester conference was the inspiration for this Symposium issue, and indeed several (though not all) of the articles appearing here were first presented at Winchester. Whether or not they originated at the Winchester conference, however, the Symposium articles attest to the breadth, vigor, and relevance of current therapeutic jurisprudence inquiry.³ I thank the *Arizona Law Review* for its interest and for inviting me to prepare this preface to the articles that follow.

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1. THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE: THE LAW AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT (David B. Wexler ed., 1990).

2. LAW IN A THERAPEUTIC KEY: DEVELOPMENTS IN THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE (David B. Wexler & Bruce J. Winick eds., 1996).

3. For a web site on therapeutic jurisprudence, including a bibliography, information on upcoming events, and links to other relevant sites, see <<http://www.law.arizona.edu/upr-intj>>.

