

FOREWORD

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Editor-in-Chief

After meeting for a two-day live symposium on September 30 and October 1, 2009 at Albany Law School to discuss, honor, and reflect on the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth—and more importantly, the lessons that can be learned from his remarkable work prior to and during his time in the White House—the *Albany Government Law Review* has collected the scholarship from the conference and presents it here in this issue. Our goal in publishing the articles contained herein is to add to an ongoing conversation about the use, abuse, and limits of executive power while paying homage to, or in some instances even critiquing, the examples set by the sixteenth President of the United States.

In addition to the articles related to Lincoln and executive power on a host of topics such as civil liberties, suspension of habeas corpus, and the interplay between the President and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to name just a few, we have also included two student written comments—one addressing human rights violations in the global war on drugs and the other, a legislative reform proposal for New York's inmate record-keeping policy.

Though there is already an impressive collection of works written about Lincoln and executive power, the articles included in this issue will add to the depth and coverage of old and new problems related to presidential power. I can think of no better way to honor Lincoln, who said, "I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday," than by compiling this scholarship so that we may learn from our nation's leaders' past successes and failures.

Podcasts of the live symposium are available at: http://podcasts.classcaster.org/blog/event_podcasts/2009/10/02/lincolns_legacy_enduring_lessons_of_executive_power.

Please also read and comment on our blog posts written live during the event available on our entirely student written and edited legal blog—the only of its kind in the nation—the *Albany Government Law Review Fireplace*. Postings from each of the five panels are available at the links below:

- Panel 1: <http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org/2009/10/01/panel-1-lincoln-executive-power-the-modern-presidency>.
- Panel 2: <http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org/2009/10/01/panel-2-the-lawyer-presidents-lincoln-obama-the-rule-of-law>.
- Panel 3: <http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org/2009/10/01/panel-3-necessary-proper-executive-power-and-the-economy>.
- Panel 4: <http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org/2009/10/01/panel-4-emancipation-today-the-politics-of-immigration-reform>.
- Panel 5: <http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org/2009/10/01/panel-5-protection-the-nation-executive-power-in-an-age-of-terror>.