

FOREWORD

Robert S. Barrows
Editor-in-Chief

Keeping with the *Albany Government Law Review's* tradition of publishing only theme- and symposia-based issues, this book focuses on the controversial topic of eminent domain use in the United States. In addition to the host of articles that survey important and recent decisions impacting the law of eminent domain, advocate for eminent domain reform, and discuss the social and policy implications of eminent domain use and abuse, we have also included two comments—one focused on the liabilities of government officials under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the other on a recent U.S. Court of Appeals decision and its implications for municipal accountability in domestic violence cases.

In the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*, as well as several notable decisions right here in New York State, it is not a secret that the expanding use of eminent domain is a contentious topic in the legal community and one that involves the local, state, and federal levels of government. Back in the spring of 2010 when this book was conceived, the law review's editorial board and I understood that a collection of articles, from renowned experts in the field, devoted to discussing the quagmire of issues surrounding this subject would be a valuable addition to the world of legal scholarship and a medium for a serious examination of the current trends in the law of eminent domain. After compiling and editing this book, we believe that this goal has been achieved.

As always, for those who are interested in the scholarship that the *Albany Government Law Review* produces, I encourage you to visit our website at www.albanygovernmentlawreview.org. While visiting the site, I further encourage you to check out our legal blog, the *Albany Government Law Review Fireplace* (<http://glrfireplace.albanygovernmentlawreview.org>) which features student written and edited articles on recent developments in government law and public policy.