

PREFACE

RILEY C. WALTER

I feel privileged to have been afforded the honor of writing the preface to this special Agricultural Cooperative Symposium issue of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*. As a San Joaquin Valley lawyer whose practice largely involves agricultural issues, and whose specialty is bankruptcy law including Chapter 11 cases for cooperatives, I find this topic to be interesting and important to the economy of California.

I am well aware that many people feel that cooperatives are the backbone of agriculture in America. I also know others who believe that the day of the cooperative has long since past. Therefore, I am pleased that San Joaquin College of Law has chosen this topic for this special symposium published by the Law Review.

The choice of Agricultural Cooperatives as a symposium topic was intentional. It is a topic which engenders controversy over closely held beliefs. Moreover, it is a subject requiring analysis that crosses legal and economic lines. An attorney dealing with the cooperative must be an economist, as well as a lawyer.

San Joaquin College of Law is located in the most productive agricultural county in the nation. It is a region ripe with agricultural bounty. Many students of the law school go on to careers and practices involving agricultural issues. Therefore, Agricultural Cooperatives

is a very timely and helpful topic for the students, as well as the legal and business community.

This symposium provides a series of very interesting works. Dr. Coley's article, *Economic Factors Associated With the Growth and Development of Agricultural Cooperatives* is a very interesting exploration of the factors associated with the growth and development of cooperatives. His observations as to trends will invoke much discussion.

Producer Participation in Price Pooling Cooperatives to Smooth Income Variability: Evidence From California, written by Ms. Boughner and Dr. Sumner, is influential as well. When translated into real life economics, it will influence grower participation in price pooling cooperatives.

Similarly, the article by Dr. Smith, *Crop Yield Uncertainty: Issues for New Generation Cooperatives*, will alert readers to the new forms of cooperatives being developed around the country and how they operate in ways that are different, yet similar to traditional cooperatives.

The symposium concludes with *Agricultural Cooperative Law: A Selective Bibliography*, by Kathryn McTigue-Floyd, a professional law librarian and a law student. This annotated bibliography will be an invaluable reference to all persons who toil in this area.

As Chair of the Advisory Board of the *San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review*, I am very proud of the students involved in the Law Review process. They put in many extraordinary hours of hard work, all in addition to their studies, careers, and families. Additionally, I am proud of and pleased with the tremendous faculty at the law school. I appreciate the support they give to the Law Review.

The entire agricultural community owes a debt to San Joaquin College of Law and the members of the Law Review for bringing us such a timely and informative symposium.