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Preface

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PREFACE

The 24th Annual *Villanova Law Review* Symposium was held on October 21, 1989. The Symposium, titled "RICO: Something for Everyone," was offered as an opportunity for the Law School community to gain, in one afternoon, a fundamental understanding of RICO and some of the current issues shaping RICO litigation. Consequently, attorneys whose practices involve RICO were invited along with academic scholars who have commented extensively on RICO. Both civil and criminal issues were presented.

Professor G. Robert Blakey was, at the last minute, unable to attend the Symposium due to illness. We expect that his paper on the RICO "pattern" requirement will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Villanova Law Review*.

Although we regret that we were unable to hear Professor Blakey in person, we thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Louis Pichini, Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia, who stepped in on very short notice to fill the gap in the program. Mr. Pichini, a Villanova alumnus, had recently participated in the successful racketeering prosecution of Nicodemo Scarfo. The Scarfo mob had made the headlines in Philadelphia for years. A state murder prosecution of Scarfo had, only a few months before the federal trial, ended in acquittal. Until the federal conviction, it seemed that Scarfo was immune from justice. Mr. Pichini gave us wonderful first-hand insight into how RICO made the federal charges succeed where the state charges had failed. We are grateful to Mr. Pichini for participating in the Symposium, and we did not ask him to bear the additional burden of submitting a paper.

The *Villanova Law Review* gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all of the Symposium participants, and of the faculty and staff of the Law School who assisted in its production, particularly Professors Anne Bowen Poulin, Craig W. Palm and Doris Del Tosto Brogan.

