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## INTRODUCTION

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW SYMPOSIUM

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The City, County, and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar and the *Stetson Law Review* are pleased to present the Twenty-Fourth Edition of the Local Government Law Symposium. This Symposium continues a long-standing tradition of providing the legal practitioner with articles, practical advice, and case digests covering a wide spectrum of subjects relevant to the practice of local government law.

In the lead article, *Understanding the Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act*,<sup>1</sup> attorney Mark S. Bentley explores the application of the Dispute Resolution Act, identifies some of the Acts shortcomings and ambiguities, and recommends several potential amendments that might enhance the dispute-resolution process. In another article, *Mistakes Happen: Fixing Them through Curative Legislation*,<sup>2</sup> attorney Laura K. Wendell, reviews the process by which local governments can correct, ratify, and validate flawed or defective actions through the use of curative legislation.

In a departure from earlier editions, this Symposium offers an article targeted toward those who do not regularly practice

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1. Mark S. Bentley, *Understanding the Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act*, 37 *Stetson L. Rev.* 381 (2008).

2. Laura K. Wendell, *Mistakes Happen: Fixing Them through Curative Legislation*, 37 *Stetson L. Rev.* 459 (2008).

local government law or who are new to its application in Florida.<sup>3</sup> This instructive summary of the Florida Constitution as it relates to municipalities was written by the Honorable James R. Wolf, a judge on Florida's First District Court of Appeal and the 1988–1989 Chair of the City, County, and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar. The article should be particularly useful to attorneys who have recently become members of The Florida Bar and who would like insight into the interrelationships between Florida constitutional law and local governmental law.

The Symposium also contains three student articles on various local government issues. First, in *Streets of Wrath: The Constitutionality of the Town of Jupiter's Non-Solicitation Ordinance*,<sup>4</sup> student Kathryn Nicole Lewis examines a South Florida town's attempt to address problems associated with its growing immigrant population by instituting an ordinance that restricts the street-side solicitation of business and employment. The article concludes that the ordinance fails at least one prong of all three applicable analyses of free speech under the First Amendment. Second, in *Dangerous Data: How Disputed Research Legalized Public Single-Sex Education*,<sup>5</sup> student Amy R. Rigdon examines the social-science evidence that the Department of Education used to allow public single-sex education under Title IX and illustrates the shortcomings and flaws in the statistical data upon which the regulation is based. The article proposes a guideline for the Department of Education to follow when using disputed data as evidence for future regulations. Third, in *When Steve Is Fired for Becoming Susan: Why Courts and Legislators Need to Protect Transgender Employees from Discrimination*,<sup>6</sup> student Shannon H. Tan explains how current federal, state, and local employment discrimination laws fail to adequately safeguard transgender employees. The article proposes that courts adopt a uniform inter-

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3. James R. Wolf, *Municipalities and the Florida Constitution*, 37 Stetson L. Rev. 435 (2008).

4. Kathryn Nicole Lewis, *Streets of Wrath: The Constitutionality of the Town of Jupiter's Non-Solicitation Ordinance*, 37 Stetson L. Rev. 471 (2008).

5. Amy R. Rigdon, *Dangerous Data: How Disputed Research Legalized Public Single-Sex Education*, 37 Stetson L. Rev. 527 (2008).

6. Shannon H. Tan, *When Steve Is Fired for Becoming Susan: Why Courts and Legislators Need to Protect Transgender Employees from Discrimination*, 37 Stetson L. Rev. 579 (2008).

pretation of Title VII that prohibits discrimination against transgender employees who fail to conform to gender stereotypes and further concludes that Congress should enact a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Finally, the Symposium includes case digests that should prove useful to our section members. The topics range from Annexation to Tort Liability and Governmental Immunity.

As we begin the twenty-fifth year of a very successful relationship between The City, County, and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar and the *Stetson Law Review*, we would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the Symposium's success. It is most gratifying to see many former student members of the *Stetson Law Review* engaged in the practice of local government law.

We hope that that you find this edition of the Symposium is both informative and educational, and we encourage you to submit articles of interest for future editions.