

## INTRODUCTION

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*Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts.*<sup>1</sup>

The City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar, in conjunction with *Stetson Law Review*, is pleased to present this Eighteenth Edition of the Local Government Law Symposium. On the one hand, this Symposium is filled with Articles and Last Words that offer current practical advice to the local government attorney. On the other hand, it highlights trends and themes in local government law worthy of our thoughtful analysis and study.

After the events of September 11, 2001, the tension between violence and civilization, individual rights and security, and the minority and the majority have come into focus in new ways. This Symposium discusses and explains many such tensions.

In the Last Word *Johnson v. De Soto County Board of Commissioners: A Small Minority Group Experiences Difficulty When It Claims Dilution of Its Voting Strength Under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act*, Katherine Inglis Butler and Robert M. Fournier deal with racial vote dilution and whether voter-registration data may be used to supplement census data. *The Florida Bar Commission on the Legal Needs of Children*, by the Honorable Sandy Karlan, explores the legal needs of children balanced with the rights of their parents. Mark Gruwell explores the balance of the constitutional rights of using amplified noise and

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1. Martin Luther King, Jr., Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech (Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10, 1964) (available at <<http://www.almaz.com/nobel/peace/MLK-nobel.html>>).

the City of Sarasota's attempt to regulate unreasonable noise in his Last Word *The First Amendment Strikes Back: Amplified Rights*.

Other pieces explore the balances between the public benefit of potable waterlines versus making adjacent private-property owners pay for them,<sup>2</sup> the rights of police forces to engage in aggressive tactics during temporary stops versus the rights of those being detained,<sup>3</sup> and the government's ability to engage in school-choice programs versus the prohibition on the establishment of religion.<sup>4</sup>

We hope you will find this Symposium useful, thought-provoking, and engaging.

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2. Sidney F. Ansbacher, *Sound and Fury: Property Owners Cannot Defeat Special Assessment with Bald Speculation that Their Property Cannot Be Developed*, 31 Stetson L. Rev. 311 (2002).

3. Steven W. Gomberg, *Walker v. City of Pompano Beach: Cause to Be Wary of Judicial Sanction of Aggressive Police Tactics during Temporary Detentions*, 31 Stetson L. Rev. 357 (2002).

4. William G. Frey & Virginia Lynn Hogben, *Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, and Scholarship-Donation Tax Credits: A Constitutional and Practical Analysis*, 31 Stetson L. Rev. 165 (2002).