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Introduction to the 2007 Editors' Symposium: *Informational Privacy: Philosophical Foundations and Legal Implications*

LARRY ALEXANDER*

The outstanding collection of articles and comments thereon that follows this Introduction constitutes the 2007 Editors' Symposium of the *San Diego Law Review*. The Editors' Symposium, an annual event, began with the 2004 Symposium *What Is Legal Interpretation?*, which appeared in these pages in Volume 42, No. 2.¹ It was followed in 2005 by the Symposium *The Meaning of Marriage* in Volume 42, No. 3,² and in 2006 by the Symposium *The Rights and Wrongs of Discrimination* in Volume 43, No. 4.³ All four symposia were organized by the Institute for Law and Philosophy at the University of San Diego School of Law, and all consisted of papers and comments presented at the School of Law. The 2008 Editors' Symposium *National Borders and Immigration* will take place in April 2008, with subsequent publication of its papers in Volume 45 of the *Law Review*.

With the controversies over the NSA surveillance of emails, the USA PATRIOT Act, DNA data gathering and retention, CCTV in Great Britain, and innovations in technologies of surveillance, detection, data storage, and data mining, the general topic of informational privacy has

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1. Symposium, *What Is Legal Interpretation?*, 42 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 461 (2005).

2. Symposium, *The Meaning of Marriage*, 42 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 821 (2005).

3. Symposium, *The Rights and Wrongs of Discrimination*, 43 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 733 (2006).

gained increasing public, intellectual, and legal attention. The world is a dangerous place, with threats of nuclear, biological, and chemical terror, infectious diseases capable of crossing national and continental boundaries with alarming speed, and criminals released into the population who have strong propensities to continue preying on others. The gathering, storing, and retrieval of increasing amounts of information seem to many to be necessary to combat these dangers. But what are our moral rights with respect to others gathering information about us, storing it, and retrieving it? What grounds those rights philosophically? And what constitutional and other legal rules give appropriate expression to those rights?

The papers that follow address those questions. Their authors are among the most thoughtful scholars on questions of informational privacy in the English-speaking world. We are honored to have their thoughts on these questions in the pages of the *San Diego Law Review*.

In seeking to make an annual Editors' Symposium a reality, the Institute and the *Law Review* have worked to build a permanent endowment sufficient to finance it. To that end, we have solicited (and shall continue to solicit) donations from all former editors of the *Law Review*. Those who have contributed to date are listed at the beginning of this issue. We are very, very grateful for your generosity and hope this product vindicates our seeking your support. Thank you.