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# Introduction: A Brave New World: The Changing Face of Litigation and Law Firm Finance - Nineteenth Annual Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy

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## INTRODUCTION

*Stephan Landsman\**

The winds of change are blowing in the world of legal practice. The business of law is, to all appearances, undergoing dramatic change. As is so often the case, money is a key change agent. This year's Clifford Symposium seeks to examine the financing of litigation. We focus on an array of questions arising out of the economics of law practice, from lawyer lending to frivolous litigation. We consider the challenge of seeking class relief in the United States and elsewhere as well as potential alternatives to the class action device. We pursue normative and ethical questions associated with the alienation of claims and party funding of cases. We also consider the future of the legal profession in light of what is happening on the financial front.

Our authors bring an array of scholarly skills to these questions. As befits a symposium focused on financing, we present the insightful work of a number of scholars using economic analysis. In the tradition of the Clifford Symposium, we present the work of a range of social scientists who anchor their contributions in observations of the 'real' world, both in the United States and abroad. We also present the thinking of outstanding legal scholars focusing on questions of procedure, ethics, and legal doctrine. In the end, I believe, we present a powerful portrait of a changing profession and legal world—one that challenges us to consider whose interests will be respected and whose disregarded in the brave new world of civil practice that is taking shape.

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