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Colloquium: Intellectual Property

In late June 2003, the John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics at the University of Chicago Law School invited a small number of scholars and corporate leaders to meet together for an Intellectual Property Colloquium. The program was a low-key affair. There were no public lectures. The audience consisted solely of the invited participants, a few additional members of the University of Chicago faculty, and student editors of the *Law Review*. Each presenter spoke for forty minutes on a topic of his or her own choosing, after which the floor was opened for questioning. Truth be told, most of these brief sessions ended mid-sentence, with the conversations continuing over coffee, lunch, and dinner.

Collected several months later, this volume represents part of the output of that meeting. Each participant has contributed a short Essay based on the ideas first presented and later refined at the Colloquium. Taken together, these Essays constitute a snapshot of our gathering and hopefully will serve as the basis for continued exchanges.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Merck & Co., Inc., the Microsoft Corporation, and Pfizer, Inc., for their generous support of the Intellectual Property Colloquium. We also extend our sincere thanks to Marjorie Holme, who worked tirelessly to coordinate the details of the event. Most importantly, thanks to the participants who joined us in Chicago and then contributed their work to this issue. We might not all agree on the ideal contours for intellectual property law, but the conversation is an important one, and together we can make real progress.

Readers, we hope you enjoy the Essays.

Richard A. Epstein
Douglas Lichtman
Randal C. Picker

