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Introduction to Symposium on Changes in Immigration and Criminal Law

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**SYMPOSIUM ON THE 1996 CHANGES IN
IMMIGRATION AND CRIMINAL LAW
SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE
BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

*Pamela Goldberg**

It is with great pride that I write this short introduction to the publication of the remarks made at a most important symposium held at the Great Hall of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York in October 2000. Shortly before the symposium occurred, the planning sub-committee of the Immigration Committee of the Bar, which I was a member of, realized the potential importance of the symposium. The panelists all had in-depth experience and knowledge and represented a broad spectrum of interests and views. The speakers included Representative Barney Frank, Bo Cooper, General Counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Dr. Margaret Abraham, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Hofstra University, Manny Vargas, Founder and Director of the Criminal Defense Immigration Project of the New York State Defender Association, and Chung Wha Hong, Founder and Executive Director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium. In addition, several individuals directly affected by the change in the laws gave personal testimony about their devastating experiences. The panel was moderated by Cyrus Mehta, Chair of the Immigration Law Committee of the Bar Association. Given this wonderful array of informed expertise gathered together for one evening to address such an important and far-reaching topic in immigration law, we decided to find a law journal to publish the remarks of the speakers.

My first thought was to reach out to the *New York City Law Review* at CUNY School of Law. Within a few days, the committee had an agreement with the *Law Review* to edit and publish the transcript of the proceedings. The law school, where I have served on

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the faculty for almost 14 years, has as its credo *Law in the Service of Human Needs*. The *New York City Law Review* at CUNY helps fulfill that mission by dedicating their pages to discussions and examinations of issues of the day that have important social and political impact on the underrepresented, the disenfranchised, and the poor. Perhaps my view is somewhat biased, but nevertheless the publishing of the remarks of the Association of the Bar's Symposium in the *New York City Law Review* seems a perfect match in which to immortalize the important comments made on that day.