Foreword-Markets and Information Gathering in an Electronic Age: Securities Regulation in the 21st Century

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On Friday, March 14, 1997, the top academics in the country in securities regulation and several commentators—Stuart Banner, John C. Coffee, Jr., James D. Cox, Nicholas Dopuch, Philip Dyburg, Merritt Fox, Ronald King, Donald C. Langevoort, Ken Lehn, Paul G. Mahoney, Curtis Milhaupt, Gary Miller, Krishna Palepo, Michael A. Perino, Craig Pirrong, Joel Seligman, Lynn Stout, Robert B. Thompson, and Commissioner Steven M.H. Wallman—gathered at Washington University School of Law for a symposium entitled “Markets and Information Gathering in an Electronic Age: Securities Regulation in the 21st Century” to discuss the effects of electronic technology on securities regulation. The last year has seen the emergence of stock trading over the Internet, new efforts to use electronic technology to bypass underwriters and other traditional intermediaries in the raising of capital, and growing concern about the possibilities of fraud in this new forum, including that originating outside the United States. This issue of the Washington University Law Quarterly contains some of the papers and commentary delivered at that conference.