GB

INTRODUCTION TO THE MICRO-SYMPOSIUM

WHAT IS A SCHOLARLY PAPER?

DEFINITIONS TO AID THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
NETWORK, HIRING AND TENURE COMMITTEES,
JOURNALISTS, AND EVEN SCHOLARS

The Editors

As WE EXPLAINED when we first issued a call for papers for this micro-symposium,[1] we were inspired by Bridget Crawford's article, *SSRN and the (Arbitrary) Determination of Scholarly Merit*,[2] and by her follow-up letters to us reporting that her papers published in our pages had been identified as "scholarly" by an important institution in scholarly publishing.[3]

Our call was for original works that would give the audiences listed in the title of this introduction – the Social Science Research Network, hiring and tenure committees, journalists, and scholars – useful tools for sorting scholarly wheat from chaff. The invitation was expansive, and the response was gratifyingly substantial. It was a good thing, however, that we had placed some limits on the sorts of sorting tools we were interested in sharing with our readers. Specifically, we said,

---

[1] 23 GREEN BAG 2D 15 (2019).

[2] 22 GREEN BAG 2D 201 (2019).

[3] *One Formerly Unscholarly Paper*, 23 GREEN BAG 2D 17 (2019); *And Another*, 23 GREEN BAG 2D 17 (2019).

> Let us be clear: This is an opportunity to help our readers identify and appreciate good scholarship, not to promote writers whose views you like or trash writers whose views you dislike.

Those constraints – combined with (a) our customary commitment to "select works for publication based on how original, interesting, well-researched, well-written, potentially useful, and good-spirited they are," and (b) our perennial shortage of space – drew us to the four exceptionally fine little works published here. They reflect a diversity of perspectives – academic, administrative, judicial – and of means to inspire and identify excellent legal scholarship. And they also reflect a uniformity of good-spirited optimism for the capacity of lawyers and other experts to produce good work. May we all live up to their aspirations for us!

GB