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## Forward

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# MERCER LAW REVIEW

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## ANNUAL SURVEY OF GEORGIA LAW

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### FOREWORD

There are those who vigorously disagree with the legal philosophy of the late Mr. Justice Holmes, but few will challenge the truth of an assertion he made fifty-four years ago: "The object of our study (law), then, is prediction, the prediction of the incidence of the public force through the instrumentality of the courts."—Holmes, "The Path of the Law," 10 *Harv. L. Rev.* 457 (1897). In other words, an examination of what the courts have done is the most reliable guide to what they may be expected to do in the future.

That Georgia practitioners are keenly aware of this fact is indicated by the requests received (since publication a year ago of the first Survey of Georgia law during the preceding year) that the Survey issues be continued each year. The Survey here presented covers the period from June 1, 1950 to June 1, 1951. As in the first Survey, consideration was given to all the reported decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and to the general statutes enacted by the legislature during the year. Since many cases were not deemed worthy of discussion by the various contributors, they are merely mentioned or cited in the text or footnotes. A number of cases are treated in several subdivisions of the Survey. This truly illustrates the adage that "the law is a seamless web."

The Editors are deeply grateful to the contributors who have so generously given of their time and talent to make this survey issue possible.

GEORGE E. SALIBA

*Editor-in-Chief*