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Introduction (Symposium: Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism: Constitutional Rights, Judicial Independence and the Transition to Democracy)

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STEPHEN ELLMANN

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INTRODUCTION

It is a great pleasure to introduce the two issues of the *New York Law School Law Review* that will publish papers growing out of the November 2014 symposium at New York Law School: *Constitutional Rights, Judicial Independence, and the Transition to Democracy: Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism*.¹

The twenty papers in these two issues address, as the symposium did, a wonderfully wide range of questions. Many of the papers focus on particular, critical areas of South African law, such as the separation of powers and the role of the courts, the legislative process, children's rights, intellectual property, and customary law. Others focus on the institutions that sustain, or seek to sustain, South African constitutionalism, including the truth and reconciliation process, the independent state watchdog agencies and the state's lawyers, the system of legal education, and the role of clinical legal education. Still others offer appraisals of the overall course of the South African constitutional enterprise—an enterprise whose success is important to South Africa, to Africa as a whole, and to the world.

These two issues reflect the insights of the twenty-four scholars who wrote the papers—and the careful work of the *Law Review* editors and members, in the editorial process and at the symposium itself. We are also very grateful to the Ford Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the National Science Foundation (award # 1423564), as well as to Marco Masotti, Monica Menell-Kinberg, and an anonymous donor, for their generous support of the symposium. And of course none of this would have been possible without the support and effort of Dean Anthony W. Crowell and many other members of the New York Law School community. We thank them all and invite you to read the insightful papers that appear here.

1. The symposium took place from November 14, 2014 to November 16, 2014. For more information on the symposium's program, see *Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism: Program*, <http://www.nylsalawreview.com/south-africa-program/> (last visited Feb. 15, 2016).

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