

EDITOR'S NOTE

This volume marks the 50th Anniversary of the *Virginia Journal of International Law*. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate a half-century of publishing thoughtful, forward-looking scholarship in international and comparative law and providing a forum for the flow of ideas and debate contributing to development in the field.

Now in its fiftieth year, the *Virginia Journal of International Law* remains the oldest continuously-published, student-edited law journal in the United States devoted exclusively to public and private international law. A look back at our formative years reflects the *Journal's* early and enduring commitment to scholarship of the highest caliber.

Continuing this tradition, we have invited prominent international law scholars, academics, and practitioners to commemorate this important moment in the *Journal's* history. Each issue of this volume will include a Foreword and a special Commemorative Essay in addition to the timely articles and essays we regularly publish. For our first issue, we have invited two of the world's top academics—our very own Dean Paul Mahoney and Professor A.E. Dick Howard of the University of Virginia School of Law—to reflect on international law scholarship in the last half-century and beyond.

After graduating from Yale Law School, Dean Mahoney clerked for Judge Ralph K. Winter, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and then for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. He practiced with the New York law firm Sullivan & Cromwell and became an expert transactional attorney before turning to academia.

Professor A. E. Dick Howard is one of the world's leading authorities on comparative constitutionalism and has participated in constitution drafting in many countries around the world. He recently accepted appointment by the National Constitution Center and the University of Pennsylvania Law School as their visiting scholar for 2009–10. Significantly, the Center's theme for the year is global constitutionalism. Professor Howard's Essay is of special significance, as he is one of the *Journal's* very first contributors, having published as early as Volume 2. Nearly a half century later, the *Journal* marks its anniversary by returning to its beginnings.

In each of the three subsequent issues of Volume 50, the *Journal* will publish authors of equal caliber from various international law sectors, including former government officials, jurists, and leaders of international and intergovernmental organizations. Looking forward, our second issue will contain a Foreword by Judge Stephen M. Schwebel,

former President of the International Court of Justice, and a Commemorative Essay by Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni, an internationally recognized war crimes expert who has served as Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts to draft the Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture, Chairman of the Security Council's Commission to Investigate War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia, and Vice-Chairman of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

We hope that you enjoy the current issue and the upcoming contributions to our 50th Anniversary Commemorative Volume. We especially hope that the scholarship in the following pages will honor the editors who came before and serve as a stepping-stone for those who come after.

We would also like to take a moment to thank those who have been instrumental in the *Journal's* half-century of success—our international law faculty and advisors at the University of Virginia School of Law. The *Journal* has benefited enormously from Virginia Law's rich international law program, and it is only fitting that the *Journal's* development has moved in parallel.

As the *Journal* enters its second half-century, we look forward to working with our accomplished Board of Advisors, stellar legal faculty, and outstanding student membership in sharing and promoting discussion on topics of importance to international and domestic legal scholars and practitioners.

To the next fifty years!

Demetra Karamanos
Editor-in-Chief
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