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## Foreword

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## FOREWORD

**Daniel S. S. Cairns**

When the *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal* was founded in 1990, it focused scholarly attention on a region of the world at the dawn of a new era. The year prior, nations of the Pacific Rim came together to establish Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). At the same time, legal scholars in the United States sought to deepen their understanding of the region. However, despite the obvious and growing importance of Asia to global legal study, there was but one comparable law review focused on the Pacific Rim. Acknowledging the relative scarcity of scholarly fora, this Journal was inaugurated with a devotion “to bridge the gap between East and West.”

It was fitting such a forward-looking and internationally-minded journal would come out of the University of Washington School of Law. As then-Editor-in-Chief, Lawrence Weiner, remarked in the foreword to the Journal’s intramural issue, “the University of Washington is located in a major Pacific Rim center whose lifeblood is tied to events in East Asia.” His remark echoes as true today as it did then. The school’s Asian Law Center, its LL.M. and Ph.D. programs, and its vision to train “Leaders for the Global Common Good” continues to attract students and scholars alike to the University of Washington campus to discuss the connection between the U.S. and the Pacific world.

Nearly a quarter century has elapsed between the founding of this Journal and the publication of the present volume. During this span of time, the dawn of the new era for the Pacific Rim region has inarguably arrived. The twenty-first century of the Pacific Rim is shaped by economic rises such as the “Japanese Miracle,” the maturation of the “Asian Tigers,” and more recent predictions about the “Chinese Century.” Indeed, these developments on the western side of the Pacific Rim region have caught the world’s attention. As sociologist Giovanni Arrighi points out, there is no comparable political-economic phenomenon in world history. At home at the University of Washington School of Law, this Journal has grown out of its humble origins as a student organization based out of “a closet in Condon Hall” into an independent publication with offices in William H. Gates Hall. We have an editorial staff of 48 students, including editors fluent in Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Hebrew, and Spanish. Like the Pacific Rim region, we expect to keep growing.

It is in the face of such a historic moment for the Pacific Rim, that the Journal made the surprising yet characteristically bold decision to expand its scope beyond its original region. Now publishing as *Washington International Law Journal*, we bring a global perspective to the study of law and policy.

The articles contained in this issue showcase our strengths and indicate the new direction in which we will take the Journal. For example, Prof. Grady-Schwartz's article on national courts as international political actors contributes to the study of international law broadly conceived. This is relatively new scholarly terrain for the Journal. On the other hand, the offerings from Prof. Liu and Prof. Chang demonstrate comparative approaches to novel legal issues of foreign law, a hallmark of the Journal. Continuing the Journal's tradition of detailed and rigorous analysis of Chinese law, Prof. Chen's article is an empirical treatment of the interaction of foreign direct investment and property rights. This author's own modest contribution of student scholarship continues a discussion about China's Labor Contract Law begun by Jovita Wang in an earlier issue of *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal*. Additionally, this issue contains our original translation of the Chinese High Court's Intellectual Property Decisions, a continuing annual feature initiated in the last volume published as *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal*.

Even as we take the Journal in a new direction, we acknowledge that these positive changes for the Journal would not have been possible without the contributions of generations of editors before us. The past editorial boards of the *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal* bequeathed *Washington International Law Journal* a journal with a global reputation and a tradition of excellence. We aspire to live up to our legacy by bringing the "Pac Rim" spirit to the rest of the world. In that spirit, we dedicate this first issue of *Washington International Law Journal* to all of the editors of *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal*.