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## Foreword: A Special Issue on the Japanese Constitution

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## FOREWORD: A SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION

Taryn Jones<sup>†</sup>

The staff of the *Washington International Law Journal* presents the first installment of Volume 26 dedicated to a study of the Japanese Constitution and Article 9. This book adheres to the *Journal's* long-standing commitment to the publication of important and innovative discourse on legal developments in Japan and the wider Pacific Rim community. In light of Prime Minister Abe's reinterpretation of Article 9 in 2014, Japan has faced questions of identity and legality in its military developments. This special issue of Volume 26 features articles that critically explore and analyze Japan's future as an ally, a military power, and a nation. We are proud to contribute to the scholarship surrounding these issues.

Readers will be able to explore the Japanese Constitution and related policy with critical analysis from Professor Carl Goodman, Professor Keigo Komamura, Professor Hajime Yamamoto, and Professor Yasuo Hasebe. With a special introduction to Article 9 and the Japanese Constitution by Professor John Haley, readers can engage with multiple perspectives of Article 9's reinterpretation and its implications on Japanese domestic and foreign policy. In addition, Professor Daniel Foote has provided a book review for Who Rules Japan?: Popular Participation in the Japanese Legal Process.

The *Journal* continues to dedicate resources to accessing foreign and international law in its native form by regularly publishing legal translations. In keeping with our commitment to understanding laws and scholarship in their native language, the *Journal* maintains translation staff covering Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. In this issue, readers will be able to access the current state of intellectual property law in China with translated Chinese intellectual property case summaries.

The *Journal* remains dedicated to the development of student scholarship. In this issue, we merge our dedication to the Pacific Rim with our expanded global perspectives. In addition to the critical analysis of the Japanese Constitution, readers will find insightful analysis in a student

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comment from Jason Slaybaugh on Italy's recent legislative effort to address the illegal dumping and burning of waste and toxic waste in southern Italy.

Since our inception, the *Journal* has relied on the support of scholars, donors, and the University of Washington to publish legal scholarship at the forefront of international law. We'd like to thank the University of Washington School of Law's Dean Kellye Testy and Dean Jessica Brase for their past and continued support of the Volume 26 Editorial Board. We'd also like to recognize Professor Dongsheng Zang and UW Law's Asian Law Center. The Asian Law Center has provided the *Journal* with invaluable support and collaboration. Professor Zang has demonstrated a continual commitment to the *Journal's* interests and to working together to create the best opportunities for the UW School of Law. We would also like to thank the Volume 25 Editorial Board for their work in securing the content of this issue. Without the hard work of former Editor-in-Chief Jack Brumbaugh and the Volume 25 Executive Board this special issue would not have been possible. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Volume 26 Executive Board who have worked tirelessly to develop this issue.

The *Journal* has proudly served the academic community for twenty-six years, bringing together student enthusiasm and scholar expertise to advance international legal scholarship. With that, the *Journal* is proud to present the reader with our first issue of Volume 26.