

Editorial

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Volume 24 of the MARYLAND JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, the renaissance issue of this JOURNAL, was largely retrospective in focus: it memorialized a reflective symposium discussion on the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In contrast, this issue, Volume 25, is forward-looking: by analyzing evolving conceptions of international law and governance, it addresses the tension between traditional accounts of multilateralism and emerging notions of global law.

Volume 25 begins on an exciting note, as Phoebe A. Haddon, the newly appointed and first African American dean of the University of Maryland School of Law, shares her thoughts on *Educating Lawyers with a Global Vision*. Dean Haddon suggests that the international legal structure of the twentieth century is inadequate to address the complexities of globalization—both economic and cultural. As a result, the International & Comparative Law Program at the University of Maryland School of Law has expanded to include not only the JOURNAL but also an LL.M Program and an International & Comparative Law Clinic which this year has placed students in such countries as China, Mexico, and Namibia.

Our 2009 symposium on *Multilateralism and Global Law: Evolving Conceptions of International Law and Governance* opened with a keynote address by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, an icon of so-called “assertive multilateralism.” That speech put the theme of the symposium and this volume into proper perspective. If, as Secretary Albright suggests, “smart multilateralism . . . is an essential building block of civilized life,” we may presume that other concepts of international law could attain similar importance. In the twenty-first century, there could be many types of building blocks.

Indeed, the evolving structure of international law was the subject of the symposium’s second keynote address and the third contribution to this volume. In *International Law in Perplexing Times*, Professor Jeffrey Dunoff sketches the goals and varieties of three conceptual approaches to international law: global administrative law, global legal pluralism, and international constitutionalism.

With that framework in mind, other distinguished contributors shared at the symposium and memorialize in this volume their insights on global environmental law, global economic regulation, and the future of global legal regulation. For example, Professor Robert V. Percival's article on *Liability for Environmental Harm and Emerging Global Environmental Law* adds to his groundbreaking work on global environmental law; and Professor Karol Edward Sołtan appropriately concludes the main part of this volume, as he did the symposium, with a memorable simile about "the project of law." According to Professor Sołtan, the undertaking of that project is like building a wall: its builders will be inspired if they have a vision of the grand cathedral of which the wall will be a part. The JOURNAL's lofty hope is that this volume will represent a contribution, however small, to the inspiration of those builders.

The JOURNAL's staff and I are indebted to Professors Peter Danchin and Michael Van Alstine for their guidance as our faculty advisors, as well as to all of the contributors to this volume, whose excellent scholarship made this publication possible.

PETER A. HEINLEIN
Editor in Chief