

Reminiscing Over the Years for the 35th Publication of the Maryland Journal of International Law

David I. Salem

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mjil>



Part of the [International Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

David I. Salem, *Reminiscing Over the Years for the 35th Publication of the Maryland Journal of International Law*, 35 Md. J. Int'l L. 5 (2021).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mjil/vol35/iss1/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Journals at DigitalCommons@UM Carey Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maryland Journal of International Law by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@UM Carey Law. For more information, please contact smccarty@law.umaryland.edu.

Reminiscing Over the Years for the 35th Publication of the Maryland Journal of International Law

DAVID I. SALEM[†]

When I was actively deliberating on what law school to attend in the late 1970s, someone I trusted—whose identity has unfortunately escaped me over time—advised me to consider the University of Maryland. I had studied Russian beginning in junior high school and had minored in Mandarin in college, and had thoughts of a career in international law. That person told me I would not be sorry if I chose Maryland, because Dr. Hungdah Chiu was teaching there. Among other courses he taught then was one in Soviet, Chinese and Western approaches to international law. Dr. Chiu was a prolific writer on numerous issues in international law, and he and Jerome Cohen had only recently published *People's China and International Law*. Not immediately knowing how significant an influence Dr. Chiu would have on my time in law school and beyond, I got up enough courage to introduce myself to him in the first few days of my first semester. He was kind and gracious, and thus began a decades-long mentoring relationship that helped shape my professional career.

As part of my earnest discussion with Dr. Chiu on my law school concerns, I told him that if there were any opportunities to earn some money working for him, I would love to do so. I learned that Dr. Chiu was a professor—and a man—whose generosity of spirit was matched by his fervent support for democracy in Taiwan. His first recommendation to me was to join the staff of the *International Trade Law Journal*, which also had only recently begun publishing under his guidance, as well as to participate in the Philip C. Jessup International

© 2020 David I. Salem.

[†] Senior Litigation Counsel, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maryland.

Law Moot Court competition, which he had brought to the law school. I subsequently became Editor-in-Chief of the *Trade Law Journal*, beginning with volume 6 of the *Journal*. This was, of course, an academic position, and not a paid one.

Shortly afterwards, Dr. Chiu asked me to become a Teaching Assistant for him and to review—and get paid for—articles to be published in the *Occasional Papers/Reprints Series in Contemporary Asian Studies* (later called *The Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies*), a publication of the East Asian Legal Studies Program at the law school, established in 1977 by Dr. Chiu. The publication also had the support of the *Maryland International Law Society*, though I suspected that all the support was the result of Dr. Chiu's desire to elevate the subject matter at the law school. The *Occasional Papers Series* was devoted to publishing scholarly articles on political, economic, social and legal issues concerning the East Asian region, with particular emphasis on China and Taiwan. As I digested the materials that were submitted for publication, I came to understand how important the future of Taiwan and its relationship with the Mainland and the West was to him. Moreover, the setting for my editorial work on these matters of *guoji gongfa* – public international law – was quite memorable.

Back then, the *Occasional Papers Series* was run out of a small green and white trailer that had been set up on the southwest side of the law school grounds, at a time where the law school's physical location occupied about half its current space. The “office” in the trailer was quite small and spare; I remember only a small refrigerator. I had a space in the trailer, as did other of Dr. Chiu's research assistants. One of those assistants was Shen Lyu-shun, who later served as the representative of the Republic of China to the United States. And later there was Ma Ying-jeou, who subsequently became President of Taiwan. My work for the *Occasional Papers Series* brought me into contact with numerous international law and international relations scholars, with whom Dr. Chiu worked, including Leng Shao-Chuan from the University of Virginia and the aforementioned Jerome Cohen. To think of the company I kept!!

After being housed in the trailer for a year or two, the offices moved into space on the ground floor of the law school (which housed both the East Asian Legal Studies Program and the Chinese Law Library) and later across Fayette Street to the Maryland Bar Center Building, a significantly more fitting location. In that timeframe, I met Chih-Yu Wu, who began her career as a Research Assistant like me.

Her role, though, would shift as she took on increasingly more responsibility, and she became for Dr. Chiu the Managing Editor of the East Asian Legal Studies publications – and later, Associate Director – editing and publishing for the *Occasional Papers Series* (which by then had changed its name to the *Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies*) and the *Chinese Yearbook of International Law and Affairs* (the “*Yearbook*”), and deftly handling most of Dr. Chiu’s speaking engagements, conference scheduling and my assignments. And back then, and even before Ms. Wu joined the program in 1986, editorial changes were made with a pencil and needed to be retyped in full. When I started, the edited manuscripts I had worked on I brought to LuAnn Marshall, who handled all the secretarial responsibilities for Dr. Chiu at the law school. She retyped the corrected papers on a typewriter, something I know neither of us has forgotten.

I got some of my editorial work from Ms. Wu, or from Dr. Chiu at the law school, but more often had to go to Dr. Chiu’s house in Columbia, to pick up the manuscripts. I so fondly remember that I was frequently met at the door by his beloved dog—first Fluffy, later Rosie—who accosted me as I entered and whom he never failed to yell at in both English and Chinese, when I came through the doorway. He also had this affectionate habit of taking off one of his slippers and hitting Fluffy over the head with it to get the dog to stop barking (I promise it was more of a tap than a smack and Fluffy never suffered!). I not only reviewed articles for publication in the *Occasional Papers Series*, but also for the *Yearbook*. And Dr. Chiu and Ms. Wu also asked me to write numerous book reviews for the *Yearbook*, as well. I like to think that I helped Dr. Chiu get the East Asian Legal Studies program off the ground, and helped to start the *Yearbook* (which first published in 1981), especially by reviewing all those manuscripts or writing book reviews for those submissions that had more legal—and less policy—content.

Most of my work was to edit the submitted manuscripts, and since many were prepared by non-native English speakers, there was a significant amount of editing to be done, for which Dr. Chiu graciously saw that I was paid: that money frankly helped to put me through law school. My fondest memory of my time with the *Occasional Papers Series* was the knowledge that Dr. Chiu may have in fact needed my editorial help, but he also saw that I needed the financial assistance, and he continuously fed me work that he knew would keep me from financial trouble. Of course, there were no handouts from him: he just made sure there were avenues to keep me working. And I know that when we got really busy, Dr. Chiu would always have some reassuring

comment, especially for Ms. Wu, who really did so much for him before Dr. Chiu retired in 2003—frequently telling her: “it’s all incredibly meaningful for the Program!”

In 1981, Dr. Chiu asked me if I was interested in surveying Mainland Chinese press releases and then-current Mainland publications for Chinese views on nuclear disarmament, leading to the publication in 1983, under the auspices of the East Asian Legal Studies program, of my book: *The People’s Republic of China, International Law and Arms Control*. And since I was nearing the end of my academic career, Dr. Chiu by then took on Mitchell Silk as yet another Research Assistant. He edited the final version of the book and later published his own book on environmental law in China.

And while my career eventually took a different path—I have been a federal prosecutor for nearly 30 years now – the things I learned from Dr. Chiu, particularly his embracing mentorship, have led me to a position in my Office where I am now mentoring younger prosecutors. I have tried to stick by the nurturing but demanding principles of fairness and justice that he so wanted for Taiwan, and that he shared with a whole coterie of former University of Maryland students who remember his message and carry it forward.