

Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

MICHAEL B. BROWN[†]

It is with great pleasure that we present Volume 30 of the *Maryland Journal of International Law*. This edition of the *MJIL* focuses on a rapidly evolving issue at the intersection of private and public international law: investor-State dispute resolution. With the fiftieth anniversary of the Washington Convention approaching, as litigation related to foreign investment reaches our nation's highest court, and with debate over the Trans-Pacific Partnership in the headlines, it is fitting that the *MJIL* take this opportunity to reflect on where the law of international investment has been and what we can expect—and hope—to see in years to come.

In approaching this project, the *Journal* chose to focus on the perspectives and insights of leading practitioners and commentators. We then selected the United States Supreme Court's 2014 decision in *Republic of Argentina v. NML Capital, Ltd.*, 134 S. Ct. 2250, as a starting point for the conversation. While the scope of the decision itself is somewhat limited, the case crystallizes many of the tensions underlying international investor-State disputes: evolving notions of State sovereignty; the role of multinational corporations and individuals in the international system; and the extraterritorial reach of domestic courts.

The conversation began with the *Journal's* annual Symposium on October 24, 2014. Nine guest panelists, including our keynote speaker Matthew McGill, came to the law school to present on a series of topics related to the Argentine debt crisis and investor-state disputes more broadly. With the editorial support of the *MJIL* staff,

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the panelists distilled their comments into the papers presented in this volume. Alongside the panelists' papers, we are happy to publish three student works, including Jordan Reth's case note on *Argentina v. NML Capital*, in this edition of the *Journal*.

The publication of Volume 30 would not have been possible without the support and contributions of many individuals. We would like to thank the contributors to Volume 30 for their willingness to participate and share their perspectives. Measured by the billable hours they have dedicated to this project, Volume 30 is by far the most 'valuable' edition of the *MJIL* published to date. I would also recognize Melissa Stear Gorsline and her colleagues at Jones Day who, under the auspices of Maryland Carey Law's International and Comparative Law Program, led an introductory course on international arbitration at the law school this spring.

The *Journal* is grateful to Dean Donald Tobin for his support of this project and for the continued vitality of the school's international law curriculum. I thank Professor Michael Van Alstine for his leadership of the law school's International and Comparative Law Program and for his guidance throughout the year. In addition, I am incredibly appreciative of the efforts of Adrienne Williams-Conover and Matthew Mickler in organizing and coordinating our Symposium last fall. Finally, I thank my colleagues on the Editorial Board and Staff of the *MJIL* for all of the time and effort they contributed to bring this volume to fruition.