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Letter from the Conference Organizer

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Dear Readers,

Along with the co-organizers, Soledad Bertelsen and Pablo González, and with the editorial team of this journal, I am honored to introduce the following articles that were presented during the conference, “New Trends in Latin American Constitutionalism” held at Notre Dame Law School during the Spring semester of 2013.

This conference brought together prominent scholars in Latin America with opposing approaches to pressing issues on human rights and constitutional law in Latin America. The principal aim of the conference was to foster dialogue between scholars of various areas of knowledge that share the same concerns, but who depart from different philosophical foundations and thus arrive to divergent answers to practical problems in Latin American states. Under this scheme, three topics were discussed in different panels. The articles that are published in this issue of the *Notre Dame Journal of International and Comparative Law* sample some of the viewpoints that were presented and discussed during the conference.

The first panel analyzed the protection of indigenous peoples and minorities in constitutional law. The panelists Roberto Gargarella (Argentina) and José Antonio Aguilar (Mexico) discussed about the legitimacy of granting special protection to members of specific social groups. The remarks of Santiago Legarre (Argentina) correspond to the opening and closing sessions of the event, which versed on a broad overview of the constitutional challenges of the region.

This conference would not have been possible without the generous support and sponsorship of the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and the Program on Constitutional Structure.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Pier Pigozzi
J.S.D. Candidate and Conference
Co-Organizer