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## Letter from the Editor

Fon Bisalbutr

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers:

Since publishing its inaugural publication issue in 2011, the *Notre Dame Journal of International & Comparative Law* has consistently featured scholarship that examined a variety of dynamic and exciting topics such as human rights, intellectual property, and terrorism. The *Journal* continues this tradition of showcasing fascinating scholarship in Volume 11.

This Fall Issue features scholarship by three speakers from the Journal's Spring 2020 symposium entitled "*International Law & the Rule of Law*." The first symposium Article is Professor Douglass Cassel's critique on the Commission on Unalienable Rights, formed on July 8, 2019 by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and charged with providing the U.S. government with advice on human rights and foreign policy. In the second symposium Article, Professor Christina Cerna argues that international courts, in using provisional measures to act quickly on behalf of a victim under threat of imminent and irreparable harm and whose human rights may have been infringed, is changing international law. The third symposium Article, written by Professor Brad Roth, argues that if international institutions are to be the bearers of legitimate authority, they must maintain respect for sovereignty considerations. As part of the symposium material, the Issue also includes a transcript of a lively debate between Professor Mary Ellen O'Connell (Notre Dame Law School) and Professor John Mearsheimer (Department of Political Science, University of Chicago) on the topic of *Legalism v. Realism*. The fourth Article, written by Professor Christopher Rossi, explores the impediments to fuller expression of human rights and indigenous rights caused by the impact of legal formalism and lack of a place-based consideration in the development of international law. Finally, our Issue is rounded off with two Notes written by Notre Dame Law School students and members of the *Journal*. In the first Note, Daniela Johnson Restrepo examines modern day extradition practice through an analysis of Julian Assange's extradition case. Her Note examines the evolution of extradition from a political practice of gratuitous exchanges and comity between states, to a highly contractual system by which states are able to accept or reject extradition requests based on a variety of state interests. In doing so, she concludes that the discretionary nature of the exceptions to extradition allow states to serve their own domestic interests, which fundamentally undermines the traditional purposes of extradition for fostering international cooperation. In the second Note, Razi Lane traces the origin and development of America's opioid epidemic through its three waves, from abused prescription opioids to heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Focusing on the latter, he identifies Chinese chemists as the world's primary exporters of illicit fentanyl, critically reviews extant domestic and international counter-narcotic measures, and recommends a U.S.-China treaty that could help law enforcement quell the epidemic at its source.

I would like to thank our faculty advisors, Professors Mary Ellen O'Connell and Sadie Blanchard, for their constant support. I also thank my Executive Board and Editorial Staff for their dedication to the *Journal*. Finally, I want to thank our readers for supporting us as we enter our eleventh year of publication.

Yours in Notre Dame,



Fon Bisalbut  
*Editor-in-Chief, Volume 11*