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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers,

The *Notre Dame Journal of International & Comparative Law* aims to replicate Notre Dame Law School's penchant for engaging in global debate and scholarship to promote human rights and dignity. The *Journal* renews this effort with the latest publication, Volume 13.

This first issue of Volume 13 aims to create space for discussion on matters pertinent to the "Global South." The first article, written by Professor Mekonnen Ayano, investigates the influence China has had on the Ethiopian legal field. He argues that in the past twenty years, the Chinese demand for cheap land and labor has influenced not only laws, but the legal profession as a whole. Professor Roda Mushkat details the different factors effecting Hong Kong's constitutional evolution, in this Issue's second article. The impetus for her article is the democratic unraveling caused by the recently passed national security law and its enforcement. She further examines the connections amongst democracy and rule-of-law with both prosperity and stability. Our final article, written by Julia Jacovides, reminds readers of the challenges of integrating victims into the judicial process with respect to international crimes. Her article views victim participation with an eye for four values: voice, respect, trust, and neutrality.

The Fall Issue is capped with two Notes which draw out challenges faced by both the East and West. Both Notes were written by Notre Dame Law School students and members of the *Journal*. The first note written by Ashley Topel analyzes the work by the Chinese government to appear as a rule of law nation with institutions which fit into the Western world's traditional governing structures. However, her Note indicates that this appearance may be utilized to obfuscate the actual national structure of rule by law. Caroline Abbott's Note sheds light upon the "lawless other," a theme persistent across ages, and how the Scottish Highlands compare to the Southern United States with respect to being comprised of the "others."

Writing for the members of the *Journal*, I express our gratitude to both of our faculty advisors, Professors Roger Alford and Diane Desierto, for their enduring support. Additionally, the publication is possible only with the effort and time of the Volume 13 Executive Board and Editorial Staff. It is my sincerest hope that our readers' engagement with our publications add value to their work and add insight into global issues.

In Notre Dame,



Michael Klein

Editor-in-Chief, Volume 13