

Editorial Foreword

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Every year, the *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law* produces three issues: two traditional issues with full-length articles and student notes, and one symposium issue. The editorial board looks for conferences pertaining to timely issues of international and comparative law. Frequently, the *Journal* is able to publish papers from conferences with particular importance to this publication and to the larger academic community at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. For example, the previous published symposium concerned the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Organization. With the law school's strong L.L.M. program in international trade and with the *Journal's* yearly publication of the W.T.O. Case Review in the spring issue, this topic was a natural fit.

This year's symposium issue gave us another outstanding opportunity for the *Journal* to present a topic of particular importance to the publication and to our community: the rule of law in Latin America. While developments in Latin America are certainly important globally, the *Journal* has long taken a special interest in this region. Discussions of Latin America often entail discussions of indigenous peoples and their rights, issues close to the law school and of additional importance in a state with a large Native American

population. Furthermore, Latin America is in our backyard, a fact emphasized by living in Tucson, where the close proximity of the U.S.-Mexican border daily impacts our social, political, and legal cultures. When Lexis Nexis offered us the following conference, the editorial board jumped at the chance to publish it.

The editorial board knew this symposium would not be business as usual. First, it was not a traditional paper presentation colloquium. Rather, this conference involved speakers and roundtable discussions. We knew the sources would be transcripts instead of formal papers. Second, these discussions were in Spanish, not English. While the *Journal* was provided with conference transcripts, the English translations were real-time translations rather than edited translations of the Spanish text. Student editors were left with the formidable task of creating credibly edited transcripts for publication. After Spanish-speaking *Journal* members examined the original Spanish and English versions, they determined the English translation was inaccurate and decided their only option was to re-translate the Spanish. *Journal* is blessed with a number of bilingual members who graciously translated, punctuated, and contextualized hundreds of pages of text. Articles Editor Eugene Vamos led a translation team consisting of Olivia Vanessa Franco Chavez, Leigha Fassett, Guadalupe Gutierrez, Stephanie Macdonald, and Rigel Massaro; without their

efforts, these discussions would not be available to an English-speaking audience.

The translators' first priority was to protect the integrity of the messages spoken during this conference. Their translations necessarily involved important editorial choices, especially in terms of punctuation and format, as well as in the translation of idiomatic phrases, but consistency with the original was of paramount concern. With the exception of the editorial decision to omit panel six, which pertains to local law, arbitration, and bilateral treaties, we believe this translation represents an accurate and complete transcript of the conference. However, because the *Journal* recognizes that all translations involve a degree of subjective interpretation and because the original transcript omitted many crucial mechanical elements (such as punctuation and paragraph breaks), the editorial board has decided to include in an appendix a copy of the original Spanish language transcript so the reader may examine the raw material from which this special issue derives.