

Preface: East Asia Law Review in Transition

The 2010-2011 school year has been truly a memorable one for the *East Asia Law Review*. This is firstly due to the efforts of all of our authors. In Issue 1 alone, through their timely and scholarly articles, Professor Fukurai, Ms. Wang, Professor Yong-Shik Lee, Professor Jaemin Lee, and Professor Sohn all make important contributions to their respective fields of expertise and, in so doing, enrich all of us interested in law and policy issues in the greater East Asian region. We applaud them for the high quality of their academic work and are similarly excited for our slate of articles for Issue 2, forthcoming in the early summer.

I also hope to have the honor of being the final Editor-in-Chief of this incarnation of the *East Asia Law Review*. Our Journal began as the *Chinese Law and Policy Review*, started by a small but tightly-knit group of Penn Law students interested in Chinese law and policy, publishing two volumes between 2004 and 2007. In 2007, we became the *East Asia Law Review*, broadening our focus to include the rest of the greater East Asian region as well as China. 2007 also saw an important change in our status – from simply a tightly knit group of students to an officially recognized, although independent, journal at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. I am pleased to announce that, as this issue nears publication, our journal has the honor of being considered for full official recognition, on par with the other journals at the Law School. Although the process is still ongoing, it is our great hope that Volume 7 will represent the first step in an even brighter future for the *East Asia Law Review*. We would also like to thank the administration of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, particularly Deans Fitts, Clinton, and Verrier, and Professors deLisle and Feldman, for their support and guidance through this process.

In addition to our publication activities, it has always been a tradition at the *East Asia Law Review* to hold a number of events, including lectures and symposia, for the benefit of the Law School and University communities as well as our membership. This year, we were pleased to welcome Professors Carl Minzner and James Zhaojie Li, and Chinese Criminal Defense Attorney Zhang Peihong to our annual symposium, which this year focused on the rule of law and democratic reform in the People's Republic of China. We would also like to thank Penn Law alum David Albert for graciously giving his time to moderate the symposium. Additionally, we were pleased to host a more informal program with

Professor Li on the main campus, co-sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies.

Finally, the staff of the *East Asia Law Review* extends its tears, prayers, and deepest condolences for all those who were and continue to be affected by the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011, and the ensuing Fukushima Nuclear Incident. We would also like to thank Professor Charles Mooney and Class of 2011 LL.M. student Masashi Konno for sharing their experiences during the earthquake with us, as well as recognize the efforts of all of those in the Penn Law community who have contributed to the wide range of charitable causes working to help those affected.

Nirav Mehta
Editor-in-Chief
East Asia Law Review
Volume VI