

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW

FOREWORD

To say that I am honored to write the introductory foreword for the commemorative symposium edition of the University of Pennsylvania *Journal of International Economic Law* (“JIEL”) misses the mark entirely. This *Journal* is the cornerstone of my law school experience, and what I learned in my days as Editor-in-Chief will stay with me throughout my legal career. Although I just passed the reigns to a new class of eager senior and junior editors, it seems like yesterday that I sat in the Penn Law writing competition as a 1L and worked anxiously and zealously to earn a 2L Associate Editor position on this *Journal*. I look back on my time as an Associate Editor, and then as the Editor-in-Chief, with great fondness for the *Journal*, its editors, faculty advisors, and authors.

I want to thank Allen Wasserman and Jennifer Rosato for their generous contribution to our twenty-fifth anniversary. Their introductory remarks, found in the first two issues of this year, provide a glimpse of the evolution of the *Journal*. In this Foreword, I am shifting gears—I want to take this opportunity to tell you, our readers, about the *Journal*, specifically its editors as they are today.

If you are like me, I used to flip quickly past the introductory pages of a journal in a rush to glean its contents. Some article of note having grasped my attention, I had no regard for the editors names listed in the introductory pages, the faculty who provide scholarly and practical guidance, or any of the behind-the-scenes work it takes to publish a polished scholarly work of the *Journal*'s caliber. That is, until I became an editor myself.

Now, I take the time to pause and read the names of those who put great time and effort into making scholarly journals the wonderful resources upon which we have come to rely. However, not all journals are created equally. *JIEL* boasts twenty-five years of preeminence in the field of international business and economic legal scholarship, but that comes at great sacrifice, wholeheartedly and voluntarily made, by its student editors.

The students who become members of the *Journal of International Economic Law*, and indeed members of any scholarly journal at Penn Law, must take *both* a three day written test *and* submit a written essay of considerable length and quality based on rules and

requirements set by the current Boards of Editors of all the journals. Some schools allow students to merely pick a journal where signing your name on a list is all that is required; not so at Penn Law. I mention this foundational, grueling process to become a member of the *Journal* to point out that its editors are not simply quick with a Bluebook; they are all the hardest working, dedicated, articulate, intellectually-driven, and self-motivated students you will ever meet.

But that motivation is tried and tested through the hectic days of an editor's tenure on the *Journal*. I speak from personal experience and will attest that a phone call, letter, email, or offer of assistance from *JIEL* alumni, authors, and readers goes quite a long way with students. It reminds us of the *Journal's* reputation, which we work tirelessly to maintain, and the twenty-five year legacy of the *Journal* of which we have become an integral part. Most importantly, contact with alumni, authors, and readers emphasizes the importance of the future of the *Journal*—each class of students seeks to pass to the next class a *Journal* far better than the one received. Speaking with alumni, authors, and readers of the *Journal* reconnects us with the hopes and concerns of years past, and we all come to realize that age-old adage that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.”

This *Journal*, designed by its first General Editors, Noyes E. Leech, Robert H. Mundheim, and Stephen R. Miller, to meet the need of the acceleration towards internationalization of business and the integration of capital markets, enjoys great success and a fine reputation. In part, that success is due to the incredible vision of our founders seeking to understand the trend of the ages—globalization—before their peers became aware of the remarkable effects such tremendous change would create in the world. But that success did not end with its founders. The tradition of exploring the changing dynamic nexus of issues international, economic, and legal burns safely, strongly, and assuredly in the quiet halls of our offices at Penn Law and on the pages of this extraordinary *Journal*.

I encourage those readers who enjoy the *Journal* to contact the editors and let them know. Some of my best days on the *Journal* came as a result of reminiscing with alumni, receiving notes of appreciation and donations from alumni and *JIEL* “fans,” or calls from authors who wanted to discuss and discover challenging topics for publication.

In closing, students are the life-blood of this *Journal*, and, as its

most recent former Editor-in-Chief, I rest knowing that it remains in the best of hands. Best of luck, Class of 2005! You certainly have the next twenty-five years of excellence and preeminence in the *Journal* off to a grand start!

DESA L. BURTON

Editor-in-Chief, 2003-2004

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