

FOREWORD

Taryn Jones[†]

The staff of the *Washington International Law Journal* presents the second installment of Volume 26. In this issue, readers will be able to explore Chinese patent law, the use of guiding cases in Chinese courts, Thai constitutional law, and international law issues surrounding submerged states. Professor Xiaowu Li and Mr. Don Wang's piece on Chinese patent law is particularly helpful in explaining a complex system of law for those unfamiliar with both Chinese patent law and patent law in general. Professor Zhang's article on Chinese courts' relatively new use of guiding cases explores a fascinating development in the Chinese legal landscape. Mr. Tonsakulrungraung's work delves into the ongoing political conflict facing Thailand's constitutional court and scrutinizes the Court's efforts at reform. And finally, Professor Simon and Ms. Alexander continue their dialogue on submerged states by examining the role of nationality and the profound significance of the duty to readmit nationals.

In addition to the variety of article topics in this issue, readers will find insightful analysis in student comments from Michael Graves, Jordan T. Wada & Po Liang Chen, and Angela R. Foster. The three comments explore not only different jurisdictions, but also different sources of law and policy.

Since its inception, the *Journal* has relied on the support of scholars, donors, and the University of Washington to publish legal scholarship at the forefront of international law. On behalf of the Volume 26 Executive Board, I would like to thank the University of Washington School of Law's Dean Kellye Testy, Dean Scott Schumacher, and Dean Jessica Brase for their past and continued support of the Volume 26 Editorial Board. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their flexibility and support during the 2016–2017 academic year as the *Journal* has undertaken new goals and explored new opportunities. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Volume 26 Executive Board who have worked tirelessly to secure the articles contained in this issue and develop them through the publication process. With that, the *Journal* is proud to present the reader with our second issue of Volume 26.

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