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## Editorial

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## EDITORIAL

This is the sixteenth year of publication of the *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law* (hereinafter, *Annual Survey*). The publication is appearing as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of hosting the Annual Fulbright Symposium of International Law at Golden Gate University School of Law. We are continuing with the journal's mandate of encouraging thoughtful and scholarly attention to the broad range of issues that concern the use of law to regulate the activities of States and other non-State Actors that constitute in certain differing degrees the subjects of international law.

There are many problems yearning for proper legal regulation. They range from those brought about seemingly by natural causes to man-made ones. There have been recent occurrences of earthquakes in different parts of the world, particularly in Haiti, Chile, and China. They took huge tolls of the lives of very many innocent human beings in those societies. Also, there was the recent volcanic eruption that occurred in the small republic of Iceland. It disrupted air travel in vast areas of the world, brought activities to a virtual standstill for nearly two weeks and caused the air travel industry millions of dollars in losses.

The *Annual Survey* strives within its mandate to provide a forum for engagement and debate among academics, practitioners and other professionals working in the areas of international and comparative law and related fields. The *Annual Survey* encourages research based on empirical observations and experience, as well as theoretical and multi-disciplinary approaches.

It remains the journal's goal to contribute modestly to promoting peace, world welfare and enhancement of the quality of life of all peoples through the international rule of law. It strives and hopes to achieve this by publishing the content of sufficiently high quality articles that have the potential influence upon real events and that can provide important critiques of policies, negotiations, or the work of international Courts and Tribunals.

It is also pertinent to point out that the *Annual Survey* is not a law review journal, much less a student law review journal, but a truly professional annual survey contributed to by academically qualified international legal professionals and jurists who may adhere to different yardsticks of presentation of materials different from the American practice. The Editorial board remains multi-national and not tied to any particular nation, culture, orientation or institution.

The *Annual Survey* disseminates and spreads wider appreciation of the rules of international law through the publication of studies, articles, papers and notes submitted to it and selected on the basis of current relevancy, topical significance and geographical as well as systematic distribution. Based on these guidelines, Volume XVI includes a sufficiently wide variety of topics that correspond with the need to keep the international legal and other related communities apprised of the current trends in international and legal developments.

The *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law* welcomes comments on the articles and other features included in this issue as well as suggestions for topics to be covered in future editions of the journal. Our editors hope that the mission of wider appreciation and broader dissemination of international and comparative law will continue to spread further and deeper, in all directions, covering ever-expanding areas of international legal education, without barriers and without frontiers. The journal warmly appreciates manuscript submissions on topics relevant to the field of international and comparative law.

In conclusion, the views expressed in the articles published, editorial comments and other contributions to the *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law* are those of the authors and are not to be taken as representing the views of the Board of Editors, the Board of Editorial Advisors, the Editor-in-Chief, or the Press.

CHRIS NWACHUKWU OKEKE  
*Editor-in-Chief*