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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

This is the seventeenth year of publication of the *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law* (hereinafter, *Annual Survey*). The publication is appearing as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of hosting the Annual Fulbright Symposium of International Law at Golden Gate University School of Law. By so doing, 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 to a certain degree the subjects of international law. The 17th volume represents another benchmark in the evolution of this global yearbook.

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 Japan, Haiti, Chile, and China, which took huge tolls of the lives of many innocent human beings in those societies. Also, there have been recent upsurges of conflicts and revolutions in North Africa, West Africa and parts of the Middle East, the consequences of which adversely affect the lives and well being of millions of people in those countries. The military intervention in Libya in particular, has brought to a clear focus the problematic nature of humanitarian intervention as is the case of the Ivory Coast.

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 people 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 by academically qualified international legal professionals and jurists who may adhere to yardsticks of presentation of materials that differ 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 XVII 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.

Continuing from the preceding Volume XVI the current Volume XVII contains the following articles:

Michael Alsuel Ntumy - *International Law in a Time of Change*; Todd Heine - *Home State, Cross-Border Custody, and Habitual Residence Jurisdiction: Time for a Temporal Standard in International Family Law*; Stephen E. Blythe - *A Critique of Argentine E-Commerce Law and Recommendations for Improvement*; Sarah Mazzochi - *Humanitarian Intervention in a Post-Iraq, Post-Darfur World: Is There Now a Duty to Prevent Genocide Even Without Security Council Approval?*; Eustace Chikere Azubuike - *Probing the Scope of Self Defense in International Law*; Madeleine Tolani - *U.S. Punitive Damages Before German Courts: A Comparative Analysis with Respect to the Ordre Public*; Ramesh Karky - *An Issue of Invocability of Provisions of the WTO Covered Agreements Before Domestic Courts*

The *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law* welcomes comments on the articles and other features included in the issue as well as suggestions for topics to be covered in future editions of the journal. There is a fervent 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.

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Editor-in-Chief