

Virginia Journal of International Law Celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary

by Demetra Karamanos

The *Virginia Journal of International Law* (*VJIL* or *Journal*) celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year. The *Journal* is the oldest continuously published student-edited international law journal in the world. Founded in 1960, *VJIL* was first printed as the *Journal of the John Bassett Moore Society of International Law*. Today, although it operates under a different name, its purpose and goals remain unchanged. The *Journal* engages and sparks debate on the most cutting-edge topics in international law, while also being a resource for scholars, practitioners, politicians, and law students.

VJIL has more than four hundred subscribers, including university libraries, international and domestic law firms, government agencies, courts, and bar associations. Thanks to the efforts of its ninety-nine staff members, *VJIL* is consistently ranked one of the top international law journals in the United States.

To celebrate the publication of its fiftieth volume, *VJIL* has planned a black-tie banquet in the dome room of the Rotunda at the University of Virginia in March 2010. Virginia Law professors and students will join the *VJIL* staff and board of advisors to celebrate this historic occasion. Further, *VJIL* alumni—including former students who worked on the very first volume of the *Journal*—will attend, as well as the contributors to the fiftieth anniversary volume. The banquet will be a celebration of scholarship and social connections, where international law scholars, practitioners, and students will engage.

In addition to planning the celebratory banquet, the *VJIL* staff has been working to make each issue of the fiftieth anniversary volume particularly special. Each of the four issues includes a commemorative letter and essay by prominent

international law scholars or practitioners. Dean Paul G. Mahoney of the University of Virginia School of Law contributed the letter for the first issue, and U.Va. law professor A.E. Dick Howard contributed the essay, which was particularly significant, since Professor Howard was one of the first authors featured in the *Journal*: one of his pieces was published in the second volume.

The commemorative letter for the second issue was written by Judge Stephen M. Schwebel, the former president of the International Court of Justice and an expert on international law, and the essay was written by M. Cherif Bassiouni, who has chaired and advised the United Nations on myriad issues that have had far-reaching effects on the development of international law norms—particularly in the field of human rights. The third issue will include a letter by John M. Bellinger III, a former legal advisor to the U.S. Department of State, and an essay by Mario Silva, member of parliament for Davenport, Ontario, Canada. Contributors to the *Journal's* fourth and final issue have not yet been named.

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