

EDITOR'S PAGE

Welcome to the pages of the *UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal*! We hope you will enjoy this inaugural issue. For both academicians and practitioners, there is a dire need for a law journal that addresses topics of special interest to the region of the Pacific Basin. The *Journal* promises to fill that need.

A note on the meaning of the term "Pacific Basin" is in order. Recently, the words "Pacific Basin" have more often been used to suggest a concept of economic interdependence than to denote a geographical area defined by precise boundary lines. To a large extent, it is this growing vision of a community¹ of economic and political interests that has brought the *Journal* into creation. Therefore, in addition to all the countries that border on the Pacific Ocean, the *Journal* includes within the scope of "Pacific Basin" any nations which might become influential in a Pacific Basin economic community. For example, our interests extend to all the countries of South and Central America, the U.S.S.R., Southeast Asia, and India.

The tremendous importance of the Pacific Basin to the development of commerce and law is undeniable. Writing for *The Wall Street Journal*, one international businessman has commented:

. . . Japan is a bigger trading partner than any country in Europe and soon will overwhelm Europe in this role. Southeast Asia has some of the fastest developing economies in the world and has more people than all of Western Europe. Then there is East Asia, so vast in its potential as to stagger the imagination. There is also the Pacific Rim of South America and beyond that South Asia. . . .²

It would be no exaggeration to say that the last fifteen years have seen a marked shift in the international orientation of Americans away from Europe and towards the area surrounding the Pacific Ocean. Whether it be the Vietnam War, "catching up" with Japan, democratism in China, the resurgence of Mexico, or separatism in Canada, the fact remains that we increasingly find our attention drawn to a different quadrant than before. In adapting our national, corporate and individual strategies to this shift, there

1. In 1978, Masayoshi Ohira (the late Prime Minister of Japan) proposed the formation of a "Pacific Community." Mansfield, *Pacific Community Maturing, Not Yet Ripe for Formalizing*, *The Asian Wall St. J.*, March 4, 1981, at 16, col. 1.

2. Nairn, *Should the U.S. Pull Out of NATO?*, *The Wall St. J.*, Dec. 15, 1981, at 26, col. 3.

are no obstacles greater than those caused by our ignorance and inability to communicate with the forces of change. Obviously, the same is true for our foreign trading partners. By serving as an international forum for communication and discussion, the *Journal* hopes to make a significant contribution to world peace and prosperity.

Two points should be stressed with regard to the inaugural issue. First, the topical distribution of the articles is in no way intended to suggest that we will not publish pieces dealing with public international law. Second, the apparent emphasis in this first issue on Japan and China is not meant to represent a regional bias. In fact, we are planning to publish several pieces on Canada and Latin America in upcoming issues.

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NICHOLAS E. BENES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF