Editorial

Dear Readers,

Another promising year has begun for *The Law & Practice of International Courts and Tribunals* (LPICT) and we would like to share some exciting news as well as recent initiatives we have undertaken.

First of all, we are delighted to announce the results of the second edition of the Rosalyn Higgins Prize. In 2019, LPICT named a prize in honour of H.E. Rosalyn Higgins, in light of her outstanding and inspiring achievements in the field of international dispute settlement. This prize is awarded to the best article on the law and practice of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which either focuses solely on the ICJ, or which includes the ICJ as one of the dispute settlement mechanisms under consideration. For its 2020 edition, the jury – presided by H.E. Joan Donoghue and composed of Professors Serena Forlati, Makane Moïse Mbengue, Attila Tanzi, Régis Bismuth and Freya Baetens – awarded the prize to Dr. Marie Lemey for her article entitled “Incidental Proceedings Before the International Court of Justice: The Fine Line Between ‘Litigation Strategy’ and ‘Abuse of Process’”. This study, calling for a clarification of what constitutes an abuse of process according to the World Court, is published as the lead article in this issue. We are also pleased to publish in this first issue of 2021 two other superb prize submissions, respectively ranked second and third, namely Dr. Yusra Suedi’s article, “Man, Land and Sea: Local Populations in Territorial and Maritime Disputes before the International Court of Justice”, and Dr. Marco Longobardo’s study entitled “States’ Mouthpieces or Independent Practitioners? The Role of Counsel before the ICJ from the Perspective of the Legal Value of Their Oral Pleadings”. LPICT is particularly proud to publish the writings of these early-career scholars and contribute to the emergence of a new generation of researchers in the field of international adjudication.

As international adjudication has become a field of ever-increasing scholarship, we aim for LPICT to be a place for the analysis of recently published books about international law and dispute settlement. In this context, we invited applications for the position of book review editor, and we were very fortunate to have had a varied and highly qualified pool of candidates. We eventually decided to appoint three book review editors, whom

we are honoured to introduce: Ms. Ashwita Ambast (Permanent Court of Arbitration); Prof. Uché Ewelukwa (University of Arkansas School of Law); and Prof. Vladyslav Lanovoy (University of Laval). We strongly encourage publishers and authors to inform our book review editors of their latest publications. Each book review editor has a general responsibility and a specific “geographic specialisation”: “Africa and the Middle East” for Prof. Ewelukwa; “Latin America and Eastern Europe” for Prof. Lanovoy; and “Asia and the Pacific region” for Ms. Ambast. “Geographic specialisation” may refer to the origin of the author of a new book to be reviewed, the origin of the reviewer, the location of the publisher, or the topic of the book (which may be particularly relevant for one particular region). All three of our book review editors can also commission reviews of European and North American books. All reviews must be written in English, but the reviewed books can be published in any language in which a potential reviewer is proficient. The diversity of geographical coverage will not only enrich the range of books to be reviewed, but also constitutes an inherent imperative in a field where comparative as well as regional experiences and backgrounds are key to better understanding the contemporary and multiple trajectories of international adjudication.

Lastly, we have also sought to provide our readers with a comprehensive overview and analysis of the latest procedural developments in international adjudication. In this light, we inaugurated last year two new annual columns, respectively, on investment arbitration, by Dr. Szilárd Gáspár-Szilágyi and Dr. Maxim Usynin, and on international human rights courts and bodies, by Prof. Hélène Tigroudja. It is our pleasure to publish in this issue two other new annual columns, namely, on dispute settlement in the area of the law of the sea, by Prof. Massimo Lando and Prof. Nilüfer Oral, and on international trade dispute settlement, by Prof. Andrea Hamann. Along with the existing columns on the ICJ and the International Criminal Court (ICC), *LP ICT* now covers all key areas of international adjudication.

Longue vie à The Law & Practice of International Courts and Tribunals!

Freya Baetens and Régis Bismuth