Editor's Note

The editors of the Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal ("APLPJ"), proudly present our Fall 2018 issue (Volume 20, Issue 1). This issue features three articles on a variety of topics spanning geographic regions throughout Asia and the Pacific and one student Comment by a colleague of ours here at the William S. Richardson Law School ("WSRSL").

We first present the article *Japanese Divorce Lawyers: Their Success After Their Own Divorce* by Hiroharu Saito. Professor Saito, Assistant Professor at the University of Tokyo, conducts an empirical study of divorce lawyers' practices in Japan. The study is a rare look into the impacts of Japanese lawyers' private experiences on their professional practices. Professor Saito found that lawyers' practices can be positively affected by their private emotional experiences in the past, which are relevant to their practice areas.

The second article we present is *Towards the Full Promise of Liberty: A Comparative Approach to the Decriminalization of Male Homosexual Sex in Singapore* by Yi Wei. Through a comparative analysis lens, Mr. Wei argues for the decriminalization of male homosexual sex in Singapore by exploring efforts to decriminalize homosexual sex in the United States. Mr. Wei elaborates on two approaches to decriminalization, legislative repeal, and constitutional litigation, and carefully analyzes and advocates for the decriminalization of Section 377A of the Singapore Penal Code.

The third article we present is the *Role and Function of Independent and Outside Directors in Japan* by Friedrich Baumgaertel. Mr. Baumgaertal is an attorney at the law firm of Hengeler Mueller. In his Article, Mr. Baumgaertal discusses corporate law in Japan. Mr. Baumgaertal examines the arrival of the current corporate board structure in Japan and how regulations impact corporations. Mr. Baumgaertal finds that policies of incremental change may prove to be a successful approach to improving existing corporate board structures in Japan.

Finally, we are proud to present a Comment by our WSRSL classmate, Ryan McDermott entitled *Umberger: Giving the Environment a Louder Voice*. In his Comment, Mr. McDermott takes a closer look at the *Umberger* case concerning the permits for aquarium collection in Hawaii. Mr. McDermott argues the holding in the *Umberger* was correct, highlighting Umberger's efforts to shine a public spotlight on this critical environmental concern. Through his analysis, Mr. McDermott elaborates on how principles from this case can positively affect other policy decisions concerning Hawai'i's state waters.

This Volume marks our 20th year as a Journal, making the Fall 2018 semester especially exciting for us. We are beginning this exciting year with the pieces submitted by the authors mentioned above and are looking forward to publishing a Special Edition in January 2019. Volume 20, Issue 1 is a great way to start a year that has so much more to come. In closing, we wish to extend our sincerest māhalo to our fantastic faculty advisors for their continued guidance and our outstanding APLPJ editors for their hard work this past semester.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Jenkins
Co-Editor-in-Chief
2018-2019

Melody L. Kaohu
Co-Editor-in-Chief
2018-2019