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A Retrospective and Prospective View of the *Journal* on its Tenth Anniversary

A tribute to the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation* must include reference to its antecedents and origins. During the nineteenth and most of the first half of the twentieth century the University of North Carolina School of Law could not have been characterized as a hotbed, or even a lukewarm bed, of international legal activity. The faculty and students were fully occupied with domestic legal matters. With the end of World War II and the return of Henry P. Brandis to the law school from extensive naval officer service, this earlier orientation soon changed to include lively activity in matters international. During the dynamic fifteen years of the Brandis deanship there was a vigorous expansion of the international legal program.

In 1945 Professor John P. Dalzell offered the first course in public international law and in a sense became the Hugo Grotius of the law school. If memory serves, Professor William B. Aycock was a student in that class. For forty years Professor Aycock has been an unassuming but vital force in developing the international legal program at the University of North Carolina.

In 1960 the writer of this capsulated chronology joined the faculty at the invitation of Dean Brandis and his faculty colleagues. With the blessing of Dean Brandis the regular offering of a seminar in International Business Transactions was introduced in 1963, and later, another in Comparative Law.

At that time the University of North Carolina became a charter member of the Student International Law Societies, sponsored by the American Society of International Law. This local society adopted the name of John J. Parker in honor of that distinguished North Carolina federal jurist, a true internationalist. The Parker Society is a continuing student activity that has been strongly supportive of the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation*. From the inception of the Philip Jessup International Moot Court Competition in 1963, the law school has been a participant, and frequently a regional host. In the first year of that competition the UNC team reached the final event in Washington, D.C. The Jessup team and the *Journal* have cooperated, and on occasion the same persons have engaged in both activities.

This account does not purport to review the international program since the departure of this observer from Chapel Hill in 1980. Suffice it to say that the ongoing program has been successful and gratifying. As always, it has been fueled primarily by a dedicated group of students.

The modern centerpiece of the international array at the law school, the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation*, is now celebrating its tenth anniversary. In 1975 a small group of students

headed by Henry C. Burwell appeared at my office. With an admirable mixture of deference and zealous advocacy, they expressed a strong desire to establish a student international law journal. At that time, by careful count, there were precisely eighteen such journals being published by American law schools. One school of thought was that this was more than the market could bear. No one anticipated that in ten years the number would have risen to over thirty.

There were no funds, either appropriated or available, for this purpose, no office space in the Van Hecke-Wettach complex, no overwhelming student demand, and minimal interest on the part of the North Carolina bar. It would have been easy to say "No." After huddling with Messrs. Brandis, Dalzell, Aycock, and Dean Robert Byrd, the answer given was "Yes." The small student group selected the formidable name of the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation*, and this orientation toward practical matters of international business law has been maintained. The sympathetic administration found a cranny or two, a couple of ancient typewriters, a few spare dollars, and the *Journal* was in business with "Buzz" Burwell as its first Editor in Chief. Professor and Librarian Mary Oliver expanded international legal materials, within budgetary limitations, in the library.

A constructive effort was made to enlist the interest and support of the North Carolina bar. The Annual Southeastern Conference on International Law and Commercial Regulation was instituted in 1978. A Conference Steering Committee, which included representation from the North Carolina bar, was established, and the practice of publishing the proceedings of this Conference in the *Journal* commenced. Speakers for this Annual Conference have been drawn from the international bar, nationwide. The impetus for this expanded activity of the *Journal* came primarily from the dedicated students comprising its staff. This fusion of interest of the *Journal* and the North Carolina bar has been substantially beneficial to both.

In a critical period of transition in 1980 Dean Kenneth Broun personally provided the guidance and support that assured the further development and expansion of the *Journal*.

The *Journal* has continued its original egalitarian policy of recruiting staff solely through writing competitions. This process has produced most commendable intensity of interest, vitality of writing, and academic excellence. The staff has more than doubled from its original modest size. The present quality of the *Journal* speaks for itself and for the high competency of its editors and staff.

It was the good fortune of this commentator to serve as faculty advisor to the *Journal* during its first five years. It was highly gratifying to observe the student determination, devotion, and diligence that made the *Journal* grow. It is pleasing to contemplate the expanding excellence of the *Journal* in its second decade. The present editors and staff mem-

bers deserve high commendation and warm congratulations. The logical expectation is that the *Journal* will increasingly contribute to the rule of law in the international community in the years to come.

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