

# Boston College Third World Law Journal

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## From the Editors

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# FROM THE EDITORS

We ran the distance. Today we hold aloft a proud, new Journal, our contribution to the legal literature. We created it; now you have it in your hands.

Mostly, we want to celebrate, to toast this achievement in an access of pure joy. Mostly, we want to remember the highlights--the shared energy and excitement as 35 of us from the Asian-American, Black American, and Latino law student associations worked and struggled during the fall of 1979 to establish the Boston College THIRD WORLD LAW JOURNAL. It was the first time in the 50-year history of the law school that the three groups had come together to work on anything so lofty, and what was particularly moving was to see the barriers that separated us disappear.

In our quest for recognition from the law school, we prepared a memorandum in which we noted, gratefully, that the number of Third World students--Asians, Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans--attending professional schools throughout the country had increased, and that Boston College Law School has been in the vanguard of this trend.

Third World people, whether here in the United States of America or elsewhere, take note of each other's activities. Something stirs within the soul of a black man when he learns that yet another African state has acquired independence. Something moves within the souls and minds of Asians and Latinos when aspirations are clarified and goals are reached. No one can certify that every event in the communities where Third World people live is "right" or "wrong"; those words are too often transferable and don't say anything about the context in which events take place.

"The political and social contexts in which change was and is taking place in the Third World--the term describes both a people and a place--have been the subject of careful examination and study," our memorandum continued. "It has long been realized that change benefits from and often is prompted by study, the examination of possibilities, scholarship and robust discussion."

We observed that while many journals and reviews purport to analyze, document and dissect Third World issues on the basis of political and social science and economics, "there is no parallel activity with respect to the legal context in which change takes place in the Third World--no journal that gives the discussion of Third World legal issues a place of centrality."

With the creation of this Journal, published in this initial type-written form with the authority of the law school, a gap in the legal literature is about to be filled.

# FROM THE EDITORS

2

The article "Toward a Definition of the term Third World" by Bernard W. Greene, one of the Journal's executive editors, attempts to fashion a definition of a much misunderstood term, and to say what the Journal means when it uses the term.

"The Third World and the Law of the Sea", our second article, discusses some of the issues being raised at the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, and how the Third World countries have attempted to ensure that the resources of the ocean space benefit the poor as well as the rich nations of the world.

Finally, "Preliminary Notes on Taxation in the People's Republic of China", by Professor Jan Ching-An Ting of Temple University, is particularly well suited to our Journal; China has long been a friend of Third World countries, and often is regarded as a Third World country itself. Professor Ting's article appeared in September 1979 in the Review of Socialist Law, in the Netherlands, and his permission to use his article in our first issue of the Journal is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

On the way to these three articles, a good many other student and non-student efforts fell by the wayside. The critical questions for us to answer as we, the editors, present our first Spring issue to the world are these: Did we make good on our promise to ourselves: to create a Journal that would give front-burner treatment to the legal problems of the Third World, and to treat these problems in a scholarly manner? And did we make good on our promise to the faculty of the law school?

The faculty, in an act of faith, voted on December 19, 1979, "to support the publication" of our Journal in an "intra-mural, non-printed form". Foreseen by the faculty was our slow evolution into print. "The faculty support", said a memorandum from Dean Richard G. Huber, "reflects its serious interest in fostering student writing experiences of an extensive nature." Recognized was the fact that "no quality is more essential to a lawyer than the ability to write well--concisely, clearly and comprehensively."

We feel that we can, with some advised qualification, answer both questions affirmatively. (We'll dare to make a claim that the qualifications are privileged information. That is an irritant to those who insist that they have a right to everyman's evidence, but we doubt that you our readers wish to listen to us as we agonize over the many disappointments we suffered on the journey to the print shop.)

Instead, we wish to state that we have made a modest first step. We expect you to be critical of our effort. We hope you will find the information we have presented useful. A good corps of students already are planning for the next issue. A larger issue is planned, and there will be

# FROM THE EDITORS

improvements all along the way. In the meantime, we present 3  
our best to you with this Volume I, Number 1, and wish to  
acknowledge our gratitude to the many persons who helped us.

Special thanks to Peter Lee, president, Asian-American  
Law Students Association; Dianne Wilkerson-Mills, president,  
Black American Law Students Association, and Antonio Lopez,  
past president, Latino Law Students Association.

Thanks to Professor Charles Baron and the members of  
the Publications Committee of the law school, who put us through  
our paces as we sought to establish the law Journal.

Thanks to the faculty for its support for the idea of  
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and advice: Arthur Berney, Robert Berry, Leslie Espinoza, James  
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to Mr. Murphy as he leaves for Suffolk University.)

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the fall, to get us going as a Journal: Francisco Alvarez;  
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Alina Gonzalez; Ok-Hoo Hanes; Cecil Hunt; Bernice Jee; Daisy  
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Steven Wright, Imelda Ying, and new executive editor Bernard Greene.

Late in the fall, we also welcomed the help of Jason  
Kent, a staff member of the Boston College Law Review; Helen  
Avila, who also typed some of our final copy; and Richard

# FROM THE EDITORS

4

Sherwin, of the Class of 1981, who helped us with the editing.

A list of acknowledgements is never complete. To those whose names may, unintentionally, have been left out, our heartfelt thanks.

Our final words of thanks go, first to Shirley Davis of Dean Huber's office for her help. And to Dean Huber, without whose help and concern, we may not have made our first step.

Maurice Hope-Thompson  
*Editor in Chief*  
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