EDITORIAL FOREWORD

I am happy to announce the release of Volume 42, Issue 1 of the Arizona Journal of International & Comparative Law, and the final issue under the leadership of the 2024–2025 Editorial Board— it has been an honor to serve as Editor in Chief. This issue showcases a diverse and thought-provoking selection of articles and student notes that span environmental justice, international trade, legal reform, and human rights.

Clara Ellenbeck's article evaluates the current international legal framework's failure to address large-scale environmental harm and proposes a reconstructed definition of "ecocide" as the fifth international crime under the Rome Statute. N'Guessan Clément Kouamé provides a comparative study of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), analyzing how each trade agreement addresses foreign investment and sustainability. In a co-authored article, Flora Huang, Horace Yeung, Otabek Sa'dievich Narziev, and Utkirbek Kholmirzaev explore the rise of "common law" financial zones in Islamic countries. The authors examine how these jurisdictions have selectively transplanted English legal principles to foster investor confidence while navigating the complexities of hybrid legal systems.

The issue also features three incredible student notes. Rachel Bunning Ramirez examines the limitations of domestic violence protections for immigrants in the United States, arguing that the legal focus on relationship status rather than the nature of abuse undermines access to protection. Her comparative analysis of legal frameworks in the U.S., U.K., Australia, and Sweden highlights alternative approaches grounded in victim-centered protections. Gabriel Madrid contrasts Cuba's Código de las Familias with U.S. family law frameworks, focusing on how Cuba's collective and inclusive approach to rights for LGBTQ+, disabled, and elderly populations offers valuable lessons for legal reform in the United States. Finally, Bella Urban analyzes the efficacy of U.S. trade mechanisms—specifically WTO regulations and the U.S.-China Phase One deal—in combating Chinese intellectual property theft.

As always, thank you for supporting the Arizona Journal of International & Comparative Law. We are proud to present scholarship that not only interrogates the structures of international law but also proposes constructive paths forward. I hope you find this issue engaging and insightful.

Susy Lanzas
Editor In Chief, 2024–2025