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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The launching of this new International Law Journal marks a major development in the international law program of the University at Buffalo. Student interest in international law has grown at an exponential rate in recent years and our students have often been ahead of faculty and administration in perceiving the increasing importance of the internationalization of the law. Their initiative in beginning this student-run journal is one of a number of examples that could be cited of their influence on our international law program.

The editors' choice of the subjects of "Biodiversity and Biotechnology" as the focus of the first issue of the Journal is an excellent one. Since the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, we no longer need to be reminded of the importance of international environmental law. The initial failure of the United States to sign the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Conference demonstrated that the subject matter of the Convention deserved more attention in the U.S. Although the United States has now signed the Convention, the importance of biodiversity is not easily understood by most lay men or women; thus, the significant contribution which this issue makes to the field of environmental law.

I congratulate the student editors for their audacity and vision in undertaking the difficult task of inaugurating a new International Law Journal and look forward to future issues of the same outstanding quality as this first issue.

- Virginia A. Leary, Professor of International Law -