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TEN YEARS AND COUNTING

Martin H. Belsky[†]

Congratulations to all the past and present editors and staff members of the *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law* for reaching your 10th Anniversary.

Special thanks to several past and present faculty members of the University of Tulsa College of Law who have worked diligently to encourage students, faculty and scholars to assure the continued success of the Journal. These include [in alphabetical order]: Professors Larry Backer, David Clark, Catherine Cullem, Lakshman Guruswamy, Nicholas Rostow, and Rex Zedalis.

About twelve years ago, Professors Clark and Zedalis conceived the idea of a new law journal for the University of Tulsa College of Law. We had been developing and expanding our international and comparative studies and it was time, they argued, for a student journal in this field. There was skepticism by the faculty and some administrators at the time, but they persisted, and soon other colleagues joined their mission. In 1992, the *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law* became a reality.

Three years later, I arrived on the scene. The editors of the Journal and their advisors came to me to ask about my support for their efforts. I was not only sympathetic to their cause, but excited and devoted to it. First, I believe that additional opportunities for students to learn to write and edit are always valuable. Whether it be a law journal article or a moot court brief, legal writing and student review of writings by academics, practitioners and other students is an educational experience that matches or exceeds traditional teaching.

Second, the existence of a specialized journal indicates our commitment to that area of the law. By having journals in energy law and international law, the University of Tulsa College of Law was indicating two of its special areas of concentration. It was followed by a certificate

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program in international and comparative law; four overseas programs; and a Master's program.

Third, the reputation of the College of Law would be enhanced by the outstanding articles published in the Journal. I encouraged our faculty to explore the international and comparative aspects of their specialties and publish an article in the new Journal. As an example, I quickly agreed to publish an article in the Journal.¹

Finally, on a personal level, almost thirty years earlier, I had been the editor of a fledgling international journal and watched it mature into a major and preeminent source of scholarship and research on transnational law issues. I believed then and am confident now that the *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law* will repeat that history.

Over the past seven years, the law school has demonstrated its commitment to the Journal through editor stipends, article solicitation and faculty oversight. The student staff members and editors have responded with a product that has brought pride to themselves and our law school. Thus far, nine volumes of the Journal have included an exciting mix of academic articles, student notes and comments, and practitioner pieces. This issue, and I'm confident future issues, will continue that excellent record.

So - to all of those who have helped - to all of those in the future who will help - and to all of those who enjoy - thanks for helping to make a hope of the past into a reality of the future.

1. See Martin H. Belsky, *Using Legal Principles to Promote the "Health" of an Ecosystem*, 3 TULSA J. COMP. & INT'L L. 183 (1996).