These are exciting times for the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal (APLPJ)*. Talks have recently begun to discuss producing a print version, traffic to the website is steadily increasing (almost one hundred thousand hits in the past six months), and recent technical improvements ensure that the Journal remains at the cutting edge of electronic publishing. While the Journal's future looks bright, so does its present. Volume IV, Issue 2 offers readers a broad range of articles, covering almost the full extent of the *APLPJ*'s topical and geographical scopes.

In the lead article, Joseph Horey, an attorney in Saipan, provides an insightful examination of the unique political relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). He endeavors to answer the question: When a conflict concerning an internal matter of the CNMI arises between the Northern Marianas people and the U.S. federal government, who should prevail?

For many countries in the region, the next few decades will bring tremendous judicial and governmental changes. This issue contains two articles examining the need for judicial reform in countries transitioning from planned socialist economies to market economies. Chris Lin has authored a timely examination of China's ongoing process of judicial reform, as viewed through the prism of Chinese jurists. Brian Quinn explores recent Vietnamese judicial reforms designed to counter Vietnam's growing problem of government and judicial corruption.

This issue also includes two comments examining the impact of the U.S. military in Asian host countries—an especially timely topic given the current reassessment of U.S. strategic interests in Asia. In his comment, Andrew Stewart suggests residents of Okinawa consider a new legal tool for gaining leverage with the Japanese government in their ongoing struggle over the presence of U.S. bases in Okinawa. Kim Chanbonpin, in her comment, recommends that the United States and the Philippines immediately negotiate an agreement to mitigate the potential environmental impact of the ongoing "Balikatan" joint military exercises.

We are also fortunate to also have several insightful "recent developments," authored by APLPJ staff writers. Brian Duus considers the right of self-government of the Native Hawaiian People, specifically exploring how the Akaka Bill functions as a step towards establishing a Native Hawaiian Nation. In an article that may stand as a cautionary tale for the United States as it institutes new measures in the war on terrorism, Rina Chung considers the implications Hong Kong's new "smart ID card" will have on the right of individual privacy.

This issue also demonstrates the APLPJ's commitment to addressing issues affecting and impacting Hawaiʻi. The tribute to Patsy Mink
commemorates the life and work of one of Hawai`i's most dynamic attorneys and legislators, while the compilation from the symposium sponsored by the APLPJ this spring is designed to provoke dialogue on some of the more controversial issues facing today's Native Hawaiian community. Finally, Jon Van Dyke has reviewed a recent book by Eric Yong-Joong Lee, *Legal Issues of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Under the Armistice System*.

While are we very excited about the Journal's future, in some respects, the publication of Volume IV, Issue 2, marks the end of an era. Four years ago, a very motivated group of students, supported by the encouragement of Dean Lawrence Foster, founded the *APLPJ*. This year, Dean Foster stepped down after eight years as dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law to focus on comparative law issues in the Asia-Pacific region. While we are certain Dean Foster will remain involved with the Journal, the *APLPJ* would like to dedicate Volume IV, Issue 2 to him, and thank him for all that he has done for the Journal and the Law School during his tenure as dean. Dean Foster, *mahalo*.

**Matthew Moneyhon**  
**Editor-in-Chief, 2002-2003**