This year marks the seventh year of *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal* (APL&PJ). We believe the journal’s growing recognition is best evidenced by the voluminous article submissions we receive from legal practitioners, scholars, and academics around the world allowing us to continue to build our standing as a frequently sought after and often referenced source on Asian-Pacific law and policy issues.

This issue features Professor Mark A. Levin and Daryl S. Takeno’s tribute to Dr. Kaoru Kashiwagi. The tribute is being co-published with the Hawaii Law Review and commends Dr. Kashiwagi for his commitment to fostering knowledge and understanding of Japanese law around the world, particularly with the Kashiwagi Endowment to our very own William S. Richardson School of Law for Japanese law studies.

We are honored to publish an essay by Dean Aviam Soifer about the late Charles L. Black, Jr., teacher and writer about American constitutional law and legal history, and his commitment, connection, and ceaseless quest for justice. Dean Soifer describes Professor Black’s way of working with law and legal ideas and proposes it as a model that may be used by legal practitioners and others alike here in Hawaii and elsewhere to confront injustices in our time.

This issue also features the much anticipated highlights from APL&PJ’s February 2005 symposium entitled “PROTECTING INDIGENOUS IDENTITIES: Struggles & Strategies Under International & Comparative Law.” We have included the keynote speech by Professor Rebecca Anita Tsosie, Arizona State University (ASU) and Executive Director of ASU’s Indian Legal Program; Maori Land Court Chief Judge Joe Williams’ speech regarding colonization from across the Pacific; and a commentary about Native Hawaiians and the law by Professor Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Director of the Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law. We would like to thank them and many others who participated in the highly attended symposium for their support of the journal. In particular, we appreciate their time and energy in producing written versions of their speeches.
journal looks forward to unveiling the topic for next year’s symposium soon.

Furthermore, we include Professor Vincent R. Johnson’s book review of “Chinese Law on SARS” authored by Professor Chenglin Liu. The book discusses the development and efficacy of various laws China implemented in response to SARS, which triggers bigger questions including what a country should or should not do when combating widespread public health issues.

We hope the book review whets your appetite for our next issue, which will focus on China. The country-centric theme was instigated by the journal’s receipt of an overwhelming number of article submissions related to this particular country throughout the year, thus, we believe evidencing and heralding the rise of China’s power and influence in years to come.

Sincerely,
Shan Wirt
Editor-in-Chief, APL&PJ 2005-06