Ke Welina!

The editors of the Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal (“APLPJ”) are proud to present our Spring 2016 issue (Volume 17, Issue 2). Our staff has put together a diverse set of distinct articles that examine an array of significant and interesting legal topics. This issue contains three articles and one translation, covering a variety of legal issues and policy explorations in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN”), Hawai‘i, American Samoa, and Japan.

The first article we present in this APLPJ issue is *The ASEAN Doctrine of Non-Interference in Light of the Fundamental Principle of Non-Intervention*. The author, Eric Corthay, examines the ASEAN doctrine of non-interference and whether it aligns with the international law principle of non-intervention. This article examines why the doctrine of non-interference is so fundamental for ASEAN members, and the compliance of the doctrine and individual State conduct within the principle. It concludes by discussing the potential effects of ASEAN States’ practice on the international customary law of non-intervention.

The second article is entitled *Thinking Outside the Bars: Using Hawaiian Traditions and Culturally-Based Healing to Improve Racial Disparities Within Hawai‘i’s Criminal Justice System*. The author is Lezlie Kī‘aha. This article examines the disparate impact of the criminal justice system on Native Hawaiians by comparing the American penal system with the traditional Hawaiian system of justice. The author explores the best practices and alternatives to incarceration, and concludes with recommendations for next steps toward improving the disparate impact based on different justice models.
Our final full article is entitled *The Price of Citizenship: Would Citizenship Cost American Samoa its National Identity?* Written by Ivy Yeung, this article examines the recent District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Tuaua v. United States*, which found that American Samoans are not entitled to birthright citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment. This article provides a historical background on American Samoa and its evolution into a U.S. Territory, the significance of the Samoan culture, and the varying attitudes towards American citizenship. It examines whether the court correctly determined that the Insular Cases controlled its decision. It concludes by presenting potential consequences that might arise if the Supreme Court determines that the Fourteenth Amendment grants citizenship to the territory in light of American Samoa’s traditional land system, governance structure, and cultural practices.

Finally, we offer a translation titled *Japan’s Lay Judge System (Saiban-in Seido) and Legislative Developments: Annotated Translation of the Act Amending the Act on Criminal Trials with Participation of Saiban-in*. Authors Kaori Kano and Stacey Leanne Steele begin this annotated translation with commentary and background on the new legislation. They then outline their approach to this translation, which is to provide a formalistic, direct translation, before concluding with the translation itself.

It has been an honor for our editors and our Journal to work in collaboration with our esteemed authors to put forward a cohesive Journal publication dedicated to highlighting diverse and important issues facing Asian and Pacific nations. We hope that readers will find these pieces as interesting and informative as we have, and as always, we thank you for visiting.

Me ka ‘oia’i’o (with great sincerity),

Derek Brow & Jessica “Jaycee” Uchida

Co-Editors in Chief