

Maine Law Review

Volume 60
Number 2 *Symposium -- Nation-Building: A
Legal Architecture?*

Article 2

June 2008

Foreword

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Recommended Citation

Michael J. Anderson Editor-in-Chief, *Foreword*, 60 Me. L. Rev. (2008).
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FOREWORD

The *Maine Law Review* is proud to present this Symposium issue entitled *Nation-Building: A Legal Architecture?* The purpose of the symposium is to explore, from various perspectives, the hypothesis that there is indeed a legal architecture, or a framework grounded in law, to which institutional and individual participants in the nation-building process can and should adhere. This topic has gained added relevancy in recent times given the range of actors currently involved in the formulation, implementation, and maintenance of the mechanisms of law and governance of failed and fractured states across the globe. It is our modest hope that this Symposium issue will contribute to the ongoing debate regarding the proper role of the rule of law in the nation-building process and provide insight into the varied and complex issues that confront those actors engaged in nation-building.

We would like to thank and acknowledge Professor Charles Norchi, who served as the genesis for this symposium topic. Professor Norchi was instrumental in bringing together the contributors to this volume and served as a constant source of support and inspiration throughout the planning and production process. We would also like to thank Senator George Mitchell for his contribution of the Preface to the Symposium issue. Finally, we express our gratitude to Professor Martin Rogoff, who provided much insight during the planning stages of this issue and who remains a true friend of the *Law Review*.