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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Elizabeth Ludington Heins

This is an exciting time to work in Human Rights law. Human Rights—the concept of equal dignity—is becoming a concept available to more and more people. Citizens embrace equal human dignity and seek to overthrow oppressive regimes. Minority populations fight for equal dignity and equal treatment: the right to work, the right to marry.

This volume highlights the breadth and pervasiveness of Human Rights law. We start with *Stoney Road Out of Eden*, an impressive history and analysis of the issues surrounding the Armenian Genocide, a topic being litigated even now. The question of how we deal with human rights atrocities that have happened is as important as the question of how to address current violations. *Stoney Road Out of Eden* also examines the role of federalism in human rights policy, in the tradition of *American Insurance Association v. Garamendi*.

We then move to Africa for *Keeping the Promise: Improving Access to Socioeconomic Rights in Africa*. While the Human Rights tradition readily embraced political and civil rights; economic, social and cultural rights have been more controversial. *Keeping the Promise* makes an insightful and forceful argument for the necessity of fighting for socioeconomic rights.

The second half of the volume focuses on the Americas. First, *Sana Crítica: The System for Weighing Evidence Utilized by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights* familiarizes the reader with the evidentiary standard of *sana crítica*. This concept has a long history in Spanish jurisprudence, and its use in the Inter-American Court decisions is complicated and fascinating.

Finally, our student piece looks at the issues surrounding jurisdiction for private military contractors. *The Jurisdiction over American Private Military Contractors* analyzes whether a loophole that currently exists in the law.

This volume represents the breadth of Human Rights law. Human Rights law concerns practical questions such as evidentiary standards, as well as philosophical questions such as the inclusion of socioeconomic rights in the Human Rights tradition. Hopefully this volume will begin to answer some of these questions, and will spark even more in your mind.

I would like to thank Dean Makau Mutua for his support in leading SUNY Buffalo Law School in focusing on Human Rights, and Professor

Tara Melish—the director of the *Buffalo Human Rights Center*—for their support and help. I would also like to thank the student staff of clerks and editors who put in the work to make this publication possible. Finally, I would like to thank the authors who submitted outstanding academic work to the journal, and were extremely helpful and easy to work with in the publication process. Many thanks to all.