countries to advance the rule of law.

At once, it seems that nothing is international, because "legal borders" are disappearing, yet everything is international, because the ensuing legal regimes are so interrelated. The nature of the world itself demands that we engage with it. Our sixtieth anniversary theme, then, also reflects the idea that U.S. legal scholarship should not be afraid to learn from the rest of the world. Indeed, VJIL is on the frontier of the emerging consensus that the U.S. should look outward not just inward. As Hardy Cross Dillard said: VJIL adds a powerful testimonial to the notion that international law is not merely "a polite curricular ornament" to be regarded indifferently.

"NOT OFTEN IN THE LAW IS IT THE CASE THAT SO FEW HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH"

The consequences have been far-reaching. The Supreme Court now heatedly debates the role of foreign sources of law in U.S. legal decisions. Former Justice Anthony Kennedy cited cases in international bodies as persuasive authority in Lawrence v. Texas, which struck down anti-sodomy laws, and Roper v. Simmons, which abolished the death penalty for minors. Kennedy’s opinion in Roper prompted a passionate dissent from the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who wrote that “the basic premise of the Court’s argument—that American law should conform to the laws of the rest of the world—should be rejected out of hand.” No one, however, is more internationally minded than Justice Stephen Breyer. In 2015, Breyer published "The Court and the World: American Law and the New Global Realities" where he suggests that it preserves (not defeats) our basic values to pay attention to (not ignore) the considered judgments of the international community. Breyer, too, clashed with Scalia over the relevancy of foreign authority to U.S. constitutional law. In Glossip v. Gross, a 2015 case permitting Oklahoma to use the lethal injection midazolam, Breyer read a dissent from the bench noting that the U.S. is one of only 22 countries to carry out executions and one of only eight to do so more than ten times per year. A tiny paragraph in a 46-page opinion, it nonetheless sparked a rare impromptu rebuttal from Scalia, who threw Breyer's words from a 2007 case on school desegregation back in his face.

Those words, we think, incisively capture VJIL’s contributions to legal scholarship over the past sixty years—and doubtless for sixty years more. "Not often in the law is it the case that so few have changed so much." With our storied history in mind, welcome to the Editorial Board of Volume 60.
ROTUNDA BANQUET, NEW WEBSITE

To celebrate our sixtieth anniversary, we will host a black-tie banquet in the Rotunda on the Lawn. We will welcome back members of the first Editorial Board in 1960, reflect on the present state of international legal scholarship with a special keynote speaker, and look forward to the first Volume of the next sixty years--yours.

We will also roll out a new website designed to suit the future of legal scholarship--punchy and topical essays, data-driven analyses, discussions we can update regularly, and easy access to online archives.

"...IT BETTERS EVEN THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INT’L LAW"

So said the former Ambassador from Israel, Shabtie Rosenne, about VJIL in a 1993 letter. Below, we take a look at some of our best scholarship through the ages.


1971, "Toward a More Active International Court,” in which Chief Justice Earl Warren argues for a more robust role for the International Court in world affairs.

1971, "The United States, the World, and the Connally Amendment,” in which Vice President Hubert Humphrey argues that the U.S. should accept the International Court’s jurisdiction.

1980, "Constitutional Limitations on International Rendition of Criminal Suspects,” in which UVA law professor Paul B. Stephan III argues against incorporating international law into the constitution.

1994, "Medieval Precursors of the Confrontation Clause,” in which Frank Hermann discusses Coy v. Iowa and the ancient origins of face-to-face encounter between witnesses and the accused.

2000, "Understanding the Resemblance Between Modern and Traditional International Law," in which Jack Goldsmith and Eric Posner argue that international cooperation is, in fact, possible.

2000, "Judicial Globalization," in which Anne-Marie Slaughter discusses the process of judges looking, talking, and acting beyond the confines of domestic legal systems.

2003, "The Status of Terrorists," in which John Yoo argues that Al Qaeda members are not entitled to the protections typically extended to prisoners of war.