

## Editorial

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Editor-in-Chief

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The world has undoubtedly experienced some major changes within the last few decades – my inner historian would claim even earlier and beyond that – particularly, with respect to the workings of the State. The State, and all that makes it what it is, has certainly had a tumultuous life; a life, which does not intend to give up on its rebellious ways, in favour of an easy, calmer approach to all that it encounters. This is almost evidently a given when we think of how it has had to adapt to the ever-growing globalisation of the world in every facet of society and in particular, these facets' relationships to the law. Here is where a new friend – or foe, depending on how you view it – comes in: global law.

'Global law', which we have heard so much about recently, may be deemed as somewhat of an enigma. It is like the elderly hermit, living down the street from you. You know he's there, but what do you really know about him? Perhaps the bizarre rumours flying around the neighbourhood will provide some enlightenment; perhaps some newspaper archives shall have the answer. But what if you need definitive answers, what then?

Although the request for definitive answers on global law, may be a little idealistic – or perhaps even unattainable and rather a misconceived thought – it is time that an exploration of the relatively straightforward (at least at first glance) question of 'what is global law' occurred. This is even more so, in light of the fact that this year, and for many more years to come, the Tilburg Law School has been and will be responsible for many global law initiatives, including a new global law Bachelors degree and the signing of the Law Schools' Global League Constitution, with our very own Dean, Randall Lesaffer, as a founding Father.

In that spirit, what better way to celebrate the official birth of global law at Tilburg than to incorporate this imperative subject matter into our Summer publication and to act as a platform, where readers and writers

alike can journey together in an attempt to discover global law's meaning; its utility as an approach to the changing nature of law in a globalising world; its connection to education and so on and so forth.

For this issue, the Tilburg Law Review has managed to obtain the involvement of many esteemed and excellent academics from various fields of law, including: methodology; international law; comparative law; private law; philosophy; economics; environmental; history, et cetera. This issue is, without a doubt, a wonderfully diverse anthology of global law pieces, which will allow us to proceed one step closer to the crux of the enigma that is global law.

As a final word, I cannot end this editorial without paying tribute to those that made this Special Issue possible. Special thanks should first go to Morag Goodwin, who not only planted the source of inspiration for our involvement in the exciting global law initiatives taking place in Tilburg, but was a constant support throughout the whole process of putting this Issue together. Randall Lesaffer, Han Somsen and Machteld Geuskens were also excellent in their willingness to take the time to talk through ideas relating to global law and the Tilburg Law Review's involvement of the same.

As an Editor-in-Chief of an ever-growing law journal, I could not have asked for a better Executive and Editorial Board. All members of the Tilburg Law Review deserve the utmost recognition for their hard work, enthusiasm and initiative for making this Issue a success. I have to however, pay extra thanks to our Senior Article Editor, Eefje de Volder, whose determination and drive is one of the main reasons why this Issue is out in print and, of whom, has gone beyond what is needed of an editor, making my job a lot easier.

Finally, many thanks must also be given to all the authors that have been kind enough to share their thoughts and knowledge on global law. I am positive that reading this Special Issue will surely illuminate our own views on the topic and bring us closer in answering that all important question: What is global law?