



2025 GJIL INTERNATIONAL LAW SYMPOSIUM

Presented by the Gonzaga Journal of International Law

**October 17, 2025
Barbieri Courtroom,
Gonzaga School of Law
Spokane, WA**



2025 INTERNATIONAL LAW SYMPOSIUM THEME

The 2025 GJIL International Law Symposium aims to foster a multicultural dialogue on the evolving global landscape shaped by the expansion of BRICS Plus. We will explore whether the coalition is primarily a reaction to existing global structures or if it can serve as a new vehicle for international peace and cooperation through trade, technology, and finance.

2025 GONZAGA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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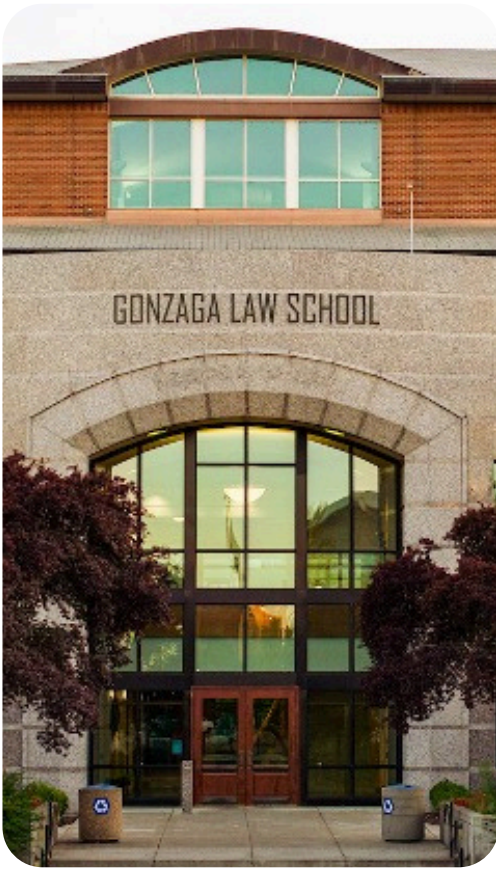
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GJIL is assisted by:

Professor Upendra Acharya
Professor Luis Inaraja Vera
Professor Olawale Ogunmodimu

ABOUT GJIL



The Gonzaga Journal of International Law (GJIL) is a student-run legal journal with a readership that spans the globe. The Journal includes articles, essays, and comments from law professors, government officials, practicing attorneys, and business professionals.

Since its founding in 1997, the Gonzaga Journal of International Law has remained committed to publishing authors who tackle pertinent, cutting-edge issues affecting the legal and political communities both in the United States and abroad. The Journal has also sought to expand its influence beyond the sphere of academia through public service and outreach. Annual events include a 5K charity race to raise funds for Partners in Health and the American Cancer Society, and the International Law Symposium, which addresses various international legal, political, and social issues, and features highly respected legal scholars from local, national, and international communities.

Mission Statement

The purpose of GJIL is three-fold:

- To publish a journal on diverse international topics related to law, social influences that impact the law, and the international ramifications of legal decision-making;
- To provide a forum for international legal scholarship by Gonzaga School of Law students, faculty, and members of the international legal community at large; and
- To provide members of GJIL with an academic and intellectual experience.



ABOUT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Gonzaga University is a private, Roman Catholic university located in Spokane, Washington, and is known for its distinguished academic programs and nationally recognized athletic success. Founded by the Jesuits in 1887, the university provides a liberal arts education rooted in the Jesuit tradition, which emphasizes developing the whole person (*cura personalis*), intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to service for the common good. Gonzaga offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degrees across schools like Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering & Applied Science, and Law. The university fosters a personalized learning environment, maintaining a small student-to-faculty ratio and average class sizes around 22, and is consistently ranked among the top National Universities for its dedication to teaching and student outcomes.

The 150-acre campus is situated along the Spokane River, near the heart of the downtown business district, giving students access to a major metropolitan area while enjoying the natural beauty of the Inland Northwest. While its academic quality is highly regarded, Gonzaga is perhaps most famous for its Division I men's basketball team, the "Zags," which has become a perennial national powerhouse. The strong emphasis on both challenging academics and a vibrant community life—including a high rate of student involvement in intramural sports and community service—defines the overall student experience. Ultimately, Gonzaga educates students to be leaders who are prepared to shape their professions and communities through a holistic Jesuit education.

SCHEDULE

TIME

SESSION

October 17, 2025

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Check-in

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome Address by Symposium Director Jake Espeland and Associate Dean Agnieszka McPeak

9:15 - 9:35 a.m.

Remarks from US Congressman Michael Baumgartner (WA-05)

9:35 - 9:45 a.m.

Remarks on BRICS+ and the Changing Global Order
Professor Upendra Acharya, Professor of Law and Director,
Global Legal Education Program, Gonzaga School of Law

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Panel 1: The Digital Frontier: Challenging Western Hegemony in AI, Data, and Intellectual Property

Moderator: Associate Dean Agnieszka McPeak
Gonzaga School of Law

Professor Tolulupe Falokun
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Professor Jyh-An Lee
Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Dana Lucas, Esq.
Procido LLP

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Panel 2: New Axes of Global Finance: Investment, Arbitration, and the BRICS+ Economic Order

Moderator: Professor Michael S. Cecil
Gonzaga School of Law

Professor Joseph Isanga
University of Idaho College of Law

Professor George K. Foster
Lewis & Clark Law School

Dr. Jingwen Liu
Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SESSION</u>
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Break
2:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Panel 3: Re-Imagining International Order: The BRICS+ Vision for Global Governance and Competition Moderator: Associate Dean, Professor Stacy Taninchev Gonzaga University, College of Arts and Sciences Professor Gowri Ramesh The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University Professor Bi Zhao Gonzaga University, Department of Political Science Professor Dongsheng Zang University of Washington School of Law
3:45 - 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Gonzaga Journal of International Law Editor-in-Chief Shelby Dye
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Post-Symposium Social, Wonder Market Dining Hall 835 N Post Street, Spokane, WA 99201

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



The Honorable Michael J. Baumgartner serves as the U.S. Representative for Washington's 5th Congressional District, bringing a wealth of diplomatic and policy expertise in international affairs. Prior to his congressional tenure, he was an economic affairs officer for the U.S. State Department and a civilian advisor in conflict zones. His political career also included roles as a Washington State Senator and Spokane County Treasurer. His district, which stretches from Canada to Oregon and Idaho, encompasses twelve counties, making it the second-largest in the state.

During the Iraq War, Congressman Baumgartner was stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, where he contributed to economic development efforts as part of the Baghdad Security Plan. His efforts were recognized with commendations from military and diplomatic leaders, including General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. He later served as a counternarcotics advisor in a U.S. government-funded program in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

Mr. Baumgartner's policy initiatives are supported by his academic credentials, including a Master's in Public Administration with a focus on International Development from Harvard University. He has also taught as a guest faculty member at Washington State University and Sciences Po in Paris. As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, he is instrumental in shaping U.S. foreign policy and is heavily involved in the Committee's legislative oversight and policy development. This background equips him with a pragmatic understanding of the interplay between international policy, economic development, and international law - especially in the BRICS+ context.



Dr. Upendra D. Acharya is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Global Legal Education Program at the Gonzaga University School of Law. He served as an associate professor at the Faculty of Law, Tribhuvan University and practiced law in the Supreme Court of Nepal. He has represented landmark cases in the Supreme Court of Nepal, including a daughter's right to inherent property, and the Godabary Marble case that resulted in the passage of the first Environmental Protection Act in Nepal. He has been visiting professor at several law schools, including in Brazil, France, China, India, Italy, Lebanon, Philippines, and Mexico. He is currently a vice president of Asian Society of International Law and a co-chair of the Planning Committee of the AsianSIL Biennial Conference 2019. He also serves as the chair of the Human Rights Special Interest Group of the Society. He is a founding member of Global Policy Forum for Nepal, a global think tank headquartered in London. Professor Acharya has presented papers on human rights, humanitarian law, international economic law and other areas of international law in North and South America, Middle East, Europe and Asia. He has written extensively on cutting-edge issues of international law, including terrorism, U.S. Foreign Policy, globalization, international economic law, and human rights and human security.



Agnieszka McPeak is an Associate Professor of Law and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Program Innovation. Before joining the Gonzaga Law faculty in 2020, Dean McPeak also taught at the University of Toledo College of Law and Duquesne University School of Law. She began her teaching career at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law as a Westerfield Fellow.

Dean McPeak's research and writing focus on the intersection of law and technology, particularly as it relates to social media, ethics, privacy, and the innovation and sharing economies. Dean McPeak's scholarship has been published in *Wisconsin Law Review*, *Wake Forest Law Review*, *Connecticut Law Review*, and *Arizona State Law Journal*, among others. Additionally, her work has been cited in several legal opinions, including a recent decision by the highest court of New York redefining the scope of civil discovery of social media content.

Prior to entering academia, Dean McPeak practiced complex commercial litigation in New Orleans and, before law school, negotiated translation rights for a computer book publisher in Alameda, California. As a political refugee from Poland who came to the United States as a child, Professor McPeak grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and is excited to return to the West.



Michael Cecil is an Assistant Professor of Law who teaches in the areas of Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, Legislation, Legal Theory, and Property. Before joining the Gonzaga Law Faculty, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor and CLEC Scholar at Gonzaga Law.

His research focuses on jurisprudence, specifically the role of legal principles in a constitutional system; constitutional theory, specifically the role of federal courts in shaping common law in the arena of human rights; and structural inequality, specifically the manner in which public legal regimes entrench liberty and opportunity for disparate segments of society.

Prior to teaching, Professor Cecil worked as a legislative counsel in the New York State Senate, where he was responsible for writing legislation and providing legal advice in a wide portfolio of areas. He has also worked as a public interest attorney in the District of Columbia and New York, practicing in immigration law, landlord-tenant law, family law, and probate.

Professor Cecil has worked at the U.S. Senate, Senate Finance Committee, Office of the Ranking Member, the South African Human Rights Commission in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Bankruptcy Court for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Professor Cecil worked on political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. Aside from his scholarly interests in law, Professor Cecil is passionate about creative writing. He has written three screenplays, including an original TV pilot for a historical drama set in the Reconstruction Era, and is currently pitching the manuscript for his first novel.



Stacy Bondanella Taninchev received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh in April of 2009. She also has an MA in French Studies from New York University and a BA in Foreign Affairs and Economics from the University of Virginia. Her research has focused on interest group politics in the European Union and the convergence of state interests as a result of interactions within international organizations. She is currently studying the emergence of climate change norms over time within the United Nations. She also teaches and gives talks on social justice issues in the global coffee trade.

Dr. Taninchev has served since 2009 as the faculty advisor of the Model United Nations program at Gonzaga. Her students have won multiple individual and group awards. Her work with Model UN often complements her work developing community awareness of the UN and global issues as President of the Spokane Chapter of the United Nations Association as well as her work towards achieving sustainable development and racial justice in the Spokane community.



Jake Espeland is a third-year law student at the Gonzaga University School of Law, where he serves as the Symposium Director and Engagement Editor for the Gonzaga Journal of International Law. Before law school, Jake built a career in politics at the state and federal levels, which followed a brief career in higher education IT administration. His political work included time in the office of the current Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he first started developing his expertise in foreign affairs and legislative drafting. His fascination for international law was solidified while studying in Germany, where he met with diplomats, scholars, and legislators during the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

Jake currently works for Congressman Michael Baumgartner (WA-05), managing a portfolio related to the member's position on the House Judiciary Committee. Jake graduated *cum laude* from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with a minor in International Studies. Upon graduation, he plans to sit for the District of Columbia Bar Exam and continue his work on Capitol Hill. Jake lives in Spokane Valley, WA, with his wife, Kacie, and their two cats, Binx and Oliver.



Shelby Dye is the Editor-in-Chief of the Gonzaga Journal of International Law. At the Gonzaga University School of Law, she also participates as President of the Gonzaga Environmental Law Society, a founding member of the Gonzaga Environmental Law Moot Court team, and assists Professor Inaraja Vera as his Research Assistant. Shelby previously studied at Baylor University, where she earned her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Chemistry with a concentration in Environmental Chemistry, a minor in Earth Science, and also completed the Baylor Honors Program by publishing her Honors Thesis titled, "The Politicization of Climate Change Through Time."

While at Baylor, Shelby attended the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) as a student delegate for the American Chemical Society. She was then provided an opportunity to publish two articles on her experience: "Financing the Climate Change Revolutionary Response at COP27" and "How Climate Literacy and Public Opinion are the Driving Forces Behind Climate-Based Policy: A Student Perspective on COP27." In these articles, she discusses the issues and progress made at COP27 regarding the financial hurdles and educational stigma surrounding climate change. She will graduate this May and plans to return to Oklahoma City and sit for the Oklahoma Bar.



Professor Tolulope J. Falokun is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where she teaches courses on private international law, blockchain & AI law, commercial & business law. With an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and significant technology law experience, her research focuses on the intersection of emerging technologies and the law, blockchain, AI, data privacy, and private international law. She has presented her research at various conferences including:

- Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science Conference (GETS) 2025
- Conflict of Laws Workshop (CLAW) 2025,
- Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Conference 2025,
- Belmont Law Review Symposium 2025 on National Security and the Law, and
- Law & Entrepreneurship Conference 2025 in Canada.

She also served as a judge at the Canadian & American Transnational Law Moot Competition 2025.



Dr. Joseph Isanga (LL.M., Doctor of Juridical Sci., Univ. of Notre Dame) is a professor at the University of Idaho College of Law. He served as a scholar at the Kellogg Inst. for Int'l Studies at the Univ. of Notre Dame, and as a postdoctoral research associate at the Univ. of Notre Dame Law School. He received his bachelor's (first-class and top-of-class) degree in laws from Makerere Univ. School of Law in Uganda, a diploma in post-graduate bar course from Law Development Centre in Uganda, and a Master of Laws and Doctor of Juridical Sciences from University of Notre Dame Law School, both summa cum laude. He has taught International Law, Torts, Corporate Law, Agency and Partnerships, Contracts, Sale of Goods, Secured Transactions, Professional Responsibility, International Human Rights, International Business Transactions, Bankruptcy, and Jurisprudence, among other courses. He is the author of a treatise —Oklahoma Personal Injury— (2025 Edition, Matthew Bender & Company, Inc., a member of the LexisNexis Group) and numerous book chapters and scholarly articles. His scholarship and published works focus on international law and human rights. His studies examine cutting-edge issues in international law as well as rule of law in developing countries, with a specific focus on Africa.



Prof. Dr. Gowri Ramesh is the first woman Registrar of The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai, and a distinguished academician with 28 years of teaching experience. She has earlier served as the Principal of Chennai Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Pudupakkam for five years and has been a Senate and Syndicate Member of the University.

She holds a Ph.D. in International Law from Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, an M.L. in International and Constitutional Law from the University of Madras, and a B.A.B.L. from Madras Law College. Her areas of specialization include International Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, and Law of Evidence.

An accomplished author, she has written the book “The Law of Water – Power, Politics and Transboundary Disputes” (ISBN: 9789355278913). She has also contributed significantly to innovation, holding an International Patent (South Africa, 2024) on Sustainable Investment Models for Green Finance and a National Patent (2025) on AI-Based Legal Documentation Verification Device.

Prof. Dr. Gowri Ramesh’s contributions have been recognized through several awards, including the Working Women Achiever – Trendsetter in Education Award (2021), Woman Achiever Award (2024), Lifetime Achievement Award by the University of Singapore (2024), Excellence in Academic & Administration (2025), and the Leadership Scholar Award (2025).

She has presented papers in reputed national and international conferences, served as a resource person and panelist, and organized numerous academic events. She is a Board of Studies member in leading universities, a doctoral committee member, and currently guides seven Ph.D. scholars, having already produced three doctorates. She is also a visiting faculty at the Tamil Nadu Police Academy, delivering lectures to officer cadres.

With her dynamic leadership, scholarship, and administrative excellence, Prof. Dr. Gowri Ramesh stands as a role model in legal education and research.



Dana Lucas is a dual-qualified attorney admitted to practice in Alberta and Saskatchewan, working in Procido LLP's intellectual property and technology practice group. She specializes in artificial intelligence governance ("AI") and emerging technology regulation and policy, bringing a unique cross-border perspective to complex legal challenges in the evolving global technological landscape.

Dana's expertise in AI governance within international frameworks stems from her advanced legal education and practical experience in cross-border transactions, capital markets, and navigating technology regulations across multiple jurisdictions. She earned her Master of Laws in Technology Law and Policy with Distinction from Georgetown University. She also holds a Juris Doctor with Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan and a Certificate in Strategic Space Law from McGill University's Centre for Research in Air and Space Law.

Dana's forthcoming publications include "Free Expression v. Safe Space: Bill C-63's Balancing Act for a Band-Aid Solution?" in the *Houston Journal of International Law*, which analyzes tensions in digital platform regulation, and "Celestial Ceiling or Humanitarian Abyss? The Complexities of Applying International Humanitarian Law to Outer Space" in the *Tulane Journal of International & Comparative Law*, addressing critical gaps in space law regarding dual-use satellite systems and international conflicts. Her current scholarly research examines how legal systems adapt to emerging technologies and the intersection of international economic frameworks with technological governance, specifically addressing how technological cooperation within multinational coalitions can reshape traditional regulatory frameworks in changing global economic orders.

Dana has presented at Georgetown's Institute for Technology Law & Policy conference on "Global Perspectives on AI and the Law" and will be speaking at the San Diego Law Review Symposium on international trade and technology issues in April 2026. Her diverse background, combining practical legal experience with specialized academic training in emerging technology law, offers valuable perspectives on the role of technology in reshaping evolving global economic alliances and governance structures.



Jyh-An Lee is a Professor and the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at the Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He holds a JSD from Stanford Law School and an LLM from Harvard Law School, and has published extensively on intellectual property and digital technology law. His authored and edited books include *Nonprofit Organizations and the Intellectual Commons* (Edward Elgar, 2012); *Intellectual Property Law in China* (Wolters Kluwer, 2nd ed., 2021, co-authored with Peter Ganeva, Danny Friedmann, and Douglas Clark); *Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property* (Oxford University Press, 2021, co-edited with Reto M. Hilty and Kung-Chung Liu); and *Web3 Governance: Law and Policy* (Routledge, forthcoming 2025, co-edited with Joseph Lee).

Professor Lee has served as the Legal Lead for the Creative Commons Hong Kong Chapter since October 2018, and he is also a panelist at the Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre. His academic appointments include visiting professorships at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (2023–2024), University of Tokyo Faculty of Law (2020), National Taiwan University College of Law (2019), and Singapore Management University School of Law (2017). He has been appointed as the TRAIL Academic Fellow at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law.

Recognized as an expert in intellectual property and internet law, Professor Lee has been featured by media outlets such as ABC News, BBC News, Bloomberg News, Financial Times, Fortune, and the South China Morning Post. His research has been cited by the UK High Court of Justice, US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, US Copyright Office, US Patent and Trademark Office, US International Trade Commission, the U.S.–China Economic and Security Review Commission, and the WTO dispute-settlement panel.



Jingwen Liu is a research fellow at the Centre for Legal Innovation and Digital Society (CLINDS) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Faculty of Law, where she obtained her Ph.D. degree in law in 2024. Her research interests include intellectual property law, competition policy, data protection, and comparative legal study. Her publications appear in various academic journals such as the *Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts*, *American Business Law Journal*, *European Intellectual Property Review*, and *Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice*. She is the author of a monograph, *The Availability of Standard Essential Patent Based Injunctions: Interpreting FRAND Commitments*, which is upcoming in 2026 with Edward Elgar, as well as the chapter contributor of various edited volumes with reputable publishers, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Routledge, and Kluwer.

She has been invited to talk at various international academic events at leading universities, including the University of Manchester in the UK and Waseda University in Japan. She has been listed by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center as a WIPO ADR Young Member since 2023. She currently serves as the Chairwoman of the Trade War & Law Committee at Global Future Nexus, an advisory platform for artificial intelligence and digital technology industries, and a Board Member at JURIST's Alumni Board, a non-profit legal news reporting agency. Prior to joining the academia, she was a practicing lawyer in China specializing in trademark and brand protection. She also held a visiting position at Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law in 2021.



Professor Zang joined the faculty at University of Washington School of Law full-time in 2006, after serving as a visiting assistant professor in 2005-06. His teaching and research areas include public international law, international trade law and comparative study of Chinese law. He holds S.J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Harvard Law School, in addition to his LL.M. from Renmin University (Beijing) and LL.B. from Beijing College of Economics (Beijing, China). His recent publication includes Dongsheng Zang, "Imperial Collision: Future of China's Relations with Russia," 34 *Washington International Law Journal* 76 (2024).



Bi Zhao is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Gonzaga University. Her research and teaching focus on International Relations and Research Methodology, with particular expertise in democratic legitimacy in global governance, international norm diffusion and disruption, the role of non-state actors, and international environmental and climate politics. She earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University in 2020. Her work has appeared in *Environmental Policy and Governance*, *Journal of Human Rights*, and other outlets. Her book, *Who Tells Your Story? Women and Indigenous Peoples' Advocacy at the UNFCCC* has recently been published by Cambridge University Press. In her book, she examines how civil society groups frame issues in global climate governance and the implications of these strategies for the institution's democratic quality over time.



George K. Foster is the Jennifer J. Johnson Professor of Business Law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, where he teaches International Investment Law, International Dispute Resolution, International Business Transactions, and Business Associations. His research focuses on foreign investment, sovereign immunity, investor-state arbitration, and the rights of Indigenous peoples and other local stakeholders.

Before entering academia, Professor Foster was a partner in the international law firm Dechert LLP, based in its New York office. He represented governmental and private clients in transnational litigation and arbitrations, including multiple investor-state proceedings before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). He also advised clients on trade compliance issues and transactional matters associated with foreign investments.

His scholarship has explored how international investment agreements are framed and contested in light of sovereignty concerns, legitimacy challenges, and reform debates—issues that resonate directly with the approaches BRICS states are taking as they seek to redefine the global economic order. His articles have been placed in such journals as the *Indiana Law Journal*, the *William & Mary Law Review*, the *American University Law Review*, the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, and the *Michigan Journal of International Law*.

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THANK YOU!

The Gonzaga Journal of International Law (GJIL) extends its heartfelt gratitude for your esteemed participation in our 2025 Annual Symposium.

We extend our sincere gratitude for your time and active participation, which significantly contributed to the meaningful experience of this year's event. Our primary objective in organizing this event is to facilitate constructive dialogue and encourage the legal community to critically analyze contemporary legal challenges.

Your presence today facilitated a conducive environment for meaningful discourse. On behalf of GJIL and the esteemed Gonzaga University School of Law, we extend our sincere gratitude for your attendance.