

# Introducing *Publicist*: A New Medium for International Legal Scholarship

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It is our great pleasure to introduce *Publicist*, an online publication of the Berkeley Journal of International Law (BJIL). *Publicist* supplements BJIL's print journal with comparatively brief, frequent essays by leading practitioners and scholars of international law. "[T]he teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations" are identified as a subsidiary source of international law in the Statute of the International Court of Justice. *Publicist* is designed to facilitate the rapid, global dissemination of the teachings of contemporary publicists.

The ways in which the international legal community shares ideas has evolved dramatically in the decades since BJIL's founding in 1982. A substantial share of legal research has migrated from library stacks to personal computers, and weblogs ("blogs") provide for the timely, interactive exchange ideas. *Publicist* takes full advantage of new technologies and bridges a gap between law reviews and new mediums such as blogs. *Publicist* strikes a balance that is more analytically rigorous than most blogs, yet comparatively timely, accessible, and easy to digest.

*Publicist* welcomes submissions analyzing current topics in public and private international law. Essays should be brief (around 3,000 words) and more-lightly-footnoted than a traditional law review article. The concise format facilitates the rapid publication of essays; we aim to edit and publish submissions promptly after acceptance. Also enabling rapid publication is a comparatively abbreviated editing process: BJIL editors will not verify each citation as we do for our print journal. Ultimate responsibility for accuracy rests with authors.

Essays will be edited and published individually as they are submitted and accepted. For citation purposes, essays will be grouped into volumes and paginated in Adobe PDF format. Our preferred citation is: [Vol.] BERKELEY J. INT'L L. PUBLICIST [Essay] (2009). From time to time, *Publicist* will publish thematic volumes organized around Berkeley symposia and other events of interest to the international law community. For instance, each spring *Publicist*

will publish a volume based on BJIL's annual Stefan A. Riesenfeld Symposium. For these volumes, the length of essays may vary and include longer pieces.

Essays are available for download in Adobe PDF format and online viewing in HTML. The online format enables readers to comment on essays, if the author chooses to enable the comment function.

We invite you to submit and comment on essays, as well as to provide feedback and ideas on how we can best use this exciting new platform for international legal scholarship.