



1-1-1989

## Editor's Note

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### Recommended Citation

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, *Editor's Note*, 2 PAC. MCGEORGE GLOBAL BUS. & DEV. L.J. (2014).  
Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/globe/vol2/iss2/3>

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In 1987, Soviet President Gorbachev announced *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*, his plan for opening the Soviet Union, both internally and externally, to transactions and communications in order to achieve greater economic prosperity. In Poland, the persistence of Solidarity leaders resulted in governmental reorganization. However, the events of 1989 have surpassed anyone's expectations, with sweeping global changes that jolt even the imaginative.

In response to the increased emigration, both legal and illegal, of the youth of East Germany, the East German government pulled down the barriers between themselves and the rest of the world. Within days, the government was transformed to include leaders believing in a more open, democratic approach. In Czechoslovakia, the government was reformed into a noncommunist majority. At a recent summit meeting in Malta, Gorbachev and U.S. President Bush agreed to work toward increased communications and free flow of trade. Gorbachev has requested an international summit in June 1990. In 1992, the European Community will unify, dissipating existing national economic boundaries in hopes of a more productive and efficient economy.

Because of the rapid increase of international exchange of goods, information and ideas which will inevitably and necessarily follow from these actions, it is all the more crucial that a forum exist in which to present discussions regarding the legal impact of international transactions. *The Transnational Lawyer* seeks to provide a portion of that forum. It is dedicated to publishing articles of varying viewpoints from the world over addressing issues that affect the transnational practitioner. As the cold war comes to an end, and globalization increases, international transactions begin to penetrate our lives at every level. Local practitioners overnight may be faced with intercontinental issues. For instance, recently an agreement was made to build McDonald's franchises in Moscow. Computerland, too, has opened an office in Moscow. It may be that an existing client soon will begin importing from abroad.

In order to prepare for potential legal problems arising from international transactions, *The Transnational Lawyer* was created specifically to address current issues that may affect the practitioner whose business includes transnational implications. With this purpose

in mind, articles in this publication include issues of Chinese and Korean joint venture laws, public policy as a defense to recognition and enforcement of arbitration clauses, the AIDS virus in the workplace, recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions with international ramifications, international service of process, and international parental child abductions. We hope that you will find this collection to be helpful in achieving a greater cross-cultural, international exchange of ideas, at a time in which transnational communications and transactions are multiplying.

*Jacqueline P. Reese*  
*Editor-in-Chief*