

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

In today's globally interdependent world, the function and purpose of international law has taken on a new dimension of importance. The areas of international business and politics have become increasingly complex in the last few decades, and there is every indication that this trend will continue. This development has heightened interest in international legal topics and has resulted in a proliferation of scholarly inquiry and debate concerning the changes and challenges in the international sphere.

It is with this interest in mind that we have undertaken the publication of the *Houston Journal of International Law*. Given the phenomenal pattern of growth Houston has been experiencing in international business and commerce, the *Journal* will become an important medium of communication for practitioners, students, and scholars within the international community.

Any undertaking of this size naturally involves a tremendous amount of work. Without the tireless efforts of the Board members and candidates this venture would not have been possible. Of equal importance, however, is the encouragement and support we have received from our adviser, Professor Paust, Dean Hardy, and members of the Houston community who have demonstrated a genuine interest in our efforts. Two persons deserve a special mention at this time: Walter Wright, a past president of the International Law Society, whose vision and determination have brought us to this point, and J. P. Bryan who lent us his ideas and support from the very beginning.

J.O.B.