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## Introduction: One Hundred Years of International Law at Fordham University

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# Introduction: One Hundred Years of International Law at Fordham University

William Michael Treanor

## **Abstract**

In the past 100 years, the connotations of the term “international” have changed dramatically. The ideas we have of concepts such as “international communication” and “global travel” are dramatically different from what those concepts would have meant to our forebears - if they had even thought in such terms. But an international perspective is not new at Fordham Law School. The idea of the interconnectedness of our social and legal systems with those of other Nations is one of the foundational values of our school, and it has shaped our history since we opened our doors 100 years ago.

## INTRODUCTION: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

*William Michael Treanor\**

In the past 100 years, the connotations of the term “international” have changed dramatically. The ideas we have of concepts such as “international communication” and “global travel” are dramatically different from what those concepts would have meant to our forebears—if they had even thought in such terms. But an international perspective is not new at Fordham Law School. The idea of the interconnectedness of our social and legal systems with those of other Nations is one of the foundational values of our school, and it has shaped our history since we opened our doors 100 years ago.

From our first days, Fordham has been an institution committed to the study of international law. Our founding Dean, Paul Fuller, was one of the preeminent international lawyers of his time. He richly enhanced this dimension of the young law school, seeing the pending globalization with a prescience few could have fathomed in 1905.

Fuller was born on a ship traveling to California and, for his entire life, took pride in the fact that he was, in a very literal sense, a citizen of the world, born outside the borders of any Nation. Like many of our School’s deans, he was an influential practicing attorney when named Dean. As senior partner at Coudert Brothers, the leading international law firm of the era, Fuller was sent by President Woodrow Wilson to Mexico to negotiate with the revolutionary government, successfully strengthening U.S. relationships in the troubled region. He played a leading role in the Supreme Court litigation involving the crucial question of the constitutional status of Puerto Rico and the other territories that became part of the United States after the Spanish-American War. Throughout Dean Fuller’s career, he also represented the governments of Belgium, France, Italy, Russia, and Turkey.

Today, 100 years later, Fordham’s reputation as a leading

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international law school remains strong. We are home to eleven full-time and five adjunct faculty in international law. Our Crowley Program on International Human Rights, the Center on European Union Law, Competition Law Institute, and major conferences on international antitrust and IP law serve leadership roles in the creation of scholarship and information in the field. Through a host of exchange and study abroad programs, our students have opportunities to study in Ireland, South Korea, Paris, Amsterdam, and Israel. Our international law program is ranked among the Nation's finest, and it grows stronger every year.

The *Fordham International Law Journal* is truly a showpiece in Fordham's large cadre of international programs. The *Journal* has been an important part of this tradition since 1977 when the first volume was published. The dedicated students who put together the *Journal* each year have built a publication that is the zenith of international legal scholarship. Of the more than 350 student-edited specialty law reviews in this country, the *Fordham International Law Journal* is routinely one of the most-cited, and is one of the two most cited student journals in the international law area. Each year, for nearly thirty years, a new team of students has banded together to create an academic meeting place for the top scholars in the international and comparative law fields. The *Journal's* citation record speaks to their resounding success year after year.

If the *Fordham International Law Journal* is a showpiece for Fordham's international programs, this book is a showpiece for the *Journal*. The Articles in this book represent some of the most pressing issues in international law, discussed by outstanding scholars who are leading the way for greater understanding of these vital issues. I am pleased to see the caliber of scholarship and scholars in this book, including Fordham's own Professor Joseph C. Sweeney, Professor Joel Reidenberg, and Marie Curie Fellow and Visiting Associate Professor, Paolo Galizzi.

I am quite confident our founding Dean, whose books and articles included such titles as *The Protection of American Investments Abroad* and *French Courts of Commerce*, would be pleased to see the mission with which he infused the school flourish today in this outstanding book. I congratulate the Editors for building so remarkably on our great and historic commitment to international law.