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Foreword

Claire C. Kates
katesc@slu.edu

Alicia N. Wherle
awherle@slu.edu

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FOREWORD

In American law school we learn about democracy as it stems from our Constitution: the three branches, direct election of our representatives, majority rules. It is discussed, not in depth, but rather summarily, from above. Perhaps that is because, generally speaking, many of us have heard such similar speeches in our undergraduate and even grade school days.

But have we ever really examined the practicalities of democracy? Why is it that it succeeds in some states yet fails in others? What factors boost or hinder democracy's success? What bearings does it have on the people and institutions of a nation? By delving deeper and challenging our understanding of democracy, we seek to transition it away from an esoteric elusive into a more comprehensive concept.

Democracy – its foundations, flaws, and feats – has always been a curious concept. That ordinary people rule themselves, make the decisions, and deal with the ramifications, all without the guidance of one single expert actor, is a humbling thought. This edition has been dedicated to exploring and examining the democratic experiment.

In addition to two student Comments, inside this Edition are six varied articles, each contributing a unique perspective on democracy. In reading these articles, one is struck by the variety of topics: Egypt's struggle with democracy post-Arab-Spring; Latin America's experimentation and development of a hybrid democracy; a reexamination of the debate on whether democracy could be considered a human right; a look at how democracy evolves and emerges as a societal norm; the effect of democratic political tension on the artistic world; and how societies emerging from war struggle with evaluating and implementing a democratic form of government. It has been a privilege to work with each of these authors. What they bring to the academic body of knowledge is fresh and innovative. Each article was researched and written with the utmost care. On behalf of the entire Public Law Review staff, we would like to thank each author for their contributions.

One of the missions of the Public Law Review is to provide a forum in which to discuss "ethical dilemmas underlying social current issues." This Edition does just that. Each article provides both foundational background and original arguments – the perfect recipe for encouraging discussion and debate on all aspects that surround our understanding of democracy. This Edition sought to answer the question, "Does democracy translate across borders?" We hope that in reading the following pages, readers will not only be able to

enlighten themselves on the subject, but will also be able to join the discussion and challenge their own notions of democracy.

CLAIRE C. KATES
SPRING MANAGING EDITOR

ALICIA N. WHERLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF