

DEDICATION

At the time Dean J. Ralph Beard accepted his appointment as Acting Dean of the University of Georgia School of Law in 1972 and the position of Dean in 1976, the international law program and the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* were both in their infancy. Through his foresight and tireless efforts, Dean Beard has enabled both programs to prosper and grow, thereby providing students at Georgia the opportunity to learn and explore the important and expanding field of international law.

Dean Beard's influence attracted Louis B. Sohn, Gabriel M. Wilner and Thomas J. Schoenbaum, recognized scholars in the field of international law, to the law school. These faculty members continue to contribute an abundance of knowledge and experience for Georgia students to call upon. In addition, Dean Beard played an integral role in establishing the Dean Rusk Center for International and Comparative Law. The Rusk Center, guided by the former Secretary of State, provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between scholars of differing cultural backgrounds adding greatly to the diversity of study available at the law school.

Throughout his tenure, Dean Beard has faithfully supported the work of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*, providing advice, contributing articles, and initiating the *Journal's* endowment fund. The most important assistance of all, however, is the atmosphere of excellence created at the law school by Dean Beard and his ever-enduring spirit of achievement.

On behalf of the former and present members of the staff of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and with sincere appreciation for all he has done, we dedicate this issue of the *Journal*, the last to be produced under his tenure, to Dean J. Ralph Beard. We wish Dean Beard all the best as he resumes his full-time teaching duties and the many other projects he is sure to undertake in the future. Though Dean Beard's support and leadership will surely be missed, we look forward to the future enhancement of both the international law program and the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* under the guidance of newly-appointed Dean C. Ronald Ellington.

