

# SPECIAL CONFERENCE SECTION

## CONFERENCE

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS†

*Clete D. Johnson\**

*David E. Shipley\*\**

*Clete D. Johnson:* Good morning. I am Clete Johnson, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*. On behalf of the students I want to welcome you to our conference, “From Autocracy to Democracy: The Effort to Establish Market Democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan.” I want to begin the morning by extending a warm Southern welcome to our distinguished panelists who have traveled here from so far away to take part in this event. I would also like to give a special welcome to Dr. Andreas Zimmer, of the German Consulate General in Atlanta. We are delighted to host all of you here in Athens on this lovely spring day. We appreciate your interest.

As some of the students have heard me say throughout the week, this student-organized conference is—unless Google is withholding information from us—the most comprehensive look at the legal, political, economic and security issues facing Iraq and Afghanistan on any university campus worldwide. We are particularly honored that the University of Georgia will be hosting the discussion today. The *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* will be publishing the proceedings of the conference this fall. To make sure we do not miss one word, C-SPAN, CNN, and ABC have graciously offered their help to cover part of the proceedings today.

---

† These remarks were made at the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*'s conference of April 16, 2004, “From Autocracy to Democracy: The Effort to Establish Market Democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

\* J.D., University of Georgia School of Law, 2004; M.Sc., International Relations, London School of Economics, 2001; B.A., American History, Harvard University, 1996.

\*\* Thomas R.R. Cobb Professor of Law and former Dean, University of Georgia School of Law.

We hope and expect that this conference will be the first annual conference sponsored and hosted by the *Journal*. To that end, I know that with the leadership of next year's Editor-in-Chief, John Marler, and next year's Conference Editor, André Barbic, who is responsible for everything we are doing here this morning, we are in good hands. I want to specifically thank John and André, Sarah Kelman, Molly Prodggers, Reece Wilson, Florian Stamm, Amit Bose and all the other volunteers that made this event possible.

I also want to express the students' deep gratitude to our sponsors: the Law School, the Dean Rusk Center, the Business School, and the School of Public and International Affairs; and to the professors from those schools that offered faculty advice and guided us throughout this process: Dr. Lee Reed, Professor Dan Bodansky, who will be moderating this first discussion, and Dr. Loch Johnson, who is also responsible for the creation of the School of Public and International Affairs. We thank you all for your guidance. This would not have happened without your support.

Finally, I want to introduce the person who was present at the creation of this initiative last spring, former Dean David Shipley. We came into his office and presented him with an idea. Instead of shooing us away he said, "You know, this might work," and then gave us the guidance and encouragement to make it work. The result, a year later, is today's conference. We will begin after Dean Shipley introduces Professor Bodansky. Thank you for being here.

*Dean Shipley:* Thank you, Clete. Good morning! This is the official welcome on behalf of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law*, the Dean Rusk Center, the Law School, the Terry College of Business, the School of Public and International Affairs, and the University of Georgia. Welcome to our conference, "From Autocracy to Democracy: The Effort to Establish Market Democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan." For those of you who are from out of town, welcome to Athens. As Clete has already pointed out, this is a gorgeous day to be on this campus. A year ago, Clete came to my office with the idea for this conference. I do not recall if it was just before or shortly after our troops went into Iraq, but Clete said, "I have an idea." I did not hesitate to say, "You are welcome to do this," but also I committed some money. I was not hesitant because I had the good fortune of meeting Clete when he was an applicant to the Law School and got to know him during his first year. I was confident that if any student in our school could pull off a program of this magnitude, it was Clete Johnson. He is bright, energetic, enthusiastic, persuasive, and passionate about international law, international affairs, and

politics. I think Clete will be an excellent lawyer and I am proud that he will be a graduate of this law school in one month.

I also feel that it is appropriate that one of the sponsors for today's program is the Dean Rusk Center, named, of course, in honor of the late Dean Rusk, who was Secretary of State for John F. Kennedy and for Lyndon B. Johnson. Rusk was a Georgian and an influential and popular member of the Law School's faculty for almost a quarter-century. I think it is safe to say he made our international program. The *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* started when Dean Rusk was here, our graduate program got a jump-start when Dean Rusk was on the faculty, and he inspired many students to pursue careers in international law. Many of these students were very successful due to his guidance and hands-on assistance.

I am going to state the obvious: the topics for today's conference could not be more timely or more important. When Clete came to see me a year ago, I suppose a lot of us thought—perhaps naïvely—that the major problems that we would be facing in Iraq and Afghanistan today would be legal, political, and economic issues. I suppose we were optimistic that the security issues would be settled so we could concentrate our efforts on those nations' governmental institutions, civic institutions, and economies, as well as rebuilding schools, hospitals, highways, and power grids. I do not think anyone thought it was going to be easy, but I suppose many of us were too naïve, or too optimistic, regarding security. I wonder about the lessons in all of this. Challenges have always faced occupying forces and what has come to mind for me recently, and I am sure for many others, is the Allied occupation of post-war Japan and post-war Germany. It took at least five years to get things resolved in those countries. But I will leave all that to the historians and our speakers today.

I would now like to introduce my colleague, Professor Dan Bodansky, the moderator of our first panel. Dan is in his second year on our faculty. I was the Dean who hired Dan and I think it was a great move. He is a fantastic addition to our faculty and a fantastic addition to the international program. He holds our Woodruff Chair in International Law. Before coming to the University of Georgia, he was on the faculty at the University of Washington School of Law. He also served at the State Department. He did his undergraduate work at Harvard, received his law degree from Yale, and clerked for Judge Goldberg on the Fifth Circuit. Professor Bodansky will introduce our first panel.

