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## **UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal**

### **Title**

Foreword

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### **Journal**

UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal, 16(2)

### **Author**

PBLJ, Editors

### **Publication Date**

1998

### **DOI**

10.5070/P8162022107

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## FOREWORD

The UCLA Pacific Basin Law Journal is pleased to present our Spring 1998 issue. The issue includes a variety of engaging articles ranging from an analysis of Korean libel laws, a discussion of China's admission into the WTO, a discussion on military comfort women, and a discussion of Japan's rule of law.

In the lead article, Jae-Jin Lee performs a comparative analysis of the freedom of the press and right of reply under contemporary Korean libel laws. Mr. Lee begins by describing the development of the press arbitration system in Korea in terms of press freedom and a person's reputational rights during the period of 1986-1996. Next, the author compares the features of the right of reply under Korean libel law compared to those in Germany, France, Japan and the United States. Mr. Lee concludes by showing how the press freedom and reputational rights have been affected by the press arbitration system during the years of democratization since 1987.

Next, David M. Blumental analyzes the negotiation of China's admission into the World Trade Organization. Mr. Blumental submits that the international norms that the WTO represents will not be fully accepted until the institution embraces all nations. He explains that for marketizing economies the stresses of rapid transition inevitably conflict with the demands of this free trade regime, a dilemma exemplified by China's situation. He describes the factors that the WTO and its principle members should consider in determining the conditions of China's admission as well as the consequences of admitting China to the WTO. Mr. Blumental concludes that the multilateral institution is the best forum to encourage China to build the legal institutions to guide an open economy and ease its integration into the international trading order.

In the following article, Chin Kim and Stanley Kim chronicle the legal fight of *Jugun ianfu*, military comfort women. The authors describe how during World War II, an estimated 84,000 thousand Asian women, mostly Korean, were forced from their homes and into prostitution on the front lines by the Japanese government. The authors examine how

their experiences have been covered-up by the post-war government until recently, when a number of brave survivors in Japan and South Korea have come forward to tell their stories. The survivors sought to bring their stories to international light in hopes of receiving an apology from the Japanese government and financial restitution for the horrors suffered.

Finally, Susan Maslen focuses on Japan's unique interpretation of law in a society that places a strong emphasis on informal methods of regulatory control. Known as *gyousei shidou*, or administrative guidance, this practice illustrates how Japan adapts the western concept of the rule of law to customary practices in its own society. Ms. Maslen concludes that traditional Western evaluations of legal norms and institutions in Japan are too ethnocentric, and she suggests an alternate three-tier model for more accurate analysis.

We hope you will enjoy the issue.

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