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## Letter From The Editor

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past several months, many touching tributes to September 11, 2001, have been featured in publications throughout the United States and around the world. Authors charged with the momentous task of synthesizing the day's events and the systemic changes that have followed have shared their intimate memories and fears surrounding the attacks, as well as their beliefs regarding the legal and political structures that have emerged since. In reading these pieces, both legal and non-legal, a unifying concept seems to weave them together: while the path forward may be unclear at times, and while some of the same threats exist today as they did on September 11, the United States continues to play a primary role in countering such threats. While we have stumbled more often than not in creating many of the legal and policy regimes that currently govern our national security, we have nonetheless continued to shape the world's legal structures for counterterrorism, nuclear proliferation, targeting, and almost all other aspects of national security law.

To be sure, the next ten years are anything but certain. With the democratic ideals of the Arab Spring has also come a new Libya, accused by the United Nations of the same human rights abuses of its predecessor. Yemen and Syria are teetering. China and Russia continue to assert their powers in ways that confound the United States' foreign policy goals, and Israel and the Palestinian people seem as far away from reconciliation as ever before. The future becomes even less certain when one adds the United States' own economic struggles and its misdirected fear towards immigrants from its southern border taking jobs no American wants as jobs Americans need are outsourced across the globe. And, of course, tremendous challenges remain in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq.

The National Security Law Brief is a publication of legal scholarship and, therefore, the articles and ideas presented within this volume focus on heated topics within current national security law circles. From assessing the targeted killing of Anwar al-Aulaqi, to questioning current procedures governing Guantanamo habeas trials, to challenging the concept and contours of the U.S. national security structure itself, each of the following articles presents key national security law questions that the United States must answer. Also included is a full transcript from the American University Washington College of Law's *Ten Years After 9/11: The Changing Terrorist Threat* event, which featured leading national security law voices from the George W. Bush and Obama administrations.

While by no means covering even a sliver of what the United States will face in the coming decade, we hope that the ideas presented in this volume will challenge those at the helm to continue to rethink and reshape the country's legal responses to emerging national security law questions. Only then will the United States continue to be seen as the leading voice in establishing the legal policies and regimes that will structure the next decade and beyond. We hope you enjoy Volume II, Issue I, and we look forward to hearing from you online at [nationalsecuritylawbrief.com](http://nationalsecuritylawbrief.com).

Sincerely,



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Editor-in-Chief, National Security Law Brief  
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