

PREFACE

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the UCL Journal of Law and Jurisprudence, we are proud to introduce the Journal's issue for the academic year 2023-2024.

The collection of papers presented in this volume represents a rich tapestry of contemporary legal scholarship, exploring critical issues in a range of areas, from financial law to human rights law. These contributions, published in this Journal, offer nuanced analyses and thought-provoking insights into some of the most pressing challenges today.

In "Balancing Competition and Stability in the Era of Gamified Investing", James Isaacs delves into the impact of mobile trading applications on financial stability and consumer protection. The article critically examines how gamification techniques employed by these apps influence retail investor behaviour and pose systemic risks, urging a proactive regulatory approach to mitigate these dangers.

Sumaiya Sultana Ritu's paper, "Imperative of Environment Preservation amidst Warfare: Navigating Contribution into the Equation of Safeguarding First and Second Generation Human Rights," addresses the often-overlooked environmental consequences of armed conflicts. Ritu's research highlights the profound interconnections between environmental degradation and human rights violations, proposing a robust framework for environmental preservation even amidst warfare.

In "To what extent has the UK Government achieved its aim of providing certainty to businesses in relation to the National Security and Investment Act 2021?", Jai Mann aims to scrutinise these concerns by focusing on two main areas of perceived uncertainty: the absence of a precise definition of 'national security' and the ambiguous delineations of the 17 mandatory notifiable sectors. By examining these issues, his paper intends to show that the apprehensions surrounding the Act's uncertainty are largely misplaced.

Ee Vi Lim's "FSMA 2023 Secondary Competitiveness and Growth Objective: A Step Back or a Step Forward?" provides an incisive critique of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023. Lim explores the implications of the Act's secondary

international competitiveness and growth objective, and compares it with historical mandates and international standards. This paper offers valuable recommendations for aligning regulatory frameworks to better communicate and execute this objective.

Jael Lena Gless' comparative analysis, "One Foot in, One Foot out – An Accountability Analysis of the United Kingdom's and Switzerland's Regulatory Frameworks in the UNCAC Regime," investigates the discretionary asset return processes of these two nations. Gless' work underscores the importance of accountability in anti-corruption efforts and provides a blueprint for other jurisdictions to enhance transparency and consistency in asset recovery.

These papers not only illuminate current challenges but also offer forward-thinking solutions that can guide policymakers, legal practitioners, and scholars in navigating the complexities of modern legal and financial landscapes. We hope this issue inspires further research and dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of how law can adapt to and shape the evolving realities of our world. We are deeply grateful to all these authors for having chosen the UCL Journal of Law of Jurisprudence to publish their work, as well as for the patience they showed in our collective effort to bring their submissions to publication.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to all the members of the Editorial Board, both LLB and LLM students, as well as PhD researchers, who devoted their time and effort by reviewing tirelessly all the submissions we received (including those that did not end up being published). It is thanks to them that we have been able to respect the Journal's commitment to the double-blind review process and preserving its prestigious position amongst other academic journals.

Lastly, we are indebted to the Advisory Editors – Leon Vincent Chan and James Milton – for their invaluable guidance throughout this journey to publish this issue. We are also grateful for the support from the outgoing Faculty Supervisors, Dr Anna Donovan and Dr Pedro Schilling de Carvalho, and Ian Caswell from UCL Press for their assistance throughout this entire process.

Tianqi Shi

Managing Editor