

Foreword

I have the great honour and satisfaction of introducing the first and inaugural issue of this new online publication: the *LOS Reports*.

Since its creation, in the summer of 2008, the Law of the Sea Interest Group of the American Society of International Law (LOSIG) has been committed to providing a forum for those involved or interested in international ocean law matters. To this end, we have thought that one of the best ways for motivating the LOSIG members to participate and be more involved in the activities of this young Interest Group is to create a platform to publish their work, whether in the form of articles, notes, or shorter comments and reports.

LOS Reports introduces an innovative formula, the so-called "Masterpieces". In this section, great professors and practitioners in International Law of the Sea give short comments on a topic of their choice, offered to *LOS Reports* visitors in online video format. This hybrid formula makes the *LOS Reports* one of the first in its gender (if not the first, at least in Public International Law), while simultaneously providing the LOSIG with a remarkable archive of juridical contributions at the highest level. For this inaugural issue we asked Dr. Rafael Casado Raigon, professor of Public International Law and Chair Jean Monnet of European Law of the Sea of the University of Cordoba (Spain), and the current President of the Association internationale du droit de la mer (assidmer) to open this series. On the other hand, to offer LOSIG members who are Ph.D candidates and young professionals the opportunity to publish their works, we have also created a special section called "New LOS Voices".

Finally, I would like to sincerely express my gratitude to a number of people that have made this joyful inauguration possible. Firstly, I would like to thank the contributors for submitting their papers and comments to *LOS Reports* and for their understanding cooperation with the editors in the review of their works. On the other hand, I am really truly grateful to the Editorial board for this inaugural issue, which includes Dr Wil Burns (Santa Clara University), Dr. Coalter Lathrop (Sovereign Geographic and University of Duke), and Miss Patricia Jimenez Kwast (University of Oxford). I cannot express how proud I am with the work developed by these colleagues, their interest and the effort made by them in realizing this project. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the ASIL Services and Executive Direction, which enthusiastically supported the idea of creating such a publication and are doing their best to make it available to its main protagonists, you, the readers.

Thank you very much and welcome to *LOS Reports*!

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