

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE ON THE 1ST RLJ ANNIVERSARY

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I am pleased to introduce our fourth issue, with which we have completed one year of publication, and with which we are happy to celebrate our first anniversary.

Our main goal during the year was to 'find' our authors and readers and to establish a niche among comparative journals in English. The journal is scholarly oriented, but we also publish practitioners. Our primary goal is to explore and discover Russian law (as well as the law of post-Soviet countries) in comparative context. The journal also seeks to give a platform for Russian scholars who work inside and outside of Russia. Our general mission is comparative legal research free of any national interests. During the year we published a number of Russian and foreign authors, who produce comparative legal scholarship in the fields mentioned above.

The last twelve months were challenging times for us. It was a busy and important period. We launched our project and did a lot of supporting work: We established the International Editorial Board and Russian Editorial Council; registered the Journal with Russian official authorities; developed our online platform; approved our Editorial policy after much discussion; chose the publisher and, finally, completed a year of publication. We also effected substantial promotion of the Journal inside and outside Russia. On November 13, 2013 we organized a presentation and press-conference concerning the Journal in the form of the round-table 'Russian Law Journal: Discovering Russian Law for the World.' It took place in the Russian State Media Agency 'Ria-Novosti' and attracted about 50 participants. It became a significant event in Russian legal academic life and attracted scholars, practicing lawyers, judges, attorneys and legal media. We discussed different problems of the legal education and science and the role of the Journal in resolving them. It was highlighted by a variety of Russian media.

We also signed a multilateral agreement of cooperation with twelve Russian universities and established the consortium of law schools supporting the Journal.

Journal was the co-organizer and partner of many important conferences.

During the year it was indexed by several international academic agencies.

Finally, our efforts were directed primarily to establishing the Journal in Russian and international legal academic life. We also started to realize our mission of establishing a platform for cross-cultural legal academic dialogue in Eurasia based on the *Russian Law Journal*.

I would like to thank our editorial council and board members for their great work during that year as well as our sponsors for their great support. My special thanks to our authors, whose contributions gave the journal its initial scholarly contributions.