

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N. Y. 10027

PARKER SCHOOL OF FOREIGN  
AND COMPARATIVE LAW  
Office of the Director

435 West 116th Street

March 1987

The Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law, an independent institution affiliated with the Columbia University School of Law, has long been in the forefront in promoting study and research of foreign law in the United States. Its Trustees and then Director, Willis L.M. Reese, long before others, foresaw the need for promoting the study of Chinese law and developing American scholarship in this area. The Parker School has steadfastly provided financial and other support for the study of Chinese law, especially at the Columbia Law School. It may, with due immodesty, be said both that the Center for Chinese Legal Studies at Columbia, which is so ably directed by R. Randle Edwards, is the leading institution of its kind and that the Parker School has been instrumental in assisting in its creation and development.

It is entirely fitting that the Center's pre-eminent position will be bolstered further by the publication of this *Journal*. The wealth of talent at Columbia, where over fifty of the approximately 900 students have substantial proficiency in Chinese and sizeable numbers of Chinese from the mainland graduate each year from law programs specially devised for them, will ensure that this *Journal* will perform effectively the tasks it has set for itself. It is the confidence in its success that has moved the Trustees of the Parker School to make a substantial contribution towards making this *Journal* a reality.

We are delighted to have been able to help put this most worthwhile enterprise on its course.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hans Smit', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Hans Smit  
Fuld Professor of Law  
Director, Parker School of  
Foreign and Comparative Law