

Editorial

The editorial board and staff of the *Journal of Chinese Law* view with sadness the massacre of demonstrators in Beijing on June third and fourth, 1989. This tragic event shocked the world and posed for China's friends the difficult question of how best to express and provide support in the future.

The student-led movement for continued economic reform, increased democracy, and an end to official corruption captured the attention and the hearts of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The People's Republic of China (PRC) government's suppression of this popular demonstration for reform of the current government undercut the considerable achievements of the past decade aimed at establishing the rule of law in the PRC. At the same time, these tragic events starkly highlight the critical need for China to build a strong and viable legal system to protect Chinese citizens from the abuse of official state power.

Since the suppression of the movement for democracy, many PRC jurists, legal scholars and practitioners have indicated their continued commitment to enhancing the role of law in China. Through their efforts, legislative checks on capricious and harmful government activity continue to be enacted. For example, the recently enacted Administrative Litigation Law gives Chinese citizens, for the first time, the right to sue government officials and agencies for infringement of their legally protected rights. These efforts command our respect and support.

The *Journal of Chinese Law* will continue to feature articles and comments by Chinese scholars. We believe such contributions are an indispensable source of information and insight into China's legal policies, problems, and prospects. Together with our Chinese colleagues, we hope for a brighter future.