



# UC DAVIS

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## LAW REVIEW

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### Welcoming Remarks

*Dean Kevin R. Johnson\**

Good morning! I am Kevin Johnson, Dean of the UC Davis School of Law. Welcome to the Law School and the UC Davis Law Review's symposium entitled "The Asian Century?" It is important to not forget the question mark, and to note that it is not an exclamation point. The question is what we are addressing today.

We are honored to have you here today. This symposium examines the twenty-first century, and whether it will be led by Asia and its influence on the international system. If the British led the nineteenth century and the twentieth century by the United States, will the twenty-first century be led by Asia? If so, what will this mean for human rights, including women's and gay rights, and for economic development?

UC Davis is especially well-positioned to host this conference, with a wealth of international scholars as well as the California International Law Center at King Hall. We also have more Asian American law professors than any law school in the United States.

Today, three of every five people in the entire world live in Asia. The incredible economic development in China and India over the last two decades has made Asia central to the international system. Yet, the

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\* Dean and Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law. Remarks delivered at the UC Davis Law Review Symposium — "The Asian Century?" (February 26, 2010).

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continent has largely remained at the periphery of discussions of law in the United States. This may be in part because the geographic entity known as Asia defies generalizations, instead boasting a diversity of histories and circumstances, from the skyscrapers of Shanghai to the slums of Mumbai.

This symposium will ask the question of how the rise of Asia might affect efforts to expand human capabilities. To consider this question, the UC Davis Law Review has brought together some of the nation's leading scholars, with expertise on multinational corporations, intellectual property, human rights, gay rights, the status of rural persons, national security law, and constitutional law. Our keynote speaker, Martha Nussbaum, is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago. Other conference participants include Professor Anil Kalhan (Drexel); Professor Jonathan Kang (University of Washington); Professor Tom Ginsburg (University of Chicago); Professor Holning Lau (University of North Carolina); Professor Teemu Ruskola (Emory); and Professor Peter Yu (Drake). From UC Davis, we have Professors Afra Afsharipour, Keith Aoki, Anupam Chander, Lisa Pruitt, and Madhavi Sunder.

Thank you to all the participants for being a part of the UC Davis Law Review symposium. Thanks to our Law Review for putting this together, to Sue Jones, and the law review advisor, Dennis Ventry. Thanks to Professor Anupam Chander for his role in the framing and planning of this conference. Thanks to our sponsor, the international law firm of Morrison Foerster, a good friend of UC Davis School of Law.

Again, welcome to UC Davis! And enjoy the intellectual feast that is before you.