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## Editor's Note

This issue begins with *How China Curbs Free Speech Beyond Its Borders: Legal Strategies of Transnational Censorship* by Ge Chen. This article examines China's transformation of domestic censorship into a global phenomenon under Xi Jinping's leadership. It analyzes constitutional reforms, the institutional machinery behind speech regulation, and normative standards prioritizing national security. Chen explores how censorship merges with propaganda, economic coercion, and technological control to influence multinational corporations, academia, and foreign governments. The piece concludes that China's legal strategies for transnational censorship pose a systemic challenge to global freedom of expression and liberal democratic principles. Chen is a professor of Global Media and Information Law at Durham Law School in the U.K..

Gurgen Petrossian's contribution to this issue is *Persecution as a Crime Against Humanity in the Context of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*. Petrossian investigates the forced displacement of over 100,000 Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, framing it as persecution under Article 7 of the Rome Statute. The article traces the historical evolution of persecution as a crime against humanity, outlines its legal elements, and applies them to Azerbaijan's state policy of discrimination, hate speech, and violence. It further assesses ICC jurisdiction, admissibility, and the prospects for accountability, arguing that these acts meet the threshold for crimes against humanity, including deportation and other inhumane acts. Petrossian is an international criminal law expert at the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and a lecturer at the Friedrich-Alexander Erlangen-Nürnberg University,

From Guido Westkamp comes *Borrowed Plumes: Taking Artists' Interests Seriously in Artificial Intelligence Regulation*. Westkamp critiques the current EU and UK legal frameworks governing AI and copyright, focusing on issues such as data mining, pastiche exceptions, and AI personhood. He argues that granting AI creative rights undermines human artistic autonomy and calls for recognizing artists' personality rights as a "negative liberty" to oppose AI appropriation. The article proposes statutory licensing schemes and collision clauses in future AI regulation to balance technological innovation with the protection of human creativity and cultural integrity.

Westkamp holds the chair in intellectual property and comparative law at the Center for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London.

Our fourth article is *Media in Unrecognized Countries: Challenges and Lessons from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) in the Face of Isolation and Misinformation*, by Arman Asryan. Asryan explores the role of media in the former Republic of Artsakh, an unrecognized state that maintained democratic media standards despite decades of conflict and isolation. The article reviews Artsakh's constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression, media laws, and access to information, comparing them with international norms and other unrecognized states. It highlights challenges such as outdated regulations, lack of international support, and Azerbaijani disinformation campaigns that marginalized Artsakh's voice and facilitated human rights abuses, culminating in the region's ethnic cleansing in 2023. Asryan is an international lawyer who worked at the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office of the former Artsakh Republic.

My thanks to our faculty peer reviewers, and to our hard-working student editors, led this year by Inioluwa P. Gbenjo. As always, the *Journal* welcomes feedback from its readers.

Professor Michael M. Epstein  
Supervising Editor