The Spring 2020 Issue of Tsinghua China Law Review dedicates to introducing cutting-edge discussions of Chinese law in a time of drastic changes. The world encountered the outbreak of COVID-19 and its unprecedented size and speed have brought to international society chaos and disorder. In the Spring Issue, we published up-to-date analyses of laws and policies promulgated amid the spread of the virus. The authors reflect on the legitimacy of such practices and examine how international law and criminal law responds to the fast-evolving issue of disease control.

Besides the issue of COVID-19, we invited authors of diverse background to analyze the development of Chinese law, and the social and economic challenges facing China today. The articles cover a wide range of topics, including racial discrimination, civil procedure, securities law compliance, and blockchain policies. Our editors in the China Law Update Column provide a high quality of writing and offer insightful comments on the latest Chinese legislations and judicial interpretations.

In the article entitled Sowing the Seeds of Chinese Exclusion as the Reconstruction Congress Debates Civil Rights Inclusion, Professor Lea VanderVelde and Professor Gabriel J. Chin probe into the origin of Chinese exclusion in the context of the Reconstruction era. The authors argue that while Congress was amending the Constitution to fundamentally reorder the legal and social status of African Americans, the equal treatment was not granted to Chinese Americans. This article explains the Congress’s rationale in distinguishing between Chinese and other people of color residing in America, and the eventual exclusion of the Chinese in 1882.

In the article entitled Lay Judges in China Under the New People’s Assessors Law: The Shaping of a Legal Institution, Professor Knut Benjamin Pißler discusses an important development in the Chinese legal system — the introduction of non-professional judges in court proceedings. The author considers such development essential for educating Chinese citizens about the law and creating greater trust in the judiciary and the legal system. Meanwhile, this article provides a detailed explanation of the role of lay judges in Chinese legal proceedings.
In the article entitled *The Long-Arm of U.S. Justice: Scoville’s Restoration of “Conduct and Effects” in Securities Enforcement and Implications for Chinese Corporations*, Professor Joel Slawotsky analyzes the ruling of *Scoville v. SEC* through the lens of the FCPA opining that the context and construct of the FCPA militate strongly in finding congressional intent to have the FCPA applicable extraterritorially. The author further explains the ruling’s implication for Chinese enterprises that violate Federal laws outside the U.S.

In the article entitled *Coronavirus and the Resurgence of Sinophobia*, Professor Fatemah Albader provides an analysis of the resurgence of anti-Chinese sentiment with the outbreak of coronavirus. The author examines the racially discriminatory policies undertaken by state governments to combat the spread of disease. The author advocates that states should respect the right to non-discrimination and shall not impose further restrictions that would contribute to the ongoing xenophobia.

In the article entitled *Regulating Blockchain? A Retrospective Assessment of China’s Blockchain Policies and Regulations*, Dr. Jiang Jiaying provides a retrospective assessment of China’s existing blockchain policies and regulations. The author first summarizes the existing problems in China’s blockchain market, including cryptocurrency and ICO-related crimes, poor quality of early-staged blockchain products and services and a lack of consumer and investor protection mechanisms. The article proceeds to assess whether the objectives of China’s blockchain policies and regulations have been fulfilled.

In the column China Law Update, our editors provide up-to-date and in-depth analysis of Chinese legal developments. As the issue of technology transfer grows into tension, Ms. Zhou Mengdi provides an overview of the history and focal points of the technology transfer debate in her note *China-U.S. Phase One Agreement: The End of Technology Transfer Debate?* In the note entitled *The Development of Investor Protection in China’s New Securities Law: Multiple Dispute Settlement and Compensation System*, Ms. Wu Peiyao focuses on procedural protection for ordinary investors provided by the 2019 revision of Chinese Securities Law and comments on the development of dispute resolution and damage compensation between investors and liable parties. As the criminal law is one of the fastest-responding regimes to the prevention and control of COVID-19, Ms. Sun Yirong seeks to inform readers of the latest judicial interpretation on crimes
relating to the spread of the virus. In her note *From SARS to COVID-19: Balance of China’s Criminal Law System*, she discusses the policy transfer from SARS to COVID-19 in punishing the violation of public health regulations.

I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation of my fellow editors for their wholehearted time and effort devoted to the publication of this issue. Especially, I am thankful to our Managing Editor, Song Jinyang for his leading efforts. I am also extremely grateful to Professor Gao Simin of the Tsinghua University School of Law for her mentorship.

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Lin Ziyu
Editor-in-Chief

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