

FOREWORD

LUCIAN A. BEBCHUK*

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the *Harvard Business Law Review*. As the newest student-edited journal at Harvard Law School, the *Review* has two primary goals. First, the *Review* will provide a forum for a diverse set of academics, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss issues in corporate governance and financial regulation. Second, the *Review* will fill a need in the Harvard Law School community by providing students with an opportunity to engage with business law scholarship.

To facilitate dialogue among academics, practitioners, and policymakers, the *Review's* format will be distinct from that of most traditional law journals. The *Harvard Business Law Review* will primarily publish brief, targeted pieces in the field of business law. This format will make information accessible to those who can act upon it not only in legal and academic settings, but in legislative, regulatory, and practice settings as well.

An online reproduction of each print issue will increase readership across this diverse audience. Recognizing that some scholarship can be too timely to wait for the traditional editing and publication process, the *Review's* online companion, *HBLR Online*, will feature shorter pieces not found in the print journal.

By allowing students to engage the business law literature, the print and online editions of the *Review* will fill a need on the Harvard Law School campus. For several years, I have worked independently with students interested in publishing or editing business law articles, but there was no formal organization to focus these efforts. Now, these students—many of whom are likely to become leaders in their chosen fields—will have a forum in which to meaningfully connect with business law research and scholarship.

Harvard law students will not be alone in this pursuit. The Harvard Law School Program on Corporate Governance has partnered with the *Review*. In addition to supporting the *Review's* annual symposium, Harvard Law School faculty associated with the Program will help the editors in selecting articles and putting together issues and symposia. This collaboration will enable published articles to benefit from the scrutiny and feedback not only of the student editors but also of Harvard Law School faculty.

Now is an especially appropriate time for the formation of a new forum for discourse in corporate law. The financial crisis of 2008 was a central focus of public discourse in 2009 and led to significant regulatory changes in 2010. The most significant of these changes—the Dodd-Frank Act—is appropriately the focus of the *Review's* first issue. The issue features several fine articles that analyze and critique significant aspects of Dodd-Frank.

* William J. Friedman and Alicia Townsend Friedman Professor of Law, Economics, and Finance and Director of the Program on Corporate Governance, Harvard Law School.

These pieces could well make a valuable contribution to the assessment of Dodd-Frank and to its implementation by regulators.

I look forward to the *Harvard Business Law Review's* contribution to the business law field. With the combined work of students and faculty at Harvard Law School, there is a good basis for expecting the *Harvard Business Law Review* to become an important forum for discourse in the field of business law.