Welcome to the Launch Issue

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Journal of Legal Affairs and Dispute Resolution in Engineering and Construction (LADREC). After a year of planning and six years of anticipation, we are ready with our launch issue. It is an honor to be writing the introductory editorial to the first issue of the first volume of a new ASCE journal. Thanks go to the many people who made this happen. First and foremost, we must thank the publications committee of ASCE. Special thanks go to Johanna Reinhart, the former director of journals at ASCE, who kept a firm hand on the rudder and the direction in which we were to go. I also wish to thank Bruce Gossett and Melissa Junior for their encouragement. We thank the publication staff at ASCE who have contributed toward making this launch issue a reality—Holly Koppel, Teresa Metcalfe, Kelly Anderson, Liz Guertin, Nancy Green, Jackie Perry, and the many other hardworking personnel there. We recognize the marketing efforts of Bill Nara and Will Farnam, on whom we will continue to depend for quite some time to make our Journal known. We must remember that LADREC is an ASCE journal that will carry on into the future and will continue to need the help of ASCE staff, even after we are all long gone.

It is interesting that the topic of legal affairs in engineering and construction (E&C) has become an institution, so much so that a small unknown step in the wrong legal direction can get a company or organization into trouble for years. With E&C projects consuming billions of dollars in project monies, too much can be at stake in running those projects. The impact and potential impact of legal considerations cut deep into how we strategically administer and manage our projects.

It’s not that we are a litigious society that is of concern here; it is that the rights of all parties and individuals must be respected and preserved. Indeed, this borders on a human rights issue for executors involved. It is with the purpose of mitigating such problems that our Journal seeks to bring topics of current legal interest together for the knowledge and enlightenment of our subscribers and readers.

We have some exciting articles for you in this inaugural issue, and more in the pipeline. We hope you will find them interesting and meaningful, much as we search for more articles that you will find interesting and enjoyable. Next, I urge you to do something in your own town or city for furthering the cause of legal affairs in engineering and construction. If you are involved in complicated claims and legal cases in E&C, form a society of claims and legal specialists in your town, meet regularly to exchange information and learn more for yourselves, and arrange regular talks and presentations. Finally, contribute articles to our Journal yourselves. There is so much we can do to understand the way in which disputes, which are virtually inevitable, can be better resolved. I wish this Journal, its authors, and readers all the best for the years to come.