



## Preface

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is Ukraine's leading and the most selective university, observing academic standards of excellence and promoting interdisciplinary approaches in research and teaching. In furtherance of our accomplishments and mission, the University is on a never-ending path to promote the balanced exchanges of ideas. The *Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal* (KMLPJ) is one of the channels by which we pursue our mission.

The fourth issue of the *Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal* represents a collection of articles by Ukrainian and international scholars on a variety of recent topics that relate to judicial and political issues in Ukraine and neighboring countries. The journal opens with “The Rule of Law in European Integration: Roots, Functions, Challenges” by Peter-Christian Müller-Graff, of Heidelberg University, delivered on the occasion of receiving an Honorable Doctorate from the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on September 1, 2018. Professor Müller-Graff argues that “the pacifying ideas” of the rule of law were not only instrumental for Western Europe's integration success story, but became the corner-stone provisions the European Union's Eastern Partnership, an altogether new approach to potential future integration.

The three articles that following—by Anna Khvorostiankina, Gaga Gabrichidze, and Maksim Karliuk—build on Müller-Graff's argument and are devoted to relations between the European Union and countries that emerged after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, specifically Armenia, Belarus, and Georgia. All leading thinkers in this space, their contributions elaborate on a central theme in this journal version—engagements between the European Union member-countries and the former Soviet republics.

The next set of articles deals with the legal and political issues that derive from the current situation in the Donbas region of Ukraine. Volodymyr Venher's “Right to Social Protection of Citizens in Conditions of the Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine: Legislative Challenges” provides a detailed analysis of legislative challenges in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions, resulting from the lack of control by the Ukrainian government over some parts of these two oblasts. The author provides analysis based on a combination of up-to-date statistics and the latest case law data to support his findings. “Problems of Adherence by Ukraine to International Commitments in Resolution of Cases in Trials that Took Place in Temporarily Occupied Territories,” by Iryna Basysta and Volodymyr Galagan continues to study the topic raised in the previous article by focusing on practices in the Ukrainian judicial system related to the occupied territories and their international impact. “Franck's Right to Democratic Governance and the Role of Democratic Sanctions” by Bohdan Bernatskyi rounds-out the series of articles about Ukrainian case law regarding the occupied territories. This section of the journal is concluded by Ievgen Zvieriev's “Legal Interpretation in

Post-truth Society: Ukrainian Case,” which deals with the concept of post-truth and its role in legal interpretation.

The article “Taxation of Permanent Establishments in Ukraine: Unresolved Issues” by Vitalii Trachuk and Khrystyna Franchuk investigates legal challenges that derive from taxation of permanent establishments in Ukraine. A valuable input into this issue of the journal is also made by Christopher Kelley’s reflection “Introduction to Legal Writing in Plain English.” His essay aims to assist international legal scholars who are non-native English speakers to publish their research in English-language legal journals. The journal is concluded by a book review by Olga Burlyuk and Natalia Shapovalova of Oleh Havrylyshyn’s “The Political Economy of Independent Ukraine: Slow Starts, False Starts, and a Last Chance?”

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