

# EDITORIAL

In this issue, we proudly present our **10TH-YEAR EDITION** of the **JOURNAL OF LAW AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**. We would firstly like to thank each of the members of our editorial advisory board for their invaluable contribution, assistance and support over the decade, as well as numerous authors whose submissions have greatly enhanced scholarly debate and the enjoyment of our readership base.

Against the backdrop of turmoil in financial markets driven largely by uncertainties with sovereign debt, we present a series of articles examining innovation in financial products, transparency and the reliability of audits.

In our first article, **MICHAEL BENNETT** of the World Bank examines the development of Islamic finance, one of the most successful financial market innovations of the past 30 years. Bennett's analysis concludes that there is a high degree of complexity in these financial products along with a lack of transparency, and as history reveals, this is a potentially dangerous combination. In his article, Bennett advocates that it is time for greater standardisation in the future development of products in this growing banking segment.

In our second article, **PELMA RAJAPAKSE** shines a light on the securitisation value-chain that underpins the mortgage-backed securities (MBS) market. Dr Rajapakse's analysis further investigates the incentives for each of the various participants in this burgeoning market and provides recommendations to inform the regulatory process.

In our final article, **JOHN SHON** of Fordham University examines the contentious area of audit reliability by looking at aspects of transparency and ultimately the dependability of audit opinion, and how this may be influenced by the life expectancy of an audit engagement. Professor Shon's study is informed by an analysis of 48 different industries and his findings are most informative to both auditors and regulators.

**TYRONE CARLIN & GUY FORD**

SYDNEY, JUNE 2011