

## Professor Vicki L. Beyer

### Dedication

With this issue of the Hitotsubashi Journal of Law and International Studies, we mark the retirement of Professor Vicki L. Beyer from her role as Professor of Law and Director of the Global Business Law (“GBL”) Program in the Business Law Department of the Hitotsubashi Graduate School of Law. Professor Beyer assumed leadership of the Global Business Law Program in 2017 and since that time has been responsible, almost single-handedly, for both the breadth and scope of the legal education offered to GBL Program students and the development and expansion of the GBL Program as a whole. She will be sorely missed.

Professor Beyer arrived at Hitotsubashi University after a long and distinguished career as both a legal educator and legal practitioner. Professor Beyer began her legal education in Seattle, Washington in the United States where she attended the University of Washington School of Law, obtaining a Juris Doctor degree and becoming a member of the Washington State Bar Association. From there, Professor Beyer moved to Queensland, Australia, where she assumed a role as Assistant Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law at Bond University. While at Bond University, Professor Beyer obtained an L.L.M. degree in corporate and commercial law.

Perhaps the most important focus of Professor Beyer’s research and publications over the years has been Japanese law and the Japanese legal system. Throughout her career, Professor Beyer has authored or co-authored numerous articles on Japanese law ranging from guides to the translation of Japanese legal materials to analyses of various Japanese tax, labor and corporate law issues.

This abiding interest in Japan and Japanese law brought Professor Beyer to Japan as a Blakemore Foundation scholar at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Study in 1994 and she has remained in Japan since. Upon completion of her studies, Professor Beyer served as Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Law School Pro-

gram at the Temple University campus in Tokyo. After her departure from Temple University and before her return to a full-time academic role at Hitotsubashi University, Professor Beyer was a practicing attorney in the legal departments of the Tokyo offices of Morgan Stanley Japan and Accenture Japan where she served as an expert in corporate governance, corporate compliance and international labor and employment.

The essential point here is that by the time Professor Beyer assumed her role the director of the GBL Program at Hitotsubashi University, she had already developed significant skills as an educator, scholar and administrator, supported by extensive experience in the actual practice of law in the business world. She was uniquely qualified to lead the GBL Program at Hitotsubashi University and during her time in that role enriched and enhanced the careers of hundreds of students and colleagues both in Japan and the rest of world.

I am in perhaps the best position to know the breadth and scope of Professor Beyer's influence as the professor assigned the task of trying to fill the void she has left behind. Hardly a day goes by without somebody, whether a student, professor or university employee asking me about her and describing her importance and her influence on their studies, academic pursuits or remarking on her expertise in managing the various GBL Program academic offerings. It is humbling.

While at Hitotsubashi University, Professor Beyer taught or co-taught international and comparative law courses in corporate law and employment law as well as introductory courses regarding the Anglo-American legal system. She also taught a range of courses designed to introduce visiting exchange students to Japan and Japanese law. In addition to all of this, Professor Beyer served as academic advisor and principal instructor for students enrolled in the GBL Program, providing a basic education in legal writing, research and analysis in English and guiding them in the completion of their final theses.

It should be noted that retirement will not end Professor Beyer's relationship with the GBL Program or Hitotsubashi University. Professor Beyer has generously agreed to provide guest lectures in the GBL Program from time to time in the future and has already planned short-term academic engagements at various Hitotsubashi University partner

institutions around the world.

At the same time, Professor Beyer's interests are not all academic. She is an enthusiastic student of Japanese folk crafts as well as a tireless traveler and adventurer. Indeed, Professor Beyer has, for many years, written professionally as a travel writer and maintains a popular blog of her travel experiences. She has indicated that, upon her retirement, it is to these pursuits that she will now turn increased attention.

Having known Professor Beyer for many years, I can only guess that her future contributions to the worlds of Japanese folk crafts and travel journalism will be as rich and awe-inspiring as her past contributions to the development and administration of the GBL Program here at Hitotsubashi University. I wish her all the best in her new adventure.

JOHN BYRD CHAFEE JR.