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## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the first issue of the third volume of the new series of *Amicus Curiae*. We thank contributors, readers and others for supporting the progress that the relaunched journal is making.

In this issue, a number of contributions comprise the first of two special sections which will feature in this and the next issue of the journal, guest-edited by Professor Carl Stychin, and addressing questions of 'Law, Public Policy and the Covid Crisis'. Based on a series of IALS remote seminars held in the academic year 2020–2021, the essays that have been contributed to this collection offer important analysis of various aspects of the impact of Covid-19. Professor Stychin's introduction contextualizes the first special section in the emerging discourses on the nature of the legal changes often made in response to the pandemic, and broader issues such as social justice and the debate about the use of public health for purposes of (sometimes manifest, sometimes latent) enhanced state control at the expense of individual liberties. In this way, the essays help us better understand central

issues in access to justice, legal reform and public health.

The contribution by Dr Patricia Ng (Mary Ward Legal Centre), entitled 'Delivering a Pro Bono Clinic During the Pandemic: Some Thoughts on Access to Justice, Everyday Problems and the Current Legal Landscape', looks at the manner in which the Mary Ward Legal Centre has assisted many people through its legal clinic's pro bono provision of legal services, and analyses the impact of Covid-19 on the manner in which these services are delivered. She gives particular attention to issues of access to justice, the relationship between law and everyday problems and digitalization of the courts.

In his Note, Bilika Simamba provides an analysis, with reference to the Cayman Islands, of (i) the manner in which matters pending before the courts or public authorities are sometimes affected by new legislation, and (ii) issues such as retrospectivity, to which amendment of laws may give rise.

In her Visual Law contribution, 'Repealing the Vagrancy Act 1824', Dr Patricia Ng examines and illustrates the question of homeless persons and their

difficulties, especially those arising from the 1824 Act. That legislation continues to impact on society in England and Wales, in particular by criminalizing the act of rough sleeping, which unfairly disadvantages some of the most vulnerable people in society, and with enforcement measures often causing street homeless people much distress. The 1824 Act has the effect of entrenching street homelessness, and should be repealed.

The Editor also thanks Amy Kellam, Maria Federica Moscati, Simon Palmer, Patricia Ng and Marie Selwood, for their kind efforts in making this Issue possible.