# EDITORIAL

ZHIYAN CAO*

The impetus for this Forum came from a speech delivered by Justice Moore last year on his experience case-managing Australia's first shareholder class action, *King v GIO*. This year marks the 10th anniversary since *King v GIO* was commenced in the Federal Court, and almost two decades since the new class actions regime was introduced through Part IVA of the *Federal Court of Australia Act* 1976 (Cth). In the years following, class actions have become a highly controversial and rapidly changing area in the Australian legal landscape. Recent developments have raised a number of legal and policy issues. In the Centro proceedings, the issue of how to manage multiple class actions in the interests of group members, in the wake of the acceptance of the closed class group and litigation funding, was considered. In the Aristocrat class action, the question of how causation is to be proven for a class of plaintiffs in a securities claim was the subject of detailed submissions but, by virtue of settlement in that case, remains unresolved. Discussion on policy questions relating to the regulation of class actions that receive litigation funding continue.

What can be said of the state of affairs until now? Where to from here? This *University of New South Wales Law Journal Forum* on class actions aims to promote debate and greater understanding of current legal issues in the area of class actions, by drawing together perspectives from a broad range of contributors – judges, practitioners, academics and a litigation funder. It begins with considerations of a number of procedural matters and then focuses on specific issues within securities, cartel and product liability and other mass tort class actions. Finally, proposals for reform are discussed in the context of the Victorian class actions regime. Many of the articles have a practical focus, and it is hoped that they will be of value to the Journal's readers.

I would like to thank the authors, as well as the reviewers, for generously giving their expertise, experience and insight to this Forum.

Particular thanks are due to Michael Legg of the UNSW Faculty of Law, whose constant guidance and enthusiasm for this project have benefited it immeasurably. I am especially grateful to the Dean of our Faculty, Professor David Dixon, and the Journal's Faculty Advisors, Alex Steel and Michael Handler, for their wisdom and steadfast support of this student-run publication;

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and to my colleagues on the Editorial Board for outstanding work in putting together this publication. Finally, I am grateful for what the Journal has brought me – a love for reading and research in law.