Acknowledgements

A renowned Spanish law professor used to assert something that is applicable to any research project: one does not finish a PhD dissertation, one leaves it. The manuscript that you have now in your hands began as mine, successfully defended at the School of Law of the University of Edinburgh. Updated and converted into a book, Edward Elgar publishes it years later with the original title. Much changed between one text and the other, but not the central tenets of my project – its thesis remains essentially the same. This book of the Leuven Global Governance Series therefore reflects my unfinished research in the international law of expropriation, as I left it in 2013.

My debt of gratitude is deep, and has many creditors. Firstly, my family who have always supported me: most of all my admirable parents, Luis and Patricia, to whom I owe my education and values, and my lovely daughter, Amelia, ever-cheerful and positive. Secondly, all the talented academics and good friends who helped me with this project: particularly, Lorand Bartels, Alan Boyle and Jan Wouters; Stephen Neff and Federico Ortino; Manuel Núñez P. and Sebastián Zárte R.; and of course Roberto Guerrero V. and Arturo Yrarrázaval C., who made it possible. Thirdly, those institutions that allowed me to focus on this research, in its different stages: the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*, my alma mater and current place of work; the University of Edinburgh, where I had the chance of teaching as a tutor and guest lecturer while being a probationer research student and PhD candidate; the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, who generously received me as a post-doctoral visiting fellow with a Coimbra Group scholarship; the University of Florida and the University of Wisconsin–Madison, whose journals of international law published parts of the preliminary findings of Chapters 3 and 4;¹ Cornell University, where I recently stayed as a Rudolf B. Schlesinger post-doctoral fellow with a grant from the Chilean

¹ See S López Escarcena, 'Interferences with Property under European Human Rights Law', (2012) 24/3 *Florida Journal of International Law* 513; and S López Escarcena, 'Expropriations and Other Measures Affecting Property Rights in the Case Law of the Iran–United States Claims Tribunal', (2013) 31/2 *Wisconsin International Law Journal* 176.

state²; and certainly Edward Elgar, an independent, extremely professional and yet friendly publishing house. To all of them, thanks!

As a Jesuit alumnus, I humbly try to live up to Saint Ignatius of Loyola's motto: *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*. Consequently, years of hard work lie in the following pages. I started this text as a student, and I finished it as a lecturer. It is fair to say that in the process of writing this book, I became a researcher. Whether a good or a bad one, that is not for me to say.

Sebastián López E.
Santiago de Chile, June 2013.

² Fondo Nacional para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FONDECYT), project Nr. 11110045.