FCIL Newsletter

Volume 17 May 2003 Number 3

From the Chair

Kenneth Rudolf, Chair

Another Annual Meeting is quickly approaching, and many of us will be heading for the "bluest skies you've ever seen in Seattle." (How many of you remember the late-60s television show "Here Come the Brides" with teen heartthrob Bobby Sherman and the theme song that begins with the previously quoted line? For a sound clip, go to http://www.bobbysherman.com/bshctb.htm.) As one who has lived in Seattle, I know the "bluest skies" promise is untrue for most of the year, but late July is the one season least likely to produce rain and most likely to display beautiful blue skies (as it did during our 1994 meeting).

The Annual Meeting is a time to renew friendships, meet new people, enjoy a new environment, and, above all, grow professionally. Your FCIL SIS is working to provide a variety of quality educational opportunities. Foremost are the four general programs sponsored by FCIL:

- The Role of the Council of Europe: Envision Constitutional Reform and Human Rights in the Newer Member States (B-2)
- Networking to the Future: The CISG Database as a Paradigm of Scholarly Web Publishing (D-1)
- All Aboard! Maritime Law: U.S. and Canadian Issues (E-3)
- Access to American Indian Law Information: Options Today, Envisioning Tomorrow (G-4)

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In addition, two programs not sponsored by the SIS might be of interest to our members:

- Judaic and Islamic Classification: Envisioning Access and Order for Legal Topics of International and Nonjurisdictional Scope (H-2)
- Maximize International Licensing Agreements (E-6)

I want to particularly recommend the Council of Europe program. We are extremely fortunate to have two officials from the Council as speakers at the program, one of whom works with the Venice Commission. The Council of Europe is at the forefront of encouraging the rule of law and human rights in the newly democratic states of Eastern Europe, and I'm sure the speakers will provide fascinating insights into the structural changes taking place in those states.

You will not want to miss Dan Lev, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Washington, speaking on the Indonesian legal system. The Executive Committee is pleased to present this unique opportunity to gain insight into an area of the world that is gaining in importance. For more details, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter. Of course, once again there will be the full component of Interest Group meetings, where you will be able to share questions and answers with your colleagues.

Finally, the Annual Meeting is the time when the SIS holds its business meeting. This year we will be voting on revisions to the bylaws (printed elsewhere in this Newsletter), as well as presenting plans for future developments in the SIS. Of course, we will continue our tradition of following the business meeting with a reception, where our guests will be attendees from other countries. We are grateful to Thomson Legal and Regulatory for once again providing the financial support for this reception to make it a special event for our guests.

I'm looking forward to Seattle this year. I hope I'll see you there.

Addendum to the February message:

It is always dangerous to thank lists of people, since inevitably someone is overlooked. After the last newsletter was published I realized that I omitted two extremely important volunteers in the SIS: Mila Rush at the University of Minnesota does an outstanding behind-the-scenes job as our list owner. We can all thank her for keeping spam off the FCIL list. Dennis Sears of Brigham Young University has served as co-chair of the education committee for several years. He oversees the submission of our program requests and makes sure all the *t*'s are crossed and the *i*'s dotted.

Since the last newsletter was published, the Schaffer Grant committee has been formed. Rhonda Gold of Nova Southeastern University is once again heading the committee, bringing her experience to the task. Assisting her this year are Nona Beisenherz at Loyola New Orleans and Monica Ortale at South Texas College of Law. I appreciate the time that these people will give to evaluating applications and look forward to the announcement of the Schaffer grantee for this year.

FCIL Newsletter is published in October, February and May by the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. The main goal of this Section is to "serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and information on foreign, comparative and international law, and to represent its members' interests and concerns within AALL."

FCIL Newsletter is sent free to members of the FCIL SIS. It is available for that "exchange of ideas and information".

The newsletter can be read on the world wide web at: http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/fcilsis.ht ml.

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Deadline for next issue is September 15, 2003.

For more information about the FCIL SIS, visit the Web site at: http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/fcil.html

AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle 2003

The Legal System of Indonesia A Special Program Presented by the FCIL Executive Committee Submitted by Ken Rudolf

Mark your calendars! On Monday, July 14, at 5:15 p.m., Professor Daniel S. Lev, professor emeritus of political science and a faculty member at the South East Asia Center at the University of Washington in Seattle, will present a talk on the legal system of Indonesia. We are extremely fortunate to have a scholar of such outstanding reputation address our section.

Daniel S. Lev (PhD, Cornell University) is a specialist in the comparative politics, legal systems and human rights of Southeast Asia. His book *Islamic Courts* in Indonesia (University of California Press, 1972) is published in English and Indonesian. Among his other publications are *The Transition to* Guided Democracy, 1966; Hukum dan Politik di Indonesia [Law and Politics in Indonesia], 1990, a collection of his essays in Indonesian translation, Legal Evolution and Political Authority in *Indonesia*, 2000, a collection of pieces on law; and articles and essays on Indonesian and Malaysian politics, legal institutions and human rights.

You will notice that this is a change from the topic announced in the AALL preliminary program. After consulting with Bill McCloy at the University of Washington law library, the executive committee learned of several outstanding

scholars specializing in Southeast Asia. Since we don't often have the opportunity to hear an expert talk about this part of the world, the Executive Committee decided to make Indonesia the featured jurisdiction this year. We think this will be an outstanding opportunity for our members to increase their knowledge of a part of the world that is gaining in significance.

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL-SIS) Host Program Submitted by Tracy Thompson

Are you attending AALL's Annual Meeting for the first time? Would it help for you to have someone to guide you through the process? Someone to whom you could direct all of your questions and concerns? The FCIL-SIS has established a Host Program to match you up with an experienced AALL member who has been to the Annual Meeting and knows what to expect. Do you have questions about how to plan your meeting? What to attend? What to wear? Where to stay? What to see? What the climate is like? Which airport to use? What events are no to be missed? We can help. If you'd like to be matched with a veteran AALL member please send an e-mail with all of your relevant contact information to Tracy Thompson at tracy.thompson@yale.edu. We'll put you in touch with a Host right away to make your first AALL Annual Meeting nirvana! See:

http://www.aallnet.org/events/abroad.asp for more information.

Affirmative Action after Grutter & Gratz: Where do we go from here?"

Saturday, July 12, 2003, 2: 00pm - 5:00pm Judy Floyd Evans, Chair, Committee on Diversity; Allen Moye, Symposium Coordinator, George Mason University School of Law Library; Madeline Hebert, Symposium Coordinator, Louisiana State University, Paul M.Hebert Law Center Library.

Our speakers will be Mr. Curt Levey of the Center for Individual Rights, a conservative public interest group located in Washington, D.C. and Henry McGee, Jr., former prosecutor and civil rights attorney, now distinguished Professor of Law at Seattle University, in Seattle Washington.

As most of us are aware, the U.S. Supreme Court is set to rule on a couple of consolidated cases involving the University of Michigan and its' use of affirmative action to achieve a diverse student population. This is potentially a major ruling from the Supreme Court and could very well set the tone on the issue of affirmative action, for the next few decades.

With so many individuals and various groups quite vocal about their position on this issue and given the field that we all work in, the Committee believes that a panel discussion/debate on the significance of this ruling would be a most interesting and timely topic for this year's symposium.

Please join us for what will undoubtedly be a lively debate. Representing the argument against the use of affirmative action (in higher education) is Mr. Curt Levey of the Center for Individual Rights. On the side favoring the use of affirmative action, we have Henry McGee, Jr, former prosecutor and civil rights attorney, now distinguished Professor of Law at Seattle University, in Seattle Washington. The Association gratefully acknowledges LexisNexis for its support of this program.

Volunteer in Seattle

We need you! Join the group of interesting and dedicated people volunteering their time to help make the 2003 Annual Meeting a great success!

How can you help? There are a variety of activities available -- pick the ones that interest you most! For example: meet new people and see old friends while working at the Registration Desk, write articles for the daily newspaper, "Coffee Talk" help "stuff" conference tote bags (Friday July 11) take tickets and seat individuals at the Association luncheon and closing banquet work with children at the Family Social Hour (Saturday July 12)

Volunteers really help the conference run smoothly, and it's a lot of fun! Thanks in advance! Please complete the Volunteer Opportunities Form available on the AALL website (http://www.aallnet.org/committee/local 03/) and in the Preliminary Program by June 1, 2003, and fax/send/email it to: Ann Hemmens; University of Washington, Gallagher Law Library, 1100 NE Campus Pkwy, Seattle, WA 98105. FAX: (206) 685-2165. PHONE (206) 543-7672. Email hemmens@u.washington.edu.

FCIL Business

Support Our Current and Newly Elected Officers!

Submitted by Jean Davis

The Nominations Committee of the Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section, consisting of Jean Davis, Rhonda Gold and Wei Luo, is pleased to report the results of the Section's 2003 election of officers.

Congratulations to **Mirela Roznovschi**, Reference Librarian—Foreign & International Law, New York University School of Law Library, elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

Congratulations to **Mary Rumsey**, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian, University of Minnesota Law School Library, elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Already, Mirela and Mary are assisting Chair Kenneth Rudolf and Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Jean Wenger with many tasks, ranging from record keeping to strategic planning. If our current or incoming officers ask for your help, please support them!

Strategic Plan to be Ready for the 2003 Seattle Meeting

Submitted by Jean M. Wenger

At the direction of Chair Ken Rudolf, the FCIL Strategic Planning Committee has been diligently working on developing the long awaited strategic plan for our SIS. The Committee includes Jean Davis (Brooklyn Law School), Jolande Goldberg (Library of Congress), Mary Rumsey (University of Minnesota), Dan

Wade (Yale Law School) and chair, Jean Wenger (Cook County Law Library), and brings many years of experience from a variety of professional settings to the development process. The Committee has carefully reviewed the work of earlier strategic planning committees including the responses of FCIL members to surveys and questionnaires. Using this data, the Committee has developed a three-year plan addressing three major goals. The Committee had the opportunity to meet twice during the American Society of International Law Annual Meeting in Washington last month.

The draft strategic plan is undergoing final revisions. The draft plan will be submitted to the Executive Committee in May for review with formal approval at the AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle. The Executive Committee will post the proposed strategic plan to the FCIL web site before the Annual Meeting and will publish the final plan in the Fall 2003 Newsletter. The Committee would like to thank the many FCIL members who have worked on strategic planning and have contributed their thoughts and ideas through survey and questionnaire responses.



Report of the Special Bylaws Committee

Submitted by Jonathan Franklin

The FCIL-SIS bylaws committee was charged with reviewing the FCIL-SIS bylaws, particularly those sections related to elections.

To that end, we explored the following three issues:

- 1. Succession when the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary/Treasurer is unable to take their elected position or must step down mid-term
- 2. The timing of the election due to changes in the newsletter publication cycle and transition to electronic format
- 3. The ongoing leadership of the FCIL interest groups

We considered numerous possibilities for each of these three areas and hope that the proposed solutions balance the need for certainty with our desire to avoid encumbering the SIS with additional bureaucracy.

This was a true committee effort and we thank Ken for appointing us and supporting our efforts.

Strikethrough = deleted language **Bolded and italicized** = new language

Article 5. Officers and Committees

Section 4. Committees *and Interest Groups*. There shall be a Nominating Committee and such other Standing Committees, *Special Committees*, *and Interest Groups* as the Executive Committee or the membership shall create.

Interest Groups leaders shall have two-year terms. The Executive Committee will publicly announce, via the list and the newsletter, which terms are ending by April 1, and request volunteers for the position to submit their names to the Committee by May 1. The Executive Committee can post the names to the SIS and request feedback from the SIS membership if they so desire. The Executive Committee will select and announce the new Interest Group leaders by June 1. Repeat terms will be permissible. The Executive Committee will follow a similar procedure in filling a temporary Interest Group coordinator vacancy, but need not wait until April.

Section 5. Vacancies. Should the position of Chair become vacant, the Vice-chair/Chair-elect shall succeed immediately as Chair in advance of the next annual meeting. Any vacancy in the office of Chair that cannot be filled by the succession of the Vice-Chair or by extension of the term of the current Chair shall be filled on a temporary basis by the Executive Board of the AALL from among the members of the section in good standing a vote of the Nominating Committee. The opening will be publicized via print and/or electronic means and the Nominating Committee will draw from potential candidates who have submitted their written interest to the Chair of the Nominating Committee by a set date. The Committee's appointment will be for the remainder of the predecessor's term.

A vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chair/Chair-elect shall not be filled until the next regularly scheduled election. The Vice-Chair's duties shall be assumed by the current Chair or a section member appointed by the Executive Committee. A vacancy in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer shall, however, be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee the nomination of the Nominating Committee and subsequent appointment by the Chair.

Article 6. Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of candidates together with their written acceptances to the Chair in sufficient time to enable the Chair to inform the members of the nominations prior to April 1, or as soon thereafter as possible, by via publication in the *February issue of the* SIS newsletter, which may be sent solely in electronic format. In the event of nominations for the office of Chair after the April 1 deadline distribution of the February issue of the SIS newsletter, such notification may

be limited to the actual mail-ballot itself along with an explanation for the exigent circumstances.

Section 3. By April 15, the Secretary/Treasurer shall mail The newsletter editor shall include a copy of the ballots to each member of the section in the February issue of the newsletter. The newsletter editor will notify the section members when the newsletter is available and inform the section members that the issue contains the ballot. The professional position of each nominee shall appear on the ballot. Ballots shall be marked, sealed in a plain envelope, and returned to the Secretary/Treasurer before May 10 March 31, in covering envelopes bearing on the outside the name and address of the member voting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall verify the validity of all votes against a list of individual voting members and shall count and tabulate all votes cast. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected and shall be so reported at the annual meeting by the Secretary/Treasurer. All candidates shall be notified of the results of the election by the Secretary/Treasurer at the earliest possible time. In case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held at the annual meeting. Run-off elections shall be by secret ballot. The ballots shall be immediately counted and the candidate with the largest number of votes declared elected, provided there is a quorum. Should the run-off election result in a continuing tie, the candidates shall be named co-officers. In the event the Secretary/Treasurer is a candidate, the Chair shall appoint another member to perform all election-related functions with the exception of the preparation and mailing distribution of the ballot.

Any vacancy occurring between April 15 and the annual meeting after distribution of the ballots and before April 15 shall be filled by a special election. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare the special election ballots in the manner described in the preceding paragraph. The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute the special election ballots. The special election ballots shall be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer before May 10, in the same manner as described in the preceding paragraph. Any vacancy occurring after April 15 shall be filled by nomination from the floor and election at the annual meeting. The candidates with the largest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided there is a quorum.

Foreign Law Library Visits and Exchanges

Submitted by David McFadden

Interested in visiting foreign law libraries or exchanging places with law librarians from other countries? See testimonials of law librarians who've already done it at: http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/testimon ial.html. There is a listing of law libraries willing to participate in exchanges and visits; look for the list at: http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/clearintro.html. To be added to the list of participating libraries around the world complete the questionnaire at: http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/survey.html.

If you've visited a foreign law library or participated in an exchange, please contact David McFadden, chair of the FCIL Clearinghouse for Internships & International Personnel Exchanges Committee, to be included on the Internet testimonials page.

For further information about the Clearinghouse, go to: http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/fcil/clearintro.html or contact: David McFadden, Southwestern University School of Law Library, Los Angeles, CA 90005-3992 USA Tel: (213) 738-6726 Fax: (213) 738-5792. E-mail: dmcfadden@swlaw.edu was described about the contact of the contac

European Union Depository Library Meeting

Submitted by Anne Burnett

The European Union depository libraries in the United States met in Nashville March 26-29. As always, the meetings were highly informative. Although most of the depository libraries are in university libraries, the small group of law librarians present included several members of the FCIL SIS.

The meetings this year included the bittersweet announcement of the retirement of Barbara Sloan, Manager, Public Inquiries, Office of Press and Public Affairs of the Delegation of the European Commission. Barbara has served as the Head of Public Inquiries at the Commission's Washington office since 1984. She has been a tireless advocate for EU depository libraries on the issues of access and preservation. As in past meetings, Barbara sought with this meeting to involve the appropriate EU officials in our discussions. Along with the formal scheduled sessions.

attendees had the opportunity to discuss access and preservation issues with the EU representatives over meals and in less structured gatherings.

Below is a *summarized* account of the meetings.

Erling Petersen, Administrator, Directorate General Press and Communication, European Commission Erling Petersen discussed the EUROPA Web site (http://europa.eu.int), which began in 1995 and has evolved into a portal for all EU institutions. EUROPA had 789 million hits in 2002. Caveat: although EUROPA serves as a portal to all EU institutions, the only institution remaining on the EUROPA server is the European Commission, meaning that the EUROPA search engine does not search the individual Web sites of the other EU institutions. The good news is that EUROPA will be much improved with a new interface and updated hardware this spring.

Jacques Raybaut, Director, Production, Office for Official Publications
Jacques Raybaut discussed electronic publishing in the EU. Many of the participants cheered the news that the Publications Office is moving away from the compact disc format, preferring instead to utilize the internet. He also provided information about the new EUBookshop (http://www.eubookshop.com/about.php), which distributes EU-related materials via the Web.

Commission documents ("COM docs") will soon be issued only electronically. The participants expressed concern that the electronic copies of COM documents be retained in their entirety rather than

discarded once the document is published in the *Official Journal*. The concern is that not all elements of a COM document are included in the final publication in the *Official Journal*. The participants also expressed concern about the lack of access to previous versions of a revised document. The Publications Office intends to replace earlier versions of the document with the subsequent versions, thereby eliminating public access to the earlier versions.

The number of official languages renders continued publication of the Preparatory Acts in the *Official Journal* impractical, and the "C" series of the *Official Journal* may soon "disappear in an Internet galaxy."

The official version of the *Official Journal "L" Series* is the paper version, although it is no longer distributed in paper to depositories.

Jacques Raybaut also discussed the EUR-LEX and CELEX databases. All depository libraries and European Documentation Centres enjoy free subscriptions to the CELEX database. Much of the content of CELEX, which may become a free database in the future, is merging into the EUR-LEX database. Although the two databases contain a good bit of the same material, CELEX provides more stability of information and indexing, while EUR-LEX provides speedier availability without indexing.

Monique Scottini-Trussart, Project Manager, Simplification and Modernization of Archiving Systems, Secretariat General of the European Commission Monique Scottini-Trussart discussed the life cycle of electronic documents. She provided an overview of the EU legislation governing document management and access to documents. Currently, there are approximately 1000 databases and applications in use by EU entities, and the Commission must address issues of interoperability between multiple institutions, document formats, and languages. In addition, EU legislation requiring protection of personal data further complicates the archiving process.

The Commission has determined that TIF is the format most likely to render archived documents readable in 30-plus years. A common filing plan strives to provide consistency in access. All archived materials include compulsory metadata such as date, registration number, addressee, title, and subject.

Barbara Sloan explained the structure and history of the EU Depository Library and European Documentation Centre system. In addition to providing information about shipping lists, claims procedures and other processing issues, she raised the topics of formatting and access.

Barbara Sloan provided updates on resources for EU statistics. The statistical collections in EU depositories/documentation centers have been shrinking since 1989, and much of what is produced by the EU's Statistical Office, EUROSTAT, is not provided free to depositories. There is no public access into the EUROSTAT databases; instead, researchers must go through a vendor. Some privileged access to limited statistical materials is provided to depositories. However, a wealth of

free statistical data lurks on the publicly available EUROPA site, especially on some of the Directorates General Web sites.

In a separate session, Barbara Sloan provided an update on research strategies for EU Internet resources. The session included an overview of the structure of the EU and its institutions and legislative process. The Council has significantly improved access to its documents, now providing access to a public register of documents. Researchers wishing to track legislation will find both the PRELEX database and the European Parliament's Legislative Observatory helpful. Tip: most EU documents are now available in HTML, TIF, and PDF. The HTML version often has typos, whereas the PDF and TIF versions are created from the same files as the paper versions. Additional tip: ECLAS, the online catalog of the European Commission Libraries, includes records for gray literature studies with URLs to the text.

Phillip Wilkin, Social Sciences Bibliographer, University of Pittsburgh Phil Wilkin demonstrated the Archive of European Integration (AEI), which is based at the University of Pittsburgh Library System and is a project of the Center for West European Studies/European Union Center, University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. The AEI serves as an online repository for non-commercial, non-governmental publications dealing with European integration. So far, over 200 papers have been uploaded into the AEI, which has partnered with the European Research Papers Archive (ERPA). ERPA only accepts papers from a highly selective

list of institutions; AEI serves as a repository/archive for papers from other institutions.

The AEI utilizes Eprint software and complies with Open Archives Initiative (OAI) standards. Look for the AEI at http://aei.pitt.edu.



Letter from Petrozavodsk Submitted by Carl A. Yirka

It is 8 PM on a Friday evening late in April as I type, eight hours later than home on the east coast of North America. We are 62 degrees North, and the setting sun is still noticeable, but in three weeks the White Nights will be here, and the horizon will become merely dusky. As the Russians say, you won't be able to see a grey horse until August.

I am in Russia teaching Law and Legal System of the United States, a twentyfour hour "spetz" course to second-year law students at Petrozavodsk State University Law Faculty. The five-year law student curriculum lacks electives, with only a few special courses like mine. As US Project Director of a State Department grant, I have been to Russia many times since 1994. This three-year grant is Vermont Law School's second such grant: the first commenced in 1998 and ended last summer. Our partner, Petrozavodsk State University Law Faculty in the Republic of Karelia, is the premier institution in Northwest Russia outside of St Petersburg. Karelia shares the longest Russian border with a European Union country, Finland, and the strategic vision of the university rector (president) is that the university and Karelia should be the doorway through which Russia should reach out to Western Europe and vice versa.

Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia, is a city of almost 300,000 located 450 kilometers northeast of St. Petersburg. Like many Russian cities, it seems physically much smaller than a US city of equal population. The center of town seems not much bigger in area than the center of Burlington, Vermont. Unlike American towns, there are no single family homes here, and the ring of Soviet era high-rise suburbs that surrounds the center house most of the inhabitants. The city is sufficiently compact that you can get almost anywhere in town within a half hour on one of many old electric trolleybuses. I like the trolleybus. At 6 rubles (at today's exchange rate, about 20 cents) the trolleybus is full, but mainly with school kids and retirees, both with bus passes. For 7 rubles, you can take a private van, which when I lived in New York City, were called jitney vans. Here they are called *marshrootka*, from the Russian word - by way, no doubt from German - for "marching route."

I'd guess this is my fifteenth trip to Russia, but I really stopped counting after ten. Micki, my wife, jokes that I go to Russia the way our neighbors might go to Hanover, New Hampshire, the town near us in Strafford, Vermont, population 1,000. A trip to Russia is no longer a big deal. Grab the suitcase (after a torn rotator cuff, I switched from a backpack to a roll away bag) and toss in the same set of clothes as usual: a pair of shoes, three shirts and undershirts, some socks, shirts, and underwear. Wear another set of clothes and you are all set. More Woolite, less clothes, is my motto. Always bring presents for my friends and too many books. With all the plane changes, being sure that my clothes arrive with me is important, so I always try to carry on my bag.

It must be my fate to travel during American wars. I spent three months here in Petrozovodsk in 1999, almost the exact dates of the Kosovo crisis. Perhaps because I have known many of these people for years, they have been very generous to me even though they disagree with US policy on Iraq. I met an old friend for coffee recently, and she asked how the American people felt about the war. Do we support the war? How will the war effect US-Russia relations? I did my best to say that in the long term our relations would be fine. And I hope they will be, though I do hear that money for exchange programs is being cut: we have a war to pay for.

I was told to expect that my class would say something about the war. On the first day I entered the classroom and found on my podium a handwritten note: No War For Oil. On the advice of my interpreter I said nothing, and the issue was not raised again. I lectured in

English to the international relations students and they did their best to engage me on the issue of Iraq, but I think they were disappointed to discover that I did not support the Iraq War.

Yesterday in my law class we started a hypothetical about Reggie, a young boy who is acting out: painting a mural on the wall of his room, breaking his crayons, almost breaking a vase and so on. We have five very short cases, with names like the Case of the Mistreated Teddy Bear, and the Case of the Chocolate Ice Cream. Students need to determine the holding of the cases and then apply the rules to Reggie's facts.

One of the students wanted to know about the "zakon" of which the hypothetical speaks. The English language version of the text spoke of parental rules, but zakon also means statute; so at the last minute, since our upcoming topic is statutes and statutory interpretation, I decided to have the students write a statute. I divided them into a House and Senate, where they negotiated and wrote bills, voted, met in conference committee, and wrote a statute. I even took a chance and divided them into Republicans and Democrats - our parties had only one policy distinction: Democrats believing that government could play a role in bettering the lives of individuals and Republicans believing that government should not play a role in the individual lives.

The statute they wrote surprised me for many reasons, not the least of which is that I thought they might write a statute stating the things that Reggie should not do. The statute they wrote spoke both of the duties of parents toward their



children as well as Reggie's duty not to damage things. A second part of the statute, surprisingly negotiated by the Senate even though it had a majority of Republicans, required the development of commissions to assist families in legal and psychological issues. Out of the mouths of babes....

Today winter has returned to Petrozovodksk after spring had a brief tryout. I woke up early, about 6:30, having spent a night dreaming about how best to explain the holding of a case, and wondering whether we would get to statutes. We did not, but spent our two hours working through the cases, as might be done during an introductory class at a US law school. Each case was pleasantly open to many different holdings, some very broad and others very narrow. The discussion was vigorous, back and forth across the classroom.

Many classrooms in Russia, even when renovated like this one, are bad by US standards. They tend to be long and narrow, and it is difficult for me to hear even were students speaking in English. The front rows are filled mainly with young women and the back row all young men in black leather jackets. Law is an undergraduate field here, so these students are 18 or 19. A fair amount of chatter goes on in the Russian

classroom, only some of it dealing with our cases. Three women in the far right and one in the far left are engaged in discussion with me, while the back benchers chat and lounge low in their seats.

My Russian is good enough to understand much of what is said, but not good enough to teach in Russian. Ilya, a young energetic full-time local *advokat*, and part-time artist, volunteers to be my interpreter. Yesterday we commented on attendance being down, and the occasional name on the sign-in sheet of a student who was not actually in class when called upon. Today all 80 are here.

As the discussion of holdings proceeded, I walked down the aisle to the back of the room, hoping to engage the students in the back. One of the young men moved his coat so I could sit with the back benchers. The conversation on the holdings continued, but I asked the young man who moved his coat what he thinks. Suddenly I catch myself feeling like Phil Donahue, working the crowd. "I agree with everything that's been said," he replied in a stage voice. Then to me, sotto voce, he promised to be prepared to talk on Monday.

Later the sign up sheet comes back to the front of the room, with one name highlighted in pink with yellow exclamation points. My back bencher? I wonder. But the class bell rang, I assigned homework, and the students left.

Today I make a point of walking home. As I usually do on Fridays I make a tour of the book stores to see what is new. I

stop for a cappuccino at one of my favorite cafes, Metro. Rod Stewart sings "This Old Heart of Mine" on VH1 on the overhead tv. I seem to be known to the waitresses around town as a good tipper. so service as always is good. I write a couple of postcards, and then walk to the post office, where I practice my Russian by asking at the counter whether the ten ruble stamp is sufficient for a postcard to India. At the watch repair shop once again I practice Russian and get a new battery installed for 50 rubles. I stroll home, now in the snow. Tonight I have been invited to a late dinner with colleagues from the environmental law center and legal clinic.

As I near the end of this essay it is almost 9 PM, and I have a dinner to attend. The sun still hangs in the western sky, seemingly no lower than before. Tonight it will not set until 11PM and already I sleep with my eye shades on.

Above my desk as I write are photos. One shows an elderly Russian man with deep creases in his cheeks, a head full of grey hair, and his suit coat crowded with a full three rows of medals on the left and nine smaller pins on the right. Elsewhere on the wall are paired charcoal drawings of the same man. much younger, very handsome, only two medals on his chest. There is a second photo of him, in his thirties I would guess, wearing a black fur Cossack hat, small crossed rifles trimming the collar and epaulettes of his winter coat. Next to the photo is a charcoal of his young bride, her hair up in curls atop her head and also low on her shoulders, and another chubby and smiling many years later. Husband and wife, they are both dead now. Their son, now 60 year old, a

post-Soviet unemployed professor, is my landlord. The old soldier seems to growl at me as if I should be working harder. One day, not so far gone, he and his fellow Russians sat across an Iron Curtain from us; and now I am teaching their grandchildren about US law. We've all come a long way.



Carl A. Yirka is Professor of Law and Library Director at Vermont Law School, Petrozavodsk Russia 25 April 2003.

Boston Is Going Global! Program Planning for 2004 Annual Meeting

Spring is here. Seattle is on our minds, but Boston is on the horizon.
Program planning has begun for the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston.
The theme for the 2004 meeting focuses on globalization and international issues. This is an excellent time to consider programs that can enhance the work life and professional interests of FCIL members. This is a wonderful opportunity for our SIS to highlight and share our knowledge and experience with fellow FCIL and AALL members for a truly global Annual Meeting.

What are possible program topics? Actually, anything in the world. Consider foreign and international topics of interest. Are there jurisdictions that you would like to see addressed? Important issues concerning the maintenance and growth of a foreign, comparative and international law collection? Programs at all levels: advanced, intermediate and introductory, are in demand. Be creative! Program slots are for 30, 60, 75 and 90 minutes. Do not fret if you have never written a program proposal, ready and willing help is available from the FCIL Education Committee, the program planning book and the Annual Meeting Program Committee.

The program planning books for Boston will be available in the near future. More information on the program planning process will be posted to the FCIL listserv, as it becomes available. Please contact the Education Committee co-chairs, Mirela Roznovschi (roznovschi@juris.law.nyu.edu), Dennis Sears (searsd@lawgate.byu.edu) or Vice-Chair, Jean Wenger (jwlawlib@ameritech.net) with your ideas and questions.



DIGEST OF UNITED STATES PRACTICE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The International Law Institute is pleased to announce the return to annual publication of the Department of State's *Digest of United States Practice in International Law*. Over the years the work has been recognized as one of the most important publications in the international law community. As in the past, each volume is prepared by the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Department of State and covers important developments in all areas of public and private international law.

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In 1992 the Legal Adviser's Office published a three-volume set covering 1981-1988. As publication of current annual volumes continues, the Legal

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c/o Stephanie J. Burke Boston University Pappas Law Library 765 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215 Adviser's Office and the Institute will cover 1989-1999 in a similar comprehensive manner. A volume covering 1989-90 will be published in the spring of 2003. See reverse for information on ordering the *Digest* and to establish a standing order.

The renewed *Digest* reports on fundamental topics covered by earlier editions but also add topics to reflect the growth of new areas of jurisprudence in international law.

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