

# FCIL Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section  
American Association of Law Libraries

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Issue 3

## From the Chair

Mirela Roznovschi, Chair

Congratulations to Mary Rumsey and Dennis Sears, who were elected to FCIL offices. Mary will become Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Dennis will take over as Secretary-Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio in July. Mary and Dennis are already assisting me with many tasks, ranging from the new Centennial Committee, the changing of the FCIL SIS bylaws, program proposals for St. Louis, and many others. My deepest thanks to them for their invaluable assistance.

The San Antonio meeting is very fast approaching. I really hope this meeting is going to be a new and rewarding professional experience for all of us. FCIL SIS will present the following workshop and programs:

**·W-3:New Vistas and Values for Europe: Strategies for Researching European Law** (Saturday, July 16 8:30am- 4pm).

This is a one-day workshop with separate registration, and the second in a workshop series. See page 7 of the Newsletter for more information.

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>From the Chair</b>	Page 1	<b>FCIL Election Results</b>	Page 10
<b>AALL Mentoring Committee</b>	Page 5	<b>Proposed ByLaw Amendmt</b>	Page 11
<b>Centennial Committee</b>	Page 6	<b>Alan Hoch Memorial Grant</b>	Page 12
<b>Education Committee</b>	Page 6	<b>Hot New Sites</b>	Page 13
<b>New Vistas for Europe Workshop</b>	Page 7	<b>10 Favorites in Texas</b>	Page 15
<b>Membership Committee</b>	Page 8	<b>Upcoming IALL Conference</b>	Page 16
<b>Volunteers Needed (Local Advisory)</b>	Page 8	<b>Disability Rights Workshop</b>	Page 17
<b>Latin American Legal Systems Intro</b>	Page 9	<b>TSSIS Work on Meeting Schedules</b>	Page 19
<b>Foreign Law Collecting Survey</b>	Page10	<b>ASIL Report</b>	Page 26

### **From the Chair (cont'd)**

- **A-4: Treaty-making--Really , Part II** (Sunday, July 17, 10-11:30 am)
- **G-5: Mexican Americans and the Law** (Tuesday, July 19 10-11:30am)
- **H1: Navigating the Maze of U.S. Treaty Research - Strategies for Finding Treaties, Treaty Actions and Interpretive Materials** (Tuesday, July 19, 4-5pm)
- **J-5: Researching International Marine Environmental Law** (Wednesday, July 20, 1:30 -2pm)

In addition, another program not sponsored by the FCILS SIS might be of interest to our members:

- **B-4: The Law Library of Congress in the 21st Century: A National and Global Resource** (Sunday, July 17, 2:45-4pm)

Many FCIL SIS interest group meetings will concentrate on substantive contributions. The AALL Handbook will not list these remarkable events and presentations, so please look for them!

- **The Executive Committee Presents** (Monday, July 18, 5:15 - 6:15 PM) *Introduction to Latin American Legal Systems*. Speakers: Professor Stephen Zamora and Assistant Professor Antonio Gidi, both from Houston University. See page 9 for more information.
- **Asian Law Interest Group Business Meeting** (Wednesday, July 20, 12:00 - 1:00 PM) *Looking Eastward: Researching Asian Trade Law*. Speaker: Chenglin Liu, Adjunct Professor of Law, Foreign and International Law Librarian at the University of Houston Law Center, and the IG Chair.
- **CIS and Eastern European Law Interest Group** (Saturday, July 16, 4:15-5:15pm) Featured speaker: Irma Aladashvili, Coordinator of the Law library and Information Centre for the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- **Electronic Issues Interest Group Business Meeting** (Tuesday, July 19, 7:45 to 8:45am, *New Portals to Foreign and International Law*. Speakers: Marylin Raisch, International and Foreign Law Librarian at Georgetown University Law Libraries and the IG Chair; Mirela Roznovschi, Reference Librarian for International and Foreign Law at New York University Law Library; Emily Allbon, Law Librarian from the City University, London, England (she received the Betty Moys Award 2004 for her work on a student legal portal <http://www.lawbore.net/> ), and other special guests!

### **From the Chair (cont'd)**

- **African Law Interest Group Business Meeting** (Sunday, July 17, 5:30 - 6:30pm) *New Developments in African Legal Systems: Ghana*. Speaker: Victor Essien, International Law Librarian & Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham Law School, and African Law Interest Group Chair.
- **Publication Committee Business Meeting** (Monday, July 18, 9:00-10am) *Selectors of Foreign Law in Foreign Languages*. Anne Burnett, Reference/Foreign & International Law Librarian at the University of Georgia Law Library, Linda Tashbook, Foreign International Comparative Law Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library, and Dan Wade, Associate Librarian for Foreign & International Law and Lecturer at the Yale Law Library will moderate a gathering of foreign law librarians and librarians charged with the acquisition of foreign law. The meeting is being sponsored by the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group. Please see page 10 for more information.
- **Teaching Foreign and International Research Interest Group** (Tuesday, July 19, 11:45 am-12:45pm) **Panel on FCIL Librarianship**. This session moderated by Patricia A. Kasting, Reference Librarian at Hofstra University Law School Library and Mary Rumsey, Foreign, Comparative, & International Law Librarian at the University of Minnesota Law Library will be devoted to a question-and-answer gathering on FCIL librarianship, aimed at people interested in becoming FCIL librarians or learning more about FCIL librarianship.

*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. YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

**The newsletter can be read on the world wide web at:**

**<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/fcilsis.html>.**

**For more information about the FCIL SIS, visit our website at:**

**<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/>**

Harvard Law School Library  
506 Areeda Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-4531  
FAX (617) 495-9288  
<mailto:ademers@law.harvard.edu>

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps,  
San Diego, CA

**Deadline for next issue is September 15, 2005.**

### **From the Editor (cont'd)**

Please join your FCIL SIS colleagues and our foreign guests on Tuesday evening, July 19, for the FCIL Reception from 6:30-7:30 PM. Also on that Tuesday, just following our reception, you are invited to attend the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) reception from 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM.

For a full list of FCIL events at AALL please visit our website:  
<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/fcilsis/programs2005.html>

**The FCIL SIS Ellen Schaffer Foreign Librarian's Grant was awarded this year** to Irma Aladashvili, Coordinator of the Law Library and Information Centre for the Georgian Young Lawyer's Association in Tbilisi, Georgia. She is the author of the Guide to Georgian Legal Research recently published on GlobalLex. <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Georgia.htm> Irma will be the special guest of the **CIS and Eastern European Law Interest Group** in San Antonio. She will speak about her country's libraries and legal research. Come and meet Irma on Saturday, July 16, 4:15pm-5:15pm.

Mary Rumsey has graciously agreed to be the Chair of the FCIL SIS Centennial Committee. Many thanks to her! She is energetic and able to fire up our SIS to make the next year's Annual Meeting a great event. See page 6 for more information.

At the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting in San Antonio, the Executive Committee will propose an amendment to the bylaws. The purpose of the amendment is to allow our SIS to conduct its elections electronically. See page 11 for more information.

Marylin Raisch and Jolande Goldberg did a terrific job: they drafted a memorandum summarizing the recent findings of the *Technical Services Special Interest Section Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Annual Meeting Programming*. The issues concerned and explored were the lack of programming during the AALL annual meeting, the "no-conflict" rule imposed by AALL for annual meeting scheduling, and the acceptance of programs. See page 19 for the full report.

During this year, I realized how powerful and gifted our members are. How greatly they invest their life in projects that make our FCIL SIS a strong presence among law librarians in the country and in the world. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio! Thanks for being with me in this inspiring and rewarding year!

## **AALL Mentoring Committee**

Submitted By Jennifer S. Murray

Are you new to law librarianship, looking to move to another type of law library, or need advice advancing in your career? Are you an experienced law librarian interested in meeting and advising those who are new to the profession? Then find a mentor or become a mentor through the AALL Mentoring Committee's Mentor Project!

The purpose of the Mentor Project is three-fold: to provide an informal, personal source of information for newer members; to provide an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession; and to provide a network for members who are contemplating a move to another type of library.

If you previously participated in the Mentor Project and would like to be matched in a new mentoring relationship, you are encouraged to reapply; since it is up to the individuals to decide how long to continue their mentoring relationship, participants may reapply for a new match in subsequent years.

The Mentor Project is open to librarians from all types of libraries. Applications will be reviewed by a Mentoring Committee member and representatives from ALL, PLL, and SCCLL Special Interest Sections so that each participant will be assigned a member whose profile matches, as closely as possible, his or her request.

Although attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting is not required for participation, those who apply by May 2, 2005 will be guaranteed a match in time for the Annual Meeting during which the Mentoring Committee will host a Mentor Project reception to provide a meeting place for the participants. Applications are available at: [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor\\_project.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html).

We look forward to hearing from you!

AALL Mentoring Committee

Visit us at <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/>

## **FCIL-SIS "Centennial Committee" Wants You!**

Submitted By Mary Rumsey

In connection with AALL's Centennial Celebration in 2006, AALL would like each SIS to reflect on its own history. AALL's Centennial Planning Task Force encourages every SIS to "have a program on its SIS history" and "produce a written history."

Mirela Roznovschi, FCIL Chair, asked me pull together an FCIL Centennial Committee, and Heidi Kuehl (née Frostestad) agreed, in a weak moment, to help out. I can't imagine using a precious FCIL program slot to cover the SIS's history. But maybe *you* can, or maybe you'd like to help us pull together a written history of some sort.

This committee could be a great chance for newer FCIL librarians to get acquainted with FCIL veterans, by interviewing them about the history of the SIS. Or, it could be a great chance for FCIL veterans to get acquainted with newer FCIL librarians! Please contact me if you'd like to get involved: <mailto:rumse006@umn.edu>.

### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee will meet to discuss program proposals on Monday, July 18, from 10:15 to 11:30 am. Please check the AALL Annual Meeting Program for room location.

### **Program Proposals for AALL Centennial in 2006**

Submitted by Stephanie Burke Farne

Do you have an idea for a program for the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting? Did your 2005 program proposal not make "the cut"? Have a great idea for a centennial focused program?

The FCIL SIS Education Committee wants to hear from you. The Education Committee will help you polish and submit your program proposal, which is due to AALL Headquarters in August. While August may seem a long way off, it will be here before you know it. And the sooner we get to work on the proposals, the more time the Education Committee will have to help you polish and submit your proposal so that it has the best shot at being accepted!

Please contact Stephanie Burke Farne (<mailto:capsummer@hotmail.com>) with any program ideas or suggestions. This is your chance to shape the educational program offerings at the 2006 AALL Annual Meeting!

The Education Committee looks forward to hearing from you!

## **New Vistas and Values for Europe**

Saturday, July 16, 2005

8:30-4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's University Law School, San Antonio, Texas

Sponsored by the FCIL-SIS!

Don't miss this unique educational opportunity in connection with the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting in San Antonio:

This intermediate level workshop for academic and law firm librarians and information specialists will focus on European Union document research and the changes in the structure, constitutional foundation, and membership of the European Union. A distinguished roster of academic, governmental, and private research and practice experts will guide participants through these changes and much more. Transportation will be provided and the Wm. S. Hein Company is providing a reception following the program, which will conclude before evening events.

Please register as early as possible for this exciting workshop, part of a multi-year training strategy proposed by the Foreign, Comparative, International Law Special Interest Section. Your participation will help guarantee that the workshop and the series will move forward and reach out to keep information professionals trained in this developing area of research, practice, and trade.

We hope to see you there!

Marilyn J. Raisch, International and Foreign Law Librarian, Coordinator  
Duncan Alford, Head of Reference, Moderator  
Georgetown Law Library  
111 G St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

### **To Do List**

Ever come across an absolute gem of a site (especially from countries where such content is hard to produce and maintain), only to find that a month or two later it has been bought out by an online Casino?! To avoid these aggravations, make your contribution by preserving it! Whenever you find a website with precious content be sure to submit the site to the *Internet Archives*. Just copy the url of the site you hope to preserve, and paste it in the box located here:

[http://pages.alexa.com/help/webmasters/#crawl\\_site](http://pages.alexa.com/help/webmasters/#crawl_site)

It only takes a minute - but the rewards will last a lifetime!

## **Membership Committee Meeting**

Submitted By Lucia Diamond, Chair

The Membership Committee will be meeting on Sunday, July 17 at 12:15 - 1:15 in a location TBA. Anyone interested in discussing recruitment to FCIL and ways of involving new members in the business of FCIL is very welcome to attend!



The **Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee** needs volunteers for a variety of activities at the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio! We need volunteers for the registration desk, the family social hour, and the main events: the opening reception, the association luncheon, and the closing banquet. Scoop stories and write articles for The AALLamo News, the daily conference newspaper. Are you San Antonio savvy? We need help with hospitality and library tours. Or if you plan to be in San Antonio early, help stuff the conference tote bags on Friday, July 15, or visit with attendees' children at the Family Social Hour on Saturday, July 16.

Volunteers make the conference run smoothly—and they have fun. Be among the first 100 to complete the volunteer form linked below and join us at the "Howl at the Moon" for a conference opening Happy Hour! (Details to follow). But even to non- "howlers," Mucho Gracias for signing up!

Please complete the volunteer form on the local arrangements web site:  
[http://www.stcl.edu/aall/volunteer\\_form.htm](http://www.stcl.edu/aall/volunteer_form.htm)

or fax, or mail the completed Volunteer Opportunities Registration Form from the preliminary conference program, on page 31, by June 8 to:

Caren Luckie, Volunteer Co-Chair  
Jackson Walker, LLP  
1401 McKinney, Suite 1900  
Houston, TX 77010  
Phone: 713.752.4479  
Fax: 713.752.4221  
<mailto:cluckie@jw.com>

Submitted By David Gay, Co-Chair

**Introduction to Latin American Legal Systems**  
**A Special Program Presented by the FCIL Executive Committee**

Submitted by Mirela Roznovschi

Mark your calendars! On Monday, July 18, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15pm, Professors Stephen Zamora and Antonio Gidi, both from the University of Houston Law Center will present a talk on the legal systems of Latin America. We are extremely fortunate to have scholars of such exceptional status address our section.

Professors Zamora and Gidi will provide a basic overview of Latin American law and Latin American legal cultures. While the legal systems of Latin American countries vary widely, certain elements are common to the civil law tradition as it is followed in these countries. They will discuss U.S., European and native influences on these legal systems, emphasizing the historical background that pervades these legal cultures. They will also talk about legal education in Latin America, and the teaching and research of Latin American law in U.S. law schools.

Professor Stephen Zamora (Dean of the University of Houston Law Center, 1995 – 2000) teaches courses on International Business Transactions, International Trade, NAFTA, Contracts , International Banking and Mexican Law. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Houston Law Center in 1978, he was in private practice in Washington, D.C. and was an attorney, for The World Bank. In 1982, he was the Senior Fulbright Lecturer, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and in 1991 he chaired the Interest Group on International Economic Law of the American Society of International Law. In 1996, Zamora served as a member of a dispute resolution panel that decided the first government-to-government dispute under NAFTA (U.S. v. Canada).

Professor Zamora is a member of the Board of Editors of the American Journal of Comparative Law and general editor for Basic Documents of International Economic Law (CCH, 1990) and WESTLAW and LEXIS computer databases of International Economic Law documents. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters on international economic law, international banking law, international monetary law, and Mexican law, and is the lead author of the book ***Mexican Law***, published in April 2004 by Oxford University Press. Professor Zamora is a member of the American Law Institute, and his areas of expertise include contracts, international banking, international transactions, Mexican Law, NAFTA, and Public International Law.

Antonio Gidi is Assistant Professor at the University of Houston Law Center. He taught as an Assistant Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania for several years in the areas of Civil Procedure, Class Actions, and Comparative Law. He also had extensive academic experience in Brazil, Italy, and France. Gidi currently serves as the Associate Reporter and Secretary to the American Law Institute / UNIDROIT project on Principles and Rules of Transnational Civil Procedure, a project geared to producing a uniform code of civil procedure for international litigation and arbitration. He also serves as a Co-Reporter in a project sponsored by the Ibero-American Institute of Civil Procedure to create a Model Code of Class Actions for Latin America. Gidi has written books in Portuguese and Spanish and a number of articles in English and in other languages as well. He speaks Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, and English, and has working knowledge of French.

He is a member of the Brazilian Law Institute, the Brazilian Procedural Law Institute, and the International Association of Procedural Law, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Comparative Law. His interests are in the areas of Class Actions, Comparative Law, Comparative Civil Procedure, and International Litigation and Arbitration.

## **Foreign Law Collections in U.S. Libraries**

If you collect primary law resources from or about any countries other than the U.S., please tell about it in the Foreign Law Collections in U.S. Libraries database at <http://www.law.pitt.edu/library/international/foreigncollections.php>. Then, when you have a patron looking for foreign law information that you don't collect, please visit the database to locate a library that has what you need. Soon, the database will also include links to research guides for each country. If you did not receive a copy of the database questionnaire, which only has yes/no questions, please contact Linda Tashbook [tashbook@law.pitt.edu](mailto:tashbook@law.pitt.edu) to get one.

## **FCIL Election Results**

Submitted by Ken Rudolf

The Nominating Committee of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section, consisting of Katherine Topulos, Mark Engsborg, and Ken Rudolf, is pleased to announce the results of the recent election of officers.

Congratulations to **Mary Rumsey**, Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Librarian at the University of Minnesota Law Library, who was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Mary is currently completing her term as Secretary-Treasurer.

Congratulations to **Dennis Sears**, Associate Director for Legal Research, Instruction, and Reference at the Howard W. Hunter Law Library, Brigham Young University, who was elected Secretary-Treasurer for a two-year term. Dennis has been active in FCIL in various ways, but most significantly as continuing co-chair of the Education Committee (along with the FCIL Vice-Chair for that year) and is the FCIL expert in the submission process for program proposals for the Annual Meeting.

They will join Stephanie Burke, who becomes Chair, and Mirela Roznovschi, who becomes Immediate Past Chair, as members of the Executive Committee in July.

Thank you to everyone who voted. Your support of the FCIL is appreciated, and I encourage every member to support the new Executive Committee as they plan for the coming year.

## **Do You Have Any Statistics on That?**

If you are looking for statistics from a variety of foreign sources, check out the *United Nations Statistics Division* which has a great website listing data sources and links to National Statistical Offices of many nations:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/inter-natlinks/sd\\_natstat.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/inter-natlinks/sd_natstat.htm)

**Proposed Amendment to FCIL-SIS Bylaws:**

Submitted by Mary Rumsey

At the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting in San Antonio, the Executive Committee will propose an amendment to the bylaws. The purpose of the amendment is to allow the SIS to conduct its elections electronically. The Executive Committee believes that electronic voting will increase participation and save members' time.

The proposed amendment is printed below:

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

Section 3 of Article VI., Nomination and Election of Officers, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3.

***The election of officers will be conducted every year by mail or electronic ballot. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition.*** The professional position of each nominee shall appear on the ballot. ***In the event paper ballots are used,*** the newsletter editor shall include a copy of the ballots 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. Ballots shall be marked, sealed in a plain envelope, and returned to the Secretary/Treasurer before 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. ***In the event electronic ballots are used, the details of conducting the election shall first be approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee shall ensure that an election conducted by electronic balloting is fundamentally fair and preserves the right of secret ballot.***

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 distribution of the ballot.

Any vacancy occurring 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~~ ***first paragraph of this Section.*** 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~~ ***first paragraph of this Section.*** 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.

### **Alan Hoch Memorial Grant**

I am writing to call your attention to the availability of the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant, sponsored by the SR-SIS's Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues. The \$500 Alan Holoch Memorial Grant may be awarded each year by the Standing Committee to assist members in attending the Annual Meeting. The grant is funded by a generous bequest made by Alan Holoch, who died in 1991, having served as treasurer of AALL and as Director of the Ohio State University Law Library. Further information on the grant and the application form may be found on AALLnet at [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/lgbt/holoch\\_grant\\_form.html](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/lgbt/holoch_grant_form.html).

Please pass along information about the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant to your members. If you have any questions regarding the grant, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey J. Berns  
Chair, AALL SR-SIS Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues  
<mailto:bernsj@bskb.com>

### **The Government Documents Obituaries**

On April 18th, the State Department announced that it would no longer publish its report "Patterns of Global Terrorism", which has been published for the past 19 years. In its place, a new publication, titled "Country Reports on Terrorism", was released on April 30th. For compilation and release of terrorist incident statistics we are now directed to the National Counterterrorism Center which was created in 2004 - however see below for the full-text of the Executive Order authorizing the creation of the Center. On first blush it would appear that only strictly defined Agencies and the Executive Branch are entitled to receive information from the Center.

For previous issues of Patterns of Global Terrorism, visit the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism:

<http://www.mipt.org/Patterns-of-Global-Terrorism.asp>

A more detailed news account is printed here:

<http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-9549.html>

For a critical account of the change, read this article:

<http://www.realcities.com/mld/krwashington/11407689.htm>

Executive Order Authorizing the National Counterterrorism Center

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/08/20040827-5.html>

### **Hot New Sites!**

#### *Sierra Leone.org*

This is a terrific site that we ought to be supporting. It provides, in reverse chronological order from 2004-1926, the full-text plus citations of Sierra Leone laws on a range of topics. <http://www.sierra-leone.org/laws.html>

#### *The Philippine e-Lib*

"The Philippine eLib is a collaborative project of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), University of the Philippines (UP), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Available Resources include: Union catalog of the 5 partners; Digitized Filipiniana materials including thesis and dissertations; Special collection/researches of the 5 partners; Online resources/subscription to electronic databases."

<http://www.elib.gov.ph/>

*UNBOUND: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left* is a brand new free journal. The Journal "seeks to begin a redefinition project, staking out a place for left legal intellectual discussion and formulating a new set of ideas for a new century."

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/unbound/index.php>

*China Law Digest.* Xiaoping Chen at Harvard's East Asian Legal Studies Center has put together a database of Chinese legal news, topics and analysis, including reports about new legal initiatives, newly released cases and more.

<http://www.chinalawdigest.com/>

### **Extra Extra!**

*Amadeus* is a subscription database of 5.6 million public and private companies in 31 European countries, including much of Eastern Europe. It includes five years of exportable financial statement data as well as basic company and management information. Amadeus can be used to screen for companies by numerous criteria such as geography and industry. Advanced reporting features allow the user to create customized reports for one or more companies.

<http://www.amadeus.bvdep.com>

*The Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB (Electronic Journals Library)* "is a service to facilitate the use of scholarly journals on the internet. It offers a fast, structured and unified interface to access full text articles online." Journals with freely available fulltext articles, journals where fulltext access is restricted to the users of specified European libraries, or journal citations only are all browsable through this site.

<http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/index.phtml?bibid=AAAAA&colors=7&lang=en>

To read more about this project, look at some of the titles listed here:

<http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/about.phtml?bibid=AAAAA&colors=7&lang=en#publ>

### **Extra! Extra! (cont'd)**

*The Diplomacy Monitor* from St.Thomas University School of Law's mission is "Tracking Internet-based Global Diplomacy" by providing "the latest communiqués, transcripts and news releases from around the world." The site provides a comprehensive source for new foreign policy documents from national and international bodies. Documents are searchable but also grouped to facilitate retrieval: Documents By Region, Documents By Issue, By Nation (Source), By Nation (Affected), Nation To Nation and Nation To Issue.  
<http://diplomacymonitor.com/stu/dm.nsf/opener?OpenForm>

### **Have You Heard?**

Following the very successful conference at the University of Aberdeen to launch the Journal of Private International Law I am pleased to announce the publication of the first issue. The table of contents and abstracts to the articles can be found at  
<http://www.hartjournals.co.uk/jpil/volumes/1/issues/1/index.html>.

You may also be interested in reading the editorial by the editors Paul Beaumont and Jonathan Harris which is available to download at  
<http://www.hartjournals.co.uk/jpil/>

All best wishes, Barbara @ HART Publishing

Barbara Darling  
Journals Manager  
Hart Publishing Ltd  
Salter's Boatyard  
Folly Bridge  
Abingdon Road  
Oxford OX1 4LB, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 245533  
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 794882  
Email: [barbara@hartpub.co.uk](mailto:barbara@hartpub.co.uk) <<mailto:barbara@hartpub.co.uk>>

## **My 10 Favorite Things About Texas**

By Mary Forman, Semi-Native

My great-great-great uncle, Thomas Jefferson Chambers, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/CC/fch8html> came to Texas in the 1820s. Chambers County in east Texas is named after him. I, however, am a relative newcomer. Although I've only lived in Texas for 10 years, I have compiled quite a list of things I love about Texas. Here are 10 of them focused almost exclusively on San Antonio – 10 reasons for you to come to AALL in July – and to come back and visit again. As Texas singer/songwriter Gary P. Nunn (famous for the *Austin City Limits* theme song – *London Homesick Blues* aka *Home with the Armadillo*) would say, "You ask me what I like about Texas.... Well, I could tell you, but we'd be here all night long." So I've limited it to 10....

10. **Patio dining** – Eating outside – good Mexican food – a cold beverage – well, it's a favorite pastime of many. When it's hot, you sit under an umbrella. When it's cold they fire up the heaters. We eat outside all year long.

9. **Boat cruise on the San Antonio River.** Yep, even the locals ride it! It's great fun and you always learn something new.

8. **Gruene, Texas, and the Guadalupe River.**

<http://www.touringtexas.com/gruene/>

Great shopping (and I don't even like shopping!), lunch at the Gristmill Restaurant, and a stop at Gruene Hall (Texas' oldest dance hall) to listen to whoever's playing, or tubing down the Guadalupe River, taking out at Gruene and then doing the above. Old or young, it's a fun way to spend the day!

7. Walking through the **King William Historic District**

<http://www.accd.edu/sac/english/mcquien/htmlfiles/kingwill.htm>

and having breakfast (preferably on the patio) at the **Guenther House.**

<http://www.guentherhouse.com/>

6. **Music, music, music.** Country, symphony, you name it, we've got it – and I love it all.

5. **Steak Night in Waring, Texas.** <http://www.steaknite.com/>

Wednesday night is "Steak Knite" at the country store in Waring, Texas. Come back sometime and experience it!

4. **The Majestic Theatre.** <http://www.majesticempire.com/>

Arguably the most beautiful theatre in Texas (maybe the world?).

### **My 10 Favorite Things (cont'd)**

3. Visiting any **Texas State Park**. <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/>  
Three of my nearby favorites include Garner, Lost Maples, and Enchanted Rock.

2. **Wildflowers**. <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/wildflower/>  
They start in March with bluebonnets, but they continue on throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Lady Bird Johnson was on to something....

1. **The people**. <http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/public/>  
They come in all shapes, sizes, colors, cultures, and personal beliefs, but despite their differences, there is something that draws them together – something my buddy, Gary P. Nunn, calls “the spirit of the people who share this land.”

Welcome to Texas!

### **IALL Coming Soon!**

Submitted by Lyonette Louis Jacques

Beautiful Italy! That's the venue of the next Course on International Law Librarianship sponsored by the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL), to be held September 4-8, 2005: <http://www.iall.org/iall2005/>

The theme this year is: "The European Union in the 21st Century: New Challenges in Law and Legal Information." The Course will cover the European Constitution and its impact on the European Court of Justice, Ius Commune Europaeum or harmonization of European public and private law, the EU Copyright Directive, e-access to Italian legal information resources, and other topics relevant to libraries.

The full program is at <http://www.iall.org/iall2005/programme.pdf>

Appropriately, the sessions will take place at the European University Institute (EUI) in San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy. The EUI is a perfect setting with its wonderful collection on EU law and its proximity to Florence...:-) The IALL annual business meeting, excursions to visit libraries in Siena and Florence, and wine-tasting at the Casa Machiavelli round out the Course offerings. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and talk with colleagues from all over the world. The deadline for early registration is June 15, 2005:  
[http://www.iall.org/iall2005/registration\\_form.pdf](http://www.iall.org/iall2005/registration_form.pdf)

**Report from the International Disability Rights Workshop,  
March 30, 2005**

Submitted By Wendy Scott  
Assistant Director for Faculty & Outreach Services  
Syracuse University Barclay Law Library

On Wednesday, March 30, 2005, the Law Library of Congress and the Center for International Rehabilitation (in cooperation with FCIL, the ASIL and the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.) presented a one-day workshop entitled *International Disability Rights, An Overview and Comparative Analysis of International and National Initiatives to Promote and Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The workshop brought together internationally recognized experts in disability law to examine existing international non-discrimination principles that protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and provide a basis for comparative analysis of national initiatives.

Dr. William Kennedy Smith, Founder of the Center of International Rehabilitation, welcomed the participants and introduced a short videotape by The Honorable Tom Harkin (who authored and co-sponsored the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.) In his brief address on *Persons With Disabilities – Reaching Their Full Potential*, Senator Harkin announced that several disability-related provisions were successfully included in the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill, including grants to non-profit organizations to promote disability rights in developing countries and a requirement that grantees applying for USAID funds must specify how their program will include protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

The first panel discussion was an *Introduction to Disability Law*. Jeffrey Rosen (General Counsel and Director of Policy at the National Council on Disability) expressed concerns that the courts are tightening the definition of disability, making it almost impossible for disabled litigants to win cases against employers. According to Rosen, 90% of Title I law suits are unsuccessful. Robert Dinerstein (Professor of Law at American University and a member of the Mental Disability Rights International Board of Directors) addressed the continuing problems of institutionalization and segregation of people with mental disabilities worldwide. He also discussed the groundbreaking work of MDRI, which promotes international oversight of the rights of people with mental disabilities. Peter Blanck (Professor of Law & Professor of Psychology and Public Health at the University of Iowa) stressed the importance of attitudes and perceptions in driving disability law and policy. He also shared some of his extensive research on attitudes towards disability during the post-Civil War era, citing the affect of negative perceptions of the disabled on the pension benefits of disabled Civil War veterans.

## **Disability Rights Workshop (cont'd)**

The second morning session addressed *Disability in International Agreements*. Javier Vasquez (WHO and the Pan American Health Organization's Mental Health Programme) described the PAHO training program, which educates public health officials and agencies in Latin America about disability related international legal instruments and norms.

Renzo Pomi (U.N. Representative for Amnesty International) provided a brief history of core U.N. human rights instruments in the context of protection of disabled persons. He emphasized three instruments: the 1983 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities which, although not binding, focused worldwide attention on the need for equal rights for disabled persons; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment 5 (Eleventh session, 1994), which addressed rights in the context of disability, and; Commission for Social Development Res. 34/2, (*Monitoring the Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 1995*) which charges monitoring bodies to take disability into account in country reports. Maria Veronica Reina (President of the Center for International Rehabilitation and a participant in the U. N. Disability Convention process) discussed the evolution and aims of the draft disability convention. Convention target areas include accessibility, education, employment, social security and family life. Katherine Guernsey (Lord, Guernsey Associates and Counsel to the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention) gave us a lively behind the scenes view into the lengthy convention process. The committee continues to synthesize the draft convention. Definitions, treaty monitoring, and the number of signatures required for adoption are important issues still under consideration. The next meeting will be held in August, 2005.

The keynote address was delivered by Claudio Grossman (Dean and Professor of Law at American University). Dean Grossman, who is currently Vice Chairman of the Committee Against Torture of the United Nations and formerly President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (IACHR), spoke eloquently about the efforts made by these organizations to support developing nations in their struggle to guarantee rights for disabled people.

The first afternoon panel provided a *Comparative Foreign Law Analyses* by the Foreign Law Specialists at the Law Library of Congress. Panelists' brief presentations were based on the Library's Country Reports, many reproduced in the conference materials. Sayuri Umeda (Foreign Law Specialist, Japan) described Japan's quota-levy system for promoting employment for the disabled and cited Japan's recent anti-discrimination legislation, however he cautioned that advocates want a rights-based policy with greater inclusion.

## **Disability Rights Workshop (cont'd)**

Gustavo Guerra (Foreign Law Specialist, Mexico) reviewed the current status of disability law and policy in Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, countries which have implemented a variety of national and state laws and legal instruments intended to protect the rights of disabled persons, but which struggle with adequate monitoring and compliance. Clare Feikert (Foreign Law Specialist, United Kingdom) indicated that the UK has not been as aggressive in its protection of disabled persons as the U.S. The 1995 Disability Discrimination Act (which many viewed as flawed) was strengthened by the 1999 Disability Rights Commission Act, but according to Feikert, further legislation is required to guarantee basic rights.

The final panel of the day was *Disability Law in Practice*. Michael Stein (Professor and Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School) reinforced the impact of attitudes towards disability on employment discrimination claims, lamenting that only prisoners' civil rights cases lose at a higher rate than ADA cases (as much as 95%) and suggesting that the ADA has not fulfilled its promise. Charlotte McClain-Hhlapo (World Bank) described the history and status of disability law and policy in South Africa, where the disability rights movement, which developed concurrently with the anti-apartheid movement, has had more success than in other African nations. Ms. McClain-Hhlapo hastened to point out, however, that many of South Africa's six million disabled persons have little access to education or employment, especially those living in poverty. She hopes that future discussion on disability issues will encompass all sectors of society and aim towards full integration of the disabled into society.

In summary, the *International Disability Rights* workshop offered participants a wonderful opportunity to hear a diverse group of experts speak on disability law and policy. The discussion was particularly compelling because speakers and participants shared, not only their knowledge of disability law and practice, but also their personal experiences and insights as disabled persons, attorneys and organizational advocates. The workshop reminded participants that, despite gains on the national and international level, there is clearly much more work to be done to guarantee the rights of people with disabilities at home and abroad.

### Related Links:

United Nations Focal Point on Persons with Disabilities <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/>  
Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center <http://disability.law.uiowa.edu/>  
National Council on Disability <http://www.ncd.gov/>  
Mental Disability Rights International <http://www.mdri.org/>  
International Disability Rights Compendium 2003/ International Disability Rights Monitor  
[http://www.cirnetwork.org/idrm-pdf/CIR\\_COMP.PDF](http://www.cirnetwork.org/idrm-pdf/CIR_COMP.PDF)  
Regional report of the Americas 2004 / International Disability Rights Monitor  
[http://www.cirnetwork.org/idrm-pdf/IDRM\\_Americas\\_2004.pdf](http://www.cirnetwork.org/idrm-pdf/IDRM_Americas_2004.pdf)

**Emphasis on Scheduling AALL Annual Meetings**  
**The Work of the Technical Services SIS Ad Hoc Committee**

Submitted by Marylin Raisch

The Technical Services SIS Ad Hoc Committee on Annual Meeting Programming, co-authored by Regina Wallen and and Jolande Goldberg (the latter in a dual capacity on behalf of the FCIL-SIS, with some input from Marylin Raisch) drafted a memorandum sent to Cindy May, the TS-SIS Chair. This Memorandum was sent to the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee requesting that its recommendations be considered in planning for the Saint Louis Annual Meeting. The Memorandum hopes that a better programming approach will improve our annual meetings, the intellectual quality of the overall accepted programs, and the acceptance rate of programs.

So far, the response is positive, with more remaining to be done. Ann Fessenden (AALL Executive Board committee on annual meeting strategies) responded on behalf of the Board committee:

I am pleased to report that the Board passed the following motion, which was recommended by the St. Louis AMPC. This will take effect in St. Louis and allow small SIS educational opportunities to take place concurrently with ANY AMPC-selected programs:

"that the Executive Board approve the Program Committee's recommendation: allow scheduling of SIS educational opportunities, with the exception of SIS Business Meetings, against AMPC-selected Annual Meeting programs, with all scheduling based on room availability on a first come-first served basis, while respecting the AALL no conflict time, and with the Association providing no additional funds for those SIS educational opportunities."

Details of the implementation of this plan will be worked out between the SIS Council and AMPC. It was not possible to take other action at this meeting on the many complex issues involved in program selection. However, the Board is continuing to review them and look at alternate approaches. It is likely that our Board Subcommittee will be succeeded by a Task Force which will involve additional members and develop a new program selection model to propose to the Board.

Please find the complete text of the memorandum reprinted below:

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Cindy May TS-SIS Chair**  
**FROM: Jolande Goldberg & Regina Wallen, Co-Chairs Ad Hoc Committee**  
**SUBJECT: Quarterly report of work**  
**DATE: February 23, 2005**

This memorandum summarizes the recent findings of the *Technical Services Special Interest Section Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Annual Meeting Programming*. Discussions and exchanges between Committee members, who represent several AALL SISs and Committees, were monitored since November 1, 2004, the date the Committee began its operations authorized by the TS SIS Executive Board.

### **1. History Leading to the Ad Hoc Committee**

The issues concerned and explored are (1) the dearth of programming for TS librarians during the AALL annual meeting, (2) the "no-conflict" rule imposed by AALL for annual meeting scheduling, and (3) the acceptance of programs proposed by TS SIS. The latter two points pertain to issues common to various other SISs as well.

In response to the August 27, 2004 memorandum that TS SIS Chair Cindy May sent to the AALL Executive Board, President Tory Trotta, and AMPC, concerning the San Antonio annual meeting, an open meeting block from 7:45 to 11:30 AM on Monday morning was granted in September as a first and preliminary step; SISs could use it for meetings or programs they deemed educationally important although rejected by AMPC and not considered AALL sponsored programs. Costs and promotion were to be carried by the SISs despite attempts to get publicity through the official AALL program itself.

Thus, for the Annual Meeting 2005, TS-SIS has scheduled 4 "unaccepted" programs in open-scheduling time as a response to the low rate of acceptance of advanced and specialized programs for the annual meeting. Other requests in the memo were too late to be considered for the San Antonio meeting.

Working on the San Antonio programming "grid," the TS SIS Chair established that so far no additional time for programs or meetings has been gained:

#### **OPEN SCHEDULING TIMES**

Boston:

Sun. 12-1:15 and 4:15-6:30 = 3.5 hrs.

Mon. 7-8:45, 10:15-11:30, 5:15-6:15 = 4 hrs.

Tues. 7-8:45, 11:45-1, 5:15-6:15 = 4 hrs.

Wed. 7-8:45, 12-1:30 = 3.25 hrs.

TOTAL = 14.75 hrs.

## **Memorandum (cont'd)**

San Antonio:

Sun. 11:45-1:15, 5:30-6:30 = 2.5 hrs.

Mon. 7-11:30 (with one 15 min. break), 5:15-6:15 = 5.25 hrs.

Tues. 7-8:45, 11:45-1, 5:15-6:15 = 4 hrs.

Wed. 7-8:45, 12-1:15 = 3 hrs.

TOTAL = 14.75 hrs.

However, the concession in itself is significant since it constitutes the precedent for open scheduling, i.e. is a partial relaxing of the no-conflict rule - although Tory Trotta cautioned that she sees no support on this year's board for a change of the no-conflict policy, and that probably there never will be support for conflicts with the Business Meeting.

### **2. The Original Committee Charge** (posted on the TS SIS Web site)

The Ad Hoc Committee was charged to explore and contribute to *lasting changes* to programming procedures to which of course all "contracting" parties had to agree. Thus, the individual members of the inclusive (and large) Committee were given particular tasks. It was also observed that in order to achieve an Association-level programmatic change, the foundation has to be laid at every level of communication that is submitted, be it to the AALL Exec. Board or President/s, SIS Council Chair/s or Headquarter/s, or the next few AMPC/s. Only if the mechanism for meeting SIS needs is programmatically set in place, will SISs who struggle with conflicting meeting and program hours be spared from dealing with these issues year after year. This was an extremely important point in the discussion, because it was later discovered that this issue had been considered already, but was never implemented.

It also was decided that, considering the make-up of the Ad Hoc Committee, the SIS Council was the appropriate conduit to the AALL Executive Board for the coming negotiations; in a letter to Don Arndt, SIS Council Chair, a short wish list for Saint Louis was laid out:

1. To approve SIS program proposals in the order of preference in which they are submitted, provided the proposals are complete and don't entail large travel and/or speaking expenses. Lower-ranked proposals that can be combined with proposals from other sources could be an exception to this practice.
2. To allow for the Saint Louis meeting open scheduling all day Sunday and Monday morning. To avoid the risk of scheduling meetings at the same time as relevant programs, perhaps AALL-approved programs could be added to the matrix before scheduling forms are sent out to the SIS chairs.

### **Memorandum (cont'd)**

3. For the Saint Louis meeting, avoid 7am open scheduling, particularly on Saturday and Sunday.

### **3. Programming and Scheduling as an AALL Issue**

During the background investigation by committee members, the *Annual Meeting Educational Programming Committee Revised Final Report* (Sept. 2002) was obtained together with *Guidelines for Annual Meeting Program Planning* (prepared for the AMPC by the AALL Professional Development Committee, as revised July 2003). The pertinent revision to the guidelines appears to be that "...the AMPC should consistently provide members with a balance of formal educational programming and alternative educational and meeting opportunities during the course of an Annual Meeting. Recognizing the importance of member participation in SIS meetings, Roundtables, AALL Committees and Caucuses, the AMPC will accommodate additional time blocks to ensure more flexibility for group meetings during the day, not just at 7:00 a.m., the midday/luncheon time slot, and 5:15 p.m."

Obtained at the same time were the *Executive Board Meeting Minutes* of November 2, 2002 (approved April 5, 2003); further the ones of April 4-5, 2003 (approved July 10, 2003) and of July 10, 2003 (approved November 8, 2003). From these it could be concluded that the AALL Board had approved a recommendation that addressed SIS concerns.

Quoting from the text of the minutes of the AALL Executive Board Meeting of November 2, 2002:

"... the Executive Board approved directing all future AMPC - beginning with the 2004 Annual Meeting - to provide membership entities with more flexibility for holding small meetings during educational programs, and to accommodate the needs of membership entities as much as possible, while respecting the AALL no-conflict hours, and to develop and communicate new scheduling guidelines for all entities well in advance of the 2004 Boston Annual Meeting" and that (per Carol Avery Nicholson), "AALL no-conflict hours (such as the Association Luncheon, Exhibit Hall Breaks, plenary sessions and Association business meetings)" in the Board's action did NOT apply to educational programs.

### **Memorandum (cont'd)**

However, for some reason, the decisions were not implemented and did not result in more open time for the 2004 Boston meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded that "... there was either not sufficient oversight by the Executive Board that this decision was properly executed or implemented by AMPC, or that subsequent Boards never knew about the decision, or that AMPC itself never knew about the decision." It was also concluded "... that the 2004 AMPC considered that it had fulfilled this guideline by allowing open scheduling on Sunday beginning at 4:30 and on Monday 10:15-11:30," and further, "that the 2005 AMPC considers that it has fulfilled this guideline by allowing open scheduling all Monday morning, even though the total amount of open scheduling has not been increased at all."

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee observed in general that these revised guidelines, the ultimate result of the Sept. 2002 final report of the Annual Meeting Educational Programming Committee, did not result in an improvement of scheduling at all and did not ensure more time, or more convenient time slots, for SIS professional activities.

In the meantime, one of the Executive Board subcommittees appointed by the Trotta administration is on annual meeting strategies. The Chair of this group, Ann Fessenden, was contacted by TS SIS Chair Cindy May, who also forwarded all the pertinent documents. Ann Fessenden cautioned that there was not much time before the April 2005 Executive Board meeting, but that she will keep the lines of communication open for suggestions and information since their work focuses on "... making the annual meeting respond to all members' needs as effectively as possible."

#### **4. Recasting the Ad Hoc Committee Charge in the Current Climate**

Within the framework of AALL's new strategic plan, President Victoria Trotta published an editorial entitled "Sacred Cows" in the February 2005 issue of *Spectrum*, AALL's official organ, in which she challenges the membership to evaluate, or to respond to, six specific questions:

1. What is the best possible conference configuration that will most economically meet member needs while maximizing member attendance?
2. Who should be responsible for selecting Annual Meeting educational programs, and what policies should guide their choices?
3. Where should program proposals originate? Should programs be apportioned among an increasing number of competing SISs and entities? If so, how?
4. How do we ensure that programming reflects the spectrum of continuing educational needs of our members, from novice to experienced, and how do we ensure better overall program quality?

### **Memorandum (cont'd)**

5. How do we balance the educational needs reflected in our professional commonalities with the educational needs reflected in our increased specialization?
6. How can we infuse the Annual Meeting with new ideas and formats and do so in a way that will evolve without disruption to this most critical AALL member program that serves so many purposes?

At the same time, she clarified what appeared to be a number of "misconceptions":

- \* AMPC is not required to award any guaranteed number of programs for any particular entity.
- \* AMPC is not required to award programs based on their ranking by any particular entity.
- \* The structure of AMPC is not geared towards advocacy for specific constituencies (which might, at first glance, be represented by individual AMPC members).

In this light, it seems advisable that the ad hoc committee revisit and adjust its charge. The revised charge will focus on the six points raised by President Victoria Trotta. Cindy May is finalizing the charge and it will be distributed to the committee shortly. The Ad Hoc Committee will then begin its work of addressing and preparing its response to the issues raised. The committee plans to have a draft ready to be presented to Ann Fessenden and the Executive Board subcommittee by the April deadline.

**ASIL Report:**  
**Encountering Greatness in International Law**  
**Submitted by Lyonette Louis Jacques**



Photo Courtesy U.S. State Department

I had several encounters with greatness at the ASIL 2005 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. First, I'm a big fan of Professor Louis Henkin and I was \*this\* close to introducing myself to him in the Exhibit Hall, but was just too shy. And I nearly got myself in big trouble by inadvertently almost following Condoleezza Rice and her security group (I thought they were just AALL attendees like me!) into the Ballroom entrance. And I walked right in front of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her security crew when I was rushing to get the elevator while she was leaving the Ballroom. Talk about close encounters!

Anyway, as to the content of the program - ASIL's 2005 Annual Meeting took place March 30-April 2, 2005, at the Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. The theme for this 99th meeting was: "New World Order or a World in Disorder? Testing the Limits of International Law":

<http://www.asil.org/events/annualmeeting2005.html>

<http://www.asil.org/events/AMSchedule.html>

## **Encountering Greatness (cont'd)**

Over 1100 people from 44 different countries attended the meeting. The attendees comprised practitioners, academics, government officials, librarians, students, and international law publishers and vendors. Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia started the meeting off on the right note by delivering the Grotius Lecture on Wednesday afternoon on the use of international law in national constitutional courts. I have long been impressed by him, so it was great to see him in person. I expected fireworks, but got a generally pleasant lecture. Some of Justice Kirby's papers are collected at the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales' website:

<http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/resources/kirby/>

I also expected fireworks at the panel on whether international law was useful to the United States. The panel promised to be a clash of opposing viewpoints. It was originally intended to pit Under Secretary of State, John R. Bolton, against Dean Harold H. Koh of Yale Law School. Professor Jack L. Goldsmith III of Harvard Law School stepped in to fill the breach in Bolton's stead. It was entertaining and educational, but there were no brawls. Darn!

There were many interesting panels and it was hard to attend them all, but, of the ones I attended, I found the most useful to be the Foreign Legal Advisers Roundtable, the WTO Appellate Body Roundtable, the "International Coalitions of the Willing", and the "Legal Ethics and the War on Terror: The Role of the Government Lawyer" panels. They were compelling mainly because they involved rare insights into practical workings of national and international agencies, informal intergovernmental organizations (we got the inside scoop on how the Financial Action Task Force and the Global AIDS Fund worked, for instance), and the difficult decisions government lawyers face during times of crisis. An information nugget from Hans Corell who was Legal Counsel of the United Nations from 1994-2004 during the Q&A session of the Foreign Legal Advisers Roundtable:

"The Role of the Legal Adviser: List of Literature"

<http://www.un.org/law/counsel/litlist.htm>

<http://www.un.org/law/counsel/info.htm>

On Friday, we continued the tradition of librarian attendees going out to lunch. This time, Marilyn Raisch invited to an informal lunch at and tour of the new John Wolff International & Comparative Law Library at Georgetown. I think some 25 or so of us made it there. Thanks to Kathie Price et al., I managed not to get lost (we took a cab...).

## **Encountering Greatness (cont'd)**

The Library looked great with new cherry furniture, wonderful almost complete-looking collection of international law books, great study facilities and computers for students, etc. And we could check e-mail for free! Lunch was also great. Thanks to Bob Oakley, Marylin and the rest of the Georgetown staff for hosting the luncheon. It was wonderful to have a change to meet everyone and exchange info. That's when I first found out that the Stanford GATT Digital Archive had gone live! But I digress.

Back to the ASIL meeting program...

A big surprise on Friday afternoon at the meeting was that Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice was coming to introduce Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who was delivering the keynote address (that's how I ended up almost running into both them). Both of them look just like their pictures in person. Uncanny...:-) The atmosphere was electric with the buzz that Condoleezza Rice was coming. Because of the increased security (complete with sniffing dog), we waited in a long line to get into the Ballroom where there Keynote Address was to take place, only to find out when we got near the top of the line, that only ASIL Patrons could actually be in the Ballroom. We lesser folk had to go upstairs to partake of the Keynote event via TV screen. (The "virtual" peanut gallery!)

It was quite an event. The fireworks were definitely there when Secretary Rice introduced Justice Ginsburg. That was special. Some of the specialness left (there was a sense of letdown) when Condoleezza Rice ceded the podium to Justice Ginsburg, but it was good to hear Justice Ginsburg speak on what we could learn from other democratic legal systems in constitutional decision-making.

Overall, the ASIL annual meeting was all about brushes with greatness. Some of the panels and experiences hit home and were truly great. Some were not so great - I had a sense that I did not learn anything new on some of the panels I attended. I had heard that talk before. The panels overall tested some of the limits of international law, but I expected more. Nonetheless, I am looking forward to next year's ASIL meeting. I expect to learn a lot and meet wonderful people as usual. I also fully expect all the panels to be very compelling.

The 100th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) will take place in Washington DC - March 29-April 1, 2006. The theme will be: "A Just World Under Law: The ASIL 2006 Centennial." See y'all there!

<http://www.asil.org/Centennial/index.html>

### **Encountering Greatness (cont'd)**

Transcripts of some of the ASIL 2005 events (and some great photos) are below:

<http://www.asil.org/events/AM05recap.html>

<http://www.asil.org/events/AM05/05photoalbum.html>

Justice Michael Kirby's Grotius Lecture (March 30, 2005)  
"International Law - The Impact on National Constitutions"

<http://www.asil.org/pdfs/kirbygrotius050401.pdf>

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Keynote Address (April 1, 2005)  
"A Decent Respect to the Opinions of [Human]kind": The Value of a Comparative Perspective in Constitutional Adjudication

<http://www.asil.org/events/AM05/ginsburg050401.html>

Remarks by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (April 1, 2005)

<http://www.asil.org/events/AM05/rice050401.html>

Address by ASIL President James H. Carter (April 1, 2005)

"An American Society FOR International Law"

<http://www.asil.org/events/AM05/baker050401.html>

Justice Michael Kirby's Grotius Lecture

"International Law - The Impact on National Constitutions"

<http://www.asil.org/pdfs/kirbygrotius050401.pdf>