IALL Program in Istanbul

Teresa Miguel

Librarians from around the world gathered October 11 – 15, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey for the 28th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship offered by the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL). This year’s conference garnered the highest attendance of any IALL conference to date.

New University

The conference was hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University, founded in 1996 as a private, non-profit institution. The founders of Istanbul Bilgi University intentionally selected its location in one of Istanbul’s low-income neighborhoods in a concerted effort to attract less-advantaged Turks to higher education by making the university accessible geographically in a city that spans over 700 square miles and is home to over 13 million people. Istanbul Bilgi University quickly grew into one of Turkey’s finest universities where a considerable amount of teaching takes place in English and the Faculty of Law has specialized programs in globalization and European integration.

The conference venue was santralistanbul, a project led by Istanbul Bilgi University, involving the conversion of the Silahtarağa Power Plant, the first power station built in Istanbul during the Ottoman period and used as such from 1914 to 1983, into two museums: contemporary arts and energy.

EU Subtopic

The conference sessions were extraordinarily interesting and thought-provoking. The principal themes of the conference were the Turkish legal system, digital developments, and Turkey and the European Union. This last topic arose in almost every session and centered on the continual effort of the Turkish government to join the European Union.

On October 14, 2009, in the midst of the conference, the European Commission issued its annual Enlargement Strategy and Progress Reports for EU candidate countries such as Turkey. In its report on Turkey, the Commission noted progress in the judiciary, civil-military relations, cultural rights, and free and fair elections, but with further improvement needed in the

Continued on page 3

Ballos near Gorême, Turkey in the Cappadocia region.
Photo by Teresa Miguel

Outside this issue:

From the Chair
Russia Ratifies Protocol 14
GlobalLex Anniversary
Roman Law Interest Group
Publication Committee Report
Visit to China
Boots Law Library

Next Issue
May 2010
From the Chair

Marylin Raisch

Past FCIL Chairs have always referred to this time of year and this FCIL Newsletter issue as about the mid-year point in the FCIL cycle of activities. The May newsletter will top off the year with the list of panels and programs. So watch for the easy-to-use list in the next issue! We are excited to have two substantive SIS programs ready to go for the Denver meeting: Indigenous Peoples Interest Group and the Native Peoples Law Caucus present The Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Tuesday, July 13th, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.) and Roman Interest Law Group presents F.H. Blume’s Annotated Justinian Code: A Western Classic (Monday, July 12th, 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.). The initiative and energy of the FCIL SIS is emerging more strongly than ever and in sync with the integration of teaching research, collecting resources, and organizing the grand outline of international and transnational law.

The integration of international with local resources has itself enhanced the global perspective in legal education and in the teaching of legal research; the Strategic Directions document of AALL will, we hope, appear in its final draft with some of our suggested changes to the text (as circulated via the FCIL listserv) in an effort to put the internationalization of legal research where it belongs: at the center of our new skills training for law students and lawyers. The Law Student Information Literacy Standards, also under discussion, may need to reflect as well a realistic engagement with transnational law, and at a minimum, include treaty research.

Our “globalization” has been on the human side, and as the application deadline passes in March for our 2010 search for the new recipient of the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians, we ask that you focus on our FCIL Schaffer Grant Fundraising Campaign that is starting up again. However, you can donate at any time! Just go to http://www.aallnet.org/givingopportunities/grants.asp and select the FCIL Schaffer Grant at https://secure.aallnet.org/giving_online.asp. We are continuing to build a sustainable grant, and you will receive details about it soon.

Russian Federation Ratifies Protocol 14 to the ECHR

James Hart

On the 18th of last month, the Russian Federation deposited its ratification of Protocol 14 to the ECHR (European Convention on Human Rights). Protocol 14 had been opened for signature on May 13, 2004, but had not entered into force because all parties had to ratify it and Russia had not done so.

The original purpose of the Protocol was to equip the Court to deal with the landslide of cases that threatened to crush it. The Court’s 2003 Annual Report says that 27,281 were allocated to a decision body, 16,724 applications were declared inadmissible, and 548 judgments on the merits were rendered that year. With 47 judges on the Court, that makes over 100 decisions per judge. Since admissibility decisions were made by 3 judge committees at that time, one can see that the case load was enormous. But it continued to deteriorate. By 2008 the Court had started counting pending cases of which there were 97,300.

Three Changes

It will make three changes in particular that are intended to help stem the tide. The first is the addition of a new criterion for admissibility. The Court may find an application inadmissible if “the applicant has not suffered a significant disadvantage” (Art. 35 (3) (b)). This criterion would appear to give the Court a lot of wiggle room in considering what disadvantages are significant or insignificant. The Court is restrained from abusing this criterion by the requirement that it examine cases that affect the application or interpretation of the Convention or national law even though their facts may seem trivial. The second change is the adoption of a single judge formation to make initial admissibility decisions. (Art 27) This is intended to release the manpower that is currently tied up by having committees of 3 judges examine applications for admissibility. It should be a matter of simple math to project whether or not this will be enough manpower to do the job. The third is that committees of three judges may now make decisions on the merits “if the underlying question in the case is already the subject of well-established case-law of the Court” (Art. 28 (1) (b)). This essentially leaves committees to apply the existing jurisprudence of the

continued on back page
Report from IALL continued from page 1

Areas of democracy and the rule of law, judicial independence, civilian oversight of security forces, human rights and the protection of minorities including the need to create the office of an Ombudsman, and more. This report caused mixed reactions from our Turkish colleagues and became the topic of conversation in the day’s lectures and evening conversation.

Several of our Turkish colleagues explained that the conservative Islamic ruling party is pushing hard for Turkey’s acceptance to the European Union, whereas many intellectuals and citizens are content remaining outside the EU. The ruling party is gradually becoming more conservative and reverting to an integration of Islam into government rather than maintaining the pure and strict separation of church and state advocated and established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881 – 1938), the founder of the Republic of Turkey (29 October 1923) and its first president (1923 – 1938). In Turkish society the military provides the secular balance to the traditional Islamic ruling party.

Several Turkish female friends with whom I spoke and spent time with outside the conference, informed me that more Turkish women today are wearing the Islamic headscarf in daily life than 10 years ago, for political, not religious, reasons; i.e. so that they, their husbands, and their brothers can find good jobs in government and the private sector. My friends, who are devout Muslims and wear a headscarf when they enter a Mosque but not otherwise, expressed frustration that the advancements women have made over the last century in Turkey are being suppressed and cast aside even by women.

Other conference sessions included a fascinating history of Turkey by a famous writer and historian; the sources of Turkish law, the legal system, and legal education; e-government; international art law (with Kathy Price and Carol Roehrenbeck); Turkish legal publishing and databases; law librarianship in Turkey; and intellectual property.

One afternoon we had the privilege of visiting one of three educational institutions: the expansive Suleymaniye Manuscript Library, which contains the world’s largest collection of Islamic manuscripts; the Research Institute of Islamic History, Art, and Culture (IRCICA), a world-renowned multilingual and multicultural research library and archives founded in 1980, host to over 10,000 researchers per year, and housed in the Yıldız Palace complex built by Sultan Abdullahamid II, the last Sultan before the creation of the Turkish Republic; and the extensive Ottoman Archives, with over 150 million documents from 600 years of the Ottoman Empire.

Excursions

Of course the conference was not all work and no play. The conference organizers planned wonderful social events that gave us the opportunity to meet and mingle with our colleagues from all over the world, and to begin to explore Turkish history and culture.

One afternoon we were afforded a city tour including a visit to the osten Continued on page 9
GlobaLex was launched in February 2005. To date, GlobaLex has published 195 original articles and 95 updates, a total of 290 articles. The peak of retrieved records in Google when searching for GlobaLex was achieved in September 2009: 1,600,000 records! The retrieval rate in Google for GlobaLex oscillates between 1,600,000 and 275,000 records.

Highlights of GlobaLex
◊ GlobaLex authors come from more than two hundred countries. They are highly regarded professionals in their respective field of expertise.
◊ GlobaLex has become the number one portal in the world dedicated to foreign, comparative, and international law research. Every new issue of GlobaLex is discussed, praised, acclaimed, posted on legal blogs, and linked to relevant class handouts and school of law home pages and blackboards.
◊ GlobaLex is indexed in exceptionally important legal portals such as Cujas (France), RASK (Sweden), Juraportal (Denmark), Intute (UK), AUSTLII (Australia) etc.
◊ Legal listservs in Europe, Latin America, and North America comment on GlobaLex articles.
◊ World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII) created the GlobaLex database on WorldLII. The source in WorldLII for each GlobaLex article is acknowledged (with our URL). Globalex article is acknowledged (with our URL).
◊ Mimi Vollstedt, Guides for the World, Spectrum, June 2007 at 16.

The African Project on GlobaLex
Given the scarcity of African legal resources, I started the African project three years ago. I contacted law professors, lawyers, and information specialists from more than 30 African countries. GlobaLex contains at this time articles on 40 African jurisdictions. In the coming years, all remaining African jurisdictions will have a presence on GlobaLex. There are 53 African countries, including the 47 nations of the mainland and the 6 surrounding island nations.

The Gulf Countries Project on GlobaLex
Delicate issues related to the Islamic Legal System, especially Sharia, the Arabic language and the Iraq war, made many scholars from the Gulf countries reluctant to write about their jurisdictions. However, I was able eventually to publish research articles about jurisdictions such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Next year, GlobaLex will publish articles on Oman, Syria, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.

Updating and Connecting
Unlike anything else seen in the publishing environment, GlobaLex articles are updated on a regular basis. This is the difference between an article published in a regular journal and articles published on GlobaLex. Furthermore, due to their expertise and willingness to share their contact information (i.e. email), contributors of GlobaLex have created a network of legal professionals unique in the global legal world.

I hope that the interest and momentum generated during the past five years will continue to build and be sustained from within the profession. As many of you know, GlobaLex is sponsored by the NYU Hauser Global Law School Program. GlobaLex is grateful to the many legal specialists from all over the world who contribute to it. I look forward to receiving many submissions in the years ahead and thank FCIL librarians for their continuing support.

Articles about GlobaLex
◊ Mimi Vollstedt, Guides for the
New Interest Group on Roman Law

Lucia Diamond

At the July 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., the inaugural meeting of the Roman Law Interest Group was treated to an entertaining remembrance of his first library job by Jules Winterton, President of IALL, and I would like to thank him for responding to the last minute invitation to open our meeting with some remarks. Among other duties involving large, heavy volumes of catalogs, bits of colored paper, India ink, and gum arabic, he learned about a highly technical, esoteric form of information retrieval, the careful unwrapping of papyri from mumified crocodiles. Many such papyri fragments can be viewed at http://tebtunis.berkeley.edu. Search the database for Provenance “Crocodile cartonnage at Tebtunis.” (This choice will appear in the Provenance drop-down box.) Here you can see parts of loan documents from Roman Egypt and much more.

Roman Law Scholars

Lesley Dingle, Foreign & International Law Librarian at the Squire Law Library, Cambridge University, shared her ongoing experiences interviewing some of the leading scholars of the FCIL world and of Roman law in particular. The Eminent Scholars Archive contains biographical timelines, summaries of the highlights of her oral histories, bibliographies, audio recordings of the conversations with pdf transcripts, and photographs. This site gives marvelous insight into the real people behind some distinguished author names in our catalogs, including J.A. Jolowicz, Peter Stein, and Kurt Lipstein.

New Initiatives

Others present also shared Roman-law-related programming in which they were involved, and there was much discussion regarding future possible programs for AALL. Suggestions were made for future activities of this group, including creating a recommended list of Roman law materials, a study of Roman law in American law schools, or a survey of Roman law collections (still adding to collections?). More on this and on collaborative ways to work will be developed in the coming year. What with all the discussion of creative activities we are doing Continued on page 7

FCIL Publications Committee Report from 2009 AALL Meeting

Linda Tashbook

Editor’s note: we were unable to print this report in our usual October AALL report issue due to space.

The publications committee is responsible for producing and coordinating communications among FCIL publications — the web site (with the blog, the teaching materials, and other web-based projects as subsets), the newsletter, and the brochure. Our webmasters, Teresa Miguel and Ann Chase, will have additional help this year from Boston University’s Karina Condra. Their anticipated projects include removing unused old Web files and fixing the urls so that they don’t all end with the phrase “newsite”.

Meg Butler spent a great deal of time and effort collecting new teaching materials this past year and we hope to get those online soon. The blog will no longer have the limited scope of foreign selections, though it will soon include a compilation of information about foreign law collections in US libraries. Our newsletter, composed and compiled by Mabel Shaw and copy edited by Carmen Valero, has been re-formatted and is much appreciated. We encourage FCIL members to write short articles summarizing their ideas, activities, and interesting collection development and reference experiences including result summaries from discussion forum posts that generate significant discussion. The brochure is due to be republished, and we welcome ideas for revising the content. The current content tells about our newsletter, blog, programs, teaching materials, web site and discussion forum, and it includes a short list of sources for responding to common FCIL reference questions. The new version might serve as a resource guide to great international law libraries or otherwise encourage and support FCIL research.
Visit to Peking University

Jean Davis

My husband Ken and I spent a memorable December in China. Ken taught a law course in the Beijing International M.B.A. program at Peking University. We greatly enjoyed meeting Chinese and foreign scholars (from astrophysicists to history professors) who were staying in Peking University's new Zhongguanyuan Global Village. Shortly before our arrival, Beijing completed Line 4 of its subway system. Line 4 stops in front of the East Gate of Peking University. Thus it was convenient and inexpensive to explore China's capital. On Beijing's pristine subway, there are both Chinese and English announcements of upcoming stations. Prior to the Beijing Olympic Games, China devoted significant resources to restoring and maintaining cultural sites. The stunning gardens, temples and breezeways of the Summer Palace are a stellar example of this renovation program.

Peking University Law Library

Law Library Director Zhihong Chen and her senior staff gave Ken and me a fascinating tour of the Law Library of Peking University Law School. We reviewed the library’s diverse collection of international and foreign law periodicals, and noted the availability of HeinOnline’s legal databases. Director Chen graciously permitted us to examine legal texts that were hundreds of years old. These were part of the library’s rare books collection. They were beautifully preserved texts in old-style Chinese calligraphy. My law student friend and guide, Jenny, explained that one of the texts described Chinese criminal investigation procedures. Following our tour, Director Chen and her entire staff treated Ken and me to a sumptuous feast of Chinese delicacies in Peking University’s faculty dining hall.

At Director Chen’s request, I gave a presentation in a historic scholar’s house on the campus of Peking University. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet librarians from many institutions, such as Peking, Renmin and Tsinghua Universities, the National Library of China, and the National Judges College. I discussed trends in U.S. academic law librarianship, and highlighted services that BLS librarians provide to faculty. I also described FCIL’s Schaffer Grant for Foreign Librarians and NELLCO’s International Fellows Program. At the convivial luncheon following my presentation, Associate Professor Liying Yu invited me to visit Tsinghua University Law School. Professor Yu informed me that librarians in the Beijing Law Society had recently formed a new branch: the Law Libraries and Legal Information Research Society. The Law Libraries and Legal Information Research Society plans to publish a bilingual newsletter.

I hope that Director Chen will be able to visit Brooklyn Law School Library in the summer of 2011. She would like to observe U.S. law libraries that effectively employ law students. When Peking University’s new law school building and law library open, Director Chen plans to expand the role of her student workers. She also would like to learn more about U.S. faculty/librarian liaison programs and sources of library grants.

Student Visit

Peking University law student Helen Lee was my honored first visitor from Beijing. When I was in China, Helen was investigating legal internship opportunities. She had completed her law school course work and was finalizing a paper about taxation of intercompany income. I had highlighted to Helen some articles and blogs about international transfer pricing. Shortly after I left, Peking University arranged for Helen to interview for an internship with a Tennessee engineering firm. This firm is developing business ties in Beijing, and hopes, in future, to hire a Chinese legal “agent.” Helen noted that her U.S. interviewer asked her a question about international transfer pricing—fortunately, the author of one of the blogs that I recommended had addressed this issue! So, I had a small part in helping Helen to showcase her skills. Helen impressed the representatives of the TN firm, and by February she had begun a two-month internship in the firm’s Knoxville office. The firm offered her a week’s leave to celebrate the Chinese New Year with some of her friends in other U.S. states. Helen and I enjoyed saucisse de canard at Le Monde bistro as snow blanketed the West Side.
Visit to China continued

Special thanks to FCIL colleague Pat Court (Associate Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law, Cornell University Law Library) for sharing insights and photographs from her 2009 presentations in China. Pat’s helpful comments enriched my experience in Beijing.

New Chinese Sources
Below are some new sources that my Chinese colleagues brought to my attention.


Chinese Legal Knowledge Integrated Database (in Chinese). During my visit, Tsinghua University Law Library was promoting to its patrons the availability of this new database. It includes: laws (1949-); regulations; cases and case analysis (1979-); and secondary sources such as legal journal articles, dissertations, conference proceedings and news (1979-). Promotional material listed the following e-mail contact: beijing@cnki.net (which I believe is: Overseas Distribution Center, Tsinghua Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing).

Since East View Information Services (e-mail: china@eastview.com) is the North American contact for CNKI databases, East View might be able to provide further information about the Chinese Legal Knowledge Integrated Database.

Roman law continued from page 5

and want to do and scrounging for additional chairs from neighboring meeting rooms, we were left with very little time for discussion of our assigned reading: Jill Harries’ Law and Crime in the Roman World (Cambridge University Press, 2007). If you have any interest in crime and justice in the context of a society, I still commend the book to you.

Great Turnout
The turnout for this meeting was outstanding and I hope you will all be able to come again in Denver and recommend our meeting to your friends. Our next meeting will focus on Roman law in the U.S. and Justinian translated to English in particular. In preparation for this meeting, I recommend Roman law, an historical introduction, by Hans Julius Wolff (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press [1951]), particularly Chapter VI: Codification and Chapter VII: Roman Law in Medieval and Modern Times. Even though “Modern Times” for this book is some sixty years ago, the text is still a useful historical review of the growth and lasting influence of Roman law.
A Visit to Boots Library in England

Edward Hart

While visiting with my sister-in-law’s family who live in the English Midlands market town Ashby de la Zouch (yes Adrian Mole fans it’s a real place), I took advantage of the opportunity to visit Angela Donaldson, the law librarian at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). Angela and I had met at past IALL and BIALL meetings, and I wanted to catch up with her and see her law collection in the university’s Boots Library. For those who know and have traveled in England, the library’s name — Boots — reflects the chemist’s chain store connection to the area since its headquarters are in Nottingham.

NTU Program

NTU is a ‘New University’ in England’s higher education scheme and allowed university status in 1992 when it converted from a polytechnic. Like many of the new universities in England, NTU it is not really new. In fact the school traces its heritage back to 1843 to the Nottingham Government School of Design.

Angela is the liaison to, and maintains the legal collection for, the Nottingham Law School, which is a full service law school. Besides the traditional undergraduate Qualifying Law Degrees, the school also offers the professional preparation Legal Practice Course for those wanting to be solicitors and the Bar Vocational Course for those wanting to be barristers. For postgraduates, there are Graduate Diplomas which are conversion courses for non-law students, Masters in Law, and the research degrees MPhil and PhDs. Faculty, as well, have their own research agendas. A wider community than a typical American academic library serves.

Law Library

The law collection for NTU is housed in the university’s library, but by luck of layout is a distinct collection. The Boots Library is relatively new construction in the city centre of Nottingham and has a triangular shape with an open atrium. The law collection is located on an upper floor located neatly within the angles of the building. This gives it the feeling of a separate collection with nearby seating and computer terminals. Like many academic law libraries, the NTU law collection is one in flux with print materials being supplement by electronic resources. For now the collection still includes primary British materials and secondary sources that support research. English legal scholars and practitioners use the English cousins of Westlaw and Lexis, WestlawUK and LexisLibrary, which dominate the legal information market. Interestingly enough, the contract for these subscriptions is a national one for all law schools, rather than with each individual law school or library.

If ever traveling abroad, I highly recommend visiting a law library, or a larger library that contains a law collection, and meeting the librarian in charge of the law collection. It’s this networking that builds relationships which, down the road, bear fruit both personally and professionally.

U.S. Research Assistance

When arranging the visit with Angela, I offered research assistance for any of her faculty wanting help with United States legal materials. Two lecturers took us up on the offer. To help them, we all signed onto our corresponding Westlaw while sitting side by side. It took a few clicks for them to redirect WestlawUK to what is a familiar page to a U.S. librarian. One lecturer was interested in learning about laws governing business names of partnerships, for which we found helpful leads in the Uniform Law Partners Act in West’s Uniform Laws Annotated. The other lecturer was examining some constitutional issues, for which we found a couple of great law review articles that included plenty of case citations for further reading.

It was a fun experience to see what WestlawUK looked like and how it differs in initial appearance and function to our Westlaw. While the subject matter might be different, it was reassuring to learn faculty around the world have similar needs.

Network Opportunity

If ever traveling abroad, I highly recommend visiting a law library, or a larger library that contains a law collection, and meeting the librarian in charge of the law collection. It’s this networking that builds relationships which, down the road, bear fruit both personally and professionally.

For further details about Nottingham Trent University, Boots Library, its legal resources, and Angela Donaldson please take a look at http://www.ntu.ac.uk/lr/index.html.
Report from IALL continued from page 3

The conference's optional additional day was a long but lovely boat and bus excursion south across the Marmara Sea to beautiful Bursa, founded in 200 BC and transformed into the first Ottoman capital in 1326. Once in Bursa, we headed to the Bursa Bar Association (Bursa Borusa) for two impressive, impassioned, and inspiring lectures by Yahya Şimşek, former member of Parliament and Past-President of the Bursa Bar Association, and Ertuğrul Yağünbayır, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State, both introduced by the current President of the Bursa Bar Association, Zeki Kahraman.

Themes from the Bursa Bar
The Bursa Bar Association was founded in 1909 and is a member of the European and International Bar Associations. EU accession is important to the Association and they hope to achieve membership by 2013. It was fascinating to hear both speakers discuss the controversial European Commission report (mentioned above) and explain the Association's Development Plan 2007–2013 for legal reform.

From the beginning, the Bursa Bar Association has focused its efforts on human rights, environmental law, and the rule of law in Turkey. The Association serves as the de facto Ombudsman in Bursa and has filed over 100 lawsuits on behalf of Bursa citizens; they have won all but one case! The Association has represented military prisoners, set up extraordinary courts, and recently created a special committee that is working directly with the judiciary on judicial reform in accordance with the rule of law based on international standards which includes full and fair access to justice. As Mr. Yağünbayır exclaimed at the end of his speech in the form of a rally cry for the rights of all citizens, the Bursa Bar Association “will continue to fight forever!”

Great Sights & Food
After the lectures, we enjoyed a delicious lunch of legendary Iskender Kebabs, and a brief city tour which took us to Ulu Cami (mosque, 1396) and the infamous silk market (where I bought four silk scarves; I was not alone). We also visited Cumalıkkızık just north of Bursa in the Uludag mountains. Cumalıkkızık was the staging grounds for the Ottoman takeover of Bursa (6 April 1326) and today is still a rural Ottoman village preserving the traditional way of life, while simultaneously beginning to cater to tourism and providing the backdrop to several modern films, one of which we witnessed.

The final banquet was a cruise along the Bosphorus strait separating the single city of Istanbul onto two continents, Europe and Asia. From the deck, we were able to enjoy night vistas of Dolmabahçe Palace and other architectural masterpieces. Throughout the evening toasts of Serefe! (To honor!) could be heard from each table as we enjoyed our last night of this truly magical week.
The Back Page News

◊ **Bob Hu**, Director and Associate Professor of Law at the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas will co-direct the St. Mary’s University’s inaugural program, Institute on Chinese Law and Business, which will be held on July 4-31 in Beijing, China. The program will be hosted by Beihang University School of Law in central Beijing. Detailed info about the program can be found on the web at: [http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/index.php?site=instituteChineseLawBusiness](http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/index.php?site=instituteChineseLawBusiness).

◊ Support the [FCIL Schaffer Grant](http://www.aallnet.org/givingopportunities/grants.asp) for Foreign Law Librarians! Donating is easy; go to [http://www.aallnet.org/givingopportunities/grants.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/givingopportunities/grants.asp) and select the FCIL Schaffer Grant at [https://secure.aallnet.org/giving_online.asp](https://secure.aallnet.org/giving_online.asp).

◊ **AALL** is offering nonmembers a **complimentary one-year membership** when they register for the [AALL Annual Meeting and Conference](http://www.aallnet.org/annualmeeting), to be held July 10-13 in Denver.

◊ Are you interested in getting published? AALL is offering and webinar called **Taking the Write Road** on April 14th at 12:00noon. Speakers will discuss choosing topics, identifying your audience, and other useful tips. The cost is $45 for members. Registration deadline is April 7th. See the AALL [calendar of events](http://www.aallnet.org/calendar) for more info.

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**Protocol 14 continued from page 2**

court to new cases to which it is reasonably clear that it applies. This appears to be a kind of appellate jurisdiction. Only cases that do not appear to fall into the category of well-establish case-law of the Court will go to Chambers and Grand Chambers. It appears that to some degree the Grand Chambers are taking on some of the characteristics of a constitutional court.

**Will It Help?**

It is unclear at this point whether these changes are likely to bring significant or lasting improvement in the situation. Even if the Court admits fewer cases faster and decides more of them at a lower level, the success of these changes relies on the willingness of countries to comply with the Court’s judgments. Countries that refuse to adapt their legal systems to the Court’s judgments may now simply refuse to implement more judgments in the future. Let’s hope not.