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Newsletter

Foreign, Comparative and International Law
Special Interest Section



Vol. 2:3

May 1988

*Compliments
Yale Law Library*

FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW HIGHLIGHTS 1988 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday

- 12:00 p.m. SIS Committee Meetings (For description see page four; even if you haven't volunteered for a committee, please join us in the Education, Publication or Program Committee meetings.) Bonn Room
- 1:30 p.m. SIS Business Meeting (See agenda page three; please come and bring your best ideas!) Bonn Room

Monday

- 12:30 p.m. Opening Luncheon (It has become a tradition for SIS members to eat together; Registration deadline is June 6, 1988; use form in issue 2:2 or simply call Maria Smolka-Day at 215-898-7442.)
- 4:15 p.m. Program -- The International Law of Contract: The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. Janet S. Zagorin, Coordinator and Moderator.

Tuesday

- 1:30 p.m. Program -- Research in Soviet Law. Jeanette F. Yackle, Coordinator and Moderator.
- 4:00 p.m. Tour of Atlanta University's Library including its African and Afro-American collection, "which is one of the largest of its type in the world."

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

Wednesday

5:15 p.m. Latin American Law Librarians, an ad hoc group of law librarians interested in the law and legal systems of Latin America. Trinidad Room.

Thursday

8:00 a.m. Workshop on Latin American Law and Law-Related Reference Sources. (It is not too late to register; contact Dan Wade at 203-432-1615.)

FROM THE EDITOR

Dan Wade

I look forward to seeing many of you in Atlanta in a few short weeks. In a recent phone conversation, Bill Jepson, our AALL Executive Director, advised me that the Atlanta meeting will be even larger than that in Chicago last year.

It promises to be a busy week. I want to especially thank all those who will participate in the committee meetings on Sunday, June 26th at noon in the Bonn Room, and also those who will delay their sightseeing to join us for our business meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the same room. I am somewhat worried that because of the press of time everyone may not have a chance to air their views, and want to invite you to share your thoughts with me or another member of the Executive Committee either at the reception or at another opportune moment in the course of the week.

One matter very close to my heart that will be considered during the business meeting is the resolution to be introduced that will call for making available to the public the Hispanic Legislative Index of the Latin American Division of the Library of Congress Law Library. The resolution may be found on page 7 of this issue. I hope you will take time to review it, and if I may write personally, to support it.

In closing, I want to thank Ellen and Maria for their dedication to serving the SIS in their capacities as SIS Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, over the past year. I hope you will take a minute during the meeting to personally thank them. In addition, two Texans, Kurt Adamson who has edited our SIS column in the AALL Newsletter and Jonathan Pratter who has been in charge of the Clearinghouse for International Placements should be thanked, as well. Finally, I cannot forget to thank the many of you who have contributed to the newsletter or the SIS column in the AALL Newsletter over the year. It is by your efforts that our SIS continues to flourish.

FCIL SIS BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Ellen Schaffer, Chair

I. Review of this Year's Activities:

Treasurer's Report

Election Results

Clearinghouse on International Placement

AALL Newsletter SIS Column & SIS Newsletter Report

Programs at this Year's Meeting

Membership Report

II. Resolutions:

Resolution concerning better access to the Hispanic Legislation database at the Library of Congress (see page six.)

Resolution that was adopted at a program last summer suggesting that the FCIL SIS "Take the necessary steps to formalize specific recommendations to the American Association of Law Libraries to deal with the problem(s)" arising from a decreasing number of candidates qualified to fill vacancies for International and Foreign Law Librarians.

III. New Committees

IV. 1989 Programs

V. Other Business

FCIL SIS tables at the AALL Luncheon

FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SIS
COMMITTEES, 1988-1989

The Committees listed below have been instituted for the 1988-89 year. For the most part their meetings will be held in the Bonn Room at noon on Sunday, June 26, 1988, immediately prior to the SIS business meeting. If you would like to participate on one of the Committees, please do not hesitate to come and join in the discussion. Soft drinks will be provided, if you would like to bring a brown bag lunch.

Clearinghouse on International Placements:

Purpose: To create an information center for exchanges and visits with libraries in other countries.

Jonathan Pratter (Chair) Lauri Flynn
Kathy Faust

Education:

Purpose: To develop proposals for workshops, institutes and other educational opportunities.

Francisco Avalos (Chair) Margareta Horiba
Jacob Korevaar Amber Lee Smith
Blanka Kudej Tim Kearley

Financial:

Purpose: To assist executive committee with financial questions.

Maria Smolka-Day (Chair) Jeanette Yackle
Newly elected Secretary-Treasurer

Program:

Purpose: To develop programs for the 1989 Annual Meeting and initiate long range planning with respect to programs.

Margaret Axtmann (Chair) Ellen Schaffer
Janet Zagorin

Publications:

Purpose: To assist the editors of the SIS AALL Newsletter column and the SIS Newsletter.

Kurt Adamson (Chair) Lovisa Lyman
Dan Wade Mitchell John Fontenot

CLEARINGHOUSE ON INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

Jonathan Pratter

The application schedule for the 1989-1990 Fulbright awards has been announced. The main deadlines are: June 15, 1988 (for Australasia, India and Latin America, except Mexico, Venezuela and the Caribbean); September 15, 1988 (for Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and lecturing awards to Mexico, Venezuela and the Caribbean). There are deadlines in early 1989 for some other awards.

Application materials will be available in April 1988. For more information and applications, call or write the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C.. 20036-1257, tel. (202) 939-5403.

NEWS NOTES

Earl Weisbaum, University of Houston Law Library, writes to bring to our attention that Mexico has approved the Hague Evidence Convention. You may get further details at 412 D.O. 3 (No. 17, 26 de enero de 1988.)

* * *

Malo Bernal, Library of Congress, has found two attorneys who are interested in selling a set of the Danish legal serial, Ugeskrift for retsvaesen, 1900-1965:

Richard Chira
1606 32nd St. N.W.
Washington, D.C> 20007
(202) 333-5075

and

Kirby Lane North
Rye, New York 10580
(914) 967-2704/2714

* * *

Larry Meranus (Professional Publications and Services, 570 Seventh Avenue/Room 500/New York, New York 10018) writes to inform us he has been granted the authority to act as the United States representative and sales agent for Kluwer Publishing, Ltd., a separate and distinct law publishing division of KLUWER. This publisher has produced a number of books in the international law area including Ricketson, Sam, The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works:1886-1986, 1987 and Plender, Richard, International Migration Law, 2nd ed., 1988. For further information, you may contact Larry.

LATIN AMERICAN LAW LIBRARIANS

There will be an ad hoc meeting of the ad hoc group, Latin American Law Librarians at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29th, in the Trinidad Room. Agenda items include the structure of the organization, its defunct newsletter, a program proposal for the 1989 Annual Meeting, and how to proceed with the resolution relating to the on-line Hispanic Legislative Index found below.

WORKSHOP ON LATIN AMERICAN LAW...

One final bit of information for those attending the Workshop on Latin American Law and Law Related Reference Sources. Luncheon reservations have been made at the Arbors, a moderately priced restaurant in the hotel, featuring both a regular and a soup and salad buffet.

By the way, you may still register for the workshop. if you have not already done so, by contacting Dan Wade at (203) 432-1615.

LC'S ON-LINE HISPANIC LEGISLATIVE INDEX

The following resolution, drafted by SIS members with the assistance of a New York Baker and McKenzie attorney, Jose Fernandez, was passed by the International Section of the ABA this spring and will be introduced at the ABA's national meeting this fall. Members of the SIS will introduce it at the SIS business meeting and that of the AALL on Monday morning. Please review it, and if you would like to speak to it at one of these meetings, please do so.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

RECOMMENDATION

- WHEREAS, the Law Library of the Library of Congress receives the official gazettes of twenty Latin American nations, and
- WHEREAS, the Hispanic Law Division of the Library of Congress has, since 1950, continually pursued by means of indexing, the most significant national legislation, and
- WHEREAS, the Library of Congress had traditionally made this INDEX available to the public through the publication of the INDEX by G.K. Hall, and
- WHEREAS, in 1976 this material was converted to an automated mode for on-line access, and therefore the INDEX has ceased to be available to the public in its new or previous format, and
- WHEREAS, the Hispanic Law Division continues to index the material as before, and
- WHEREAS, no increased expense is necessary to continue the indexing project, and
- WHEREAS, there exists a community of attorneys, government officials, scholars and other researchers who require access to the INDEX, THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, that the American Association of Law Libraries urge The Library of Congress to authorize adequate funds for the modification of the present database to an on-line system accessible by the public.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section recommends that the American Association of Law Libraries call upon the Library of Congress to authorize sufficient funds for the modification of the present database of the Index to Latin American Legislation of the Hispanic Law Division of the Law Library, Library of Congress, to an automated system accessible by the public. Such access would be of substantial value to researchers of Latin American legislation, particularly because it would make possible such research to a wide range of researchers who would not have available to them the gazettes' indexes, and would allow comparative subject searches, e.g. foreign investment regulations of the various Latin American countries. This system would also bring up to date the index which is currently available in print through 1975.*

II. THE INDEX TO LATIN AMERICAN LEGISLATION

The Index to Latin American Legislation (INDEX) is an on-line database of English language abstracts of selected provisions of the more than twenty gazettes received by the Hispanic Law Division. In addition, the INDEX provides subject access to the gazettes of Portugal and her former colonies in Africa.**

The INDEX includes abstracts of the most significant national legislation, as well as citations to the publication date of that legislation in the corresponding official gazettes. In addition, the abstracts contain country and subject headings.

* Information on the INDEX to Latin American Legislation has been drawn from an informative description of the system prepared by the Hispanic Law Division "Law Library, Library of Congress, Hispanic Law Division, Index to Latin American Legislation" dated 5/7/86. Inquiries on further information on the system can be sent directly to Dr. Rubens Medina, Director, Hispanic Law Division, Law Library, Library of Congress, Room LM235, Washington, D.C. 20540, (202) 287-5070.

** The INDEX covers the following countries:

Angola	Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
Argentina	Ecuador	Panama
Bolivia	El Salvador	Paraguay
Brazil	Guatemala	Peru
Cape Verde	Guinea-Bissau	Portugal
Chile	Haiti	Sao Tome e
Colombia	Honduras	Principe
Costa Rica	Mexico	Uruguay
Cuba	Mozambique	Venezuela

The Index to Latin American Legislation began in 1950 as an important research aid to the staff and clientele of the Hispanic Law Division and was maintained on 3" x 5" cards until it was automated in 1976. The system has previously been made available to the public through the publications of G.K. Hall, Boston, Massachusetts. G.K. Hall originally photocopied the card index in 1961, publishing it as the Index to Latin American Legislation 1950 - 1960 with a print run of four hundred and fifty copies. To date there have been three supplements: the first covering 1961-65; the second, 1966-70; and the third, 1971-75. Thus, in 1976 when the INDEX went on-line, it became unavailable to any audience outside the walls of the Library of Congress.

The public accessibility to the on-line system would allow researchers to use it on a continuing updated basis, which is vastly superior to the print publications which have date restrictions. In addition, the automated mode would allow virtually every practitioner, academician, or government researcher with an undedicated computer terminal access to the INDEX. The INDEX would also greatly facilitate comparative or multiple jurisdiction research by making available the indices of all the gazettes in a single context. Besides usage within the United States it may not be too far-fetched of an idea to contemplate access in the Latin American countries themselves which could greatly enhance the administration of justice in the developing countries, even the most advanced of them.

III. CONCLUSION

By adopting this recommendation the American Association of Law Libraries would be urging the Library of Congress to find the means to make available to United States citizens its valuable research tool, the Hispanic Law Divisions' Index to Latin American Legislation, which would greatly enhance the research capabilities of Americans doing research on Latin American legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

