

1-1-2005

President's Report

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The *International Journal of Legal Information* is produced by The International Association of Law Libraries.

Recommended Citation

Winterton, Jules (2005) "President's Report," *International Journal of Legal Information*: Vol. 33: Iss. 2, Article 4.
Available at: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol33/iss2/4>

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries. I took up office on 20 August 2004 at the conclusion of the Annual Course in Helsinki. This report covers the period from the date of my predecessor's final report until the present.

The new Board took up its duties for the period 2004 to 2007 at the end of the Annual Course in Helsinki meeting, following elections earlier in the year under the new Constitution. The Annual Dinner gave an opportunity for a formal handover and gave me an opportunity to express the thanks of the Association to Holger Knudsen who was stepping down as President, and to those members stepping down from the Board: Marie-Louise Bernal (USA) Second Vice President, Joan Brathwaite (Barbados), Lisbeth Rasmussen (Denmark), and Larry Wenger (USA), Immediate Past President.

New members of the Board came forward to take the place of those stepping down: Amanda Barratt (South Africa), Giina Kaskla (Estonia), Petal Kinder (Australia), Bettina Picone-Maxion (Italy), and *ex officio* Board member, Mark Engsberg (USA). Dick Danner became First Vice-President and Jarka Looks became Second Vice-President. Holger Knudsen is of course Immediate Past President. Jarka has taken over as Chair of the Scholarships Committee, James Butler as Chair of the Web Site Award Committee, and Petal Kinder now chairs the Advisory Committee on Communications.

The Board of Directors of IALL met on 14 August 2004 before the conference with newly elected members in attendance and the new Board had its first meeting on 20 August 2004 immediately after the conference. The Board also had a special meeting on 7 and 8 June 2005 in London at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies to discuss future strategy for the Association. Individual members of the Association met on a number of occasions (in particular at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2005 and at the IFLA Congress in August 2005) to discuss issues concerning the Association.

The strategy meeting of the Board in June at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London was an intensive two-day workshop on the future of the Association. The meeting covered a lot of ground in discussing the fundamental qualities of the Association and the possibilities and challenges for the future. A discussion document on strategic priorities for the Association will be made available to members for comment and

discussion. When the document has been finalised, an action plan will be written.

There have been changes at our Journal which plays such a crucial part of the life of the Association and serves the international law library community so well. Mark Engsberg of Yale Law School's Lillian Goldman Law Library has taken up the challenging role of Editor and Thomas Mills of Cornell University Law Library has become Book Review Editor. The Journal has an enviable record thanks to former Editor Marie-Louise Bernal and her colleague Katherine Topulos, Book Review Editor, who stepped down after the final issue of 2004.

In July 2005 a new 5-year agreement was signed between the West Group and the Association for the publications and distribution of the *International Journal of Legal Information*. The agreement, which demonstrates West's commitment to international legal information, is a major contribution to the financial well being of the Association. An agreement was also made during the year with H W Wilson to include the full text of the Journal in their databases: Library Literature & Information Science Full Text and Index to Legal Periodicals.

IALL's 23rd Annual Course in International Law Librarianship on 'Protecting the Environment: a Challenge across Borders – Legal Issues and Information Resources in Finland and Estonia' took place from 15 to 19 August 2004 in Helsinki and Tallinn. Our gratitude and admiration, expressed by many formally and informally at the Conference itself, go to the local organising committee for their professionalism and enthusiasm: Sari Pajula of the Library of the Finnish Parliament, Giina Kaskla of the National Library of Estonia, Gunilla Häkli of the University Library of Helsinki, Harriet Nybäck-Alanen of Åbo Akademi University, and Lisbeth Rasmussen of the University of Copenhagen who was the member of the Board acting as Liaison.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 16 August 2004 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. IALL's scholarship recipients for 2004, Cristian Jose Oliveira Santos of the Superior Tribunal de Justica in Brasilia, and Uma Narayan of the Judges' Library of the High Court in Mumbai were introduced to the members by the Chair of the Scholarships Committee, Jules Winterton. Jill Watson, Project Manager for the Electronic Information System for International Law (EISIL) of the American Society of International Law, attended and spoke at Annual Course and also collected the IALL website award for 2004, which was announced by the Chair of the Website Award Committee.

During the whole of the past year preparations were being made for

the IALL's 24th Course in international law librarianship at the European University Institute near Florence. A great deal of hard work was done by the local organizer, Machteld Nijsten and her colleagues at EUI and by Board liaison, Jarka Looks, as the President witnessed during his visit in February. No doubt this Course will be a highlight of the next report and a valuable educational experience.

The Board team for the 25th Course at St Petersburg State University Faculty of Law on 10-14 September 2006 was appointed: Halvor Kongshavn, Bettina Picone-Maxion, and Jarka Looks. The President and Halvor Kongshavn visited St Petersburg in February and concluded an agreement regarding the arrangement of the conference and planning is progressing well.

The Association was represented at the International Federation of Library Associations in Oslo in August 2005. Board Member Halvor Kongshavn organised and chaired a programme under the auspices of the Law Libraries Discussion Group, which is jointly supported by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the IALL, on Monday 15th August at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo. The theme was "The Internationalisation of Law: the Teaching, the Students, and the Library" and the speakers were Professor Dr. Ola Mestad of the Faculty of Law and Betty J. Haugen of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights Library. The session was attended by about 45 people who also attended a reception hosted by Law Librarian Pål A. Bertnes in the beautiful library premises at the Faculty.

During the IFLA Congress, Holger Knudsen, Immediate Past President and special representative of the Association to IFLA, and I, together with Claire Germain, President of the AALL, and Susan Fox, Executive Director of AALL, met with senior officials of IFLA. We had informal discussions regarding the creation of an IFLA Section for law libraries to replace the informal Discussion Group, and we endorsed IFLA's role in advocacy.

The IALL is taking a more active role in advocacy concerning the issues affecting law librarians in every country. In 2004 the IALL joined the American Association of Law Libraries and IFLA and many others in signing *The Geneva Declaration on the Future of WIPO*. This important declaration calls for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to change its largely pro-rights holder approach and urges WIPO to balance properly the copyright interests of users as well as rights holders. In 2005 IALL endorsed the *Library-Related Principles for the International Development Agenda of the World Intellectual Property*. The Association realizes that its actions are most effective when combined with those of other professional associations and that its membership of IFLA is important in this regard.

Finally, I can report that further papers of the Association were deposited at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, during the year. Initial sorting and recording work was carried out on the accumulated papers to form an archive of the Association. It is intended to create a detailed online listing of the papers and include the archive in various national and international registers of archives. It will form a useful research base for anyone who would like to write about the Association for its 50th anniversary in about four years.

*Jules Winterton, President, IALL
London, 22 August 2005*