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Editorial Comment

Mark D. Engsberg

Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library, Emory University School of Law, mengersbe@emory.edu

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

This is the proceedings issue from the International Association of Law Libraries' 27th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship. The meeting was held in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico in the sunny Caribbean. This was the first IALL Annual Course to be held in the Caribbean, and, as usual, the meeting was a complete success. The venue was lush and tropical, the hospitality warm and friendly, and the intellectual content was truly first rate.

The theme of the conference was Puerto Rico and the Caribbean: Legal Information in Multiple Legal Systems. The articles in this volume of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) provide a fine representative cross-section of the substantive programming from the conference.

Following the report from the IALL president, **Jules Winterton**, the issue presents a report from one of the scholarship recipients to the Puerto Rico conference, **Kerem Kahvecioglu**, a young Law Librarian from Istanbul Bilgi University in Turkey. His report reflects on his experience at the Puerto Rico conference, where he also gave a presentation about the 2009 conference that was just held in Istanbul, Turkey. Mr. Kahvecioglu's report is followed by an edited version of the Annual Course's Final Program.

The first article in this issue of the IJLI is by noted human rights lawyer and activist, **Lord Anthony Gifford**. His paper analyzes death penalty jurisprudence in Caribbean contexts. Lord Anthony's presentation places consideration of the death penalty on a binary of punishment for crime and capacity for redemption and rehabilitation.

The next paper is by **Ian Randle**, Chairman of Ian Randle Publishers Limited, Jamaica. Mr. Randle's paper describes book publishing in the Caribbean. He focuses on publication of legal texts, naturally, but he also relates the relatively recent history of the publishing industry in the Caribbean, the hurdles a local publisher faces in getting established, and the possible directions it may go in the future.

Alan Moss and **Darlene Hull** present two more aspects of the book trade in the Caribbean with their papers' focus on acquisition of gazettes, legislation, and other primary legal materials in the English-speaking Caribbean. Mr. Moss explains this from the perspective of a bookseller, and

Ms. Hull's paper describes the perspective from that of a book vendor. Their papers offer often humorous anecdotes of some of the challenges faced by those wishing to obtain primary legal materials, and how those engaged in the process sometimes have to work outside the usual means employed in the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia, and other more developed markets.

The longest and perhaps the most scholarly paper in this issue of the IJLI was written by Madame Justice **Desiree Bernad**, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice. Her paper outlines the history of the court, its foundational documents, jurisdiction, and other aspects of this important body. She also weaves into her fascinating account several major appellate decisions handed down by the Court.

Professor **Jose Julian Alvarez Gonzalez**, contributes the final paper for this issue. His presentation proved to be one of the most riveting on the program. It was part of a conversation on Puerto Rico's position within the US government. Professor Gonzalez outlines the major benefits as well as the burdens of Puerto Rico's status somewhere between statehood and independence. His paper makes for interesting and educational reading.

Of course, no issue of the IJLI would be complete without Book Reviews edited by **Thomas Mills**, and the International Calendar edited by **Aslihan Bulut**. They are here, among much more good reading. I hope you enjoy this proceedings edition of the IJLI. And I hope it convinces you to consider attending the next IALL Annual Course on International Law Librarianship.

*Mark Engsberg, Editor
International Journal of Legal Information
Hugh F. Macmillan Law Library
Emory University School of Law*