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Editorial Comment

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

With this issue, I begin my tenure as the new editor of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI). It is a responsibility I take up with a mixture of both enthusiasm and trepidation. My predecessor, **Marie Louise Bernal**, or Malo to her many friends, has set the bar very high.

Malo's retirement appears to have ushered in several other personnel changes at the IJLI. First, **Katherine Topulos**, the IJLI's book review editor, has relinquished her post after providing some seven years of reliable, quality work for the IJLI's readership. During her tenure as book review editor, Katherine edited hundreds of book reviews for the Journal. She passes her editing responsibilities on to **Thomas Mills**, Research Attorney at the Cornell Law Library in Ithaca, New York. I have known Thomas for many years. We both taught writing courses at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the mid-1990s. Thomas also taught courses in legal research and writing for several years and even ran the International Law program at the law school at the University of Illinois. He has degrees in law, education, and library science, and I was positively thrilled when he agreed to take on the challenge of editing the book review section of the IJLI. This issue marks Thomas's debut as book review editor. Welcome, Thomas!

Finally, long-time editorial assistant, **Debbie Bright** of the University of Virginia Law Library in Charlottesville, Virginia, decided to relinquish her work for the IJLI simultaneously with Malo Bernal's retirement. Ms. Bright worked behind the scenes to ensure that many of the journal's important administrative tasks ran smoothly. And she was positively instrumental in preparing the journal's content for printing, a task she cheerfully performed with skill and dedication for about a decade. Ms. Bright's extensive knowledge of the technical details of bringing successive issues of the IJLI to publication will be greatly missed. Her duties have been taken up by **Rebecca Emerson**. Ms. Emerson has a unique set of qualifications that make her perfect for her new position with the IJLI. She is reliable, an independent worker, she is computer-savvy, and she is very detail-oriented. She has a flexible schedule, and I am learning that she has a great deal of forbearance as she and I work together to learn the ropes of editing and publishing the IJLI.

While Malo Bernal, Katherine Topulos, and Debbie Bright have left the IJLI for other endeavors, I am very pleased to note that at least one long-time contributor has decided to stay with the Journal for the time being. **Lyonette Louis-Jacques** will continue to write her very useful and much-

appreciated International Calendar section for the foreseeable future. It is a resource I am sure many of the IJLI's readers enjoy and rely upon. You will find her most recent calendar in its usual, easy-to-find place – at the end of the issue.

I turn now to a brief description of the contents of the present issue. I am quite pleased with this issue and hope you will be as well. The issue contains four excellent articles, a large selection of book reviews, and the International Calendar. There will be no President's Report in this issue.

The IJLI is notable among its peer publications for bringing a diversity of material from many perspectives to the reading public. The IJLI publishes articles and reviews from librarians, law students, law faculty and other professionals from around the world. One of my goals as editor is to expand upon the IJLI's existing spirit of inclusiveness. I hope to include an even more diverse spectrum of material and authors from around the world, emphasizing the international aspect of the journal. I aim to particularly court articles and reviews from our colleagues representing areas that have tended to be overlooked in the past.

With that introduction, I now draw your attention to a book review by an Iraqi researcher, **Ali Adnan Al-Feel**. Mr. Al-Feel lives and works in the city of Mosul, Iraq. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Al-Feel's book review is the very first contribution to the IJLI from an Iraqi colleague. I believe it is also important to recognize the opening up to professional and scholarly dialog with our Iraqi colleagues that Mr. Al-Feel's contribution represents. I very much look forward to hearing more from our counterparts around the world, who for a number of reasons may have lacked the means or ability to join the international discourse about international legal information.

As I mentioned previously, there are four articles in issue 33.1 of the IJLI. The first is by **Michelle Viegas**, a recent Harvard Law School graduate. She has written a very handy guide to materials about the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Ms. Viegas has examined the many and varied sources on the FTAA and has composed a practical, user-friendly research tool for those needing a guide in this complicated area of research.

With his article, **Duncan Alford**, Head of Reference at Georgetown Law Center's Edward Bennett Law Library in Washington, D.C., launches a new series on libraries and research centers around the world. Articles in this series are intended to be first-person accounts of libraries or research centers. I encourage article submissions from anyone who feels inclined to write about

her or his experience working in or visiting a law library or research center. Mr. Alford's relatively short article on the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, Switzerland is entertaining and informative.

The third article in this issue is co-authored by **Lesley Dingle and Bradley Miller**. Ms. Miller is Foreign and International Law Librarian at the University of Cambridge's Squire Law Library in the United Kingdom (UK). Mr. Miller is a reference librarian and Ms. Dingle's colleague at the Squire Law Library. Their article explains recent, significant changes in the UK's constitutional documents and institutions. While some may think that constitutions remain largely static, Dingle and Miller reveal the dynamic nature of one of the world's most enduring constitutional regimes. Their piece tracks changes in the UK constitution in a largely chronological fashion, making it logical and easy to use. It is scholarly, thorough, and detailed, and will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable resource.

The final article in issue 33.1 focuses on international trade. It actually contains the text of a presentation **Professor Sara Dillon** made as part of a workshop on international trade pursuant to last year's annual meeting and convention of the American Association of Law Libraries. Sara Dillon is an Associate Professor of Law at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts. I helped organize last summer's workshop and after her talk, I asked Professor Dillon to make her comments more widely available through the IJLI. She graciously accepted and I am very pleased to present her views in issue 33.1. In her article, Professor Dillon takes a step back and examines the growth and development of international trade and globalization, offering a brief historical summary and doling out measures of praise and criticism of the apparatus of international trade and globalization, particularly the various forms of dispute resolution. She also offers a fresh perspective on the attitudes toward international trade among legal scholars and within legal academic institutions. Hers are original, thought-provoking, and accessible views on international trade and globalization that I believe you will all enjoy reading.

All of these articles – and the other content of this issue of the IJLI – represent a significant intellectual effort by their authors. They all fill important gaps in the existing literature in the various subjects which they address. Happy reading!

I close my first Editorial Comment with a series of brief but very sincere thanks. First, I offer thanks to Malo Bernal for so cheerfully and graciously sharing her time and knowledge of the IJLI. She has been an

invaluable resource as I get started with this project. Also, **Richard Danner**, Library Director at Duke Law Library and current chair of the IALL Communications Committee has provided much personal support as well as a wealth of institutional knowledge about the IJLI. I am also very grateful for the support of the IALL president, **Jules Winterton**, and the rest of the IALL Board. I will work hard to reward their confidence in my ability to lead the IJLI into its next phase. And finally, I should thank my own colleagues at the Lillian Goldman Law Library and the Yale Law School, particularly the director of the Law Library, **Blair Kauffman**, for their enthusiastic support of my new duties as editor of the IJLI. With all of this support, an abundance of personal enthusiasm for the task, very good intentions, and a hatful of new ideas, I will strive to maintain the standards Malo Bernal has set, and that you, the readers, have come to expect from this publication.

Mark D. Engsberg