

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

---

My last *Editorial Comment!* With this issue I am stepping down as Editor and turning the reins over to **Mark Engsborg** of *Yale University Law School Library*. Where do I begin? What is more important: to introduce my successor, to describe the content and contributors of issue 32:3, or to thank and acknowledge all those who during my years as Editor have made a difference to me personally as well as to the Association? Here it goes.

Issue 32:3 signals also in other ways transition and renewal: a new Board took office in Helsinki, Finland, in August 2004, and the members are introduced by **Jules Winterton** in his first *Report* as President. Jules himself, Librarian and Associate Director of the *Institute of Advanced Legal Studies* in London, hardly needs an introduction to most members, especially not to his most ardent fans, colleagues from developing countries who thanks to his strong efforts and personal commitment have been able to attend IALL Annual Meetings and Courses as scholarship recipients, selected by the Committee Jules has chaired since its inception. Australian Board Member **Petal Kinder** has coordinated the tributes in memory of her countryman **Ted Glasson**, formerly an active Board Member of the Association. Petal is also responsible for the announcement in the occasional column *Open Forum*. It describes the “Native Title InfoBase,” a recently launched initiative by her institution, the *Federal Court of Australia* in Melbourne.

**Hollin K. Dickerson** presents in his article, “Judging the Judges: The State of Judicial Reform in Eastern Europe on the Eve of Accession,” a comparative analysis of the current state of judicial independence with focus on Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and Slovakia, all now member states of the European Union. The author is soon to receive his J.D. from the *University of Texas at Austin School of Law*, an institution renowned for producing top-notch lawyers and to which I am personally indebted. It is here, at the Tarlton Law Library, that I became a law librarian and life member of the fellowship of the Tarltonites, the informal network centered around the “Mother Library” and its Director, IALL member **Roy M. Mersky**, and staff in Austin, Texas.

It is a special pleasure to feature three contributions from my own institution, the *Law Library of Congress* in Washington, D.C. **Ruth Levush** and **Peter Roudik** are both Senior Legal Specialists in the Legal Research Directorate, covering, as their main jurisdictions, Israel and Russia, respectively. Ruth focuses on a narrow politico-legal aspect of international terrorism, “Compensation for Victims of Terrorist Actions: Israel as a Case Study,” while Peter’s paper delves into 19<sup>th</sup> century legal history, “Vladimir Spasovich and the Development of the Legal Profession in Russia.” Last, but not least, is an article by Dr. **Rubens Medina**, who was appointed the *Law Librarian of Congress* in 1994. A former academician, he taught international and comparative law courses at the Law School of the *University of Wisconsin at Madison*, at other academic institutions in the United States and Latin America, and he is a frequent guest lecturer in law schools, federal agencies and international organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. Dr. Medina has spent over 33 years at the *Library of Congress*, 24 of which as Chief of the Hispanic Law Division, and has dedicated part of the last 13 years to the formulation and execution of the *Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)*. In his article “Worldwide Digital Legal Research: Forging New Media for the Electronic Age,” he reports on the next and imminent GLIN release which will offer a range of new functions as well as a new look.

Volume 32 closes with the 2004 Proceedings from the *IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)* conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2004. **Holger Knudsen**, Immediate Past President, represented the Association and served as liaison and coordinator of the two lectures included in the *Law Librarians’ Discussion Group*, presented jointly by the IALL and the *American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)*. Holger’s brief introduction is followed by **Débora Gozzo’s**, “The New Brazilian Civil Code” and its background and development. Professor Gozzo’s specialty is family law which she teaches at *São Judas Tadeu* and *Centro de Extensão Universitaria* in São Paulo, Brazil. The final contribution is an overview and description of MERCOSUR, the world’s fourth largest trading area, by Professor **Teodora Zamudio** of the *University of Buenos Aires*, Argentina. Professor Zamudio’s specializes in bio-diversity, intellectual property and trade and is serving as the Editor-in-Chief of *Cuadernos de Bioética*.

Looking back, I am indebted to so many persons for having had the extraordinary privilege of serving as a Member and Officer of the IALL Board and as Editor of this *Journal*. In so doing, I have enjoyed the friendship and close cooperation of a truly outstanding group of bright, generous, open-minded and humorous colleagues. I have had the opportunity to visit continents I

probably otherwise never would have seen. The one opening the IALL door for me was undoubtedly the late **Ivan Sipkov** who in the 80s made me *IJLI* Book Review Editor. I am grateful and still stunned that **Larry Wenger** had the courage of giving me a chance at something nobody else at the time seemed to want, the editorship. Due to geographic proximity between Charlottesville, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., I had the good fortune to work closely with him in my capacity as Treasurer and later Secretary of the Association. He truly was the right man at the right time in the IALL history. Thanks to Larry's unassuming, conciliatory, yet firm ways, he was able to change the course and open the Association up to the expanding, transparent and flourishing organization it now is. Larry's right hand at the University of Virginia, **Deborah Bright**, came on board as the Administrative and Editorial Assistant for the *Journal* at the same time as I did. I will miss Debbie's attitude, always positive, helpful, flexible, creative and perfectionist and our telephone and email exchanges, experimentations, laughter, and frustration as the camera-ready copy of the issues were being prepared for print. Thanks go to my colleagues, column editors **Katherine Topulos** and **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**, whose competence have added credibility to *IJLI* as a publication, and who, as the consummate pros they are, knew exactly what they wanted to accomplish, never needed prodding, and were always on time! Thanks to **Richard Danner's** many roles, as IALL Director of Communications, as author, and, most importantly, as friend, I have in the past had several reasons to publicly praise him as my "secret weapon": he has made sure that we have protected our authors' rights as well as our own by developing a Publications Agreement; nourished our relations with Thomson West and William S. Hein & Co.; he has done what most of us thought impossible, compiled a homogenous, informative and easy to use 30-year Index to the *Journal*; and, he has served as a supporter, sounding board, and solo referee whenever I needed one. Now Dick has struck gold again: through a fair, meticulous and transparent process, he found our terrific new Editor: Mark Engsborg who became *ex officio* Member of the Board already in August. Mark comes not only with a J.D. and a library degree, he also has a Ph.D. in English Literature, has served three years as Administrative Law Attorney in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in Germany and has published widely. He has great support from his home institution, *Yale Law Library*, one of the world's pre-eminent institutions of legal education, where he serves as the Foreign and International Law Librarian. The IALL and the *Journal* are in very good hands! Welcome, Mark, and enjoy the adventure of seeing the world with the IALL!

*Marie-Louise H. Bernal*