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President's Report

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my fifth report to the membership as President of the International Association of Law Libraries, covering the period December 2008 to October 2009, just before our conference in Istanbul.

The Board which took office at the end of the Annual General Meeting on 3 December 2007 was constituted as follows:

Officers

- **President:** *Jules Winterton* of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, England;
- **Secretary:** *Jennefer Aston* of the Bar Council of Ireland;
- **Treasurer:** *Ann Morrison* of Dalhousie Law School, Canada;
- **First Vice President:** *Dick Danner* of Duke Law School, USA;
- **Second Vice-President:** *Halvor Kongshavn* of Bergen University, Norway;

Board members

- *Amanda Barratt* of the University of Cape Town, South Africa;
- *Ruth Bird* of the Bodleian Law Library, England;
- *Barbara Garavaglia* of the University of Michigan Law School, USA;
- *Ligita Gjortlere* of Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia;
- *Petal Kinder* of the High Court of Australia;
- *Xinh Luu* of the University of Virginia Law School, USA;
- *Uma Narayan* of the Bombay High Court, Mumbai, India;
- *Anita Soboleva* of JURIX (Jurists for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms), Russia;
- *Mark Engsberg* (*ex officio*) of Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

The Board of Directors met on 28th November 2008 before the annual conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico and on 5th December 2008, immediately after the annual conference. Individual officers and members of the Board took the opportunity to meet on a number of occasions, in particular at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2009 and at the IFLA Congress in August 2009, and kept in contact throughout the year to discuss issues concerning the Association.

At its meeting on 5th December the new Board received the formal resignations of two Board members, Amanda Barratt and Halvor Kongshavn. Both were leaving law librarianship, Amanda Barratt to take up a teaching post at the University of Cape Town and Halvor Kongshavn to take up a post as Director of the Humanities Library at the University of Oslo. The Association wishes them both every success in their new posts. The two vacant posts were filled by vote of the Board for the remainder of the term until September 2010, as required by the Constitution. Pedro Padilla-Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico and Jeroen Vervliet of the Peace Palace Library were appointed.

Taking forward the work of the Board at its strategy workshop in April 2008, the home page of the website was revised to incorporate a new expression of the aims and activities of the Association. Progress was made to implement the decision to adopt a policy of open access publishing for its journal in addition to the existing means of publication and back issues of the *International Journal of Legal Information* are being prepared for inclusion of the Association's website. Other ways of increasing the utility and content of the Association website were explored.

The Association has taken over responsibility for the International Calendar of Events and for the List of Law Library Associations and other Organizations which have been revised and incorporated directly into the IALL website. A new version of the List of Law Library Associations and a new List of Legal Publishers have been commissioned for loading in 2009-10. A List of Members' Publications has been created, offering the opportunity for all members to demonstrate their contribution to the profession through published and unpublished work. I encourage all members to send bibliographies of their professional writing to Petal Kinder, Chair of the Communications Committee, so that both you and your country are represented in this growing bibliography.

A new Registered Agent, providing the Registered Address necessary for the Association's continuing incorporation in the District of Columbia, has been appointed. Malo Bernal, long-term officer and friend of the Association, had continued the role after her retirement. Donna Scheeder of the Law Library of Congress has kindly agreed to act in this capacity and to continue to operate the mailbox in Washington DC for the Association.

A review of the duties of Treasurer and the Secretary has continued with the long-term aim of further automation of the membership records of the Association. Mail and membership dues now go directly to the Treasurer,

reducing the delay in correspondence with the Association. Arrangements have been made with the Association's bankers for remote access to banking, facilitating the work of the Treasurer, particularly from outside the United States.

The Association's 27th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, "Puerto Rico and the Caribbean: Legal Information in Multiple Legal Systems," was held at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan in December 2008. The conference maintained the high academic quality of IALL programs and gave participants the exciting opportunity to explore the subjects of mixed legal systems and their accommodation of different legal traditions; the challenges for small jurisdictions including legal publishing and legal education; and regional and international legal orders in the Caribbean context. Speakers included highly regarded scholars and members of the legal community from Puerto Rico and other jurisdictions of the Caribbean, including a leading lawyer from Jamaica, the National Librarian of Haiti, the General Counsel of CARICOM, a Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice, and a legal adviser to the government of Cuba. The program for our course also gave us some opportunity to experience the warm and welcoming tropical island of Puerto Rico with its wonderful climate, its fascinating history, and its music and dance.

Among the participants at the 27th Annual Course, we were glad to welcome the two recipients of Association Scholarships: Françoise Beaulieu Thybulle from the National Library of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, and Kerem Kahvecioglu from Istanbul Bilgi University. A third scholarship was awarded, but unfortunately at a late stage the recipient was unable to attend.

The organisation of the conference was first class in all respects and the conference was unusual in managing to hold all the events within a very attractive hotel. The Local Organizing Committee worked extremely hard to raise the sponsorship necessary to offer the luxurious surroundings and impressive and enjoyable social program to registrants. The impeccable organization was handled by a large team of local volunteers co-chaired by Maria M. Otero and Pedro A. Padilla and including Betsaida Vélez, Noelia Padua, Ivette Torres-Álvarez, Margarita González-Pérez, Mirta Colón-Rodríguez, and Manuela O. Martínez. The conference was conducted with great attention to detail and great personal charm by all those involved. The Association would like to repeat its thanks to them and to the institutions which welcomed us and the speakers who gave us their time and expertise.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday 3rd December 2008 and included reports on the work of the Association, its Officers and Committees. The accounts of the Association for 2007 were approved and the independent auditor reappointed. Kerem Kahvecioglu, on behalf of the Local Organising Committee for the 2009 Annual Course told members about the upcoming conference and about Istanbul itself.

During the year all the chapters of the proposed IALL HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, a book to be published by Ashgate Publishers on current issues in legal information from a global perspective, have been commissioned and drafts of chapters have begun to be received. The manuscript is due to be delivered in Spring 2010 for publication later in the year. The published volume will be available at a discount to members of the Association.

Last year the Association established a new scholarship in addition to the three professional development bursaries which assist law librarians to attend the Annual Course. The new grant provides financial assistance of up to US\$3,000 each year for a law librarian to undertake an internship or placement or extended visit to a law library outside their own country. In 2008, Ms. Le Thi Hanh, librarian at the Hanoi Law University Library, Vietnam, became the first to be awarded the IALL internship grant, but I regret to report that it did not prove possible during 2008-09 for her institution to release her to take up the grant. The grant is again open for applications.

It is part of the role of the Association to collaborate with national and regional law library associations and, where possible, to assist in the formation of new associations. I represented the Association and gave a paper and an opening speech at the first China-US Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries in Beijing which was sponsored by both IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. IALL's support for this new venture, the first such conference in China, was much appreciated and widely acknowledged. The China-US conference was the first of a series of biennial conferences, alternately in China and the US, and may assist in setting up a formal body of law librarians in China. IALL has pledged to continue to support this venture. I also represented the Association at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July 2009 at the kind invitation of its President where I spoke briefly at the business meeting and hosted a joint reception with the Foreign Comparative and International Special Interest Section sponsored by Thomson Reuter and organized by Mark Engsberg on behalf of the Association.

The Association continued to support the new Section of Law Libraries of the International Federation of Library Associations which was formed following representations by IALL and the American Association of Law Libraries. The Chair of the Section continues to be our former President, Holger Knudsen. The Section arranged a successful academic program at the IFLA World Congress in Milan in August 2009 where I attended the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Section. The Association continues to offer support to the new Section as it contributes to the programs within the World Congress and contributes to the policy-making and lobbying activities of IFLA on behalf of associations such as our own. The World Congress of IFLA next takes place in Goteborg, Sweden in August 2010. In 2011 the World Congress will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the 2012 World Congress will be in Helsinki.

As I write, our 28th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, "Turkey in a Global Context: Law and Legal Information," at the Istanbul Bilgi University from 11th to 15th October 2009, is imminent. The conference has a dedicated and experienced group of librarians from Istanbul Bilgi University including Serdar Katipoglu, Sami Cukadar, Kerem Kahvecioglu, Zeynep Hakguder, and Havva Alkis, with Board Liaison Holger Knudsen. They have the strong support of the Faculty of Law of the University. I am sure that the conference will be another great success, giving us all a wonderful opportunity to stand at the point where two continents meet, different legal traditions meet, where the history of empires is all around, and the future of Europe and Asia is in the balance. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our 28th Annual Course.

Looking forward to future conferences, I am delighted to announce that, following a visit by the Board Liaison Ruth Bird, arrangements are progressing for the Association's 29th Annual Course in International Law Librarianship at the Peace Palace in the Hague (The world capital of international law) from 5th to 9th September 2010 under the working title "Gateways to International Law." The conference is under the care of Jeroen Vervliet, Director of the Peace Palace Library, and René Winter of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Looking even further forward, I am pleased to say that Harvinder Singh, IALL member and former scholarship holder, is at an advanced stage in investigating the possibility of holding the 2011 conference in Kuala Lumpur at the University of Malaya.

I finish by reminding members that 2009-10 is an election year for the Association and that a new Board will take office at the 2010 conference in

The Hague. A Nominations Committee will be appointed and publicized soon after the 2009 conference and will be seeking candidates for the Board, including the officers' posts. Do feel free to contact the Nominations Committee in due course. After the Committee has reported and its nominations are known, prior to any election, there will still be ample opportunity for further nominations. I encourage you to consider possible candidates.

Jules Winterton