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## Editorial Comment

Mark D. Engsberg

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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Issue 33.3 completes the first volume of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) that I have steered as editor. It has been an interesting and rewarding – and sometimes harrowing – year. Learning the ins and outs of editing a high-quality journal such as the IJLI on the fly, so to speak, has been a challenge. Of course, working with authors, contributors, colleagues like Book Review Editor **Thomas Mills** and International Calendar Editor **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**, as well as the helpful staff at **Thomson-West**, our publisher, has been a pleasure. In fact, everyone connected with the production of the IJLI has been very kind (and patient) as they answered my many questions, adjusted to changes, and accommodated the quirks of my editing style. I assure you that **Malo Bernal's** long and successful tenure as editor is not an easy act to follow.

The past year with the IJLI has also been an education in diplomacy and time-management skills, and it also produced some new adventures in the art of multi-tasking. There was more than ample recompense, though, in the privilege of reading the many fine articles submitted to the IJLI for publication. Choosing among them for the pieces to accept for publication was never an easy task.

The articles in the present issue of the IJLI (33.3) focus on diverse aspects of dispute resolution – all in international contexts, of course. While I did not set out to create a particular theme for this issue, that's pretty much the way the issue has shaped up. From courts to treaty provisions, issue 33.3 presents a range of actual or theoretical dispute resolution mechanisms or conditions that highlight manifestations of the rule of law and the professions and institutions in which the rule of law operate or are otherwise brought to bear. There are four articles that specifically analyze aspects of dispute resolution in international contexts, and one piece that focuses on the future for law libraries.

**Morse Tan** explores compliance theory in the context of the Intra-American Court of Human Rights. To what extent do individual countries comply with the rulings of the IACHR? Tan's elegant, scholarly article gives insight into this important area and is an important contribution to the growing body of research on compliance theory.

**Rena Scott's** provocative article confronts the issue of war-related dispute resolution in the context of post-war Liberia. Scott disparages what

she sees as an existing culture of impunity in Liberia, whose post-war milieu allows some of the worst instigators and perpetrators of war crimes and other abuses to escape without accounting for their crimes. She writes how this culture of impunity can hold back progress in Liberia. Scott proposes instead, the creation of a Special Court similar to the Special Court instituted in Sierra Leone after that country's civil war ended. Scott's Liberian Special Court would address the many grievances and abuses that have occurred in that war-torn region as a means to help Liberia face its past, punish the worst instigators and perpetrators of war-era abuses and crimes, and prepare Liberia to enter a more stable and secure future.

**Jimmy Howell's** article addresses a bilateral textile treaty between the United States and Cambodia. Howell examines the mechanisms built into the treaty for oversight of the treaty's provisions, with particular emphasis placed on Cambodian trade practices. It is a thought-provoking piece that shows just how far the implementation of a treaty's provisions can be from both the plain text of the treaty as well as the apparent intent behind that text.

**Joseph Keller** analyzes the use of amicus participation in the dispute resolution process at the World Trade Organization. Keller's article urges broader access to the WTO dispute resolution mechanisms and processes through an expanded authority for third parties to submit amicus briefs to the court.

**Betty Haugen** brings us back into the law library where research related to all of the issues addressed by Tan, Scott, Howell, and Keller – and innumerable others – will take place. Ms. Haugen outlines critical trends in law librarianship and their implications for future development in the profession. Her article is the text of a paper she presented August 15, 2005, at the Law Libraries Discussion Group: *The Internationalisation of law: the Teaching, the Students, the Research and the Library*. The discussion group was arranged by the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) as an off-site session of the 71<sup>st</sup> International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) General Conference, Oslo.

As you can see, issue 33.3 of the IJLI tackles some very deep and important subject matter. Its articles are thoroughly international, substantive, and erudite. And they also provide great intellectual fodder for those interested in these important areas. Looking ahead, the first IJLI issue of 2006, issue 34.1, will focus largely on legal reference and bibliographic subjects. It promises to be a real "librarian's issue."

Learning the ropes of editing the IJLI while trying to maintain a high standard for the Journal – all managed around the edges of my day job as Reference Librarian for International and Foreign Law at the Yale Library –

has been both a significant challenge and a great deal of fun. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my colleagues and the Yale Law Library director, **Blair Kauffman**, for their patience, understanding and support. Thanks to everyone who helped with volume 33. And thanks to you, the readers of the IJLI, for so gracefully adjusting to the changes ushered in with Malo Bernal's retirement and my taking the reins of editorship of the IJLI.

*Mark Engsberg, Editor  
International Journal of Legal Information  
Yale Law Library  
Yale Law School*