

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue, 41.1, of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) marks an important milestone in the life of the Journal. This will be the final issue of the IJLI that is published and distributed by Thomson-Reuters, the IJLI's publishing partner for many years. The next issue, 42.1, will be published and distributed – without interruption to the IJLI's readers – by the IJLI's new partner, William S. Hein and Co., Inc.

Thomson-Reuters, known familiarly simply as “West” by many of us in the legal and law library profession, has been closely associated with the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL), the parent organization of the IJLI. Thomson-Reuters and the IALL have enjoyed a close, collegial relationship for more than thirty years. Over those years, Thomson-Reuters has published and distributed the IJLI as well as provided generous sponsorship for IALL annual meetings, receptions, publications, and other endeavors of the Association.

In the nearly nine years of my editorship of the IJLI, I have met many of the fine people on the Thomson-Reuters staff, but my principal contact at TR has been the most excellent **Lori Hedstrom**, National Manager, Librarian Relations, for Thomson-Reuters. I hope Lori doesn't mind me singling her out at this time. She has been my direct contact at TR since I began my tenure as editor and I would feel remiss if I did not say something directly about her work with the IJLI. In addition to our conversations about each issue of the IJLI, I have enjoyed comparing notes with her about the differences in weather between Eagan, Michigan, the location of Lori's office, and Atlanta, Georgia, where I live and work. In terms of our work, Lori and I have weathered a number of changes together, large and small – though she always made me feel that the IJLI was in good hands at her end of the process. Thanks, Lori, for your friendship, your sense of humor, and particularly for your service to the IJLI and the IALL. On behalf of the IALL and the editorial staff of the IJLI, I thank you and the rest of the Thomson-Reuters team for the many years of a generous, friendly, professional and successful relationship.

This development was several years in the making. The change in the publishing and distribution of the IJLI is a natural and amicable change for all parties. Publishing houses and other businesses must adapt to the realities of the business world in which they operate. Content providers, like the IJLI,

must also bend with the times and seek new relationships and new ways to reach additional readers. At the time that Thomson-Reuters and the IALL/IJLI were considering ways to evolve our relationship, the William S. Hein Company (Hein) stepped in and provided exactly the solution we were all looking for. I wish to particularly thank **Shannon Hein** for his enthusiastic embrace of the IJLI and for generously paving the way for the very easy transition to publishing with Hein.

Of course, there is much more to this issue than simply its status as a historical marker in the life of the IJLI. There is excellent content and real substance between its pages. The first article is by **Farida Ali**, who writes eloquently about the implications of globalization for legal practice, law students, and law school curricula. The IJLI has on occasion included pieces about legal education, both in the United States and abroad. Ali's work looks at an aspect of legal education that is unique. She reviews the impact of globalization on the legal profession, together with an overview of the benefits and challenges that come with globalizing legal education. Ms. Ali then analyzes the current state of U.S. legal education by identifying some of the schools that have some level of commitment to providing a global legal education, and she surveys the types of reforms that these schools have adopted in order to meet this objective.

Vicki Lawal, PhD, has provided another article on legal education, but hers is rooted in an African context: from a Nigerian perspective. Lawal's article examines the use of reflection as a qualitative research method within the system of legal education in Nigeria. Lawal's article is based on research conducted among graduate law students who were undergoing professional training at the Nigerian Law School. It focuses on the findings obtained from the students' reflective journals and provides an evaluation of reflection in the development of information literacy skills in Nigeria's legal workplace.

For something completely different, **Patricia Morgan, Loren Turner, and Edward T. Hart** provide a truly unique article about the State of Florida's relative ignorance of international law governing drivers' licenses. Their article moves far from theoretical constructs to show international law as it is actually applied.

Hold onto your keyboard! **Steven Kruger** takes on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) database in his brief, pithy, and very frank critique of some of the SSRN's claims. The SSRN has steadily gained in importance (and influence), particularly in academic milieus, as the size of its database has increased exponentially over the past few years. Does its size

give it license to fudge a bit on claims it makes to authors who post their work there? Among other issues, Kruger takes on the SSRN with respect to claims it makes about its content being available via Open Access. It's an interesting and thought-provoking piece designed to provoke discussion that may eventually lead to change.

The final piece in this issue is by **Tsegaye Beru**, who provides a valuable and accessible historical overview of Ethiopia's legal system(s). Beru's research shows that Ethiopia has an incredibly rich and complex legal history, influenced by many languages, religions, customs, traditions, and foreign occupations. Even so, it has managed to remain true to its own unique culture. His article will provide useful historical context for those traveling to the region or doing research on just about any aspect of Ethiopia's law. It's refreshing to have solid, new material about jurisdictions in Africa – and this issue of the IJIL contains two!

Of course, the issue contains the usual, popular features of the International Calendar, edited by Aslihan Bulut, and Book Reviews, edited by Thomas Mills. Perhaps the Calendar will help prompt you to attend a conference, symposium or meeting. And the book review section is always popular with those making book selections in the foreign, comparative, and international areas. We are always looking for new reviewers, so if you are interested in writing a book review, contact Thomas. I am sure he would be very pleased to hear from you.

There is a great deal of good reading in this issue of the IJLI. While this particular issue marks the beginning of an end, or at least it ushers in a change for the Journal in terms of its behind-the-scenes production, I believe the future will reveal that it continues to provide the same strong content – and I am hopeful that you will keep it as an important part of your professional reading.

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