Order from Chaos: Contexts for Global Legal Information

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Opening Remarks

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The papers in this issue were presented at the IALL's 21st Annual Course on International Law Librarianship, held at Yale Law School, October 20 through October 23, 2002. The program featured several of America's great scholars in international law and drew on the rich resources of Yale University and its environs. It also introduced participants to the history of legal education in America and included excursions to America's first national law school, in Litchfield, Connecticut, and to the United Nations headquarters, in New York City. A pre-conference reception was held at the nearby Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, on Sunday afternoon, October 20th, in Hamden, Connecticut, and a post-conference institute on Islamic Law, was held on October 24th, at Harvard Law School, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The IALL Annual Meeting convenes in a different country every year, and this is the first time it has met in the United States in more than a decade. Approximately 140 participants attended the Yale session. The participants represented 21 countries, including South Africa, Ireland, Denmark, Russia, Canada, Barbados, Bahamas, Italy, England, Mexico, Moldova, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland, Nigeria, Rwanda, Australia, Finland, Latvia, and, of course, the United States.

Traditionally, IALL annual meetings include a segment on the laws of the host jurisdiction as well as a significant component of international law, and the 21st Annual Course followed this format. We also introduced participants to the rich legal history and substantial scholarly and natural resources offered by Yale’s New England location. Thus, the meeting began with a lovely

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optional reception hosted at Quinnipiac University Law School, which is no more than a half-hour shuttle drive from the conference hotels and is directly across the street from the beautiful hiking area, known as Sleeping Giant State Park. Participants toured a contemporary library and law school at Quinnipiac University, with its views of the adjacent park. Some participants took advantage of the delightful Fall weather and enjoyed a pleasant hike to the look-out tower at the top of Sleeping Giant, where the views of the Fall New England foliage were truly spectacular.

The conference officially began Sunday evening at Yale Law School, where participants were offered a slide show introduction to the city of New Haven by Yale Political Science Professor Doug Rae. This was followed by a reception hosted across the street at the world renown Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The Beinecke Library's scholarly and energetic director, Barbara Shailor, presented a brief history of the Library, and even passed around a small piece of the thin translucent granite used on the walls of the Beinecke. We also learned that the glass enclosed stacks in the center of the library are replicated in the new British Library, in London. As these sessions were intended merely as an introduction to the Conference, no papers were contributed for this issue of the Journal.

The Monday program focused on the history of legal education in America, and four papers from that part of the program are included in this issue. Professor Morris Cohen, Law Librarian Emeritus and Professorial Lecturer at Yale Law School, presented a paper on early American legal publishing. His talk was illustrated with a number of fascinating slides, which will be missed by readers of this issue, but the paper is rich in content by one of the preeminent scholars on early American law books. Professor Richard (Dick) Danner, Senior Associate Dean for Information Services and Research Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law, addressed contemporary issues in legal research. Professor Danner has written and spoken expansively on topics related to the future of law libraries and legal research, including a recent article in this Journal and an award winning paper published in the Law Library Journal. His contribution to this issue offers a nice balance to the historical foundation provided by Professor Cohen.

The other two papers presented in this section focus on the history of early American legal education. Professor Christopher Collier, Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut History Department and the current Connecticut State Historian, spoke specifically about the history of the first
American law school, which operated for about 50 years (from 1784) shortly after the American revolution, in Litchfield, Connecticut. Professor Collier is an award winning novelist as well as an historian, and his story telling powers were apparent in his presentation and his paper. His presentation also helped prepare us for an afternoon excursion to Litchfield, Connecticut, where we visited the old *Litchfield Law School*, which is now a museum.

Also at Litchfield, we attended a reception at the *Litchfield Historical Society*, where we were able to view first-hand many of the student notebooks used by Litchfield law students. We were guided on this visit by Professor (and former Dean) Daniel Coquillette of the *Boston College Law School*, who shared the morning panel with Professor Collier. In the morning session, Professor Coquillette spoke more generally about the development of legal education in America, although he drew largely from the history of the Harvard Law School he is currently authoring. Professor Coquillette’s popularity as a teacher, as well as his high reputation for scholarship, were evident in his enthusiastic presentation and the resulting paper contributed to this issue.

The Tuesday program featured an excursion to the *United Nations Headquarters*, in New York City. Thanks to the good offices of Croatian Ambassador Ivan Šimonović we were able to enjoy an interesting tour of the facilities, lunch in the Delegates Dining Hall and present our afternoon educational sessions in the *United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium*.

Two papers from the afternoon session offer contrasting perspectives of the United Nations in international law. Professor José Alvarez, of *Columbia University Law School*, spoke about the United Nations War on Terrorism, and Ambassador Šimonović spoke about Post-War Nation Building: two timely topics. Professor Alvarez has studied the United Nations from the outside and is highly regarded for his scholarly insights. He gave a passionate and well-received talk, and we are happy to have his paper in this issue.

Dr. Šimonović is clearly a *United Nations* insider, as he has been serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the *United Nations* since 1997. At the time of his talk, he also was serving as President of the *Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*. His paper offers a nice balance to that provided by Professor Alvarez. Unfortunately, a third panelist, Professor Ruth Wedgwood, of *Yale Law School* and now at *Johns Hopkins University*, was unable to contribute a paper.
We returned to Yale Law School for the sessions on Wednesday, where we began the day with a program on "Fighting Evil: Prosecuting International Criminals" and concluded the afternoon with a program on "Doing Good: Human Rights in the 21st Century." Speakers on the morning session included Professor David Cole, of the Georgetown University Law Center, and Judge Patricia Wald, who retired from the United States Court of Appeals and is a former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Papers from both speakers are included in this issue.

Professor Cole is highly regarded for his work in the area of civil liberties and spoke about the dangers of sacrificing civil liberties in the name of fighting terrorism. Judge Wald has had a long career in the judiciary, having served as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (viewed by many as America's second most important court after the United States Supreme Court). The focus of her talk was on the role of international tribunals in trying war crimes and drew extensively on her experience at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Speakers on the afternoon program included Professor Harold Honju Koh and Professor Oona Hathaway, both of the Yale Law School. Professor Koh recently served in the Clinton Administration as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Human Rights and focused his talk on the use of international diplomacy to enforce human rights. Professor Hathaway shared her conclusions from a study of the effectiveness of international human rights treaties in the enforcement of human rights, concluding that they are not particularly effective, and shared her conclusions with the audience. Both papers are included in this issue.

The Yale portion of the Annual Course concluded on Wednesday evening with a reception and dinner at the historic Graduate Club, a dining club located on the New Haven Green, at the edge of the Yale campus. The building housing the Graduate Club is adjacent to the old Yale Law School building and once served as the home of two of the three founders of Yale Law School; thus, this location provided a certain symmetry to the program.

Over half of the conference participants took advantage of the optional post-conference institute held at Harvard Law School, on Thursday. The educational component of this institute focused on Islamic Law and was taught by Frank Vogel, Director of Harvard Law School’s Islamic Law Studies Program; Peri Bearman, Associate Director of Harvard Law School’s Islamic
Law Studies program; and Lesley Wilkins, Bibliographer for Law of the Islamic World, Harvard Law Library. The institute included transportation to and from New Haven, tours of the Harvard Law School and Library, a luncheon and evening reception.

Judging from responses of the participants, we believe this was one of IALL's most successful Annual Courses. To the extent this is true, it is attributable to the hard work of a talented Planning Committee, the superb support and coordination of the IALL Executive Board, and the substantial financial contributions of a number of legal publishers. Members of the Planning Committee included Mark Ensberg, International Law Librarian at Yale Law School Library; Kenneth Rudolf, Law Library Director, La Verne College of Law, and former International Law Librarian at Yale Law School Library; Tracy Thompson, Executive Director of the New England Consortium of Law Libraries (NELLCO), and former International Law Librarian at Yale Law School Library; and Dan Wade, Associate Librarian for Foreign and International Law, at Yale Law School Library. Additionally, Silke Sahl, of Columbia University's Diamond Law Library, served as liaison between the Planning Committee and the IALL Executive Board. Financial support was provided by the following publishers: Lexis-Nexis, West Group (Thomson Legal Publishers), William S. Hein & Company, Oceana Publications, Inc., and Isinolaw Research Centre. We thank these individuals and sponsors for their work and support.