

# The Year in Review

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## Introduction

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## International Legal Developments Year in Review: 2016

JASON SCOTT PALMER\*

This publication, *International Legal Developments – Year in Review: 2016*, presents a survey of important legal and political developments in international law that occurred during 2016. The volume consists of articles from over forty committees of the American Bar Association Section of International Law, whose members live around the world and whose committees monitor and report on a diverse range of topics that have arisen in international law over the past year. While not every development in international law is included in this volume, the omission of a particular development should not be construed as meaning that it was not significant. The Section of International Law committees draft their articles under extremely strict guidelines that limit the number of words that each committee has to roughly 7,000 words, including footnotes. Within these guidelines, committee members contribute portions of articles that describe the most significant developments in their substantive practice area or geographic region. In some cases, non-section members who have particular knowledge or expertise in an area may also be contributing authors.

Committee chairs and committee editors solicited the contributing authors for each committee article. The committee editors, who are identified in each article, had the daunting task of keeping their authors' collective contributions within the tightly controlled word limits. They made difficult decisions on what to include and what to cut. After the committee editors did their work, Professor Brooke Bowman, the Assistant General Editor, formatted and organized the over forty committee submissions. Professor Jason Palmer, the General Editor, then transmitted the articles to an amazing team of Deputy Editors who performed substantive and technical reviews on the articles. Once the Deputy Editors completed their work and returned the articles, the General Editor reviewed the articles again before sending them to the diligent student editors at the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Both Jennifer Little, the Editor-in-Chief of *The International Lawyer* this year, and Trevor Spears, the Managing Editor, performed superlatively in their respective roles. They supervised an outstanding editorial team whose individual names you can read in the masthead for this volume. These intrepid students checked the sources cited and reviewed each article line by line and word by word, leaving no portion of the Bluebook unexplored.

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\* Professor Jason S. Palmer teaches at Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida, and is the Coordinator of the First Year Research and Writing Curriculum at Stetson.

Professor Beverly Caro Duréus, who was invaluable to the publication of this volume, served again this year as the Faculty Executive Editor, and worked closely with the General Editor and with the student editors. We also appreciate all of the support received from Patrick Del Duca, the Publications Officer for the ABA Section of International Law, all of the Division Chairs, and the other leaders of the ABA Section of International Law. Because of all the work that goes into producing the Year In Review, the final product that you hold in your hands (or that you are viewing electronically) is a useful and reliable overview of international law events during the year 2016. Readers interested in a particular substantive or geographic area should read not only this year's summary, but also those from earlier years.

We work with an incredibly dedicated team of volunteer Deputy Editors from around the world. The Deputy Editors include many law professors who specialize in legal writing, international law, and topics related to foreign and international law. The ABA Section of International Law is extremely fortunate to have such a skilled, dedicated, and generous team of Deputy Editors, many of whom have now served for several years. Here is the list of the Deputy Editors who worked on articles this year, with apologies to anyone omitted from the list. Together with the lists from previous years, we believe that we have the strongest editorial team of any journal in the world. We thank all of our committee editors named in the individual articles and our deputy editors named here for the generous contributions of their time and talent.

Christine Bartholomew (SUNY Buffalo)

Arturo Bauermeister (Puerto Rico)

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Tamara Van Pala (Charleston, South Carolina)

Susan Wawrose (University of Dayton School of Law)

Carolyn Williams (Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Arizona State University)

On behalf of the readers and researchers who will use this volume in future years, we thank the hundreds of authors, committee editors, deputy editors, and law student editors whose collective efforts produced this volume and whose work over the years have created a reliable and useful record of international law developments. It has been an honor to work with you.

