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Introduction

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International Legal Developments in Review: 2007

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Introduction

This is the American Bar Association Section of International Law's twelfth annual review of international legal developments. In the years since its inauguration, the annual review has come to hold a unique place in international legal writing, bringing together distinguished practitioners and scholars from around the world to produce a single-volume review of developments of interest to the international lawyer. This year's review is the largest so far, the product of the work of over 250 authors from over forty countries. As in years past, the scope of the review is "international law" in its broadest sense, encompassing not only developments in public and private international law, but also comparative and regional developments across a wide range of specialized areas. Forty-three topic areas are covered, ranging from the law of the sea to Islamic finance to human rights to international arbitration. There are also regional reports on developments throughout the world. As in years past, it continues to be the case that no other publication offers such a broad review of global legal developments.

The annual review project is a remarkable example of lawyers from around the world coming together *pro bono publico* to help educate the profession. It is the work of literally hundreds of people. First and foremost are the authors, without whom there would not be an annual review. They deserve our deepest thanks for taking time away from busy practices and professional commitments to contribute to this volume. Recognition must also be given to the student editors and staff at the Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University. It is their hard work and long hours that transforms the individual sections into a unified volume. In particular, Ms. Melody Smith, Managing Editor of *The International Lawyer*, deserves special praise for her tremendous efforts in making this year's volume a reality, as does Ms. Sharon Johnson, without whose administrative skills we would surely have been lost. Likewise, Dean Christine M. Szaj of the Dedman School of Law deserves particular acknowledgement—as she does every year—for her help and support throughout the preparation of this issue, as does the Publications Officer of the Section of International Law, Professor Mark Wojcik. Finally, I owe particular thanks to Nancy Eisenhower for her patient encouragement and constant good sense during the dark months of winter when this issue was being edited.

I hope you find the present volume useful.

