

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN REVIEW: 1996

Editor's Preface

The history of the ABA Section of International Law and Practice records many "noble experiments." Some, such as *The International Lawyer*, have withstood the test of time. It is hoped that the "International Legal Developments in Review: 1996" will follow in that tradition. The leadership of the Section of International Law and Practice conceived this project with a three-fold purpose: to provide a snapshot of international legal developments for the year that would be of interest to or have an impact on the international practice of U.S. (public and private) lawyers; to energize the work of the substantive law committees of the Section; and to inspire the production of educational programs addressing selected developments.

"International Legal Developments in Review: 1996" is a compilation of forty-six reports by over one hundred authors and many additional contributors and assistants. Many reports—not all—are the collective work of various chairs and their committees. The reports are organized and presented according to the major legal areas addressed by the Section: Business Transactions and Disputes, Business Regulation, Foreign Law, and Public International Law. The reports attempt to identify and assess legal developments in 1996, although some of these report developments in 1995 and early 1997. Some overlap will be noted in the treatment of developments in certain reports. We have attempted to cross-reference related treatments of the same subject matter that offer analyses of the same development from different legal perspectives. Where a mere redundancy would occur if the development were reported more than once, we have chosen to address the development in only one report. The careful reader will also find a few important areas of legal activity not included in this issue, but we will remedy those omissions next time. Finally, we regret that our decision to make this project as thorough and inclusive as possible necessitated the use of reduced-size type. Readers, as always, are invited to write with your comments and suggestions to: Robert E. Lutz, Southwestern University School of Law, 675 South Westmoreland Street, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

A project of this magnitude could not have been accomplished without the dedicated efforts of many: Lucinda Low and William Hannay were particularly encouraging and helped me conceive the project; the Division Chairs (David Tang, Bill Hannay, Rona Mears, and Dan Magraw) and their deputies were persistent in promoting committee participation in this project; Peter Winship willingly discussed conceptual matters with me, and graciously, with the able assistance of Diane Welch and the Student Editorial Board of *The International Lawyer*—coordinated the final editorial and cite-checking; and Deldra Hall-Holmes, ABA Publishing Managing Editor, coordinated the production work in this issue effectively and with good humor.

Most helpful and noteworthy were the faithful and competent contributions of my students and research assistants at Southwestern: Fabienne Struell, Russell Trice, and Angela Palmer. They dedicated many hours to organizing and facilitating the production of this project and I am most grateful for their untiring and good-natured commitment. I am also indebted to

my law school, Southwestern University School of Law, which has always been generous with its support and resources for my bar-related activities.

The bulk of the work of such a project necessarily had to be done by the Committees of the Section. I am most grateful for their positive and energetic responses to, first, the idea and then to the organization and production of the reports. The many committee chairs who cheerfully mobilized the forces of their committees deserve our special appreciation.