

# Introduction

ROGER P. ALFORD\*

The goal of the year-in-review project is to provide a thumbnail sketch of the key developments in international law. It is intended to serve as a research tool for practitioners, academics, and students of international law to answer the simple question: What happened this year? What had once began as a noble experiment, has become an institution. Almost every committee of the Section now recognizes that one of its principal duties is to report to the legal community on the developments of the past year. With almost 600 pages in print, this year is no exception. So voluminous were the submissions that again we are forced to publish the Foreign Law contributions in this fall issue of *The International Lawyer*. For complete coverage of the developments in 2001, I encourage you to read the summer and fall issues together.

As for the foreign law contributions, the China law committee's discussion of the developments in China is particularly noteworthy, synthesizing the impact that WTO accession has had on the rule of law in that country. The piece includes discussion of regulations affecting telecommunications, intellectual property, foreign investment, taxation, and legal services.

Developments in several key European countries are highlighted in the pieces submitted by the European, Central European, and Eurasian States law committees. These developments include new e-commerce legislation in Germany, new constitutional amendments in Greece, significant land reform legislation in Russia, enhanced federalism laws in Italy, noteworthy competition law developments in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Spain, and the United Kingdom, and numerous commercial developments in other central European countries.

A detailed report by the Middle Eastern law committee highlights new terrorism laws in Algeria and Jordan, democratic reforms in Bahrain, economic liberalization in Egypt, Libya, Iran, and Syria, various sectoral modifications in Turkey, and efforts to promote foreign investment in Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, and Qatar.

Closer to home, the Mexican law committee's submission highlights developments in Mexican constitutional, commercial, and arbitration law, as well as sectoral developments

---

\*Roger P. Alford is associate professor of law at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California. He serves as general editor of this annual review.

in the energy and wireless industries. The Canadian law committee's piece likewise discusses key developments regarding customs, trade, tax, antitrust, telecommunications, and environmental law.

Finally, the issue includes an interesting piece by the Transnational Legal Practice committee regarding attempts to encourage United States state bars to permit foreign legal consultants to practice in the United States.

Several acknowledgements are in order. This year we had over 175 contributors in the year-in-review issues, writing thirty-five articles. Deserving special mention also is Southern Methodist University. Dean Christine M. Szaj, Executive Editor of the project, Rita Stoy, Administrative Assistant of *The International Lawyer*, the Editor-in-Chief, PJ Putnam and the Managing Editor, Shanna Nugent, as well as over thirty law students at Southern Methodist University who assisted with the project. It is impossible to understate the importance of the contributions of SMU to the success of this project. Also deserving special acknowledgement are the division chairs of the Section—Michael Byowitz, Barbara Aldave, Stuart Deming, and Deborah Enix-Ross—who each assisted in securing the submissions of their respective committees. In addition, the leadership of the Section, particularly former Chair Bob Lutz and current Chair Don DeAmicis, continue to provide active support for the project. Their efforts contributed to the quantity and quality of the submissions.

Any comments or questions may be submitted to me. My mailing address is Professor Roger Alford, Pepperdine University School of Law, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90263. My mailing address is [Roger.Alford@Pepperdine.edu](mailto:Roger.Alford@Pepperdine.edu).