

## **1986 Theberge Prize for Private International Law Recipient: *John O. Honnold***

*Editor's Note: Professor John O. Honnold was awarded the 1986 Theberge Prize for Private International Law at the midwinter meeting of the Section of International Law and Practice, December 6, 1985 in Miami, Florida. The award is named in honor of the Section's former chairman, Leonard J. Theberge, and was authorized by the ABA Board of Governors in 1985 to be given each year ". . . to an individual judged by the Section to have performed distinguished services in the field of private international law."*

### **PRESENTATION OF AWARD AND ABBREVIATED BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN O. HONNOLD<sup>1</sup>**

Professor John O. Honnold was born in 1915 in Illinois, and went to the University of Illinois for his A.B. (1936) and to Harvard Law School for his J.D. (1939), where he also served as a member of the Law Review. He became a member of the Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1946, eventually becoming the William A. Schander Professor of Commercial Law, and is now emeritus. He has received the Fulbright Senior Research Scholarship award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and most recently

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1. This is an edited and abridged version of the remarks by Professor Don Wallace, Jr., Chairman of the Section's Private International Law Award Committee, made in presenting the Award to Professor Honnold on December 6, 1985, at the Section's Midwinter Meeting in Miami, Florida.

was the Goodhart Professor of Science of Law at Cambridge University during the 1982–83 academic year. In 1965 he was Chief Counsel of the Mississippi Office of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.<sup>2</sup>

John was Chief of the Secretariat for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) during its formative years, 1969–1974. During this time, the Commission was to master its work on the international sale of goods, international payments, international commercial arbitration and the carriage of goods by sea, among other areas. In Professor Kazuaki Sono's words, provided by way of his testimonial for this occasion,<sup>3</sup> "The organizational framework that . . . [John] established and his rigorous insistence on scholarship and intellectual excellence, enabled the Secretariat to produce high quality work that served as a foundation for the Commission's successes." In so many words, John built the traditions of UNCITRAL.

One of John's greatest contributions has been to the 1980 U.N. Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. Peter Pfund of the Department of State refers to John's many roles with respect to it: "As Secretary of UNCITRAL, as United States expert in the Commission's Working Group, as United States Delegation Co-chairman and advocate for U.S. ratification, and, finally, as proponent for worldwide adoption of the . . . [Convention]." John is also the author of *Uniform Law for International Sales under the 1980 United Nations Convention (1982)*, an excellent analysis of the Convention.

But beyond these career landmarks and personal accomplishments, John is known for his personality: "[He is] thoughtful, gentle and fair . . . [;] beneath the gentle manner are a firm conviction and a strong sense of purpose often communicated with a very original sense of humor."<sup>4</sup>

On behalf of the American Bar Association and its Section on International Law and Practice, I hereby bestow upon you, John O. Honnold, the Fourth Annual Leonard J. Theberge Prize for Private International Law.

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2. A bibliography of Professor Honnold's extensive works, as well as numerous tributes to him, can be found at 132 PENN. L. REV. 935–954 (1984).

3. Letter from Professor Kazuaki Sono to Professor John O. Honnold, dated Nov. 22, 1985. In addition to Professor Sono's, testimonials were presented to Professor Honnold from Peter Pfund, Ambassador Richard Kearney, Eric Bergsten, Professor Barrera Graf and Professor Willem C. Vis.

4. Letter from Peter Pfund to Professor John O. Honnold, dated Dec. 2, 1985.