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International Legal Exchange (ILEX) Committee Annual Report: 1990

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REPORT

EDISON W. DICK*

International Legal Exchange (ILEX) Committee Annual Report: 1990

At the Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association in August 1990 the International Legal Exchange (ILEX) program commenced its twelfth year of operation under the auspices of the Section of International Law and Practice. The most important ILEX program activities for the calendar year are summarized below.

I. ILEX Briefing Trips

In March, ILEX sponsored a successful delegation and briefing trip to Mexico. This timely and important trip focused on the legal system in Mexico, with particular reference to foreign investment issues in that country. The delegation visited Mexico City and Monterrey. John Stephenson, along with his colleagues from the Mexican Law Committee in Mexico, provided an extremely informative program for the delegation.

In October, ILEX sponsored a very timely briefing trip to the newly unified Germany, visiting Bonn and Cologne as well as Berlin. The trip focused on the profound changes, both political and economic, now taking place in the new Germany. The delegation received high level briefings from government representatives (including the Minister of Justice) and business and banking leaders, as well as important individuals in the legal community. Utz Toepke, past chair of the European Law Committee, planned an excellent program. A report of this delegation will be available as part of the ILEX briefing trip monograph series.

In 1991, ILEX will be conducting two briefing trips: the first will be to the headquarters of the GATT in Geneva to provide participants with an opportunity

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to learn firsthand about the results of the Uruguay Round and the basic principles that will govern international trade in the next century; the second trip will be to Tokyo and Singapore in the fall to focus on Asian capital markets.

II. Individual Placements

ILEX has placed or assisted in the placement of approximately seventy foreign lawyers in the United States during 1990. Many of these placements are as a result of cooperative efforts ILEX has undertaken with major law firms around the United States to facilitate the placement of foreign lawyer interns in those firms.

There have also been several placements of United States lawyers overseas, including placements of a Nashville, Tennessee, lawyer in Sydney and a lawyer from Oregon in London.

ILEX was awarded a grant from the United States Information Agency (USIA) for the placement in United States law firms of five lawyers from Kenya during 1991. This program is intended to provide an overview of the U.S. legal system for Kenyan lawyers and to enhance understanding between the legal communities of both countries.

ILEX also commenced an exchange program with the *Ordre des Avocats à la cour de Paris* (Paris Bar Association) whereby a number of U.S. lawyers will be placed in Paris law firms, and on a partially reciprocal basis, Parisian lawyers will visit the United States for ILEX-arranged placement.

ILEX also began working intensely with the Section's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) to develop exchange programs for lawyers from Central and Eastern European countries in U.S. law firms and law offices.

III. Program for Foreign Government Officials

At the request of USIA, ILEX has arranged several five-month intensive study programs for Japanese government officials. These officials are selected by the National Personnel Authority in Japan. The individual programs have involved: the international aspects of investigations into money laundering, racketeering, and illegal money flows; the new federal sentencing guidelines; practice under the Federal Administrative Procedures Act; the resolution of labor disputes by means of judicial review or alternative disputes mechanisms; and the criminal jury system.

IV. German Lawyers Visit

ILEX, at the request of the Information Office for German-American Exchange, planned a two-week program for twenty-four German lawyers in October. The visiting delegation was split evenly between lawyers from what were formerly West and East Germany. The highlight of the visit was when the delegation witnessed the Senate discuss and give its advice and consent to ratification of the German Unification Treaty.