

REPORT

EDISON W. DICK*

International Legal Exchange (ILEX) Committee Annual Report: 1991

At the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in August 1991, the International Legal Exchange (ILEX) program commenced its thirteenth year of operation under the auspices of the Section of International Law and Practice. The most important ILEX activities for the calendar year are summarized below.

I. ILEX Briefing Trips

In June, ILEX, along with the Middle East Law Committee, conducted a ten-day trip to the Arabian Gulf.¹ The delegation visited Riyadh and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and spent a day in Kuwait. This trip provided a unique and timely view of the political and economic situation in this region following the Gulf War. The delegation received high level briefings from governmental agencies, economic and financial institutions, and legal organizations in each of the countries visited. In the absence of Section Chair Homer Moyer, the delegation was headed by former Section Chair Joseph Griffin.

In November, the Section cosponsored with the Section of Business Law a delegation and briefing trip to Tokyo and Singapore to study new Asian capital markets. There were programs in both Tokyo, addressing the capital markets of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the United States, with emphasis on access to Japanese and U.S. markets, and in Singapore, studying the capital markets of

*Chair, ILEX Committee.

1. This briefing trip was scheduled on short notice to replace a previously scheduled briefing trip to the GATT, which had to be postponed when the Uruguay Round negotiations became stalled.

Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Australia. The delegation heard excellent presentations by leaders from the governmental, legal, and banking communities of each of these countries so that delegation members could learn firsthand about the structure, regulation, and actual operation of the stock exchanges and other features of the capital markets in each of these countries. The delegation members learned a great deal about the ability of U.S. financial service firms to operate in these East Asian countries.

Reports on both of the above briefing trips have been published as part of the ILEX briefing monograph series.

In 1992, ILEX will be conducting two briefing trips: the first trip, in May, is entitled "Spain, Portugal, and the New European Community: Investment, Trade and Legal Structure." This trip will focus on the emerging relationship of these two countries with the European Community. The second briefing trip will be to Hungary and Czechoslovakia to focus on economic reform in these Eastern European countries as it pertains to investment from the United States.

II. Individual Placements

ILEX has placed or assisted in placing approximately eighty foreign lawyers in the United States during 1991. The majority 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. ILEX is the designated agency for the issuance of the J-1 exchange visitor's visa.

There have also been a number of placements of United States lawyers overseas, including placement of four lawyers in Paris under a recently implemented exchange program with the *Ordre des Avocats a la Cour de Paris*.

The United States Information Agency provided funding to support the Section's International Exchange Project for Anglophone Africa operated by the ILEX and African Law Committees. This project granted four-month internship placements for two Kenyan lawyers. The purpose of these internships was to provide an overview of the U.S. legal system and to enhance the Kenyan lawyers' expertise in international trade and commerce by working with U.S. law firms specializing in these areas. The two lawyers, Njoroge Regeru and Muthoni Murage, both from leading Nairobi law firms, were excellent emissaries from Kenya. Three host law firms provided valuable experiences for the Kenyan lawyers. The African Law Committee and the ILEX Committee also organized numerous informal meetings for the two participants where they were able to meet lawyers drawn from a cross-section of the legal community in Washington.

ILEX also is continuing to work closely 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 offices.

III. Program for Foreign Government Officials

At the request of USIA, ILEX arranged several five-month intensive study programs for Japanese government officials. These officials receive fellowships on a highly selective basis from the National Personnel Authority in Japan. Kazuo Sakikabara's study program involved the procedures for the collection of criminal fines and asset forfeiture. He visited Washington, D.C., and Miami and Orlando, Florida. Masahiro Nakagawa pursued a study course involving damages suits against governments and individual police officers in the United States arising out of alleged illegal activities in Washington, D.C., and California. Akira Horiuchi is completing a program focusing on the application of the Freedom of Information Act in the United States. Sawako Yamamoto is in the middle of a program to study damages as a remedy under the U.S. antitrust laws.

IV. Bolivian Judges and Lawyers

At the request of the United States Agency for International Development, ILEX participated in the Andean Peace Scholarship Project by programming a week's visit to Washington, D.C., for nineteen high-level judges and lawyers from Bolivia. ILEX worked closely with the University of Puerto Rico Law School on the program. The visiting judges and lawyers visited the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the District Court, the Claims Court, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Department of Justice. They also spent a full day on Capitol Hill with key members of Congress and committee staff.

