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Tribute to the International Lawyer

Sara P. Sanford

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THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER
A TRIANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE ABA/SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Tribute to The International Lawyer

SARA P. SANDFORD*

As the Chair of the Section of International Law for the 2016-17 ABA year, it is indeed my honor to serve our members, but it is also my honor to serve as Chair in this year, in particular, when *The International Lawyer* turns fifty. What a privilege it is to have a chance to speak on behalf of all of the Section's members about the value that *The International Lawyer* has represented in our collective lives as lawyers. Many of the other tributes included in this edition are from academics and editorial board members who, thankfully, have contributed to the publication and its quality. I, on the other hand, have merely been one of the thousands of beneficiaries of *The International Lawyer* and its content.

I am in my thirty-second year of practice and from my first year as a lawyer, I regularly looked forward to receiving my copy of *The International Lawyer* to learn about the latest academic thinking on a variety of international legal topics. Many topics were quite relevant to my practice; some were merely informative on topics that did not directly affect my clients on a day-to-day basis. Some addressed topics of public international law, which at least indirectly affect us all. Virtually all informed me, regardless of whether I agreed or had my own views on the topic at hand.

When I describe the Section's publications to members and prospective members, I explain that we have several avenues for writers and scholars to publish – many of which are designed to share information among practitioners, academics, in-house counsel, students, non-governmental organizations and government lawyers. I explain, however, that they should look for an opportunity to publish in *The International Lawyer* if they are looking to present truly scholarly material. *The International Lawyer* seeks to publish content that is intended not just to report or analyze, but to present new ideas and arguments for others who share our interest in international law. In other words, *The International Lawyer* is the best publication for those who wish to influence what international law should be.

In many traditions, fifty years may seem minor, but in a nation that is a little over 200 years old, a publication of fifty years is truly remarkable, especially when we can recognize it by its quality and influence in addition to its longevity. The Section's thirty-year collaboration with Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law to bring *The International Lawyer* to press has been invaluable in sustaining the quality of the publication, and for that we should all be grateful.

* Chair of the ABA Section of International Law.

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I am eager to see how the profession will change over the next fifty years and, with the evolution/revolution in the publishing world, as well, I have no doubt that *The International Lawyer* will change too. Whatever happens, I find it difficult to imagine practicing law without some version of *The International Lawyer* on my bookshelf (whether virtual or real) and without waiting for the next edition to arrive, in whatever form it will take. Over the past several decades, I have grown to rely on its quality and constancy and thank all those contributors who have made the last fifty years of *The International Lawyer* possible. You certainly have enriched my professional life, and on behalf of all our Section's members, I sincerely thank you for your contribution to the international legal profession.

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