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The International Lawyer: A Truly Global Law Review

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The International Lawyer: A Truly Global Law Review

WERNER F. EBKE*

The International Lawyer – these three words stand for an outstanding, truly global law review. *The International Lawyer* is the official publication of the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law. Prior to 2013, it was a quarterly publication that included a special Year in Review issue, which is now a separate annual publication known as *The Year in Review*. The ABA published the inaugural issue of *The International Lawyer* in 1966. In 1986, Professor Joseph Jude Norton brought *The International Lawyer* to the campus of the Southern Methodist University School of Law in Dallas, Texas. Joe and I had worked out the presentation for the ABA International Law Section and made our case at an annual meeting of the ABA Section of International Law in Washington, D.C. Our growth-oriented, international concept, it seems, convinced the ABA International Law Section. SMU became the proud home of *The International Lawyer* and has been ever since. Joe became the Editor-in-Chief in the forming years and asked me to serve as Associate Editor, a great honor for me as a young SMU assistant law professor which I accepted with great pleasure.

Since then, *The International Lawyer* has grown to become the most widely distributed U.S. international law review in the world, enjoying subscriptions of approximately 22,000 readers in more than 90 countries. The global success of *The International Lawyer* is closely affiliated with the process of globalization, the functioning of which is aptly illustrated by the American author John Naisbitt in his book *Megatrends* (1982) and the scholarly foundations of which were laid down by the German immigrant and former professor at the Harvard Business School Theodore Levitt in his famous article *The Globalization of Markets* in the 1983 Harvard Business Review. Globalization has affected almost all aspects of the cross-border exchange of goods and services, capital transfers, current international payments, international activities of (“transnational”) corporations and, last but not least, the employment market and the market for public goods. As a result, national legislatures, supranational economic and political unions (e.g., European Union) or associations (e.g., NAFTA), and international

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organizations (e.g., UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO, GATT, GATS, OECD, IAO, FAO, UNEP) are in search of possible policy, institutional, and regulatory responses to the globalization of markets to overcome deficiencies of national legal systems and create a framework within which global trade and industry can prosper without losing too much control over the market participants and their activities. Needless to say, the increasing role of international economic law adds complexity to the comprehension, structuring, and solution of cross-border cases.

The International Lawyer provides necessary information and supports lawyers worldwide in their endeavor to cope with the challenges of globalization. *The International Lawyer* focuses on practical as well as theoretical issues of international law, including trade, licensing, direct investment, finance, taxation, litigation, and dispute resolution. Due to the broad range of topics covered and its excellent international reputation, *The International Lawyer* attracts the finest authors from around the world who view *The International Lawyer* as a global forum for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and thoughts. Lawyers, economists, and decision-makers resort to *The International Lawyer* to find answers to their questions arising out of or in connection with international business transactions.

The professional editorial board of *The International Lawyer*, which is chaired by Editor-in-Chief Professor Marc I. Steinberg, Rupert and Lillian Radford Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law, is supported by a student editorial board consisting of SMU law students who help produce the issues of *The International Lawyer*. Personally, I am particularly grateful to Janet P. Balch, a long-time Executive Editor of *The International Lawyer*, for her assistance during my tenure as Associate Editor of *The International Lawyer*.

I wish *The International Lawyer* another fifty successful years as the leading international law review. While the future may be uncertain, *The International Lawyer* will certainly not run out of interesting, challenging, future-oriented, and controversial topics and issues that need to be addressed and analyzed.

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