

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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September 2013 to September 2014

This is my first report as President of the IALL. It covers the period between the Barcelona Conference of 2013 and the final days preceding the Buenos Aires Conference of 2014. There are two reports to follow because my term in office will last until 2016.

## The IALL Board

The Officers of the Board are:

President: **Jeroen Vervliet**, Peace Palace Library, The Hague, The Netherlands;  
Immediate Past President: **Petal Kinder**, High Court of Australia, Canberra.  
First Vice President: **Ruth Bird**, Bodleian Law Library, University of Oxford;  
Second Vice President: **Bård Tuseth**, Department of Public and International Law Library, Domus Bibliotheca, Oslo, Norway;  
Secretary: **Barbara Garavaglia**, University of Michigan Law Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan;  
Treasurer: **Xinh Luu**, University of Virginia Law Library, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Regular Members of the Board are:

**Kristina Alayan**, J. Michael Goodson Law Library, Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina;  
**Daniel Boyer**, Nahum Gelber Law Library, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.  
**Kurt Carroll**, Law Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.;  
**Lily Echiverri**, Law Library, University of the Philippines, Manila;  
**David Gee**, Law Library, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, United Kingdom;  
**Kerem Kahvecioglu**, Law Library, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey;  
**Pedro Padilla Rosa**, University of Puerto Rico Law Library, Puerto Rico;  
**Ivo Vogel**, Head of Scientific Information Service for International and Interdisciplinary Legal Research, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany;

**Mark Engsborg** (*ex-officio*), Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia;

**Marci Hoffman** (*ex-officio*), University of California, Berkeley, School of Law Library, Berkeley, California.

Pedro Padilla Rosa of the University of Puerto Rico, has withdrawn from the Board of IALL, as communicated in an email of August 2014. He has also retired from his job in San Juan; he has decided accordingly partly because of health problems. The IALL Board has thanked Pedro Padilla Rosa for his unrelenting enthusiasm for IALL, as a conference organizer in 2008, for his activities as a Board Member and as Board Liaison, e.g. in Barcelona and for Buenos Aires.

### Board Meetings

The Board met on Saturday 14 September 2013 in Barcelona and on Friday 20 September 2013; annually returning items have been discussed as well as strategic issues. Until 2011, so-called tri-annual Strategy Meetings took place, but they have been abolished and connected to ordinary meetings. No informal Board meetings occurred although business contact through email is very frequent.

### Representation

I accepted an invitation to attend the American Association of Law Libraries annual conference in San Antonio, Texas that took place in July 2014, where I spoke briefly at the "International Attendees Joint Reception" of AALL, IALL and FCIL-SIS. The preceding days I visited the University of Texas, in Austin. Unfortunately, I had to decline the request of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries to attend their annual conference. The Immediate Past President kindly assumed the responsibilities of representing IALL at the Australian Law Librarians' Association. Although it had been on my mind to attend the IFLA-conference in Lyon, France, in August 2014, I had to relinquish my original plan for professional and personal reasons.

### 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Course of IALL in Barcelona

The conference was prepared by Montse Morante, Maria Elena, Lauroba Dolors Gutiérrez, Adelaida Ferrer and Monica Navarro-Michel (and by liaison officer Pedro Padilla Rosa) for the period 15-19 September 2013. IALL enjoyed a highly interesting annual course, full of variety and unique character, with a remarkable amount of Private International Law-topics. There were also lectures on Legal and Constitutional History, Public International Law, and Political themes relating to the ambition of Catalonia to secede from Spain. More than 100 delegates participated.

Rare Books and Manuscripts were shown, library visits organized, on the Optional Day, there was a pilgrimage to a Benedictine Monastery. Before the actual start of the conference, an Information Literacy-session was held. This was a successful meeting out of which grew the idea to have a yearly pre-meeting at IALL annual conferences, and the establishment of an Education Committee on the Board.

Scholarship recipients in 2013 were:

1. Eugene Hsue,
2. Abiola Oyewo and
3. Akash Singh.

Four special bursaries from within Spain were awarded:

1. David Aznar,
2. Marta Balbuena Alvarez,
3. Maria García-Sánchez and
4. Noémi Cué Pérez.

Many exhibitors and sponsors were present:

- Wolters Kluwer-Law & Business,
- William S. Hein & Co., Inc.,
- Brill-Martinus Nijhoff,
- Justis,
- InvestorStateLawGuide,
- C.H. Beck,
- Nomos,
- Cengage,
- Eleven,
- Intersentia,
- Puvill and
- TradeLawGuide.

#### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM was held on 18 September 2013. Scholarship and bursary recipients were announced. Regular reporting took place.

The IALL 2013 Website Award Winner was Austrian Legal Information System Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes (RIS). The Board has decided to discontinue the Website Award. It used to be unique to have a strong website, but that view has been overtaken by time. Instead, the Board currently plans to make an annual award for the best article in the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION, as well to further the quality of IALL's own journal.

### Current and Future Locations for IALL's Annual Course

Buenos Aires was selected in 2012. The Local Planning Committee consists of Gloria Orrego Hoyos and Andrea Saladino Max Buch Library, University of San Andrés), Mariana del Carril (Supreme Court Library), and Analía Trouvé (Cancillería). Petal Kinder, Pedro Padilla Rosa and Mark Engsberg made an examination of the site in 2013. Subsequently, Jeroen Vervliet and Mark Engsberg made a pre-conference-visit in 2014. It seems to become a promising, well-balanced, and rich program in which human rights, gender and women's rights, access to information, the library under dictatorship, and reconciliation are on the agenda. An Optional Day is foreseen in the countryside during which the International Law issues of Argentina will be addressed.

The 2015 conference "Within and in between: German legal tradition in times of internationalization and beyond" is planned for Berlin (20–24 September). This conference will touch upon International Law matters related to German legal history (e.g. Nuremberg Trials, Grundgesetz, etc.), and also refers to the world at large in which Germany partakes, such as a "hinge country," or one setting an example for other jurisdictions, and as a country of major importance to the world society.

Oxford has been selected for 2016 (July 31<sup>st</sup>–August 4<sup>th</sup>) and the topic will be "Common law throughout the world". The decision about the 2017 venue will be made at a later date.

*Jeroen Vervliet*