

The ISFL Family Letter

September 2000

Published by the International Society of Family Law by Prof. Margaret F. Brinig, Editor, the Family Letter: Newsletter of the ISFL, College of Law, University of Iowa, Boyd Law Building, Iowa City, IA 52245 (319) 335-6811 FAX (319) 335-9098
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Message of the President:

In this letter I want to address two general subjects: the tremendous importance of family law at this time in the world's history, and the development that may be needed if the ISFL is to meet the needs of our growing membership.

The International Society of Family Law is dedicated to promote and facilitate the study and discussion of what is arguably the most dynamic, the most important, area of law and social policy of our time - family law. Our Society and its members are privileged to study, teach, discuss, debate and work with the "defining" issues of our generation. It is not unlikely that historians in the future will conclude that the greatest issues of legal and social policy arising in the present period (turn-of-the-century & millenium) were issues relating to the structure, status, rights and responsibilities of family and quasi-family relations - family law issues. Contemporary policy issues concerning changing family relationships and challenged legal preferences for traditional family structures and values reflect significant social changes - including changes in social mores, economic conditions, cultural pressures, media influence, medical and other technological developments, educational practices, political principles, and other human environmental factors. Whether those changes are merely transitory or permanent is not yet clear, nor is there certainty about the wisdom or folly of many proposed changes in family law and policy. But it is clear that these are extremely important issues, and how they are resolved will have profound (potentially revolutionary) consequences for individuals and for societies.

Family policy issues are important because the effects are so far-reaching. Economically, educationally, socially, emotionally, politically and in a myriad of other ways, family structure and relations have tremendous impact upon our society. These matters are important because individual human beings live in families; the family is the basic unit and principal socializing institution of society; political structures, legal systems, social relations, and economies are based upon the family. Thus, it is a tremendous privilege for us to work in this field, to study, research, write about, teach and discuss with each other Family Law issues at this time.

The International Society of Family Law was formed and continues to exist primarily for one single objective, to promote and facilitate (in the words of our Bye-Laws) "the study and discussion of family law." We hold conferences, publish books, publish an International Survey, publish a newsletter, and so forth for the purpose of encouraging and giving opportunity for the serious study and responsible discussion of family law. Of course, the ISFL is strictly nonpolitical. Our bye-laws state: "The Society is non-political and shall not engage in any political activities nor take a position on any international or national political or religious matter." This wise basic principle allows us to unite with a common purpose - to learn, to discuss, to debate, to change our views, to express our opinions whether popular or unpopular, majority or minority, traditional or novel, conservative or liberal, without the divisiveness of the Society taking sides. Of course, our members as individuals, citizens, and scholars,

speaking for themselves, can and should be involved in attempting to implement in law and policy the principles and programs that they think will best protect, promote, and serve the needs of families, individuals and society. But they do not speak for the Society. Our conference and publications attract a wide variety of policy positions and perspectives in significant part because the Society itself refrains from taking positions and thereby provides an open and hospitable forum for the responsible expression, debate and discussion of differing positions on important issues. The ISFL must remain independent by refraining from taking any positions on any policy proposals or political issues.

The International Society of Family Law is growing in membership and activity (perhaps because Family Law issues are so important at this time). At the Tenth World Conference in Brisbane, we had on our membership rolls over 630 members residing in 61 countries. We had in attendance at the excellent four-day conference more than 250 persons registered from 37 countries, including many new members from Australia, New Zealand, and South East Asia, as well as from Europe, the Americas (North and South), Africa and Asia. (Many thanks to Stephen Parker and John Dewar for their great work in organizing that superb conference.)

The continuing growth of our Society gives us responsibilities as well as opportunities. We must meet the needs of more members by providing more opportunities for more members to participate actively in the stimulating information-and-idea exchanging activities of the Society. We can do so by (1) sponsoring or co-sponsoring more high-quality conferences, (2) by increasing the reach and influence of our publications, and (3) by increasing the number of members who participate in the administration of the Society.

With more members we need to hold more conferences to provide more opportunity for all to participate in these stimulating scholarly exchanges. Partially as a result of the increase in membership of the Society, we have decided to hold the next World Conference in 2002, just two years after the last one, rather than after a three-years interval, as in the past. We also are encouraging members to convene regional conferences where the Society can bring the benefits of membership to members who may not be able to travel to Australia, South Africa, or Denmark but who want to participate in meetings, discussion, paper-presentation, and publication on family law issues. It may not be well-known that any member(s) of the Society can propose to convene a geographically regional (or topic-specific) "regional" conference; if it appears to be well-conceived, well-organized, and consistent with our purposes, the ISFL Executive Council is receptive to giving official sponsorship or co-sponsorship to such proposed conferences, providing some limited financial support, advertising and otherwise helping the conference.

As another section of this newsletter indicates, the Fourth North America Regional Conference of the ISFL will convene in Kingston, Ontario, Canada (at Queens University) June 14-16, 2001, on the theme of "Defining Family Rights and Obligations in the New Century." The convenor is Professor Nick Bala of Queens University in Kingston, working with eight or nine other ISFL members in Canada and the USA. Also, Dr. Ruth Farrugia of Malta, Dr. Peretz Segal of Israel, Dr. Theofano Papazissi of Greece, Prof. Maria Donata Panforti of Italy and several other delegates from mediterranean nations are discussing a regional conference to focus on issues of religion and family law in the mediterranean region. There has been some discussion of the possibility of a regional conference in Latin America in collaboration with the Brazilian Institute of Family Law (the IBDFam) in which several members of the ISFL are active as officers, including Professor Luiz Edson Fachin and his wife, Dr. Rosana Fachin, Maria Berenice Dias, and others.

We express appreciation to the persons who are organizing these conferences, and encourage other members to plan or propose such regional (or narrow-topic-specific) high-quality conferences. We all benefit as scholars and

professionals as we have opportunity to hear from, meet, interact with, and discuss family law issues with new members from other parts of the world. We can learn much from each other and our conferences provide valuable information and ideas that benefit our profession, policy-makers, and ultimately families.

In an effort to increase the effectiveness of the Annual International Survey of Family Law, the Executive Council has approved the request of Editor Andrew Bainham to appoint several Assistant Editors from various regions of the world. Already, Prof. Bart Rwezaura of Hong Kong has accepted an appointment to be one Assistant Editor, and others will be appointed.

To improve the effectiveness of the Family Letter newsletter, we have asked two members of the Society to assume the responsibilities of preparing and publishing the newsletter (so that the Secretary-General does not have to do that "on the side"). The new Editor is a member of the Executive Council, Professor Margaret Brinig of University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, IA 52245, fax (319) 335-9098, tel (319) 335-6811, <margaret-brinig@uiowa.edu>. The new Associate Editor is Professor Laurence Nolan of Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, tel (202) 806-8064, fax -8024 <lnolan@law.howard.edu> Professor Nolan will be responsible for obtaining information regarding and preparing the sections of the Newsletter dealing with publications (listing articles, books, etc. published by members, and other family law publications that might be of interest to the ISFL members), while Professor Brinig will be responsible for all the rest and the overall publication and mailing of the Newsletter. We hope to move soon to a totally electronic newsletter, delivered by email to our members (to give faster delivery, quicker response, and less cost to the Society).

Finally, it will be beneficial to increase participation of members of the Society in the work and activities of the Society. That includes increasing participation in the formal administrative work of the Society (there is now simply too much work for 4 parttime unpaid officers to do alone), planning and presenting conferences, facilitating publications, etc. In giving members more opportunities to participate in the work of the Society, the officers and Executive Council depend heavily upon individual members to take the initiative, to come forward with offers to help, with ideas for conferences, publications, activities, etc. The Executive Council is very responsive, and all of the officers appreciate it when persons step forward to volunteer to act or to help. It may be wise to reconsider the organization or election of the Executive Council of the Society so as to insure greater and broader representation of all regions of the world where we have significant membership. A newly formed Committee of the Executive Council dealing with organization and administration will be considering structural changes that may help us to serve better the needs of our large and growing membership.

In closing, I acknowledge that I am deeply honored and humbled to serve as President of the International Society of Family Law. (I feel much like Jack Benny when he was given an award for his lifetime of work in the entertainment industry. He said he didn't feel that he deserved the honor, but he also had arthritis and he didn't think he deserved that, either.) In another section of this newsletter is published the list of recently elected officers and Executive Council members. Please feel free to contact any of us. By working together we can take advantage of the unique opportunity that these times offer to scholars of family law.

-Lynn D. Wardle, Brigham Young University School of Law, #518, Provo, UT 84604. Fax (801) 378-5893; email: wardlel@lawgate.byu.edu.

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Report of the Secretary-General:

I am delighted and feel very honoured to have been elected as the new Secretary General of the Society and I look forward with anticipation to working with our new President, Lynn Wardle, with our Treasurer, and with the Executive Council over the next two years. I have a very hard act to follow in attempting to succeed Lynn, whose enthusiasm and efficiency are well-known, and much appreciated, by all the members of the Society.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Brisbane Conference, but I have heard from many different people who attended what a wonderful experience it was. I would like to add my own congratulations to Stephen Parker and John Dewar for their efforts.

The Executive Council met twice during the course of the Conference, the 'old' membership meeting before the Society's General Meeting and handling final planning matters relating to the Conference, and the 'new' one meeting afterward. I am most grateful to Sanford Katz for taking on the role of Acting Secretary General in my absence at the second meeting. The new Executive Council decided to co-opt extra members whose varied experience is an invaluable resource. To this end, the following were co-opted: Rainer Frank, Jacqueline Rubellin-Devichi, William Duncan, Patrick Parkinson, John Dewar, Stephen Parker, June Sinclair and Barbara Bennett Woodhouse.

The Executive Council established six standing committees to help take the work of the Society forward. Each committee is to be chaired by a Vice-President and each Council member will serve on one or two of the committees. The remits of the various committees are as follows: Regional conferences and regional activities (chaired by Olivier Guillod); Membership and dues (chaired by Bea Verschraegen); Publications (chaired by Michael Freeman); Elections and general meetings (chaired by Peter L♦drup); World conferences and other activities (chaired by Nigel Lowe) and General Finances, administration and organisation (chaired for the time being by Bea Verschraegen). I am sure that each of the Vice-Presidents will welcome your suggestions and ideas for these activities and I will be happy to put you in touch with them.

This leads me to the important issue of communication. May I remind all members that, for purposes of speed and economy, we are seeking to publish this Family Letter primarily by email and we therefore need your email addresses. **If you have not already sent yours to Lynn or Paul Vlaardingerbroek, please do so to me or to Paul as soon as possible so that we can update our membership list.**

I hope that as many members as possible will communicate with me about matters of interest to the Society. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you at past conferences (Uppsala in 1979 was the first I attended, which now seems a very long time ago!) and I hope that over the next two years, I will be able to renew old acquaintances and get to know many more of you. Email is the easiest way, but fax, phone or even old-fashioned post will also reach me.

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Report of the Treasurer

Dear members,

To avoid unnecessary costs, it is absolutely necessary to send me (eventual) changes of address as soon as possible. Those who wish to withdraw their membership should do so in time and at least two months before the end of their subscription period, so before November 2000!! You will find my address and fax number in the subscription form and Society letterhead.

Every member paying subscription receives a membership card from me that indicates the years of payment.

Soon I will send second reminders for the subscription for 2000-2002 to those members who still have not yet paid their dues for this year or even for the past year(s). In December I will send reminders for 2001-2003. Please note that I send (rather expensive) reminders to our members and that one reminder should be sufficient (!). To avoid unnecessary costs the members who do not pay their subscription after the second reminder will be deleted as member of ISFL. I ask those who do not pay their subscription in time, to avoid unnecessary costs and pay (from now on) at my first request. I thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter. Unfortunately we had to delete a lot of members who had not paid their dues in the past years.

To promote the membership of our society you will find information and an inscription form in the membership booklet and in the International Survey. Please, promote our society with your colleagues and ask them to become member of ISFL. The more members we have, the more profit we can offer to our members.

Paul Vlaardingerbroek, treasurer.

Report of The International Survey Editor:

The 2000 Edition of the International Survey was published in June. It was the first volume to be published by Jordans of Bristol who have taken over publication of the Survey from Kluwer. It was also the first volume of the Survey in which the title reflected the the year of publication rather than the calendar year which was predominantly covered by the contributions.

Regular readers of the Survey should bear this change in mind. The effect is that the 1997 Survey (which was published in 1999) is now followed not by a 1998 Survey but by the 2000 Edition. The next Survey, to be published in mid-2001 will therefore be the 2001 Edition.

The 2000 Edition contains articles from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chile,

China, Croatia, Czech Republic, England and Wales, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and The United States, together with the Annual Review of Family Law.

The 2001 edition is in preparation and will contain, inter alia, contributions from Costa Rica, Estonia and Kenya - all of which will be covered in the Survey for the first time.

As always I would be very glad to hear from anyone wishing to contribute to the Survey and of family law scholars in those jurisdictions and parts of the world which have been under-represented in the Survey.
Andrew Bainham

Hague Conference Activities re: Family Law. A Member of the ISFL Executive Council, William Duncan, is the First Secretary of the Hague Conference Permanent Bureau. He writes to inform the ISFL membership of several Hague Conference projects regarding family law. William reports that:

[In May] a Special Commission [of the Hague Conference] was on General Affairs and Policy of the Hague Conference, ie setting the Agenda for the Conference for the next 3/4 years. The outcome, from the family law side, was certainly very positive. We are to begin work soon on the elaboration of a new world-wide instrument on maintenance obligations (principally child support.) This is long term and very exciting. We have a Special Commission to review the operation of the 1993 Intercountry Adoption Convention from 28 Nov to 1 Dec this year. There will be a six day Special Commission to review the operation of the 1980 Convention on International Child Abduction in March (precise dates yet to be fixed) of next year (2001). This will be a major undertaking for which preparations have been underway for some time. I hope it will be possible for the Society to be represented especially at the March meeting (perhaps John Eekelaar, who was there at the beginning, might be interested), but also at the November meeting on intercountry adoption, if that is possible.

We are also to conduct, on the proposal of the USA, a special study of the problems of contact/access/visitation which arise in the context of abduction cases. You may also be interested to know that the subject of the private international law aspects of cohabitation outside marriage (including the issues surrounding registered partnerships, PACS etc) remains on our agenda, but without priority. A proposal by the Netherlands and several other States to set up a Working Party did not receive sufficient support at this stage, though I suspect that the matter will be revisited in two years time. The Permanent Bureau has been asked to maintain a watching brief -
William Duncan

French Version of International Survey. We are honored to announce that under the supervision of Professor Jacqueline Rubellin-Devichi, Director of the Centre de droit de la famille, Université Jean Moulin in Lyon, France the Centre has published *Regards sur le droit de la famille dans le monde* (The International Survey of Family Law 1996). Persons who have subscribed to receive the International Survey in French have received their copies. Persons who might wish to purchase a copy of the *Regards* may contact Professor Rubellin-Devichi at 40 quai Gailleton, 69002 Lyon, FRANCE, Fax : 33 (0)4 78 38 28 50, Email: rubellin@univ-lyon3.fr.

summary Calendar of Upcoming Events:

June 14-16, 2001 North American Conference, Kingston, Ontario

Upcoming Conferences & Calls for Papers:

The North American Conference has scheduled its 2001 conference for June 14-16. It will be held at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The theme - Defining the Family: Familial Rights and Obligations in the New Century - is intended to be inclusive. Members interested in presenting papers should send a one-page proposal to Professor Marygold Melli, University of Wisconsin School of Law, 975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2001. Further information is posted on the North American Conference Web page, or you may contact one of the following:

Professor Nicholas Bala
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Web address for the conference: <http://qsilver.queensu.ca/law/ISFLJune2001/>

Tenth (Brisbane) World Conference paper publication:

John Dewar and Stephen Parker, co-convenors of the Tenth World Conference in Brisbane, have announced that they intend to post the papers from the conference on a website. Persons who presented papers in Brisbane who would like to have their papers published on the web should send by email electronic copies of their papers to Professor John Dewar at <jdewar@mailbox.gu.edu.au> . Please indicate also whether you would like your paper to be considered for publication in the printed collection of selected conference papers.

RESULTS OF RECENT ELECTIONS:

PRESIDENT Lynn D. Wardle (USA)

VICE-PRESIDENTS six vacancies

Michael Freeman (England), Olivier Guillod (Switzerland), Peter L♦♦drup (Norway), Nigel Lowe (UK), Bea Verschraegen (Austria)

SECRETARY-GENERAL Gillian Douglas

TREASURER Paul Vlaardingerbroek,

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: Margaret Brinig (USA), Miquel Martin-Casals (Spain), Stephanie Charlesworth (Australia), Ruth Deech (UK), Olga Dyuzheva (Russia), John Eekelaar (UK), Marsha Garrison (USA), Dominique Goubau (Quebec, Canada), Maarit Järnenter-Jareborg (Sweden), Sanford N. Katz (USA), Miroslava Gec-Korosec (Slovenia), Eduardo de Oliveira Leite (Brazil), Marygold Melli (USA), Marie-Thérèse Meulders (Belgium), Linda Nielsen (Denmark), Thandabantu Nhlapo (South Africa), Koji Ono (Japan), Maria Donata Panforti (Italy), Bart Rwezaura (Hong Kong)

Stephanie Charlesworth (Australia) resigned from the Council.

Persons elected to Executive Council by Council Cooption:

Jacqueline Rubelin-Devichi (France), John Dewar (Australia), William Duncan (Ireland), Rainer Frank (Germany), Stephen Parker (Australia), Patrick Parkinson (Australia), June Sinclair (South Africa), Barbara Bennett Woodhouse (USA).

Recent Publications of Note by ISFL Members:

(Compiled by Associate Editor Laurence Nolan, Council Member and Professor of Law, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, tel (202) 806-8064, fax -8024 lnolan@law.howard.edu)

1. Family Law in General: History; Theories; Overviews

Anders Agell, "Family Forms and Legal Policies, A Comparative View from a Swedish Observer," in 38 *Scandinavian Studies in Law, Legal Issues of the Late 1990s* 197-216 (1999).

Margaret Brinig & Steven Nock, "Covenant and Contract," 12 *Regent University Law Review* 9 (1999-2000).

Margaret F. Brinig, *From Contract to Covenant: Beyond the Law and Economics of the Family* (Harvard University Press 2000).

Tonya L. Brito, "The Welfarization of Family Law," 48 *Kansas Law Review* 229- (2000).

Tonya L. Brito, "From Madonna to Proletariat: Constructing a New Ideology of Motherhood in Welfare Discourse," 44 *Villanova Law Review* 415 (1999).

Robert J. Levy, "Trends in Legislative Regulation of Family Law Doctrine: Millennial Musings," 22 *Family Law Quarterly* 543 (1999).

Jane C. Murphy, "Rules, Responsibility and Commitment to Children: The New Language of Morality in Family Law," 60 *University of Pittsburgh Law Review* 1111 (1999).

Sarah H. Ramsey & Douglas E. Abrams, *Children and the Law, Doctrine, Policy and Practice* (West Group 2000).

Robert H. Mnookin & D. Kelly Weisberg, *Child, Family and State, Problems and Materials on Children and the Law* (Aspen Law & Business, 4th ed., 2000).

David S. Rosettenstein, "Legitimizing Difference Without Sacrificing Social and Family Fabric," 1 *Journal of Law & Family Studies* 13 (1999).

Andrea Russo and Robert E. Rains, "The Reform of the Italian System of Private International Law with Particular Regard to Domestic Relations Issues," 25 *North Carolina Journal of International Law & Commercial Regulation* 272 (2000).

Elaine E. Sutherland, *Child and Family Law* (T&T Clark 1999).

B. Verschraegen, "Gleichgeschlechtliche Beziehungen im Spiegel des Rechts (Legal Aspects of Same-sex Relationships)," in *Deutsches und Europaisches Familienrecht* at 64-75 (2000).

Peter Wahlgreen, *Legal Issues of the Late 1990s*, in 38 *Scandinavian Studies in Law* 197 (1999).

Merle H. Weiner, "'Civilizing' the Next Generation: A Response to Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy by Stephen L. Carter," 42 *Howard Law Journal* 241 (1999).

2. Before/Creation of Spousal or Quasi-Spousal Relations

Marion Crain, "'Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?' Marriage and Breadwinning in Postindustrial Society," 60 *Ohio State Law Journal* 1877 (1999).

Jennifer Wriggins, "Marriage Law and Family Law: Autonomy, Interdependence and Couples of the Same Gender," 41 *Boston College Law Review* 265 (2000).

3. Before/Creation of Parent-Child or Similar Relations

Marsha Garrison, "Law Making for Baby Making: An Interpretive Approach to the Determination of Legal Parentage," 113 *Harvard Law Review* 835 (2000).

Laurence Nolan, "'Unwed Children' and Their Parents Before the United States Supreme Court from Levy to Michael H.: Unlikely Participants in Constitutional Jurisprudence," 28 *Capital University Law Review* 1 (1999).

Encarna Roca, "Reproduction Rights and Eugenics," in Carlos Romeo Casabona, ed., *Biotechnology, Law and Bioethics. Comparative Perspectives* (Bruylant, Bruxelles) 143-181 (1999).

4. Spousal Relations in the Ongoing Family

Sally F. Goldfarb, "Violence Against Women and the Persistence of Privacy," 61 *Ohio State Law Journal* 1 (2000).

5. Parent-Child Relations in the Ongoing Family

Gregory A. Loken, "Gratitude and the Map of Moral Duties Toward Children," 31 Arizona State Law Journal 1121 (1999).

Gregory A. Loken and David S. Rosettenstein, Symposium: The Juvenile Justice Counter-Reformation: "Children and Adolescents as Adult Criminals," 18 Quinnipiac College School of Law Law Review 351 (1999).

6. Termination/Post-Relations of Spouses & Quasi-Spouses

Anders Agell, "The Division of Property Upon Divorce from a European Perspective," in *Liber Amicorum Marie-Thérèse Meulders-Klein Droit Comparé Des Personnes Et De La Famille*, pages 1-20 (Bruylant Bruxelles 1998)

Lewis Becker, "Spousal and Child Support and the 'Voluntary Reduction of Income' Doctrine," 29 Connecticut Law Review 647 (1997).

Margaret F. Brinig and Douglas W. Allen, "'These Boots are Made for Walking': Why Most Divorce Filers are Women," 2 American Law and Economics Review 126 (2000).

7. Termination/Post-Relations of Parents and Children

Robin Fretwell Wilson, "Children At Risk: The Sexual Exploitation of Female Children After Divorce," 86 Cornell Law Review - (2001).

Other Publications Notes:

Rainer Frank, former President of the ISFL (1994-1997) and past President of the Commission Internationale de l'Etat Civil ("CIEC"), was instrumental in publishing the text and recommendations of the CIEC proposed Convention (No. 27) on the issuance of life certificate, the Convention (No. 28) on the issuance of a nationality certificate, and the Convention (No. 29) on the recognition of decisions recording a sex reassignment.

NOTE: The Newsletter will publish notices of recent publications dealing with family law topics if the following information---Name of author, title of article or chapter, title of book or journal in which it is published, the volume and pages, the year of publication (and if the title of the article, chapter and/or book or journal is not in English a translation of the same into English -- so that the entry can be placed in the appropriate category)---is sent to Prof. Laurence C. Nolan, Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008; 202-806-8428 (fax); lnolan@law.howard.edu (e-mail).

Personal Notices:

Fritz Sturm, Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lausanne, together with Dieter Heinrich and Eric Jayme have written a two-volume treatise on Family and Nationality Law. A discussion and analysis of developments in Family Law is contained in the first volume.

Prof. dr. Miroslava Gec-Korosec has received a great honor and vote of confidence. She has been elected Judge of the Constitutional Court of Slovenia. Her term of office will run until 2007.

Olga Cvejic Jancic and Prof.Dr.Gordana Kovacec-Stanic, both of the Faculty of Law of the University of Novi Sad, presented papers in the session on personal freedom of the 12th Gathering of the Kopaonik School of Natural Law in Kopaonik, December 13-17, 1999. Professor Jancic was the editor of the session and presented a paper on "The Right to Anonymous Birth." Professor Kovacek-Stanic presented a paper on "The Moving of a Child with a Single Parent into a Foreign Country." The abstracts of both are printed in the Final Document of the conference.

The colleagues and friends of Fritz Sturm honored him with the publication of *Mélanges Fritz Sturm*, a collection of papers dealing with Roman Law, the History of Law, Civil Law, Comparative Law, and Private International Law, published by the Faculty of Law of the University of Lausanne. Copies may be ordered from Collection Scientifique de law Faculté de Droit de Liège, Bâtiment B-31, Boulevard du Rectorat 7, Université de Liège, B-4000 Liège Sart Tilman fax +32.4/366.2803.

Bea Verschraegen writes that the Deutsche Bundestag (German Parliament, Berlin) invited him in September as an expert in the field to give a statement and answer questions, which is a very nice task indeed.

Claire Archbold has been appointed to the Northern Ireland Office of Law Reform, the government body with responsibility for family law reform in Northern Ireland. She will be Senior Legal Officer with responsibility for family law, equality and human rights. Her new e-mail address is claire.archbold@dfpni.gov.uk .