



Newsletter of the ILS

The International Law Section of the Law Council of Australia Limited

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Welcome to the ninth ILS Newsletter.

This newsletter will bring you up to date with the latest Law Council activities regarding the liberalisation of foreign legal services markets. Over the past months, Law Council representatives have travelled to the US and Malaysia to discuss improved access for Australian lawyers seeking to practise Australian law in these jurisdictions with the Conference of US Chief Justices, the American Bar Association and the Malaysian Bar Council. Law Council representatives have also participated in the Attorney-General's Mission to China (*please refer to the September newsletter for further details*).

Law Council delegations also attended the ABA Meetings in Honolulu, the POLA Conference in Singapore and further meetings in the US.

The ILS has also been very active and some great events are scheduled for 2007.

Enjoy reading the newsletter.

Hendryk Flaegel

Conference of US Chief Justices in Indianapolis

The Law Council was delighted to receive an invitation from the Conference of US Chief Justices to meet with them in Indianapolis from 29 July to 1 August 2006. US Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle of North Dakota invited the delegation after very successful meetings convened by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Law Council in Washington in May 2006.

The President of the Law Council, Mr Tim Bugg, led the delegation and was accompanied by the Law Council's Immediate Past President Mr John North and ILS Executive member Dr Gordon Hughes. Ms Cathy Raper of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was a further member of the delegation. The opportunity to travel to meet with the US Chief Justices was made possible through funding from the Department of Education, Science and Training.

The delegation found the meetings at the Conference of US Chief Justices very useful. Members attended a private breakfast meeting with 10 Chief Justices, the Opening Session and a private meeting with representatives of the National Centre for State Courts. Further meetings were held with office bearers from the Indiana State Bar Association and with Mr Mike Greco, the President of the ABA. The

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delegation was also invited to participate in various private discussions with individual chief justices.

As a result of the Conference, it is likely that the US Chief Justices will consider resolutions recommending the need for the ABA to liberalise its Model Rule for the licensing of legal consultants and the desirability of permitting overseas applicants from common law countries to sit State bar exams without the need to hold a law degree from an ABA – accredited law school.

The main priority of the delegation was to explain to the US Chief Justices the extent to which Australia had progressed with mutual recognition of law qualifications, the harmonization of the legal profession and the international recognition of Australian law degrees. The US Chief Justices were also very interested to hear about multi – disciplinary practices, incorporation of legal practices and the way in which Australia’s law schools are operating.

Discussions with some of the Chief Justices continued at the ABA Meetings in Hawaii which immediately followed the Conference in Indianapolis.

A further initiative to the US was undertaken between 5 to 9 November 2006 when a further small Australian delegation comprising Law Council President Mr Tim Bugg, Mr Ian Govey, Deputy Secretary of the Attorney-General’s Department, and Ms Prudence Gordon, Executive Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, travelled to the US to initiate mutual recognition discussions with the US States of New York, Delaware, California and Georgia. The delegation also discussed a proposal for the exchange of discipline information and ascertained the progress of the Conference of Chief Justices’ draft resolutions relating to Foreign Legal Consultant practice rights and admission for foreign qualified lawyers.

American Bar Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) was held in Hawaii from 3 to 8 August 2006. Following the Indianapolis meetings, Mr Tim Bugg and Mr John North travelled to Honolulu to attend the ABA Meetings. They were joined by Ms Margery Nicoll, Director International of the Law Council. Several other representatives from the Law Council’s constituent bodies also attended the ABA Meetings, including the President of the NSW Law Society, Ms June McPhie, the Vice-President of the NSW Law Society, Mr Geoff Dunlevy and Ms Cathy Gale, the President of the Law Institute of Victoria.

The Law Council was very pleased that for the first time, it was invited to co-host a session at the Conference as well as attend various roundtables.

A series of roundtables were primarily conducted by the ABA’s Section of International Law. Mr Bugg and Ms Nicoll had the opportunity to meet with the Executive of the ABA’s Section of International Law and to discuss future co-operation between the Law Council’s International Law Section and that of the ABA.



At the ABA Conference in Hawaii: Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown and Mr Tim Bugg.

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The LCA delegation mainly chose to follow the work sessions and social events sponsored by the Section of International Law. The work sessions included:

- “Doing Business in China: The Latest Challenges”
- “Hot Topics in Doing Business in Asia”
- “Investment Treaty Discipline: Is China Ready For It?”

The session co-hosted by the Section of International Law and the Law Council, “A New Triangle: Relations Among the United States, Australia and China”, was chaired by Mr Kevin Hobgood-Brown of Deacons, Australia. Mr Bugg gave an address at this session and was able to draw on his recent visit to China as part of the Legal Services Mission led by the Australian Federal Attorney-General. He outlined the realities of practising foreign law in China and noted that of the 200 foreign law firms licensed to practise in China, eight of those licenses have been given to Australians (two firms in Beijing, six in Shanghai). He also spoke of his recent attendance at the Conference of Chief Justices in Indianapolis and the fact that at this Meeting, the ABA’s House of Delegates would be considering an amendment to the foreign law rule of practice by foreign legal consultants. In particular, Mr Bugg stressed the hospitable environment in Australia for the practice of foreign law.

Mr Bugg was also invited to participate in a roundtable discussion of US – Asian legal services issues by the Chair of the ABA Task Force on GATS Legal Services Negotiations, Mr Ken Reisenfeld. The purpose of this discussion was to give leaders of the profession from Asian countries and the US an opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual interest related to transnational law practice. Mr Bugg outlined his observations on the nature of national and international legal services markets in Australia with emphasis on recent legal services liberalisations, the market access barriers to practice in Australia and in the US, GATS and bilateral positions and developments and prospects for bilateral mutual recognition agreements for bar qualifications, admission and reciprocal disciplinary measures. This outline was given against the background of the collapse of the “Doha Round” of World Trade Organisation.

Law Council representatives were also invited to participate in a program convened and sponsored by the ABA’s Asia Law Initiative (ABA – Asia). The stated goal of this program was to bring together ABA Annual Meeting guests from and/or interested in the Asia – Pacific region to discuss challenges and opportunities related to strengthening the rule of law in the region. The opportunity was also intended to provide information about the ABA’s ongoing work in support of the rule of law in the region.

One of the highlights of the ABA Meeting was the opportunity for the Law Council representatives to develop links with the Executive members of the ABA’s Section of International Law. The ABA’s Section of International Law has 14,000 members, which makes it the 11th largest ABA Section out of a total number of 27 Sections. Attendance at their meetings ranges between 4,000 and 5,000 delegates. Mr Bugg and Ms Nicoll discussed with the Executive various ways in which the

relationship between the Law Council and the Section might develop. It is now possible that the Section Executive may visit Australia next year with a view to staging a joint seminar with the Law Council.

A strong emphasis was placed on rule of law issues throughout the ABA Meeting. The President of the ABA, Mr Mike Greco, spoke on the Statement of Core Principles for the legal profession worldwide which had been adopted by the ABA House of Delegates. The Law Council has endorsed these principles, along with approximately 40 other nations. The Rule of Law Luncheon, hosted by ABA – Asia, was designed to celebrate the promotion of the rule of law globally.

Meetings in Malaysia

En route to the POLA Conference in Singapore in August 2006, a Law Council delegation comprising President Mr Tim Bugg, Secretary-General Mr Peter Webb and the Director International, Ms Margery Nicoll, visited Malaysia for meetings with Malaysian Bar Council and the Malaysian Government in relation to the legal services market for foreign lawyers in Malaysia. The delegation was joined by Mr Jim Dunstan from Arthur Allens Robinson.

Mr Bugg, Mr Webb and Ms Nicoll also met with the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr James Wise. Mr Jim Dunstan, an extremely experienced practitioners in the legal services market in South East Asia with particular interest and expertise in the Malaysian market, accompanied the delegation to this meeting.

The delegation continued the long standing discussions between Australia and Malaysia regarding the possible liberalisation of the legal services market in Malaysia. Whilst legal services are part of the discussions in the current Free Trade Agreement negotiations between Malaysia and Australia, the relationship between the Law Council and the Malaysian Bar Council also enables the peak professional bodies to speak frankly about possible liberalisation.

The delegation was indebted to Ms Catherine Eu of the Malaysian Bar Council for arranging a series of meetings, including a helpful meeting with the Legal Profession Qualifying Board where its Director, Datim Noraini bt Abdul Rahman, discussed difficulties in extending recognition of those Australian law degrees not currently recognised in Malaysia (currently, degrees from 14 of the 29 law schools in Australia are recognised in Malaysia) and also the admission of Australian qualified lawyers in Malaysia. Both topics are currently being considered by the Qualifying Board.

The delegation also met with the new Malaysian Solicitor-General, Dato Idrus Bin Harun at the Attorney-General's Chambers at Putrajaya. Unfortunately, the Attorney-General, whom Law Council representatives have met on a number of occasions, was not available for the meeting because of a prior commitment.

The meeting with the Malaysian Bar Council was extremely constructive. The Bar Council was represented by Mr Ambia Sreenevasan, the Vice-President, other members of the Executive and Mr Mah Weng Kwai, a former President of the Bar Council. The President of the Bar Council, Mr Yeo Yang Poh, unfortunately was not



Met in Kuala Lumpur: Mr Tun Abd Majid B. Tun Hamzah, Deputy Head of Prosecution Division, Malaysian Attorney-General's Department; Dato Idrus Bin Harun, Solicitor-General of Malaysia; Mr Tim Bugg, Mr Peter Webb and Ms Margery Nicoll.

available for this meeting although the Law Council representatives were able to meet with him at the POLA Conference some days later.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Law Council would submit a further written submission in relation to the Malaysian Bar Council's proposed legislation and rules. This submission was subsequently completed and it is hoped that Mr Bugg and Mr Dunstan will be able to continue discussions with the Malaysian Bar Council in January 2007.

The delegation was also honoured to be invited to attend various social events and met with leading Malaysian practitioners such as Dato Roy Rajasingham, Dato Dr Cyrus Das, a former President of the Malaysian Bar Council, Ms Hendon Mohamed, the first female President of the Malaysian Bar Council, Mr Darryl Goon, Ms Catherine Eu, Mr Malik Intiaz Sarwar and Dato Cecil Abraham.

Ms Catherine Eu, the longstanding Executive Director of the Malaysian Bar Council, retired this year after 40 years of dedicated service to the Malaysian Bar Council. She is now a Special Advisor to the Malaysian Bar Council. The Law Council is most grateful to Ms Eu for her friendship and support. Ms Eu has played a major role in fostering the excellent friendship between the Law Council and the Malaysian Bar Council throughout her term of office. The Law Council is delighted that Ms Eu is remaining with the Bar Council in a new role.

POLA Conference in Singapore

Following the visit to Kuala Lumpur, the Law Council delegation attended the POLA Conference in Singapore which was held from 23 to 26 August 2006. Mr Ross Ray QC, President-elect of the Law Council, joined the delegation for this Conference. The acronym "POLA" stands for "Presidents of Law Associations in Asia" and the meeting of these Presidents takes place annually. This year the Conference was hosted by the Law Society of Singapore.

Topics discussed at the POLA Conference over two days included rule of law and access to justice issues. The delegation met many Bar Leaders from the Asian region including Mr Yeo Yang Poh, the President of the Malaysian Bar Council. Mr Yang Poh suggested ways of further strengthening the relationship between the Law Council and the Malaysian Bar Council and issues relevant to liberalising of the legal market in Malaysia. The possibility of holding a joint Law Council / Malaysia Bar Council Conference on judicial appointments and independence of the judiciary was explored. The Law Council delegation extended an invitation to Mr Yang Poh to visit Australia at the time of the Australian Legal Convention in March 2007.

Mr Bugg also attended a luncheon hosted by the Chief Justice of Singapore at the Supreme Court. The Chief Justice made a speech in which he encouraged countries in the region to open their legal services markets to foreign lawyers. The Law Council delegation with other delegates also attended a luncheon hosted by the Deputy-Prime Minister of Singapore who spoke of the importance of opening legal service markets to foreign lawyers.



Mr Tim Bugg and the President of the Law Society of Singapore, Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC



At the POLA Conference: Mr Ross Ray QC, Mr Mah Weng Kwai, President of LAWASIA, and Mr Tim Bugg.



At the IBA Conference in Chicago: Mr Tim Bugg, Mr Russell Miller and Mr Roy Martin QC, the President of the Faculty of Advocates, Scotland.

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IBA Conference in Chicago

This year's annual IBA Conference was held in Chicago from 17 to 22 September 2006. The Law Council was represented by Mr Tim Bugg, Mr John Corcoran, the Law Council's Treasurer, and Ms Margery Nicoll who was appointed as Officer at Large of the IBA's Bar Issues Commission. The Bar Issues Commission supports the activities and interests of the IBA's Member Organisations by providing a forum for discussion on issues of common interest and, through its Policy Committee, proposes resolutions and guidelines for approval which are of relevance to Member Organisations.

The Law Council delegation worked hard in gathering support for the candidature of Mr Russell Miller, the Chairman of the International Law Section, for Secretary-General which unfortunately was not successful. The Law Council congratulates Mr Akira Kawamura from Japan who was successful in being elected and looks forward to working with him.

The ILS – IBA Focus Group held a briefing session prior to the Opening Ceremony for new IBA members to provide advice and assistance on issues relating to the IBA. The Law Council also hosted a very successful Cocktail Party. Many delegates attended this event including Australian practitioners, high ranking judicial and bar association officials as well as a number of leading practitioners from around the world. It was the first time that the Law Council has hosted a function in its own name at an IBA Conference. This event was made possible by the generous support of Cullen wines and Yalumba wines.

The Law Council delegates attended meetings at the IBA together with Mr Graham Leung from the Fiji Law Society and Mr Chris Darlow from the New Zealand Law Society to progress the proposal to establish a Pacific Bar Secretariat. This proposal, which envisages the Secretariat being a Clearing House for the Pacific Bars, will be based in Canberra at the Law Council Secretariat. Whilst the proposal has been approved in principle by the IBA, which will fund the initiative for three years, the issue of Pacific islands to be included is still being settled between the Law Council and the New Zealand Law Society. It is hoped that this issue will shortly be resolved and that approval will come from the IBA to establish the Secretariat in 2007.

The Law Council wishes to improve its links with Pacific Bars and to this end has submitted an application to AusAID seeking funding for a Pacific Forum in 2007. The Law Council was successful in the first round of applications for funding. The second stage of the application will be submitted to AusAID on Thursday 21 December 2006. The Law Council will be advised in the New Year whether it will be successful.

Law Council Delegation to India

A Law Council delegation comprising Mr Tim Bugg and Mr Peter Webb visited India in September 2006. The main purpose of this visit was to attend the LAWASIA Conference in Goa. This Conference was extremely successful and further details will be available in a report on the newly formed ILS – LAWASIA Focus Group.

First the delegation visited Delhi where it was received by Mr David

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Holly, Deputy High Commissioner, and Mr Luke Davies, First Secretary (Political), at the offices of the High Commission.

Mr David Holly reported on a meeting he had recently had with the President and a number of members of the Bar Council of India (BCI) during which the BCI had indicated that it wished to further discuss within the Council the proposed composition of the Joint Australia-India Consultative Committee on Legal Services (JAICCOLS).

The Law Council delegation also met with Mr Lalit Bahsin and Mr Yakesh Anand, the honorary general secretary and joint secretary respectively of the Bar Association of India, and with Ms Neharika Srivastava, Assistant Director of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The meeting was later joined by Dr Manju Kalra Prakash, Senior Director and Head – South East Asia, Pacific Countries and Multilateral Fora .

Mr Bahsin outlined the manner in which the Bar Association of India (BAI) was organised. His outline included the following information about BAI:

- it represents 800,000 Indian lawyers;
- it operates at both the local level and the High Court, with established local chapters;
- it has the strong support of the Supreme Court;
- the current President of the BAI has been President (as Mr Bahsin has been the honorary general secretary) for 15 years; and
- the BAI has 8,000 individual members.

Mr Bahsin also indicated that the BCI was established under the Advocates Act and elected state Bar Councils send their delegates to the BCI.

The BAI proposed that it and the Law Council enter into a Memorandum of Understanding. The President and Mr Bahsin duly executed a document that had been prepared by the BAI.

The delegation also met with Professor Nomita Aggarwal, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Head of Department, University of Delhi. The Law School has three campuses in Delhi which receives 1500 new students every year. This number includes 240 students drawn from minority communities and for whom the Indian government pays some part of their fees (approximately US\$50 per annum). The entrance examination from which the successful applicants are annually chosen attracts between 20-25,000 students. The Law School has 9,000 students at any one time, including some foreign students from places like Afghanistan, China and the Ukraine.

Professor Aggarwal felt that a formal Memorandum of Understanding and exchange programs should be encouraged between India and other countries. She believed that the Indian market would gradually become more liberalised.

Another meeting was held with the Ministry of Commerce. The

delegation met with the Joint Secretary Jayant Dasgupta and Deputy Secretary Ashutosh Jindal and several of their colleagues.

The Ministry was interested in learning more about the structure of the Law Council. The President outlined the structure of the Law Council, explaining how elections were held.

Before leaving India, the delegation also visited the Supreme Court of Delhi.

Visit by the Indonesian Minister for Justice and Human Rights

The Indonesian Minister for Justice and Human Rights, Dr Hamid Awaluddin, visited the Law Council Secretariat in Canberra during October to discuss means by which the Australian and Indonesian legal professions could collaborate on projects.

Dr Awaluddin met with Law Council President Tim Bugg, Secretary-General Peter Webb, former President and ILS Executive member Dr Gordon Hughes and Director International, Margery Nicoll.

A high-profile human rights and anti-corruption activist, the Minister has been involved in the pro-reform movement in Indonesia. He is a member of the Commission for Eradication of Corruption, a Special Advisor on governance reform and Deputy Director of the Centre for Political and Governance Studies.

During the visit to the Law Council, discussion centred on the linkages being established between the Law Council and PERADI, the new national body for the legal profession in Indonesia.

In particular, the Minister was advised of the Law Council's assistance to PERADI in making an application to the Australian Government for funding assistance for setting up a complaints and discipline regime for the legal profession in Indonesia. The Minister offered his assistance in pursuing this project and generally for matters relevant to the profession.

Visit by Delegation from the China Law Society

A large delegation led by Mr Liu Fahe, Vice-President of the China Law Society, and Mr Gu Zhaomin, Deputy Director-General of the Overseas Liaison Department of the China Law Society, visited the Law Council Secretariat on Monday 18 December 2006. The twenty one man delegation, which included Mr Cal Zhang, Honorary President of Law Society of Jilin Province and President of Jilin Higher People's Court, and Mr Liu Binhai, Vice-President of Xinjiang Higher People's Court, was welcomed by Law Council President Mr Tim Bugg and Director International Ms Margery Nicoll. Also present were Mr Larry King, Executive Director of the Law Society of the ACT; Mr John Tucker, Special Advisor of ILSAC; Ms Sandra Purser, Deputy Director of the ILSAC Secretariat of the Attorney-General's Department; and Mr Dene Yeaman, Executive Director, China Free Trade Agreement Taskforce of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.



Exchanged presents: Mr Liu Fahe, Vice-President of the China Law Society, and Mr Tim Bugg.

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The Law Council has a long association with the China Law Society and signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with the China Law Society in 1985 (re-affirmed in 1994). Exchanges between the two organisations have been conducted regularly over the years, although this was the largest delegation received by the Law Council from the China Law Society. A full day's program for the delegation was arranged by the Law Council Secretariat, including visits to Parliament House and the High Court of Australia.

The delegation members were especially interested in the Australian justice system, and its court system. Discussions focused also on the current China – Australia Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) negotiations. Mr Yeaman gave a well received presentation updating participants of the meeting on the current developments in relation to CAFTA.

It is hoped that Mr Bugg will lead a delegation to Beijing in April 2007 to accept the kind offer by the China Law Society to continue mutual exchange between the two legal organisations. Such a visit would precede the Inter Pacific Bar Association Conference which will be held in Beijing in April 2007.

ILS Executive

Following the Annual General Meeting of the International Law Section on 1 December 2006, the following members were appointed to the Executive of the ILS: Mr Russell Miller AM (Chair), Dr Gordon Hughes (Deputy-Chair), Mr Glenn Ferguson (Treasurer) and Mr Andrew Percival, Mr Andrew Hudson, Professor Jeff Waincymer, Dr Wolfgang Babeck, Mr Ross Becroft, Mr Fred Chilton, Ms Maria Jockel and Mr John North (all Executive members).

ILS - LAWASIA Focus Group

At its meeting on 11 September 2006, the Executive of the ILS approved the establishment of an ILS - LAWASIA Focus Group. The Focus Group will be co-chaired by Dr Gordon Hughes and Mr Glenn Ferguson. The Focus Group will commence work shortly to promote Australian interests within LAWASIA and to promote the activities of and membership in LAWASIA to Australian lawyers.

Meanwhile, ILS and LCA Executive member Mr Glenn Ferguson has been appointed as President-elect of LAWASIA. We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him all the best for his term of office.

ILS - Austrade Roundtable

An ILS - Austrade Roundtable was held at the offices of Austrade in Melbourne on Wednesday 23 August 2006. The Roundtable discussed the issue of financial support from the government for Australian exporters. Mr Paul Stead, State Manager of EMDG Victoria, and Mr Michael Jackson, Chief Operating Officer of EFIC, spoke at the Roundtable.

The first ILS – Austrade Roundtable Seminar outside Melbourne was held at the offices of Austrade in Brisbane on Monday 27 November 2006. Mr Geoff Grey, Senior Austrade Commissioner in Washington DC,

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talked about succeeding in the US legal and business environment. The Roundtable was a huge success with more than 20 practitioners attending the event.

ILS – Commercial Law Association Alliance

The ILS and the Commercial Law Association continue to work closely together and are currently presenting an International Seminar Series. The first seminar was hosted by Corrs Chambers Westgarth in Sydney and held on Wednesday 23 August 2006. Mr Andrew Percival, ILS Executive member, provided an update on Australia's negotiations for free trade agreements with the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, the ASEAN countries and recent developments on the free trade agreement negotiations with the United Arab Emirates, as well as an update of issues that have arisen under the free trade agreements with the USA, Thailand, Singapore and New Zealand. He further provided an insight into where free trade agreements fit into the multilateral trading system, in particular the WTO agreements, and the range of topics covered by free trade agreements and the implications that they have for business and law firms. The seminar proved to be very successful and more than 20 practitioners attended the event.

The second seminar of the series was held on Wednesday 25 October 2006. ILS member Vivienne Bath spoke about doing business in and with China. This seminar was also well attended.

The ILS Executive was delighted to welcome Mr Stephen Lamy, the new President of the Commercial Law Association, to its Annual General Meeting in December 2006.

ILS – Europe Focus Group

Through the efforts of the ILS - Europe Focus Group and the British High Commission, The Rt Hon Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC, Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, visited the Law Council Secretariat on Tuesday 12 September 2006. Issues including human rights and freedom of information were discussed at that meeting.

The European Focus Group and the National Europe Centre of the Australian National University hosted a very successful symposium entitled "Renewable Energy: European Legal Frameworks – advantages and disadvantages" in Canberra on Friday 27 October 2006. More than 30 people attended the symposium. The presentation is available in the News section of the ILS website (www.lca-ils.net).

Another symposium hosted by the European Focus Group was held at the Law Society of New South Wales on 26 October 2006. The symposium was entitled "The easy way into the EU: Denmark as the preferred choice for Australian investors."

Currently, the Focus Group is finalising the arrangements for the Inaugural Australian – European Lawyers Conference which will be held at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra on 2 and 3 March 2007. The European High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Bruno Julien, and the German Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Martin Lutz, have already confirmed their attendance and will give keynote

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presentations at the Conference. Legal practitioners with a trans-national legal practice, corporate counsel of multi-national corporations with particular business interests in Europe and Australia, as well as academics, politicians, government lawyers and policy makers will find this Conference of particular interest. Topics chosen for this Conference include trade relations between Australia and Europe, market regulation, competition laws and trade practices law in Australia and Europe, trans-national legal practice, mutual recognition as well as environmental law. For further information please visit the Conference website at www.lca-ils.net/ILSE/eurocon2007.htm.

ILAA – Migration Focus Group

The ILAA – Migration Focus Group has lodged two submissions in relation to the review of bridging visas and to proposed amendments of the Migration Act. Both submissions can be found on the ILS website (www.lca-ils.net).

The Migration Agents Working Group, which includes members of the ILAA - Migration Focus Group, worked with Mr Nick Parmeter, Policy Lawyer at the Law Council Secretariat, on a revised draft of the "Regulation of Migration Lawyers" submission with the view to continuing to put pressure on the Government so that migration lawyers are not regulated under the Migration Agents Registration Scheme. This submission was lodged on 3 November 2006.

The Focus Group is now focusing on the Inaugural CPD Immigration Law Conference which will be held in Melbourne on 9 and 10 February 2007. This event will be co-hosted by the Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre and will offer CPD points accreditation under the MARA scheme and highlight and discuss important and current immigration law issues relevant to legal professionals. It will also provide participants with a forum to exchange experiences and knowledge. For further information please visit the Conference website at www.lca-ils.net/ILAA/immigration.htm.

ILS – IBA Focus Group

The IBA Focus Group will hold its first meeting for 2007 in the New Year at the offices of Allens Arthur Robinson in Sydney on Thursday 8 February. Agenda items will include the preparation of a bid to hold an IBA Conference in Sydney in 2014 and the upcoming IBA Conference to be held in Singapore this year.



The famous last words

This is the last newsletter for 2006. It has been a very active year for the Law Council and the International Law Section. In 2006, Law Council delegations travelled to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, India, the USA, England, and New Zealand and attended various Conferences around the world. An enormous amount of work was undertaken to progress the liberalisation of international legal services markets and to promote the Rule of Law worldwide.

The ILS hosted or co-hosted 14 seminars and roundtables in 2006, including the very successful International Trade Law Symposium. Seminars were held on diverse issues such as renewable energies, mediation, European wine law, doing business with and in China as well as promoting Australian legal services in the US legal market and under the various free trade agreements.

I can promise you that 2007 will not be any different! There are already four major projects in the pipeline, starting with the Annual CPD Immigration Law Conference in February, followed by the Australian – European Lawyers Conference in March, the International Trade Law Symposium in May and an International Legal Issues Conference in July 2007. The first seminar will be held in Sydney on 1 February 2007. Ms Judith Levine, ILS member and Associate in the International Arbitration Practice Group at the New York office of White & Case, will give a presentation on international investment arbitration. More information will be available soon.

But for now I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope that Santa will deliver plenty of presents for you! May all your hopes and wishes come true in 2007!

