

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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As the old adage goes, nothing is as constant as change, and this issue of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) ushers in a number of changes to the look and feel of the IJLI. Undoubtedly readers of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) have already noticed the brand new cover design of the Journal. This and other changes inside the cover reflect the new publishing agreement between the IJLI's parent organization, the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) with the William S. Hein and Co., Inc.

After many years in a productive partnership with Thomson-Reuters (West), the IALL and Thomson-Reuters amicably parted ways with the completion of our last issue (41.3). This change created an opportunity to work with another printer/publisher—like Hein. The IALL and the Journal are thrilled to be working with Hein and look forward to many years of a mutually beneficial relationship. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the IALL, I wish to thank **Shannon Hein** and the rest of the Hein family for their generous, gracious support of the IJLI and for their confidence in the future of the Journal.

In terms of content, this issue of the IJLI contains the proceedings from the 32nd Annual Course on International Law and Legal Information, held in Barcelona, Spain from the 15th to the 19th of September, 2013. The theme for the conference was *Catalan Law and Legal Information in a Global Context*. The venue for the lectures was the Faculty of Law at the University of Barcelona. This was a truly wonderful conference, with a very full program of excellent papers presented by some of Catalonia's preeminent legal scholars, law library professionals, and other noteworthy speakers. The vast majority of these papers are reproduced in this issue.

Barcelona is a gorgeous, generous city. It is home to unique art, architecture, and culture, as well as the center of a rich and fascinating legal heritage. Aspects of this heritage came to light in the papers presented at the conference. Professor Oriol Oleart set the stage by describing—in capsulated form—an approach to Catalan legal history from the 18th to the 20th centuries. He explained how the traditional Catalan legal system survived and evolved through the end of the Ancien Régime to the “Constitutional 19th Century.” Among other things, his paper focuses on a traditional Catalan legal system (and legal compilations) that survives today beside a new Spanish Civil Code.

There was a two-part presentation on Laws of Succession. The first, by Professor **Jaume Tarabal** focused on Intestacy. He provided an overview of the major reforms in the law of intestate succession in Catalonia, enacted in 2008. The second part of the discussion was presented by **Miriam Anderson**.

Her piece covered the Catalan notion of Forced Share. Developments in the Catalan laws related to forced share has typically been less restrictive than the Spanish law, and reforms in 2008 further eroded the forced share by limiting claw-back effects on donations and through the introduction of a new ground for disinheritance. Her presentation provides a general overview of the Catalan forced share system and highlights the innovations that lessen its impact on testators' freedom to will property to whomever he or she wishes.

Professor **Monica Navarro-Michel**'s presentation on Same-Sex Couples in Spain and Catalonia explained the leading role that Catalonia is taking on the issue of the options for various legal statuses for same-sex couples. Among many other details about this legal development, Professor Navarro-Michel described how in 2005 Spain was just the third country in Europe to legalize same-sex marriage.

Professor **Elena Lauroba** presented a paper on the effects of divorce on children in Catalonia. She describes a number of interesting and progressive Catalonian laws about the responsibilities of parents toward their children during and after a marital breakdown. These laws include such things as family mediation, parenting plans, and the notion of joint responsibility for children. These laws could easily form a solid basis for other jurisdictions to follow.

There is already wide-spread knowledge about Catalonia's claims to (and agitation for) independence from Spain. As the economic engine for the entire Spanish economy, the prospect of independence is a fraught one for the people throughout the region and the country. This exciting and potentially incendiary topic formed the basis for a presentation by Professor **Josep Renui**, a leading Political Scientist from the University of Barcelona. Renui's talk gave an overview of the history of the relationship between Catalonia and Spain and then he discussed some future scenarios involving the potential independence or other status options for Catalonia, covering political, legal, and socio-economic aspects that drive the political process in Catalonia.

Additionally, Professor **Juli Ponce** gave a presentation on Urban Planning and how land use law works in Spain. He compared the Spanish situation with American and other European land use laws, emphasizing common problems and legal solutions. Following Professor Ponce's lecture, **Alexandre Peñalver** spoke on the human right to environment in the Statue of Autonomy of Catalonia and in the Spanish Constitution and also the United Nation's Aarhus Convention.

Of interest to law librarians everywhere (and to many law school administrations which are creating open access institutional repositories), **Ignasi Labastida**, PhD, gave a presentation on copyright issues related to the implementation of open access policies, and we reproduce his slide presentations here. Dr. Labastida describes the concept of permissions in the context of

Green Open Access policies and the move to the Gold Open Access model that offers not only free access to full text content, but to full re-use of contributions.

Finally, two information professional colleagues presented a talk on Catalonian legal information sources, with an emphasis on open access to Catalan legislation and case law. Authors **Patrícia Sanpera** and **Montse Morante** consider the parallel and sometimes overlapping Spanish and Catalan efforts to provide free access to primary sources of law.

Barcelona was an ideal location for an IALL conference. It was a beautiful venue in a world-class city with a rich legal history and the site of important developments in the law and legal policy. Won't you consider attending the next IALL conference, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from September 28th to October 2nd, 2014? The conference theme is *Libraries and the Rule of Law*. Details about the conference, the program, venues and other information can be found on the IALL website, <http://iall.org/iall2014/program.php>. Buenos Aires promises to be every bit as interesting, educational and, well, just as wonderful as the Barcelona conference or any of the other past IALL conferences. I'll see you there.

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