



THE FLORIDA BAR INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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The International Law Section (ILS) is made up of 1,059 members, which represents an increase in membership of 62 members since this time last year. The current officers of the ILS are John H. Rooney, Jr., Chair; Francesca Russo-DiStaulo, Chair-Elect, Edward H. Davis, Jr., Secretary; J. Brock McClane, Treasurer; and Lucius Smejda, Immediate Past-Chair. The officers, who comprise the Executive Committee meet on a monthly basis to consider proposal for section activities, monitor on-going projects, and plan for the future. This year, after a series of interruptions caused by natural events, the Section has sponsored and conducted a number of activities to further its over-all goal of promoting the understanding, application and development of international law. Some events and developments warrant particular mention. The section conducted a successful international tax seminar under the supervision of William Newton (Miami), co-sponsorship with the American Immigration Lawyers Association of a successful national immigration seminar held in Miami in February. At the mid-year meeting, the section held its annual retreat, which had been twice cancelled due to hurricanes. During the well-attended retreat, members exchanged ideas on how to further the section's specific goals of (1) recognition of the positive economic impact that the practice of international law brings to our state and outreach to Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations; (2) reaching out to the educational institutions of the state in order to create a forum for international law scholars that will become a resource for the section and for the bar as a whole; (3) consideration of the suitability of model legislation sponsored by international organizations for adoption by Florida, and (4) rationalization of the section's bylaws to establish a more efficient administrative structure and to recognize the important non-economic mission of the section in fields of human rights and general promotion of the rule of law. At the mid-year luncheon, section Board of Governors liaison and President-Elect of the Florida Bar, Francisco Angones, introduced our luncheon speaker, Jan Paulsson. Mr. Paulsson is a partner in the Paris office of the Freshfields law firm and known as one of the world's premier practitioners in the field of international arbitration. Mr. Paulsson spoke on current trends in international and national law, drawing frequently on his vast professional experience and referencing his recently published book, "Denial of Justice under International Law." During the mid-year meeting of the Executive Council, the requirement of our bylaws that members attend council meetings as a requirement of service on the council was noted, as well as the intention of the



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Executive Committee to enforce that requirement. In February, the section sponsored with the American Immigration Lawyers Association, a very successful annual immigration law program that attracts a national faculty and audience of practitioners. Larry Rifkin (Miami) headed up the section's participation. For the second year, the section sponsored an arbitration moot in preparation for the participation of Florida law schools in the Vis International Moot Competition held in Vienna, Austria. The section moot, held in Orlando, drew a number of distinguished Florida practitioners as arbitrators, who heard three rounds of competition among teams from Nova Southeastern University, Stetson University, the University of Florida and the University of Miami. Penelope Perez-Kelly (Orlando) was the chair of the event. This year, the team from the University of Florida won the competition. On May 11 and 12, 2006, the section's International Litigation and Arbitration Committee (ILAC) sponsored its annual International Litigation and Arbitration Update. The event was held in Miami, and assembled a distinguished faculty of practitioners from Florida, the rest of the United States and abroad. The two-day event enjoyed the sponsorship of many law firms with international practices and lived up to the quality of past updates. Nicolas Swerdloff (Miami) was Chair of the update. A long-standing priority of the section is to replicate the success of ILAC in the transactional area. To this end, an ad-hoc exploratory committee comprised of Miguel Zaldivar (Miami) and Erika Litvak (Miami) has been established to assess interest and to lay the groundwork for what we hope will become a stalwart of our section. Our Legislative Committee has promoted the passage of bills to address gaps in Florida's statutory regime for service of process on corporations, and jurisdiction, and will commence study of model legislation drafted and approved by organizations such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and UNIDROIT. ILAC also publishes a digest of recent case law which is fast becoming an essential resource for international litigators and practitioners in the field of international arbitration. Under the editorial and administrative guidance of Ed Mullins (Miami) and Manjit Gil (Miami), the section publishes the International Law Quarterly, which features articles from section members and other practitioners in the field of international law. In summary, 2005-2006 has been a year of building on the accomplishments years past and refinement of our mission and our goals for the future. The ILS is fortunate to have at its disposal many hard-working and dedicated members, many of whom work tirelessly without the recognition that they deserve.

John H. Rooney, Jr., 2005-2006 Chair
International Law Section