

BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY for LABOR and SOCIAL SECURITY LAW—U.S. BRANCH

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Note From the Chair

Alvin Goldman

If you read nothing else in this Bulletin, please read the item describing the up-coming Western Hemisphere Regional conference in Mexico which will be held this coming September. It will be well attended by lawyers, jurists, academicians, and other specialists from all parts of Latin America. Accordingly, it will be an excellent opportunity for North Americans to learn and to share understanding concerning the expanding number of labor and employment law issues of concern in our half of the world. As always the meeting will be both an opportunity to meet labor and employment law specialists from other countries and strengthen relationships among similarly interested U.S. colleagues.

Although the original venue for the Western Hemisphere conference was Mexico City, it was changed to Querétaro, Mexico for esthetic and security reasons. Querétaro is a small colonial city known for its interesting history, architecture and charm. A member of our U.S. Branch Board who is very familiar with Querétaro confirms that it is a delightful location for such a conference.

On another subject, although the final decision has not yet been made regarding holding a stateside one day conference for our Branch in Chicago next year, preliminary data from the random survey of our membership indicates that it will be approved. Hence, please tentatively reserve May 25, 2005, for that meeting which will be held the day before the annual meeting of the National Academy of Arbitrators, also in Chicago. This should be a very attractive double-header.

Web Sites

The International Society has a new web site. Although its address is rather long: http://www.asociacion.org.ar/ISLLSS/Ingl%E9s/index_ing.htm it is worth entering into your internet list of favorite bookmarks.

Our own Branch web site, which has a link to the International organization's site, was recently up-dated and continues to be available at:

<http://www.uky.edu/Law/ISLLSS/>

Western Hemisphere Regional Congress on the Law of Work and Social Security

The 6th Western Hemisphere Regional conference of the International Society for Labor and Social Security Law will be held in Querétaro, Mexico, from **September 14-17, 2004**.

Querétaro, about two and a half hours' drive north of Mexico City, was the site of the signing of Mexico's Constitution. The city's 460 years of history and tradition is evident in its aqueduct and Baroque style buildings. Querétaro, one of Mexico's most beautiful colonial cities, offers music for dancing or listening, a variety of live shows, and diverse international and Mexican cuisine. Its famous aqueduct, begun in 1726 and completed in 1735, is composed of 74 arches.

All sessions will have simultaneous translation in English and Spanish. The conference will begin with a keynote speech on the Future of Labor Law. The

first morning of the Congress will examine special types of employment followed by an afternoon roundtable on the Evolution and Recent Trends in European and Western Hemisphere Labor Law. The final session of the first day will examine the law of strikes. The second day will begin with a discussion of the Internationalization of Labor and Employment Law within the Framework of the Free Trade Agreements in the American Region. The afternoon will be free and an orchestral concert will be offered for that evening. The first session on the final day will look at Social Accountability of Multinational Enterprises Through Voluntary Codes and Private monitoring. That will be followed in the afternoon by a roundtable on the issue Social Security Law: Public Control or Privatization?

Clyde Summers, President of the Society, will preside over ceremonies and Lance Compa, Joan Brodshaug Bernstein, Merton Bernstein, and Aurret van Heerden will be among the U.S. based program participants.

Registration for the Congress is \$200 for registrants and \$100 for accompanying persons if paid by June 30th; thereafter the fee for registrants will be \$300.

Lodging in Querétaro is available at the Holiday Inn Querétaro for \$110 per night, \$100 per night at the Fiesta Inn or \$21 per night at the Meson de Santa Rosa. It is not clear whether the quoted rate includes breakfast (we have requested a clarification). Our understanding is that added to the rate is a 17% fee for taxes and services.

Several means of transportation are available to and from the airport. They range from a bus that departs hourly between 7 am and 10 pm. The bus fare is approximately \$17.71 each way and the bus trip takes 2 hours and 45 minutes. A seven passenger airport limo costs approximately \$186 each way; a three person sedan is \$about \$168 each way. The trip by this mode of transportation is about two and a half hours. Avis and Hertz have rental cars at the airport, as well.

Registration and reservations are being handled by Exitur – Fax: 5520-2883
email: exitur@exitur.com.mx

If you plan to attend, please notify Alvin Goldman (agoldman@uky.edu) as soon as you know your travel arrangements so that he can help coordinate transportation between the Mexico City Airport and Querétaro for those who wish to travel with others in our group.

Other Up-coming Meetings

The next Asian ISLSSL Regional Congress will be in **Taipei from April 25-28, 2005**. Subjects to be covered are: Participation of Women in the Labor Market—the Goal of Gender Equality; Impetus for Economic Restructuring and the Protection of Workers' Rights; and Asian Experiences with Old-Age Security or Pension Systems. There will also be a roundtable on the Impact of Globalization on Work Patterns and Labor Relations. The working languages will be English and Chinese.

The European ISLSSL Regional Congress will convene in **Bologna, September 20-23, 2005** and will include poster sessions and a roundtable discussion on the New Boundaries of Employee Information and Consultation. Another roundtable will discuss Challenges in Labor Law and Collective Bargaining in Central European Countries. In addition, panels, based on national reports, will address the topics of Family Allowances; Processes of Adopting and Implementing Social Law within the European Union; and Transfer of Undertakings: Compromises among Individual Protection, Labor Market and Economic Development. The working languages for the conference will be English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish.

An ISLSSL World Congress has been called for **Paris in 2006 from September 5th to 8th** with the following agenda: Theme 1: Affects of Trade Liberalization on Labor Law and Social Security, Theme 2: Individual and Collective Labor Law and Productive Decentralization, and Theme 3: Occupational Risks: Social Protection and

the Employer's Liability. There also will be a roundtable on The Future for Statutory Regulation in the Field of Labor Law.

The International Society is a sponsor, also, of the International Seminar on Comparative Labor Law, Industrial Relations and Social Security, which will be held in **Bordeaux**, France, from **July 5 to 16, 2004**.

Up-coming Issue of Journal

The next issue of **Comp. Lab. L. & Pol. J** goes to press in June. It is a symposium issue on the topic *A Comparative Study Of The Impact Of Electronic Technology On Workplace Disputes*. Prepared under the guidance of the International Studies Committee of the National Academy of Arbitrators, it is dedicated to the late Italian professor **Marco Biagi** who co-authored one of the contributions shortly before he was murdered by terrorists.

The seminar's general topic this year will be Social Accountability of Enterprises.

From **June 24-26, 2004**, the Int'l Industrial Relations Ass'n will conduct an Asian Regional Congress, in **Seoul**. Information is available at www.kli.re.kr/irra2004

The symposium consists of a series of national reports followed by an overview and U.S. report. The nations covered and authors are: Australia (Ronald McCallum and Andrew Stewart), Belgium (Roger Blanpain), Canada (Paula Knopf), Finland (Antii Suviranta), France (Jean-Emmanuel Ray and Jacques Rojot), Germany (Armin Hoeland), Italy (Marco Biagi and Tiziano Treu), Japan (Hideyuki Morito), New Zealand (John Howells), Spain (Salvador del Ray Guanter), Sweden (Reinhold Fahlbeck), and U.S. (Alvin Goldman).

YOUR ANNUAL DUES

STATEMENT IS ENCLOSED

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When you send your check, please use the membership form and include your email address. It will help us to get important event information to you more promptly.

**ALSO
PLEASE TELL COLLEAGUES
AND FRIENDS ABOUT THE
U.S. BRANCH AND URGE
THEM TO JOIN**