

**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**U.S. BRANCH**  
**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY for LABOR and SOCIAL SECURITY LAW**

EDWIN R. RENDER, *editor*

ALVIN GOLDMAN, *co-editor*

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[U.S. Branch's web site: law.unl.edu/islssl]

**Note from the Chair – Stephen Willborn**

The new President-elect of the International Society for Labor and Social Security Law is Prof. Adrián Goldin from Argentina who has ambitious plans to re-invigorate our organization. His plans include:

- Expanding the types of scholarship presented at our international congresses. Traditionally, the ISLSSL has relied mostly on national reports by leading international scholars, but Mr. Goldin intends to encourage future congresses to also accept academic papers and to organize poster sessions. This would make the conferences more intellectually stimulating and it could help academics get funding from their own institutions for attendance.
- Increasing connections with scholars in other disciplines who also do work on labor and employment issues. This aligns well with the interdisciplinary turn in American scholarship.
- Collaborating with other important international organizations such as the International Association of Labor Law Journals and the newly emerging network of academic labor law centers.
- Making a concerted effort to engage more younger scholars and practitioners.

As I have written here before, I am concerned about the health and vibrancy of our organization, so I am encouraged by Mr. Goldin's plans. They also align with efforts I would like us to make to increase the relevance of the United States branch of the ISLSSL. Three notes on that topic. First, in the last newsletter, I asked you to respond to an on-line survey about our group. Several of you did. (Thanks!) I would say the results were mostly positive, but also indicative of the current state of our organization. On the former point, people were generally satisfied with the organization – with its dues structure, with the benefits (especially the Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal and, hurray! this newsletter), and with the opportunities for travel and connections. On the latter point, most of the respondents had not attended an international congress and confessed gen-

eral unawareness of our operations. (And these were the dedicated souls who took the time to respond!) So we have work to do.

Second, I have set up a small committee of four young academics to advise us on how we can make our Branch more responsive to their interests and needs. I plan to report on their advice in the next newsletter.

Third, we are working on two current projects. Jeffrey Sack, the Chair of the Canadian Branch of the ISLSSL, and I are still working to develop an on-line resource for international labor law developments. This will include news of labor law happenings from around the world, links to resources, and space for talk and comment. I am hopeful that I will be able to point you to the actual website by the time of our next newsletter. In addition to this, Professor Matt Finkin has organized a **very interesting one-day conference on democracy and public sector unionization to be held in Philadelphia on July 2, 2012**, in connection with the world congress of our sister organization, the International Labor and Employment Relations Association. We are sponsoring this in collaboration with the ISLSSL's Canadian Branch and the International Society of Labor Law Journals. **Please attend.** Conference details are on the next page of this Bulletin.

And, please, please send me any ideas you have for improving our organization.

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**Remembering John Truesdale**

Former NLRB Chair, **John Truesdale**, died on July 3d at the age of 89. He was a member of the U.S. Branch Executive Board.

After military service during World War II,  
(continued next page)



John earned a degree in labor and industrial relations. He joined the NLRB in 1948 in its Buffalo, NY office. After a stint in New Orleans office, he went to Washington, DC, where he worked in the office of the Executive Secretary of the Board and rose to the agency's top staff position as Executive Secretary.

While an NLRB employee in Washington, John earned a law degree. He became a Board Member in 1977. President Reagan withdrew his nomination for a second term but he was reappointed Executive Secretary. John was again appointed to the Board by President Clinton, retired from the Board in 1996 but in 1998 Clinton gave him a recess appointment, designated him chairman, and he was soon unanimously confirmed by the Senate. It was during his time as chairman that John became active in the U.S. Branch.

At the expiration of his chairmanship in 2001, John resumed what he had been doing after his first retirement labor-management arbitration.

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### **U.S. Branch Conference-Philadelphia**

Sponsored by the U.S. and Canadian Branches of ISLSSL and the International Association of Labor Law Journals, a conference will be held in Philadelphia on **July 2, 2012** on the theme "Public Sector Collective Bargaining and the Distortion of Democracy: Do Public Sector Unions Have 'Too Much' Power?". It will take place from 8:50 am to 5:00 pm in conjunction with the world congress of the International Labor and Employment Relations Association. (See next page.)

Sessions will examine The North American Experience (**Martin Malin**, Jeff Keefe, Sarah Slinn and **Mark Thompson**); Japan (Ryuichi Yamakawa and Koshiro Kuzutoshi); Southern Europe (Adriana Topo, Lorenzo Bordogna, Dimitris Kremalis and Kaillopi Spanou); Northern Europe (Jacques Rojot, Véronique Chanut, Jens Schubert and Berndt Keller). The concluding session will be a general discussion of participants and panelists. **Please join us.**

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### **Next ISLSSL WORLD CONGRESS**

**-September 25-28, 2012**, Santiago de Chile. XX<sup>th</sup> World Congress, ISLSSL. Official languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. Themes:

1. The effectiveness of the Labor Law and the Role of the Labor Inspectorate.
2. Sexual Harassment and Mobbing at the Workplace.
3. The Right to Strike and its Possible Conflict with Other Fundamental Rights.

Round Tables:

- Social Security: Its present and future.
- Labor Law: Its present and future.

Registration rates: Early Bird (through August 31, 2011)- \$ 390; through Feb. 28, 2012 \$ 450; thereafter \$ 510 through June 30, 2012. After June 30, 2012 it is \$570. Registration, accommodations and other information is available at:

<http://www.congresomundialtrabajo2012.com/informacion-general?lang=en>

**Note**, although an entry visa is not currently required, **currently those traveling on U.S. passports on entering Chile must pay, in US cash currency, a reciprocity fee of \$131.**

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### **Other Up-Coming ISLSSL Meetings**

The next the Western Hemisphere Congress will be held in September 2013 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, which has a greater metropolitan area population of about 3 million. Ecuador is a land of volcanoes, tropical beaches, rain forests, and the Galapagos archipelago.

An Asian regional congress in Korea is tentatively planned for 2013. The next European Regional Congress will be held in Dublin, Ireland, in 2014, and a World Congress is scheduled for Capetown, South Africa in 2015.

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### **Other Up-Coming Meetings**

**-January 25-27, 2012**, Brussels, Belgium. For those fluent in French a meeting is scheduled for Brussels on the topic "Mesures et Démesures du Travail". Further information should be available at: <http://metices.ulb.ac.be/spip.php?rubrique46>

**-February, 8-10, 2012**, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand (AIRAANZ). Theme- Re-organising work. It will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Surfers Paradise. (Room rates: AUD 125 per night for standard twin or queen room.) There are direct flights from most Australian capitals and from some over-

seas countries. In addition, there is train service from Brisbane International Airport to the Gold Coast.

For details, contact: [candice@aomevents.com](mailto:candice@aomevents.com)

**-Feb. 10-12, 2012**, Princeton University, N.J. "Comparative Law Works in Progress Workshop." Interested authors should submit papers to: [kimlane@princeton.edu](mailto:kimlane@princeton.edu) by Dec. 1, 2011.

**-March 19-22, 2012**, Modena, Italy, 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Commemoration of Prof. Marco Biagi. The 2012 conference will include a Young Scholars' Workshop. A call has been issued for workshop papers. For details contact [iacopo.senatori@unimore.it](mailto:iacopo.senatori@unimore.it) or Prof. Susan Bisom-Rapp at [susanb@tjssl.edu](mailto:susanb@tjssl.edu) For conference information see: <http://www.fmb.unimore.it/on-line/en/Home.html> (Look for a link titled "International conference".)

**-April 2012, Montreal.** The Industrial and Labor Relations Review is calling for papers for a conference and subsequent special issue devoted to international comparisons of working time. Authors whose papers are accepted will be invited to a conference at the University of Montreal (expenses partially subsidized). Scholars interested in participating should submit a paper to the Journal by **January 3, 2012** at: <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/ilrreview>

**-May 13-17, 2012, Paris**, France, (Hotel Lutetia), Midyear Meeting, International Labor & Employment Committee of the ABA Labor and Employment Section.

The program outline, registration and travel information should soon be available at: <http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=LL108000>

**-June 6-8, 2011**, Montréal, Canada. The Interuniversity research centre on globalization and work (CRIMT) will host an international conference on multinational companies, their global production networks and emerging forms of labor regulation. Topic areas:

- 1) MNCs and National Business Systems.
- 2) Global Production Networks.
- 3) Emerging Architecture of Social Regulation. For updates on the conference organization, check: <http://www.crimt.org/>

**-July 2-5, 2012, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Marriott Downtown), 16th World Con-**

**gress of International Labor and Employment Relations Association (formerly IIRA).** Registration and related information are available at the conference web site: <http://www.ilera2012.com>

(The U.S. Branch of ISLSSL is a co-sponsor of a one day program to be held at the same facility in conjunction with the ILERA conference. See page 2, above. for details. **A special registration rate has been arranged to facilitate attendance at both meetings.**)

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### **Member Activities**

**-Janice Bellace** is organizing the 16<sup>th</sup> world congress of our sister association, the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) (formerly the International Industrial Relations Association- IIRA).

The world congress will be in Philadelphia the first week of July 2012. Janice notes that only Americans think this is an odd time to have a world congress; most foreigners think it will be really interesting to be in Philadelphia on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**-Lance Compa** at Cornell's ILR School is serving as Ombudsman for a new collective bargaining agreement between Russell Apparel and the Honduran CGT in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The agreement is a landmark accord-the first such agreement in any Central American country-that re-opened a factory closed in 2009 after workers formed a union. It followed a national campaign by United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), the Worker Rights Consortium, and other labor rights advocates who pressed U.S. universities to sever supply contracts with Russell if the dispute remained unresolved.

"It's an opportunity to work with a company and a union that took a big step together toward a genuinely respectful collective bargaining relationship," Compa says. He added, "If the relationship holds together and advances, it can be a model for union organizing and bargaining throughout Central America."

**-Jay Youngdahl** is a Visiting Fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University where one of the main projects is building the Trustee Retirement Forum for Retirement Security. As part of this project he presented a paper at the UNPRI Academic Conference in Stockholm in September.

In October Jay's book, "Working on the Railroad, Walking in Beauty," was published by Utah State University Press.

**-Ronald Brown** presented a paper on "Comparative

ADR for Individual Labor Disputes in Japan, China, and the U.S.: Lessons from Asia?" It was part of a conference sponsored by the St. John's and Cornell Law Schools at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University.

Next year Ron's newest book, "East Asian Labor and Employment Law: International and Comparative Context" will be published by Cambridge Press and an article on his Cambridge topic will be in the St. John's Law Review.

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### **ILO's Domestic Workers Convention**

In June the International Labor Organization adopted its Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers which is estimated to cover between 53 million and 100 million workers most of whom are female. The Convention establishes the right of domestic workers to be told what work they are employed to perform, how long they are expected to work, and how much, when and in what manner will they be paid. It also calls for limits on the proportion of remuneration that can be paid in kind, and provides for a weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours.

The Convention also contains special measures dealing with the vulnerability of particular groups of domestic workers. For young domestic workers member States are required to set a minimum age of employment at domestic work and to adopt measures for the workers' completion of compulsory schooling, and to facilitate their further education and vocational training. For live-in workers, it includes minimum requirements respecting accommodation and privacy. Employers of migrant domestic workers are required by the Convention to provide a written job offer or contract of employment before they enter the country of employment.

Additionally, member States are to take measures to progressively integrate domestic workers into the nation's programs for pensions and maternity benefits and they must adopt clear rules and procedures to prevent fraudulent or abusive practices by agencies that recruit and refer domestic workers.

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### **New Research Tool**

The BLS International Labor Comparisons program has produced a new data visualization tool for displaying international economic data. Interactive dashboards allow users to produce charts and graphs for a variety of economic indicators. Users simply choose the indicator, the countries, and the years, and the charts instantly appear. You can find this

tool at: [www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2011/ted\\_20110901.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2011/ted_20110901.htm)  
or <http://www.bls.gov/fls/dashboards.htm>

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An Invoice is enclosed if you have not yet paid 2011 dues. Please pay promptly.

Questions regarding dues can be sent to the Treasurer at:

[goldmanalvin@me.com](mailto:goldmanalvin@me.com)