

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

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

**Note from the Chair – Stephen Willborn**

I have three things to report on in this edition of the Bulletin.

First, as explained elsewhere in the Bulletin, we are co-sponsoring a comparative workshop this summer in Philadelphia. We do this periodically as one part of our mission. This year's topic is important and very timely: *Public Sector Collective Bargaining and the Distortion of Democracy: Do Public Sector Unions Have "Too Much" Power?* It has been organized by Prof. **Matthew Finkin** and will feature a legal and social science expert from seven different countries. The workshop will be held on July 2d and is scheduled immediately before the start of the program for the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Labor and Employment Relations Association. That meeting is scheduled in Philly from July 2-5 (program begins on the 3<sup>rd</sup>), so you will be able to attend that, too, if you wish. For information on how to register for our meeting, please go to:

<http://law2.unl.edu/islssl/2012phillyconf.html>  
I hope to see many of you there.

Second, we continue to work on updating our website in collaboration with the Canadian Branch of the ISLSSL. This has been a slow-moving project, but we expect it to provide features that you will value such as information on labor law developments around the world, an index to labor law articles from comparative labor law journals including many from outside the United States and Canada, and discussion of important comparative and international labor law issues. The latest date for release of the completed site is mid to late summer.

Third, as I always say, please let me know of things you think we should be doing. I want

to improve the vibrancy of our organization, and hope we can do more to make it a valuable contributor to comparative and international labor law discourse. In this regard I talked with a group of young scholars last fall to solicit their views on what we do and what we might do (**Rick Bales** from Northern Kentucky, **Matt Dimick** from Buffalo, **Jeff Hirsch** from North Carolina, and **Julie Suk** from Cardozo). They had many helpful suggestions (thanks again!). Our new website might make it possible for us to address some of them, such as multiple acceptances of articles from journals in different parts of the world, more collaboration with other comparative law groups, more information about foreign sources of law, and help in finding knowledgeable foreign collaborators. Now let's hear from some practitioners and other members who have additional ideas.

**Co-sponsored One Day Workshop in Philadelphia, July 2, 2012**

The U.S. Branch together with the Society's Canadian affiliate and the International Association of Labor Law Journals, is sponsoring a one day workshop on "Public Sector Collective Bargaining and the Distortion of Democracy: Do Public Sector Unions Have 'Too Much' Power?" It will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown (1201 Market Street) on July 2, 2012, starting 8:50 a.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m. National and regional experiences to be covered: North America, Japan, Southern Europe, and Northern Europe plus a general discussion as the final session. Leading legal and industrial relations scholars from each of these areas will be participating.

This meeting precedes the start of the program for the world congress of the Interna-

tional Labor and Employment Relations Association (see below). Registration for the work shop is \$100 for registrants who are not editor representatives of the member law journals. The registration fee covers break refreshments and a luncheon.

Further information and registration details can be found at :  
<http://law2.unl.edu/islssl/2012phillyconf.html>

### **16th ILERA World Congress Philadelphia- July 2-5, 2012**

The International Labor and Employment Relations Association's triennial world conference will be held July 2-5 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Registration is \$625 (\$300 for a Full Time Student and \$300 for a one day registration). A \$50 late fee will be applied after 5 p.m. on June 1, 2012. (The fee for the Congress Dinner is not included in the registration. The dinner is \$125 per person.)

The regular conference program begins on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and has five thematic topic areas: 1. Transnational Movement of Labor and Growing Workforce Diversity. 2. Labor and Social Movements Responding to Globalization. 3. Emerging Orders of Production and Skill Development in a Global Economy. 4. Raising the Floor for Rights at Work. 5. Income and Employment Through the Life Course.

For further details, go to- <http://www.ilera2012.com/default.asp>

### **2012 World Congress of the International Society**

All members are invited to attend as U.S. delegates the International Society's triennial world congress which will be held September 25-28, 2012, in **Santiago de Chile**. The official Congress languages are English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

The Congress will discuss:

Theme I: The Effectiveness of Labor Law and the Role of the Labor Inspection. General Reporter, Giuseppe Casale (Italy/ILO).

Theme II: Mobbing and Sexual Harassment at the Workplace. General co-reporters: JoseÁL Luis Ugarte and Sergio Gamonal (Chile).

Theme III: Strike as a Fundamental Right and its Possible Conflict with other Fundamental Rights of Citizens. General reporter: Bernd

Waas (Germany).

There will also be a Round Table on "Social Security: Its Present and Future."

Delegate registration until July 1<sup>st</sup> is \$510; thereafter it is \$570. The cost of the closing banquet is \$95 (the same amount as the accompanying person's registration which includes the closing banquet).

The Congress will be held at the Hotel "W", a Starwoods facility. Special rates are available at other hotels as well. (Lodging ranges from \$143 - \$228 per night.)

The Congress webpage is at-  
<http://www.congresomundialtrabajo2012.com/>

### **Other Conferences**

-May 31-June 1, 2012, University of Greenwich, **London, England**. Two day work shop on "Transnational Industrial Relations and the Search for Alternatives." To register, go to: <http://www.gra.ac.uk/terc>

-June 26– 29, 2012, **Limrick, Ireland**. 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management. The program theme "Management Re-imagined" will explore a wide range of topics including organizational structure and human relations. Keynote speakers include experts from the U.S., United Kingdom, India, Turkey, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, and Malaysia. For further information, see: [www.ifsam2012.org](http://www.ifsam2012.org)

-September 5-7, 2012, **Lisbon, Portugal**. The annual Industrial Relations in Europe conference will be held jointly with the ESA Research Network on Work, Employment and Industrial Relations. The conference theme is "Challenges for Public and Private Sector Industrial Relations and Unions in times of Crisis and Austerity" For details, go to- <http://conferencias.cies.iscte.pt/index.php/IREC2012/irec2012>

-September 10-11, 2012, Middlesex University, **London, England**. Vulnerable Workers and Precarious Work in a Changing World. For further information contact: [M.Sargeant@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:M.Sargeant@mdx.ac.uk)

-Oct. 25-27, 2012, **Montreal, Canada**, the Interuniversity Research Centre on Globalization and Work (CRIMT) sponsors an international conference on “Union Futures: Innovations, Transformations, Strategies.” For more information, go to: <http://www.crimt.org>

- June 20-22, 2013, **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**, 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference of the International Labour and Employment Relations Association. Organizing theme: “Imagining New Employment Relations and New Solidarities.” Conference web site: [www.ilera-europe2013.eu](http://www.ilera-europe2013.eu)

-April 9 – 12, 2013, Melbourne, Australia, 8th Asian Regional Congress of the International Labour and Employment Relations Association. Organizing theme: “Work and Employment in the Asian Century.” Conference web site: [ilera2013@arinex.com.au](mailto:ilera2013@arinex.com.au)

### **Correction**

Due to an oversight, in the last Bulletin we failed to report that at the Society’s Seville conference in September the International Executive Committee welcomed as new ISLSSL affiliates the Indian Chapter of ISLSSL, the Employment Law Association of Ireland and the Malaysian Labour Law Society.

### **ABA International Committee**

The International Committee of the ABA Section of Labor & Employment Law holds its Midyear Meeting from May 13-17, 2012 at the Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France. Topics include new issues being addressed by the OECD, structure and operation of French works councils, privacy rights and related employee protections, international labor and employment litigation, corrupt practices statutes involving international ventures, and human rights and migration issues. Information about future mid-year meetings of the Committee and about its publications can be found at its web site: <http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=LL108000>

### **OECD Report on Growing Income Inequality**

In response to three decades of widening wage gaps and increased inequality in a large majority of OECD countries, the OECD has published a lengthy report *Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising*, (ISBN Number: 9789264111639, 2011, pp. 400). The report presents the data and analyses the major forces underlying these developments which it states were well in evidence even before the recent economic downturn. Included in the report is special attention to inequality in emerging economies, the affects of globalization and new technologies, and the influences of changes in tax and income transfer systems in shaping this development.

### **New Weekly Comparative and International Labor and Employment Newsletter**

Adapt International is a non-profit organization that works in cooperation with the Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Its mission is to promote, in collaboration with businesses, organizations, institutions and other institutes for advanced studies, innovative methods of academic research in comparative and international approaches to labor and employment issues.

Adapt recently launched the *Adapt International Bulletin*, a weekly on-line newsletter with information about current labor, employment law, industrial and work relations developments, events, conferences, studies, publications, commentaries, and the like. The newsletter is being published in cooperation with the Universities of Szaged (Hungary), Monash (Australia), the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, and the Upjohn Institute. It is available on line at: [www.adapt.it](http://www.adapt.it).

### **Revised Books**

In March of this year, Kluwer Law International published a revised coursebook: *The Global Workplace: International and Comparative Employment Law Cases and Materials, Second Edition*. The lead author, **Roger Blan-**

**pain**, is a former President of the International Society and all but one of the other authors (**Susan Bisom-Rapp, William R. Corbett, Hilary K. Josephs, and Michael J. Zimmer**) are members of the U.S. Branch.

Another recent update published by the same company is *International Labour Law, International Labour Standards - 3rd edition*, by **Jean-Michel Servais**, former Executive Secretary of the International Society.

The 2011 supplements are now available for the two volume reference work *International Labor and Employment Laws, Third Edition* which is sponsored by the International Committee of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law

### **Other Research Resources**

The Flexwork Research Centre maintains an international database of research reports respecting flexible and temporary work arrangements, agencies, markets, and laws. The data base can be accessed at- <http://www.flexworkresearch.org/cpages/home>

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A recent email alert from **Stuart Basefsky** ([smb6@cornell.edu](mailto:smb6@cornell.edu)) calls attention to a report of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions that provides detailed data on employee representation in Europe. See- <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1214.htm>

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In January the Baker and McKensie law firm published a report collecting articles from 13 countries outlining recent developments affecting benefits equality in the workplace. Most of these developments involve the right to equal pay for equal work. However, in Belgium the equality principle is the basis for a move toward harmonizing blue collar and white collar rules regarding the required minimum period of pre-termination notice.

The report can be accessed at- <http://iwsd-ninternational.blogspot.com/2012/02/iwsd->

[baker-mckenzie-global-employer.html](http://baker-mckenzie-global-employer.html)

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NATLEX, is the ILO's database of national labor, social security and related human rights legislation maintained by the ILO's International Labour Standards Department. Records in NATLEX provide abstracts of legislation and relevant citation information, and are indexed by keywords and by subject classifications. Each record in NATLEX appears in one of the three ILO official languages (English/French/Spanish). Where possible, the full text of the law or a relevant electronic source is linked to the record. However, data is not always up-to-date and, therefore original sources should be consulted. Go to:

[http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex\\_browse.home](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home)

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Another ILO data base, NORMLEX, brings together information on International Labor Standards (such as ratification information, reporting requirements, and comments of the ILO's supervisory bodies) as well as national labor and social security laws. Normlex, can be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en>

### **PLEASE DO NOT OVERLOOK THE TWO ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS:**

- U.S. Branch election ballot and instructions.

-Current invoice for those who have not paid dues through 2012.