

SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

HOUSTON PUTNAM LOWRY, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Section of International Law is to provide knowledgeable understanding of and practical expertise in private international law (including international commercial law, international trade law, international commercial arbitration, and international family law), public international law (including international human rights law), and world peace.

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1. Election of Officers:

Chair-Houston Putnam Lowry
Vice Chair—James Rollins
Vice Chair—Christina M. Storm
Vice Chair—James Byrne
Acting Secretary/Treasurer—Houston Putnam Lowry

2. Committee Appointments:

Legislative Committee Chair—Houston Putnam Lowry
Continuing Legal Education Committee Chair—none
Publications Committee Chair—none

3. Honorary Memberships:

Honorable Warren Eginton, Life membership

4. Meetings with Speakers:

The section arranged the following speakers during 2008-2009:

- September 4, 2008—Habib Rahiab, Executive Director of Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, New Haven, spoke on “Promoting a Culture of Human Rights in Iran.”
- January 14, 2009—Edward R. Hyde, Esq., spoke on “International Pro Bono Opportunities.”
- February 23, 2009—Neal Ossen, Connecticut Commissioner on Uniform State Laws, spoke on “Uniform Unsworn Declarations Act.”
- March 25, 2009—Attorney Midhat H. Syed, Murtha Cullina LLP, spoke on “Fundamental Concepts in Sharia Compliant Finance.”
- April 22, 2009—Donna Decker Morris spoke on “The Village Courts in Papua New Guinea,” which employ community-based mediation as an integral part of the judicial system in the only nationwide program in the world. Her presentation was based on her observations of the village courts in August 2008.

5. Legislative Activities:

The section took the following legislative positions, after obtaining due approval from the Connecticut Bar Association:

- An Act Concerning International Jurisdiction—renewal.
- An Act Concerning Choice of Law with Respect to Commercial Transactions—renewal.
- 2001 UNCITRAL Model Conciliation Law—renewal.
- 1988 UNCITRAL Bills & Notes Convention and amending protocol for early entry into force—renewal.
- 1985 Hague Convention on the Law Applicable to Trusts and on Their Recognition—renewal.
- 1995 UNCITRAL Convention on Standby Letters of Credit—renewal.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Optional Protocol—renewal.
- Law of the Sea Convention—renewal.
- 2005 Hague Convention on the Enforcement of Choice of Court Agreements—new.
- 2005 UNCITRAL Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts—new.
- 2005 Uniform Foreign-Country Money Judgments Recognition Act—new.

Testimony on the following bills was submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly during this legislative year:

- Senate Bill 708—An Act Adopting the Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act.
- Senate Bill 1088—An Act Providing Local Jurisdiction for Victims of Tortious Conduct.
- Senate Bill 1092—An Act Concerning Choice of Law with Respect to Commercial Transactions.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION

ALIX SIMONETTI, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The object of this section shall be to promote participation by the Connecticut Bar Association (the “Association”) and its members in the promulgation, study, review, and revision of the laws of the state and nation of particular significance to employees, employers, unions and bargaining associations. The functions of the section shall include the study, analysis, consideration, research, and investigation of legal principles having particular significance to labor law; the promotion of the bar’s leadership in matters of public importance affecting labor law; the publication of the section’s findings, studies and reports; the preparation, evaluation, submission advocacy, endorsement and opposing of legislation pertaining to labor law; the presentation of programs of interest to the bar and general public; and the encouragement of cordial relations between members of the bar and members of other professions and disciplines concerning with labor law. *See*: Article I, Section 2 of the Labor and Employment Law Section Bylaws.

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Officers