FROM THE DIRECTOR: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By now we have all heard repeatedly how vital it is for modern law schools—and lawyers—to think in global terms. The many reasons have become familiar. Information, goods, services, and even people cross international boundaries with such breathtaking ease that few of today’s law students can isolate themselves from foreign and international issues and expect to become top-notch lawyers or policymakers. In his thoughtful article on pages 4–6, international lawyer Keyvan Tabari examines why this is especially so in the commercial context.

The Washington University School of Law is proud of its long-standing commitment to global legal education. Intellectually vibrant faculty and students work together here in search of innovative global solutions to real-life problems. Our international focus is reflected in our student recruitment, teaching strategies, curriculum, extracurricular student activities, international student exchange programs, career services, advising, faculty appointments, scholarly research and other professional projects, conferences, speaker series, public interest programs, community service, and external relations. Our new Institute for Global Legal Studies has formalized and enhanced this commitment.

So we like to think that the Washington University School of Law can now legitimately boast of having one of the finest international law programs in the nation. This is a culturally significant statement. For too many years, the premier Midwest law schools—with only a few exceptions—lagged somewhat behind their East Coast and West Coast counterparts in the field of international legal education. Today, however, the same technologies, economic trends, and social and cultural patterns that have brought the world’s nations ever closer have also diminished the regional differentials among the 50 states of the United States. Internationalism is alive and well in the American Midwest. Washington University and its Institute for Global Legal Studies are proud to be part of the vanguard.

For the Institute, the past year has been frenetic but momentous. We completed the building and furnishing of our spacious new physical facilities. We also made two important hires. Leslie Kerr, the new associate director of the Institute, brings her well-rounded background in law, journalism, development, and community service. Linda McClain, our new office manager, comes to us with many years of experience in corporate executive assistant positions. We have also expanded our internal faculty advisory board to include 19 colleagues.

This was also the year in which we assembled our International Council. This external advisory board currently consists of 23 distinguished individuals who have graciously volunteered to share their expertise. They come from every continent except Antarctica (so far!). They are statesmen, scholars, diplomats, judges, lawyers, and other accomplished men and women whose advice and guidance will prove indispensable. The members of the International Council are profiled on pages 32–35. As you will see, they make a stunning group.

In November 2000, the Institute held its first major event: an inaugural colloquium, “The United Nations and the Protection of Human Rights.” Participants included John B. Anderson, Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni, Dr. Francis Mading Deng, Professor of International and Comparative Law.
L. Paulson and Lee Epstein. They have confirmed the participation of more than 30 superb scholars from various countries, including Professors Ronald Dworkin, Jürgen Habermas, Gerald Stourzh, Nobel Laureate Douglass North, Kim Scheppele, Robert Alexy, and Frank Michelman. The details appear on pages 12–13.

Several other events are also being planned. We expect soon to announce detailed plans for a one-day conference on the International Criminal Court, a debate series on international issues, and a number of individual presenters. We are also working on an International Salon Series, in which law school faculty and other experts will lead discussions in the homes of gracious volunteer hosts.

Beginning with the fall semester of 2001, there will be a cradle-to-grave advising program for prospective, current, and former students of the Washington University School of Law who have interests in foreign, comparative, or international law or policy. We have begun discussions with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Red Cross about a program in which the Red Cross would train Washington University law students to teach area high school students about international humanitarian law.

In addition to the inaugural colloquium, we have been fortunate to attract a stream of interesting and accomplished speakers. During the Institute’s two-year existence, some 28 individuals (or delegations of speakers from Turkey, India, China, and Europe) have given presentations to students, faculty, or both on subjects of international or foreign law or policy. Almost all these events are open to the public. The speaker series is described in more detail on pages 10–11. (Let us know if you would like to receive e-mail notices of upcoming events.)

During this past year, planning continued for the November 1–3, 2001, conference on constitutional courts, co-organized by two of our distinguished faculty members, Stanley We have begun discussions with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Red Cross about a program in which the Red Cross would train Washington University law students to teach area high school students about international humanitarian law.

Our friends have been good to us, and we hope that our work proves worthy of their generosity. In the meantime, if you find yourself in the vicinity of Washington University, please stop by for a specific event or just to say hello. We always enjoy showing off our new digs and would also love to explore ways in which you might participate in the life of our vibrant and rapidly evolving Institute.

Leslie Kerr

Linda McClain