

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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After a winter that seemed to never end, spring finally arrived – and summer is nearly here. What a welcome relief from the cold and drear of overcast skies, rain, sleet and snow. And this issue of the International Journal of Legal Information (IJLI) is perfectly in tune with the overall attitude of change and the sense of optimism typical of this season.

The issue opens with a piece by law librarian, **Jootaek Lee**. Mr. Lee's article discusses the methods and results from research that employed quantitative techniques. He investigates the extension and enlargement of young lawyers' cognitive maps for problem solving and the processes these lawyers use to resolve complex legal situations after they have left law school and entered the legal profession as practitioners. His research shows that there is room for change in legal education that will take cognizance of the gap between what a student experiences and learns in law school and what he or she encounters in practice. This is empirical evidence of what many of us have known or at least intuited for many years: law schools need to do more to make legal education more directly relevant or applicable to the experience of lawyers in the actual practice of law.

**Annette Demers**, an alumna author of the IJLI, returns in this issue with an excellent bibliography. By happy accident, her bibliography of materials on cultural competence and the legal profession, is a perfect complement to Jootaek Lee's article, described above. Ms. Demers surveys the literature on cultural competence from the year 2000 to the present. Her bibliography will be especially valuable to researchers, scholars, or even those selecting materials on the subject for a library collection because the bibliography is beautifully annotated. This is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject and will no doubt be consulted and used extensively.

This issue includes a very interesting, albeit brief, article by Hong Kong attorney **Stephen Kruger**. Mr. Kruger reminds us that in common law jurisdictions, the term "supreme court" is not always the name of the court of final appeal. His article surveys the 41 supreme courts and supreme courts of judicature with general original jurisdiction, covering 60 political units. Some of those courts have general appellate jurisdiction in addition to general original jurisdiction. In some places, a second appellate court may be available. Perhaps the most valuable feature of Mr. Kruger's piece is a comprehensive list containing, among other information, the names of the

political units served by supreme courts with general original jurisdiction and Supreme Courts of Judicature with general original jurisdiction. He also provides a statement whether a supreme court or a supreme court of judicature of a political unit has both general original jurisdiction and general appellate jurisdiction, or only general original jurisdiction. This article will be of immense help to those trying to become familiar with common law jurisdictions and their various court systems across national and jurisdictional boundaries.

**Mr. Olugbenga Ademodi** has written an important article that examines the interpretation of the American Bar Association's accreditation standard for law schools in the United States and the probable effects it could have on minority students studying in American law schools. Mr. Ademodi's article shows that minority or underprivileged students could be greatly disadvantaged by the application of these standards. After describing the problem, his article goes on to explain a possible solution to the inequitable effects of the ABA's accreditation standards, as well as suggests how law schools and academic law libraries can aid in solving the problem, making a more diverse bar a reality.

**Maria Otero** returns as an author in issue 39.1 to provide a bibliography focused on mixed jurisdictions of the world. As a law librarian and resident of Puerto Rico, Ms. Otero has observed that law students in Puerto Rico study both common law and civil law traditions in order to learn both legal sources. This is necessary because both lawyers and legal scholars in Puerto Rico apply the concepts in everyday legal practice and in academic subjects. She selected the major books on the subject of mixed jurisdictions, as well as the most relevant journal articles published from various sources and countries. The result is an alphabetized bibliography of the most current and most focused material on this subject.

As one can see, this slim issue is yet full of interesting and important material for lawyers, law librarians, and jurists alike. Of course, we also have our regular installments of book reviews, edited by **Thomas Mills**, as well as

the International Calendar, edited by **Aslihan Bulut**. I truly hope you enjoy this issue of the IJLI. Happy reading!

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