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Repository Citation

University of Georgia School of Law LLM Alumni Association, "LLM Alumni Newsletter March 1999" (1999). *Other Law School Publications*. 379.

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NEWSLETTER 1999

LL.M.- Alumni NEWSLETTER

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Number 13, March 1999

In the course of a business trip to the United States, I had the opportunity to come to Athens, Georgia on a beautiful and sunny spring day. It was a nice "homecoming", meeting old friends and seeing new faces.

At one of Athens' fine downtown restaurants, I had lunch with Jill Birch, Professor Gabriel Wilner and the new dean of the law school, David Shipley. As most of you have read in the most recent Georgia Advocate, Dean Shipley, who took office last summer, has extensively traveled throughout Georgia. Although born in Illinois, he is a "Southerner at heart" and has thereby easily fit in his position as dean of one of the finest law schools in the country. In our conversation, Professor Wilner and I have explained to him the very active LL.M. Alumni Association, its annual meetings and the ever-growing network of lawyers all over the world, many of which are already in top positions. I have invited Dean Shipley to this year's annual meeting and Professor Wilner and myself are working hard to bring him over to the Netherlands in June, or, at least, to Brussels during Professor Wilner's Brussels seminar in the summer. Please encourage Dean Shipley to take part in our informal Association's life by sending e. g. a letter to him at the UGA School of Law.

Of course, I very much enjoyed seeing Professor Gabriel Wilner, again, who is as active as ever to promote the LL.M. program. We discussed various general issues of the law school, he gave me a tour of the Dean Rusk Center and we discussed extensively possibilities on future support by the LL.M. Alumni Association in favor of the LL.M. program. Professor Wilner made several suggestions in this regard, which we will discuss at our business meeting at the upcoming annual meeting in The Hague/Amsterdam in June 1999.

I also met Sherry Allen, secretary to the LL.M. program, who took over from Mrs Raye Smith.

Sherry is also very much engaged in the LL.M. program and is looking forward to meeting many of us in the future.

Last, but not least, I had a long meeting with Jill Birch, the director of alumni programs, particularly on our 2000 meeting in Athens, Georgia.

After the mandatory stop at the university bookstore and buying bulldawg T-shirts for my

Visit to Athens, Georgia

some (good) things never change: As has been the case thirteen years ago, the graduate seminar was held in room E (don't call it the "oval office" despite the oval shape of the table), exactly as I remembered this room.

There are now 24 students (the maximum number currently permitted by the law school) enrolled in the LL.M. program class of 1999 from Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States and Ukraine. I shortly addressed the current class, I informed them that - upon successful completion of the program - they are now members of the Alumni Association, and I invited them to take part in the activities, most importantly the annual meetings of the LL.M. Alumni Association.

As has been another good tradition of the graduate seminar, the program of the second semester is a presentation of the LL.M. students' respective theses. During my visit, Hege Zakariassen reported on the subject "Is the TRIPS Agreement capable of dealing with unauthorized copying of sound recordings from the Internet?" and Charles Clark, United States, reported on his topic "Gender Equity in United States Interscholastic and Intercollegiate Athletics". A vivid discussion emerged, including reports on the law of the respective countries of the class members.

Following the graduate seminar, a short reception took place where I had the opportunity to talk to the current LL.M. students individually as well as to meet some of the visiting professors currently staying in Athens.

In the evening, we had dinner at Professor Wilner's house and, another fine tradition, Gisèle Wilner prepared another of her fabulous multi-course dinners. As you may imagine, it was quite late (or even early) when I returned to my hotel in Atlanta.

This short report should encourage any of you to return to Athens whenever possible, in order to inform the current LL.M.s (most of whom had never heard of the LL.M. Alumni Association) of our existing network and to promote the LL.M. program towards the dean and the law school. I very much enjoyed the day in Athens and I even promised, whenever possible, to return on an annual basis.

(Christof)



wife and my kids, I had the opportunity to participate in the graduate seminar. Being a member of the class of 1986, I experienced that



Alumni News

Patricia Matton (class of 1989) has become legal counsel of Hewlett-Packard Belgium and the Hewlett-Packard Coordination Center, both located in Brussels. She is heading the legal department of both companies.

Bernd Thalmann (class of 1987), our Association's past president from 1991 to 1997, has now returned from a one year sabbatical enabling him to travel to many interesting places, such as New Zealand. According to latest reports, Bernd continues to maintain his new "hairy" outfit (a beard). LeYs see whether this will still be the case when we meet in The Hague in June. Bernd's law firm has merged with another German law firm, now commonly acting under the name of "GAEDERTZ". Bernd Thalmann may now be reached at Bockenheimer Landstraße 98 - 100, 60323 Frankfurt/Main, Germany, phone: +49-69-79 41-0, fax: +49-69-79 41-100, email: bernd.thalmann@gaedertz.de

Giovanni Acerbi (class of 1987), the LL.M. Alumni Association's Vice-President and one of its most active members, and Franceine Chanson got married in Lugano, Switzerland on March 25, 1999. Franceline already attended our meetings in Caracas, Venezuela in 1997, and in Lausanne/ Geneva in 1998, and thereby became an active member of our group. All the best to the newlywed!

Thomas Bentler (class of 1989) joined Franz Haniel & Cie. GmbH as in-house counsel, specialized in commercial and corporate law as well as international business law. Thomas may be reached at Franz-Haniel-Platz 1, 47119 Duisburg (Ruhrort), phone: +49-203-806-184, fax: +49-203-806-444, and email: Thomas.Bentler.FHC@fhaniel.de.

Meredith Brawn (class of 1992) married Jeremy Cridland on May 23, 1998 in Sydney. All the best. Now Meredith Cridland, she is a Senior Associate with Norfon Smith & Co in Sydney and may be reached at Level 8 Gateway, 1 Macquarie Place, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia, phone: +61-2-9930-7525, fax: +61-2-9930-7111, and email: meredith.cridland@nortonsmith.com.au.

Andrea Novarese (class of 1992) of Milano, Italy, has become general counsel at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Bing Ding, "Richard" (class of 1995) has been promoted to a regional manager at CSI Complex Systems Inc, a global leader on trade finance automation solutions. Bing is in charge of CSI's business development & strategic alliances program in the Far East area. He may be reached at 33 Maiden Lane, 9&127; floor, New York, N.Y. 10038, phone: +1-212-294-8821, fax: +1-212-294-8822 and email: RDING@benktrade.com.

Claudia Giunta (class of 1997) is employed as counsel in the legal department of the International Monetary Fund.

Udo Herberth (class of 1996) finished his doctorate in 1997 and is now working with the law firm Viering, Jentschura & Partner in Munich. Phone: +49-89-2106970; fax: +49-89- 2283920; email: uherberfh@VJP.de.

Beate Logeman (class of 1996) sends greetings to her LL.M class. Special regards should be given to Susan Craighead, June Lee, Naele Rigot, Anantha Paruthipathei, Lee Awn Bambach, Maiser Abonneaaj, Bois Goldman and Kevin Eldrige. She hopes to see you again soon!