

# An Introduction to the FBA International Law Section

by Brian C. Murphy



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The International Law Section is pleased, indeed, to have the opportunity to share with *The Federal Lawyer* readership a brief introduction about the plans, expectations, and work of the section! We welcome your comments and your involvement!

The International Law Section was recently revitalized by my predecessor, Matt McGhie, assistant legislative counsel of the United States Senate, for which we are certainly very grateful!

The principal goal of the section is support for the rule of law in the world, to be approached through a diverse range (in both geography and subject matter) of CLE programs, publications, outreach to young and aspiring lawyers, and more.

## CLE Programs

The section was a founding co-sponsor—along with the FBA Capitol Hill Chapter and other notable partners—of the Fourth Annual International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform, which was held at the World Bank on Nov. 17-18, 2016. This extraordinary forum brought to Washington, D.C., some of the most accomplished legislative drafting experts in the world. FBA members and students were eligible for a special discounted registration rate!

In conjunction with the FBA Immigration Law Section and the Los Angeles Chapter of the FBA, the section also co-sponsored an immigration law update with particular reference to immigration waivers.

The section has several programs in the planning stages, including:

- A program featuring Hon. Steven Pifer, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and now senior adviser to the Brookings Institution, on legal issues involving arms control;
- A discussion with Dr. Stanimir Alexander, former vice foreign minister of the Republic of Bulgaria and now a partner with Sidley LLP, on topics involving international commercial arbitration and related issues;
- Early in the spring of 2017, the section hopes to host a prominent U.S. senator well placed to dis-

- cuss the foreign relations of the United States; and
- Also on the slate for spring is the Effects of Terrorism on International Trade program.

## Support for Law Students and Younger Lawyers

The section has been in contact with law schools to offer mentoring on careers involving international law. Representatives of the section plan to travel to law schools to conduct career discussions. They would be delighted to do more, and we invite your suggestions!

The section has designated two law student liaisons: Ivailo Dimitrov, a Fulbright Scholar from the Republic of Bulgaria, who is pursuing his Master of Laws Degree at the George Washington University Law School; and Nicole Lawyer, a student of the University of Virginia School of Law who is president of the John Bassett Moore International Law Society at Virginia and serves as our law student liaison on behalf of Virginia.

The section has contacted other law schools to identify student liaisons, but would like to do more—please send us your suggestions!

## Publications and Opportunities for Professional Writing

The section publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Global Perspectives*, ably edited by Executive Board Member Heather Costanza. *Global Perspectives* is a forum for signal updates on international law developments and affords section members an opportunity to write for professional publication. We solicit your involvement and welcome your submissions!

To become involved, please contact me at [briancmurphy@earthlink.net](mailto:briancmurphy@earthlink.net) or (301) 951-8670.

We would love to hear from you! ☺