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Should you wish to include an item in the next SIEL newsletter, please contact us.

Tribute to H.E Judge James Crawford

It is with immense sadness that the Society of International Economic Law pays tribute to H.E. Judge James Crawford AC SC FBA who passed away on 31 May 2021 in The Hague. Judge Crawford has had a profound influence on international law and many generations of international lawyers. As a scholar, practitioner, teacher, jurist and mentor, he left an unparalleled mark on various fields of international law, including international economic law. He will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with his family.

President's Corner

Rethinking Global Economic Governance!

While the COVID-19 pandemic is receding and rapid economic recovery is expected in Europe and North America, in many developing countries the end of human suffering and economic decline is not in sight yet. My heart goes out to the people of India (and of all other countries on which the media have not been reporting) who are hit so badly by the pandemic.

The past months have been quite interesting at the WTO. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who started as WTO Director-General on 1 March 2021, has brought renewed hope and dynamism. Her leadership in the past three months has inspired

many of us. While the WTO is still to achieve any breakthrough on the many problems and thorny issues beleaguering it, a clear sense of purpose seems to have returned to both WTO Members and the Secretariat. The debate on a COVID vaccine waiver took a very interesting turn when the Biden administration expressed its support for such a waiver. At least on this issue, the United States is leading the debate at the WTO again. Not directly WTO-related, but equally interesting, is the proposal of the Biden administration for a global minimum corporate tax. The negotiations on fisheries subsidies are now in their final phase. On 11 May 2021, Ambassador Santiago Wills circulated his Draft Consolidated Chair Text. This draft contains, of course, plenty of bracketed text and WTO Members will still need to make some tough compromises. A virtual ministerial meeting has been called for mid-July to bridge the remaining differences. In the plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce, investment facilitation and domestic

In terms of plurilateral deliverables, I hope for an agreement on investment facilitation, spam, electronic signatures and rules on domestic regulation of services. However, on these and other issues the most that the MC 12 may be able to achieve is agreement on post MC12 work programmes.

The 2020s will be a decade of economic conflicts and disruption worldwide as a result of the geopolitical superpower confrontation between

Save the (NEW) Date!!

The Seventh Biennial Global Conference of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) (virtual conference) will take place on July 7 to 9, 2021, in Milano, Italy.

Registration for the Conference will soon be available on the SIEL website.

SIEL GOVERNANCE

Officers

Peter Van den Bossche (President); Isabelle Van Damme, & Markus Wagner (Executive Vice-Presidents); Maria Laura Marceddu & Franziska Sucker (Treasurers); Wiehuan Zhou & Amelia Porges (SIEL Corporate Secretaries)

Executive Council

Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, Padideh Ala'i, Freya Baetens, Gracia Marín Durán, Ilaria Espa, Yuka Fukunaga, Pasha L. Hsieh, Susan Isiko Štrba, Johanna Jacobsson, David Kleimann, Jaemin Lee, Anna-Alexandra Marhold, Fabio Morosini, Suresh Nanwani, Maria J. Pereyra, Andreas R. Ziegler.

the US and China as well as the unavoidable digitalisation and necessary greening of economic activity. The 2020s will require all of us to be creative and courageous, and this brings me to the upcoming Seventh Global SIEL Conference on Rethinking Global Economic Governance. As you know, this Conference will be held online from Wednesday, 7 to Friday, 9 July 2021. Bocconi University in Milan is SIEL's academic partner for, and the digital host of, this Conference. As many of you, I regret that I will not have the opportunity of meeting old and new friends 'in the flesh', savoring delicious Italian food, and having late-evening drinks at the hotel bar. However, I hope that the online format of the Conference will allow even more of you to attend than was the case for the highly successful on-site SIEL conferences of the past. The three-day programme of the Conference includes more than 33 roundtable and panel discussions on a wide range of international economic law and policy topics, including:

- multi-, pluri- and unilateralism in trade policy in the 2020s;
- the future of international investment regulation;
- the rule of law and the role of lawyers in international economic governance in the 21st Century;
- the global minimum tax initiative;
- the great carbon border adjustment debate;
- COVID-19 vaccine nationalism;
- judicialization and dejudicialization of international economic relations;
- global and regional data governance in digital trade;
- challenges of regulating the behavior of SOEs;
- intellectual property and artificial intelligence
- the AfCFTA and the future of economic integration in Africa;
- global value chains and corporate social responsibility;
- mainstreaming gender in trade and investment agreements;
- and much, much more.

In addition to the round table and panel discussions, there will be poster sessions, book talks and networking opportunities. The Hon. Mario Monti, former Prime Minister of Italy, former EU Commissioner and now President of Bocconi University, has kindly agreed to contribute to the opening of the Conference, and will share his views on the EU's current role in global economic governance. The Robert Hudec Lecture, adapted to the online format of the Conference, will be delivered by Prof. em. Mary Footer, University of Nottingham. The full programme will soon be available on the SIEL website and registration will open shortly thereafter. I hope that you are looking forward to the Conference as much as I do and that you will join us in this effort to rethink global economic governance.

May 2021

SIEL 2021 Milan Global Conference

7 - 9 July, 2021

Interviews with our new Office bearers



Jaemin Lee

Executive Council

How did you become involved in SIEL?

First of all, it is my great privilege and honour to be able to serve in the Executive Council of SIEL. SIEL is the only global research community dedicated to IEL. Over the past years, SIEL has been the 'hub' of the academic debates and activities to cover a wide range of difficult and complex issues of IEL that the global community faces. As a matter of fact, SIEL's role and contribution are all the more important now that we are witnessing the weakening of the multilateralism. In my view, it is time for SIEL to take more active and robust stance in the midst of unprecedented volatility in the field of IEL. Given SIEL's unique status and academic excellence it represents, my participation in the activities of SIEL was natural, as with other colleagues and friends.

What are some of the reasons you were interested serving on the Executive Council?

Well, over the years I have realized that smooth operation of an organization or an entity always requires voluntary contribution of respective members who can share administrative work and logistical burden behind the scenes. I

have seen the critical contribution of other colleagues on the Executive Council so far, and wanted to add my share of contribution to the cause of SIEL.

Most notably, SIEL comprises academics and researchers from different regions of the global community with diverse backgrounds, who are focused on the study of IEL. SIEL has invited and facilitated robust academic discussions and research activities among members. I am hoping that my participation in the Executive Council can assist members of the SIEL to expand and deepen the already robust academic activities.

What are the main projects on which you would like to work in your new role

I would like to contribute to further facilitating communication and interaction between academics and practitioners in the field of IEL. We have done a great job in this regard so far, and I hope I can assist SIEL in expanding such exchanges and interaction more robustly in this volatile environment of the global community. Perhaps IEL is the branch of international law where close cooperation and coordination among scholars, practitioners and policy makers are arguably the most important.

In addition, in the face of COVID-19, we would have to explore various alternative modes of interaction in a flexible manner. How to achieve this will be one of the important tasks for SIEL going forward. While on the Executive Council, I would like to contribute to the prospective discussions of new modes and formats of academic activities and conferences for the members.

Apart from your work for SIEL, what kind of work do you do?

My teaching obligation at my home institution together with research activities takes up an important portion of my work. I am currently serving as president of the Korean Society of International Economic Law, which entails associated academic activities



Fabio Morosini

Executive Council

How did you become involved in SIEL?

It was in 2008 when I participated of SIEL's first conference in Geneva. At that time, I have just moved back to Brazil after a long period of graduate studies abroad and I was very keen to join a global society that puts a premium on diversity.

What are some of the reasons you were interested serving on the Executive Council?

I have been collaborating with SIEL since 2008 on an ad hoc basis, in addition to attending the Biannual conferences. Throughout all these years I have benefitted greatly from being part of the SIEL community. Serving on the Ex Con is for me an opportunity to reciprocate what SIEL has offered me.

What are the main projects on which you would like to work in your new role

In the spirit of diversity, which is one of the founding pillars of SIEL, I would like to work on projects that stress diversity within IEL. I believe that the entire IEL community has only to gain from the incorporation of different voices to the field. In addition to that, I am open to work on any role that comes my way while at the ExCon.

Interviews (cont.)

Apart from your work for SIEL, what kind of work do you do?

I am an Associate Professor at the School of Law of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), in Brazil. My research agenda focuses on the participation of developing countries in the trade and investment regimes, exploring their changing role and how their interests are or are not accommodated in the multilateral, regional and bilateral spheres.

Publications by SIEL Members

Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, A Critical Appraisal of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, in Kholofelo Kugler & Franziska Sucker (eds), International Economic Law from a (Southern) African Perspective, (forthcoming).

Ching-Fu Lin and Hanwei Liu, Artificial Intelligence and Global Trade Governance: A Pluralist Agenda, 61 (2) Harvard Journal of International Law (2020)

Marhold Anna-Alexandera, 'Unpacking the Concept of 'Energy Security': Lessons from Recent WTO Case Law', in Legal Issues of Economic Integration, Volume 48, Issue 2 (2021) pp. 147 – 170

Suresh Nanwani and William A. Loxley (eds), Covid-19 in the Philippines: Personal Stories (Amazon Kindle Edition),.

Weihuan Zhou, 'China and the Multilateral Trading System: Misunderstandings, Criticisms and Options' in Jane Golley, Linda Jaivin and Sharon Strange (eds) China Story Yearbook: Crisis (Australian National University Press, 2021) 280-287.

Call for Papers

A. Journal of World Investment Law

The JWIL has issued a call for papers for a special issue on International Investment Law and Climate Change. The Issue is co-edited by Hélène Ruiz Fabri, Stephan Schill and Sandrine Maljean-Dubois. More details are available here.

B. Asser Institute Conference

The Business and Human Rights Working Group of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research and the Asser Institute invite submissions of abstracts for an international Workshop on Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of Business and Human Rights. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, 7 September 2021. All abstracts should be submitted to Dr Lottie Lane at l.lane@rug.nl before 14 June 2021. More information is available here.

C. Workshop on the impact of new technologies

Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada) and the research center CERIDAP of the University of Milan have issued a call for abstract for the Workshop titled The Impact of New Technologies on Public and Private Powers: National and Supranational Perspectives, scheduled to take place on 12 November 2021. Details are available here.

D. JIEL-ASIL Junior Faculty Forum for International Economic Law

The AJIL-ASIL has issued a call for papers for its inaugural JIEL-ASIL Junior Faculty Forum for International Economic Law. Details are here.

E: Trade, Law and Development

The journal Trade, Law and Development has issued a call for submissions for its Winter 2021 issue (Vol. 13, no. 2).⁶ The call is here. The deadline is August 1, 2021.

SIEL/JIEL/OUP Prize

SIEL is pleased to announce **Scott Falls** as the winner of 2020 – 2021 prize of the SIEL/JIEL/OUP Prize. Special thanks to ExCon Member Gracia Marín-Durán for organizing the prize competition on behalf of SIEL. More information on the prize is available here.

Next Newsletter

Please note that the next SIEL newsletter is scheduled for October 2021. Should you wish to include an item in the next issue, please contact us by the beginning of September.

Thanks for your support and interest.

Susan Isiko Strba, Johanna Jacobsson & Victor Saco.