EDITORIAL COMMENT_____

China, Mexico, Botswana - we cover the world! Well, whether an article features information on aspects of commercial law in China, expert advice on the best and most authoritative Mexican legal web-sites, or an African perspective on the lawyer in the emerging digital environment, the issues are of equal relevance and interest to all of us in the law library community, regardless of where on the map we happen to be located. Globalization has erased borders between countries and issues of concern, and has encouraged trans-border migration. Consider, for example, the transnational paths taken by the contributors to the current issue, all prominent professionals in countries other than their places of birth. Today, their journeys tend to constitute the norm rather than the exception:

Chenglin Liu, the *Foreign and International Law Librarian and Adjunct Professor of Law* at the *University of Houston Law Center* in Texas, received his law degree from the *Dalian University of Technology* in his native China. After some years as a law professor, during which he also published in Chinese, he accepted the opportunity to study at the *University of Lund* in Sweden, where he earned an LLM in European law. He then decided to change careers, continued further west, and came to the United States to study library science. Among his list of credentials, he now has an MLIS from the *University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science* at Urbana-Champaign, as well as an LLM in U.S. law from *Washington University* in St. Louis, from where he also expects to graduate with a JSD (Doctor of Judicial Science) next year, in 2005.

Professor **Jorge A. Vargas** did not have to travel as far and had less of a cultural adjustment to endure when he in 1983 accepted a position in California to teach at the *University of San Diego School of Law*. With a law degree, *summa cum laude*, from the *School of Law of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)*, the author, a prolific writer of both books and articles, had a distinguished career in Mexico before coming to the United States. At present, a full-time academician, Professor Vargas focuses on Mexican law, but also teaches Japanese, comparative, and international law, topics which he has taught as Visiting Professor at institutions such as *Stanford*

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University and *New York University*. His most recent work, *Mexican Law Dictionary,* was just published (Fall 2003) by Thomson West. *IJLI* is fortunate to present the "best of the best"of Mexican law on the web from such an authority.

The Botswana perspective on "The Lawyer in the Emerging Digital Environment:" is presented by a couple originally from Cameroon. **Madeleine Choe-Amusimo Fombad** has degrees in law and counseling (LLB, LLM and PG. Dipl.) from the *University of Yaounde* in Cameroon, but she left her home country to study library and information science (MLIS) at the *University of Botswana*. Her Master's dissertation in 2002, "The adoption and use patterns of ICTs in law firms in Gaborone, Botswana," earned her a special award, and she presently serves as the Chief Librarian in the *Tlokweng Dayspring School* in Gaborene. Her husband and co-author, **Charles Manga Fombad**, has his LLB from the *University of Yaounde* and an LLM and PhD from the *University of London*, England. He is currently on the Faculty of Law at the *University of Botswana*, after having taught law at different law schools in Cameroon. His many articles have been published in refereed international journals, and he has written several book chapters and three books on different aspects of law. In 2003 he was awarded the coveted *Wedderburn Prize* for an article that appeared in the British law journal *Modern Law Review*. The same year, he also won the *2003 Bobbert Association Prize* for an article published in the South African journal, *Journal for Juridical Science,* and recently the *University of South Africa* bestowed upon him the prestigious degree of "Honorary Professor of Law."

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Marie-Louise H. Bernal