



ALI Director Lance Liebman Addresses The European Law Institute

ALI Begins Cooperation Agreements with European and Australian Law Organizations

When the European Law Institute held its meeting in Vienna in September, one of the featured speakers was ALI Director Lance Liebman.

“I had been at the ELI’s opening event in Paris in 2011 but did not expect the organization to have advanced so far in only two years,” Director Liebman said. “This year’s was a serious substantive meeting attended by judges, professors, and practicing lawyers from many countries.”

The ELI’s discussion of four law-reform projects “was similar to what happens at American Law Institute meetings but the ALI has spent 90 years getting to its current level of discourse,” Professor Liebman said. “I can see many ways in which the legal systems of European countries as well as evolving European Law itself will benefit as ELI goes forward with its work.”

Professor Liebman said he could also see “almost unlimited opportunities for cooperation between ELI and ALI.”

The ALI’s recently completed work on aggregate litigation (class actions), cross-border insolvency law, and international enforcement of intellectual-property claims, he said, “are subjects that would be on any list of possible ELI work.”

The ALI and the ELI have forged an agreement that will allow their members to attend each other’s project meetings and to comment on drafts.

“I am sure there will come a time when we attempt a joint project, but for the moment simply paying attention to each other’s work will be positive,” Professor Liebman said.

The ALI has also struck a similar cooperation agreement with the Australian Academy of Law.

ALI Deputy Director Stephanie Middleton said the logistics are being ironed out, but that both arrangements will feature sharing of meeting information and project drafts on websites.