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**LEGAL EDUCATORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
ATTEND MEETING TO DEVELOP
“GLOBAL CURRICULUM”**

*World Events Require New Look at Legal Education
and Closer Collaboration*

Oahu, Hawaii, May 26, 2004—Today legal educators representing over 45 countries and all of the world’s legal systems met to hammer out voluntary guidelines for a “global curriculum” for law schools seeking to educate their graduates for a global practice and consider formation of the first international association of law schools. More than 130 leading legal educators gathered at the invitation of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). The three-day conference, entitled “Educating Lawyers for Transnational Challenges,” is the first time legal educators from around the world have met to consider how best to educate lawyers for the practice of law across international boundaries.

The group was welcomed by Carl C. Monk, executive director of AALS, and Stephen Parker, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia, and chairman of the conference planning committee. All of the invited participants submitted a paper prior to the meeting to provide an opportunity for all perspectives to be considered.

“Attendance at this conference by representatives of more than three dozen countries signals the recognition within the international community of legal educators of the need to work together to craft legal solutions that respect the diversity of cultures and legal systems throughout the world. This attitude and approach must begin in our law schools,” stated Monk.

In his welcoming remarks Deputy Vice Chancellor Parker observed, “At a time in our history when differences in cultures and the application of the rule of law is in the news each day, we, as legal educators, must come to terms with new reality of the practice of law. The development of guidelines for a global curriculum, coupled with the formation of a new association, is a tangible first step,” said Parker.

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and Executive Director*
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The global curriculum will aid law schools around the world in both developed and developing countries in the introduction of norms from international law and culture into their domestic law courses. This will provide future lawyers with an understanding of other cultures and legal systems, and allow them to practice across international boundaries.

“It is important that our collaboration continue at the conclusion of this conference,” said Norman Dorsen, Frederick and Grace A. Stokes Professor of Law and Counselor to the President and Co-Director, Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Memorial Program at New York University. “I am hopeful that the establishment of an international association of law schools will accomplish this goal,” he said.

Paper submissions to the conference can be viewed at www.aals.org/international2004.

The Association of American Law Schools (AALS) is a non-profit association of 166 law schools. The purpose of the association is “the improvement of the legal profession through legal education.” It serves as the learned society for law teach and is legal education’s principal representative to the federal government and to other national higher education organizations and learned societies.

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