

Introduction: On the Way to a Globalized Practice of Law?!

Michael Pfeifer* and Jens Drolshammer**

A. Concept of the Collection of Contributions

In May 1999 the Board of Editors of the European Journal of Law Reform asked Jens Drolshammer and Michael Pfeifer to act as editors of a special issue of the European Journal of Law Reform. The two editors were asked to elaborate a concept for this special issue, which had its roots in a planned collection of essays of Drolshammer with the title 'The Changing International Practice of Law – Aspects of International Compatibility and Competition of Legal Systems, Legal Professions and Legal Educations' conceived during a fellowship at Harvard Law School in the spring of 1999. The collection was assembled around the theme of a growing internationalization of the practice of law and the attempt was made to do that from a global perspective and with a visionary look into the future. Most of the contributors are known to have a keen interest in the topic, therefore contributing to the cohesion of a growing professional community dealing with matters of internationalization of legal systems, legal professions and legal educations. A specific intention of the editors was to invite American contributors to sail back across the Atlantic and to make the discourse on the globalization of law and the international practice of law become again a more balanced exchange between American and European views. For such a discourse, a publication in the European Journal of Law Reform is well-chosen. This law journal's declared focus and scope is directed to developments in Europe where the speed of the emerging international practice of law in the last few years was very high. Especially the non-English

* Lecturer of Law, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, and University of Basel, Switzerland, Master of European and International Business Law (M.B.L.-HSG) at St. Gallen University; Partner, VISCHER attorneys at law, Basel, Switzerland.

** Professor of Law, Titularprofessor für Angloamerikanisches Recht und Rechtsgeschäftsplanung und -gestaltung University of St. Gallen, Switzerland; Co-Founder and President of the Commission and Lecturer on Law, Master of European and International Business Law (M.B.L.-HSG) and Master of International Management Programmes at St. Gallen University; Partner, Homburger Rechtsanwälte, Zürich, Switzerland; Visiting Scholar and Fellow, Harvard Law School (Spring 1999).

speaking part of Europe has to hold on to the American and partially British hegemony regarding this subject. This collection of articles is a contribution to this transatlantic discourse. The authors were selected to guarantee the intended interdisciplinary approach and they were asked to take a global attitude and to look at least to some extent at the future. They were invited to address the question how present trends were likely to develop in the early years and decades of the third millennium. They were informed about the intention of the editors to integrate the legal perspectives with an interdisciplinary dimension including management science, sociology, management consultants and entrepreneurial perspectives. The perspectives of the contributors therefore were chosen to address issues of different legal systems, the needs of education and training; the international law firms and the international legal networks; the legal and organizational structure and competitive viability and the regulation of international lawyers. In order to attract readers from different areas of the international practice of law and to free the contributors from traditional publication constraints, the contributions should not only have a scientific basis but also an essayistic touch. The editors tried not to overload the collection with theoretical, ethical and philosophical findings and grounds but rather to follow a practical, direct approach. Due to their career levels and publications, the contributors seem to be particularly able to express their opinions on future developments and events. By their being scientifically and professionally interlinked worldwide, a global perspective is ensured and the ongoing worldwide dynamic process of developing the law, the practice of law and the education of law for once is seen as a cybernetic self-regulating system in which each output creates new input.

The collection has three main parts, which are not neatly separated from each other but rather form clusters of common concerns. In the first cluster the perspectives of the contributors cover general aspects regarding the impact of globalization on the various legal professions under various different focuses (Vagts, Wilkins, Briner, Diethelm, Hodgart and Calkoen). The second cluster comprises special aspects in determined fields of professional activities (Murray and Drolshammer, Korhonen, Mayer-Schönberger and Fine). The third cluster deals with more specific, at first sight isolated, features of the international practice of law such as legal education and training, positioning of the profession and use of the working tools in cyberspace (Cone, Müller-Stewens and Drolshammer, Gresser and Drolshammer).

The challenge to assemble this collection and the reason behind the Board of Editors' of the European Journal of Law Reform mission to the present editors is the fact that the future of the international practice of law has become a frequent and beloved subject of discussion among its members, lawyers, judges, professors, managers and civil servants. This future seems doubly driven. The practice of law is in itself a 'motor' and its more and more international aspects are adding 'turbo power' to the motor. It is not likely that the tendency towards internationalization and globalization of business and practice of law will fundamentally change and become less fast and less dynamic. On the contrary, the improvement of technical communication tools, the still fast developing deregulation in certain markets, the

disappearance of limitations in the finance business and of currency restrictions will most probably enhance the already remarkable influence of internationalization and globalization. On parallel lines there is a trend to concentration, rationalization and profitability in the economy of the global village. The legal process is a dynamic process. During the time of emerging national jurisdictions, law had an integrating function. Later it gained a new quality by occupying the international and supranational level. Today, law is prepared, made and developed to a great deal on an international, European and even global level. Still, most legal questions emerge on the level of individuals and private as well as public companies. The focus of the practice of law radiates from the local perspective, from the smaller conditions and from the day-to-day business towards the big lines. Legal practice apparently is moving back and forth from local to global and that with great speed. It is tempting to make allusion to a well-known picture for the sake of this introduction. In the international practice of law one could see today a development and change of paradigms similar to the one that took place in the natural sciences with the establishment of Einstein's theory on relativity at the beginning of the last century. The comparison is tempting because of the changing significance of time, space and substance in both the scientific world of Einstein at his time and in the world of the international practice of law of today. Nothing stayed as it was, everything changed and became possible. The comparison is also appropriate because technology is one of the major driving forces of this change i.e., the information processing capacity causes non-linear growth rates and developments.

The rapid and total change creates new ethical standards and structures in society, a new economy, new politics and consequently new needs. In the 20th century these needs were first satisfied in the political (security) and military field, then after World War II in the commercial field of production and trade. Only relatively late did the new possibilities and needs find their way into the field of services. By 15 April 1994, the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), formally recognized this development and made services (and with them professional services and legal services) a concern of the new WTO. Today one can say that the development of the international practice of law is at high speed. It would not be possible to say something regarding the international practice of law without thinking and then acting globally. It would not be possible to think about the future of any professional services without taking into account global aspects. Looking at the international practice of law from a global perspective, one cannot take only a European, American or Asian viewpoint but also one has to weigh facts such as the shifting of wealth, workplaces, finances and taxes and philosophical, cultural and ethical backgrounds, which determine the services to be rendered. All the facts and cases which made it worthwhile to try to collect the views of a group of well-known experts proved to be heavily interconnected. If the contributors each knitted a network of their findings and opinions the total of these findings and opinions can be taken as a network of the networks. 'Global' as used here points to an ambiguous quality. Not only quantity-determined aspects are focused on, but also qualitative change. Globalization not

only adds a new network of viewpoints but seeks for a new way to combine the various networks in a new way.

When the contributors delivered their manuscripts to the editors it soon became clear that it would not be possible to include the depth and the width of the contributions in a traditional summary. The editors therefore decided to follow a different path and to present two or three main ideas of each of the authors in a consecutive and intelligible way. The introduction is mainly prepared by Pfeifer who tried to follow the ideas of Drolshammer, whose work and publications on the future features and the global experiences of and in the international practice of law served as guidelines and formed the backbone of the concept of the collection. Each of the contributions of this collection shows a change of paradigm in the field of the specific subject and therefore the presentation of the contributions will follow a pattern determined by the changing paradigms.

B. Change of Paradigms

For a long time the development of the practice of law and the social and economic development had a comparable speed and for a long time the practice of law and the international practice of law did not significantly differ in speed either. It was only in the late 20th century that the international practice of law moved faster and has by today reached high speed. Talking about and discussing the future of international professional service firms, in particular the field of legal services, and therefore dealing with the international practice of law at present time is very much an adventure – like discussing the transnational railroad business at the beginning of the development of the American West. Nothing is stable, nothing is fixed yet. Everything is fluid and open. There are, nevertheless, some interconnected tendencies and trends. These are as follows.

1. Probably the most critical force driving the development of the international practice of law is competition, which was a notion and experience almost unknown to the legal profession in Europe until the late 20th century. In line with the denomination of this century as the American Century, the influence of the ‘New World’ on the old one made competition a strong impetus also in the legal profession, yet at a different pace around the world. As Hodgart’s analysis shows, the legal profession in Europe provides an excellent case study of an industry in transition. Many lawyers in this industry realize how quickly competition has swept across them but still have difficulties to understand how competition functions. They are told by Hodgart that simply being better than before is not good enough if direct competitors are even better. The critical issue of competition is to be better than the others.
2. The debate on Multidisciplinary Practices (MDP) is most heavily led in the US where according to Cone five schools of thought are competing with each

other. All five, the Law and Economics school, the school of the Big Five, the New York City Bar Association's school, the New York State Bar Association's school and a flatly negative school take politics and economics as major forces in the debate into account, albeit weighing them differently. Therefore, their answers to the two main questions – what professional rules apply to the non-lawyers in MDPs, and who enforces the rules – are different. Cone, who clearly favours the New York State Bar Association's approach, points to the mere economic thinking which is cyclical and tends to underestimate legal complexities. He suggests to pay more attention to the lawyers as legal practitioners themselves who finally should control the organization in which they work. It will be interesting to see how this American discussion will influence the MDPs in Europe as well.

3. Mayer-Schönberger points to the unusually strong international dimension of e-commerce companies that expand internationally much faster than their traditional 'brick-and-mortar' counterparts. He describes cyberspace as a substantive challenge to law and its practice. While in the early years of cyberspace there were commentators who said it would make the law obsolete and proclaimed its independence, today it is clear that cyberspace is not outside the reach of laws. These laws have to deal with the facts that in cyberspace boundaries are not a technical problem, and that the definitions of ownership and control of information are very difficult. This will heavily influence the organization of international law firms as well.
4. The development of arbitration and mediation. While arbitral justice is one of the most ancient forms of justice, the real growth of arbitration, according to Briner, went hand in hand with the increasing globalization of international commerce. The following development of new arbitral institutions and other dispute resolving services brought an increased sophistication of the legal profession and a geographical propagation of arbitration to formerly reluctant areas such as Latin America. How widespread and far reaching arbitral procedures are used today can be seen from Briner's presentation of the Iran-US Claims Tribunal and from his description of the court of Arbitration for Sport. In contrast to arbitration a possibility of settling a conflict, according to Gresser the Strategic Alliance Mediation starts from the idea that business has no time to adjudicate conflicts. He then explains how strategic alliance mediation is helping to reestablish the integrity of the parties' relationships. Strategic alliance mediation is a means to avoid conflicts resulting from the failure of alliances, which is at high rate. For Gresser, time is of the essence, the trend of alliances is towards speed and complexity. He shows by describing a new type of legal service how business lawyers and other professionals can contribute most creatively to this new field.
5. As Diethelm puts it, traditionally in-house lawyers dealt with the law and managers with the business. In no more than a few years in-house lawyers very much adapted to management and have become part of the business.

The common view of risk and its consequences to their company that they share with the other managers make them understandable and accessible to management. The management in turn profits from better access to valuable information and from enhanced understanding through a wider view and deeper knowledge. The legal services of in-house lawyers increasingly are rendered in team work. These teams profit in international groups from the 'seamless' in-house organization and in this respect as well as with their traditionally good information net, serve as a model for a modern international practice of law.

6. Many new international lawyers, or as Vagts says, lawyers of the globalized sector, are expatriates living for long periods in countries other than the place where they grew up and were educated. This development in the legal profession started on the corporate and commercial side in attributing prestige and assumed elite standing to lawyers doing business in the globalized sector; having an influence reaching far beyond its still limited size as judged by the number of lawyers active in it. It should be seen as a good opportunity if some of the experience and knowledge acquired in the international practice of law could be made available to the domestic sector thus improving the services to clients remaining locally rooted. This asks students and teachers to take advantage of the endeavors made in legal education towards international subjects and it would ask for active professional organizations bringing together lawyers from different countries and cultures. But whoever talks about the international practice of law has to take note of Vagts' reference to the non-global world of law. He makes it very clear that there is a world of local lawyers providing local services. Even if they modernize their practices they will remain reluctant towards international relations and will continue in familiar routines, relying on local conditions.
7. The expansion in size of the international practice of law with its growing number of international lawyers and international law firms, inevitably sooner or later requires a law firm to develop an international strategy. In considering this, it should be very clear from the beginning that the outcome of a process developing such an international strategy could very well be to refrain from it and to remain domestic as Müller-Stewens and Drolshammer point out. Those that implement an international strategy must ensure that it is a part of the law firm's overall business model and offers a potential to strengthen the firm in an overall sense. Not all products and clients have the same needs for seamless denationalized globalized services as those at the source of the globalization of the legal market (M & A, finance, capital market) which had particularities that were the basis of its success in becoming globalized. Hodgart says that 'firms who are not leaders in any particular area (client type, practice area or both) in their home market need to think very carefully before deciding to expand abroad'. This careful thinking may be rewarded if directed to a development towards Europe. This is because it seems clear that Europe, due to its history of corporate growth,

the increasing deregulation of its industry and a fundamental change in its banking industry, offers at this time unique possibilities.

8. As Wilkins observes, 'Globalization has finally hit the legal services market'. He develops a lecture to lawyers who are eager to drive their law firms into going global. These lawyers should learn some lessons from the American experience. The first and most moving lesson is possibly that in going global one should realize that the majority of the world's population is neither white nor male and that the same is true for the world's lawyers. Therefore in order to go global diversity is essential. Natural resources such as land, water and air (limited goods) are only available in a limited quantity. The same is true for high quality skilled lawyers. Therefore the size of a law firm is also of fundamental importance. It is not easy for diversified lawyers in a big law firm to manage their almost inevitable culture wars and to avoid a 'tournament of lawyers'. Passing from the law firms to the individual lawyers, Wilkins describes the need for lawyers to be able to cross boundaries in their (traditionally seamless) career and to develop growing professionalism.
9. Calkoen explains the features and roots of globalization in pointing to its being heavily influenced by wars and imperialism in the past replaced by financial and commercial constraints today. He describes the contrasting views of globalization depending upon which stance it is taken. Whether globalization is judged regarding its economic or its spiritual and cultural dimensions makes a difference. In Europe in particular, globalization is still too often identified with an emerging American hegemony. Globalization undeniably changes society and therefore in countries that pretend to be a constitutional state, the judicial system and consequently the practice of law must be able to cope with globalization. As Calkoen stresses from his practical approach, and as is confirmed by Vagts' scientific view, the market is changing very substantially: new needs trigger new products. New needs mean old needs expressed more succinctly and more openly. Products are only half the truth because parts of the products are individually shaped. Services are not seen as products (even if they are a response of the supplier to a need expressed by a consumer and therefore could be defined as products) but rather as an individual taking care of the needs of the client in the sense of a noble duty. More and more individual needs concentrate increasingly on objective criteria such as speed, efficiency and professionalism rather than on personal needs such as emotional and political ones and friendship. There is an emerging new market of standardized professional legal services. More and more purely quantitative conditions have a determining influence and personal smooth conditions cede their importance. As long as human beings make decisions, human and therefore personal considerations are important factors, but more and more objective factors are overriding soft factors and are determining the decisions. Old traditional personal structures disappear and give way to new objective

material views. That leads, on the one hand, to an additional offer of services rendered by entities of the international practice of law, enhancing the quality of that offer, and it leads, on the other hand, to less binding and less traditional values and rules to be considered.

10. According to Drolshammer for the time being the term ‘international lawyer’ and ‘international practice of law’ are not yet defined and have no fixed meanings. It may suffice to reserve those terms to permit a more gradual definition and specification. The concept of a ‘transnational legal order’ which attributes a pivotal function to the ‘international lawyer’ and ‘international law firms’ also is ‘*in statu nascendi*’. It is likely to lead to an evolution from the international lawyer of the present to the international lawyer of the future, with competencies as information engineer, as facilitator, as interpreter, as navigator and in particular as enabler of transactions. Drolshammer argues for a new need to conceptualize the role of the international lawyer: First, one can argue why it may make sense to give the ‘international lawyer’ a pivotal role in the construction of the transnational legal order. The argument would be that the ‘international lawyer’ in his functions of planning and structuring transactions, of steering complex processes on the time axis, of adjudicating complex international matters in commercial arbitration and in his function of advising top management in legal matters of strategic importance, is in the forefront as regards the substance of the ‘international legal process’. Secondly, one could ask, ‘Why should there be a special theoretical framework for international law practice?’ The analysis could argue that the novelty of the perspective chosen, the novelty of the role of the ‘international lawyer’, the key role of this function in the internationalization of business, and in particular the inadequacy of presently existing concepts to describe the international practice of law, merit revisiting this question. Thirdly, the question could be addressed, ‘what would be the purpose of such a new theoretical framework?’. One could argue that this framework could reinstate the ‘lawyer’ as actor in the ‘international legal process’ and start from his specific role as ‘creator’ in the ‘legal process’. Presently neither the traditional ‘legal profession’ nor traditional ‘legal education’ has adequately focused on that reality. This repositioning of the role of the lawyer could provide for the potential inclusion of various dimensions of that activity, encompassing the ‘art of law’ as well as the ‘science of law’. Moreover, it could provide for the potential inclusion of cultural, racial, religious, psychological, sociological, economic and other elements necessary to adequately describe the role and approach of the ‘international lawyer’. Careful attention should be given to the fact that the ‘international practice of law’ nowadays is almost exclusively performed by ‘international lawyers’ organized in ‘international law firms’. This fact could well require an extension of the theoretical framework from the ‘person’ of the ‘international lawyer’ performing the legal services to the concept of the

'organization' of an 'international law firm' acting as an enterprise of and for those persons performing the 'legal services'. The analysis could also address how the 'international lawyer' as pivotal actor relates to 'legal systems' and to 'legal education', leading to a conceptual framework for a multi-actor-network necessary for 'international legal practice'. There are a lot of strong hints especially regarding the conceptual framework of management and legal perspective that not only multinational service firms have been developed after the model of multinational industrial firms but despite their not being particularly attuned to professional service needs, these concepts of multinational industrial firms are also at the cradle of the big international law firms. Thus, as Müller-Stewens and Drolshammer show, international law firms and international professional service firms (those involved in auditing, business counselling and traditional accounting) present familiar and adjacent organizational, managerial and legal structures. These industry (production) oriented structures are probably one of the reasons why, in the latest mergers, co-operations and divestitures involving at least three of the remaining Big Five, the lead was clearly taken by IT-enterprises organized from the beginning according to service-business needs.

11. One possible way to analyze and master the complex interaction and reciprocal influencing between the different fields in international law and global life is outlined by Korhonen in her blueprint for a conceptualization of the 'international lawyer'. Her situationality analysis focuses on the contextual co-ordinates of the lawyers' work in practice and relates them back to the structures of constraints provided by the law in all its different facets. Korhonen advocates a conceptualization of the changing paradigms. She perceives ambivalence among international lawyers concerning how to operationalize the process of finding situational co-ordinates in order to thereby best serve international legal thought and practice. According to Korhonen, situationality analysis deals with the practice as it already exists. It addresses legal structures rather than rules, and charts complex co-ordination tables, frames and variables. Thus, the situationality analysis adds to the dialectic between stability and change, the continuous flux of views of lawyers and the views of their clients.
12. According to Drolshammer there are some key issues of international legal structures of professional service firms as first experienced with audit and consulting organizations and now seen also with the development of the international law firms. Such key issues are particularly the dynamic components of the legal structure, such as the planning and structuring process. One of the key issues is the answer to the question of whether the legal structure should be based on a contractual or a corporate foundation. Drolshammer carefully examines whether there are corporate forms at all available in which an entrepreneurial vision can be pursued and implemented by the management? How can a 'joint economic interest' (that is according to

a management point of view indispensable for the success of an organization) between different participants of different national backgrounds be created? But the most important key issue is certainly the rigid framework given to the legal services by their own representatives. The professional regulatory bodies up to now do not facilitate international co-operation. Neither contractually- nor corporate-based organized international co-operation can be brought in line with the far-reaching professional regulatory stipulation of independence, and the prohibition of profit sharing between lawyers and non-lawyers.

13. The demands of their clients to improve performance caused many law firms to improve management processes and organizational structures. Hodgart calls this an 'organizational revolution'. Yet this alone is not enough to be truly competitive. It can only be a first step to competition, which then has to be followed by choosing and implementing a competitive strategy. As many obstacles as there are which form barriers to moving into a strong competitive position, equally as decisive is the reward resulting from such an undertaking. It will be the revolutionary lawyers and law firms that will make the real breakthroughs in a time in which the international practice of law will no longer be the same. As Müller-Stewens and Drolshammer explain, law firms that wish to compete internationally are called to make adjustments such as diversification and specialization, external growth and an intensification of competition. To be successful in the market, value-generating activities must be developed, which sometimes require shifts of emphasis in growth, further organization and management.
14. Murray, Drolshammer and Fine, focusing on the effectiveness and sustainability of a move towards a new understanding of the international practice of law, explain why effective education and training for international law practice are of the highest importance. Although we are on the verge of internationalizing legal education, they argue that the education of the new international lawyer cannot really be changed without making fundamental adjustments to the presently existing perception of the role of the international lawyer. And they therefore suggest that one product of increased educational efforts will likely be a clarification of the definition of law and a reevaluation of the function of law within the context of globalization. Subject to these remarks, it seems appropriate to show how Murray, Drolshammer and Fine see some features of this permanent education and training. A certain relativity of the prevailing jurisprudence of decision making towards a jurisprudence of creating and shaping processes will be necessary. The fields of cognitive, emotional and cultural intelligence and learning need development. They should be interconnected with the qualities of 'entrepreneurship' in contemporary information society. The education and formation of the international lawyer should include becoming acquainted with managerial skills, in other words the international lawyer has to develop features of an international manager. The necessary programmes

to achieve these educational goals have to be developed by universities, law schools, management schools and research programmes in an integrated mode of co-operation, co-ordination and networking. Thereby the existing profiles and images of traditional and professional functions and roles will be influenced towards a new way of acquiring professional knowledge. This process is seen by Murray and Drolshammer as 'creating a culture of international law practice'. This new practice could include the following features that, as Fine reports, to a great extent are known and partly proved already to be successful: Law reviews would be focused on questions of the international practice of law while current international and comparative law reviews are mainly academic in focus. Legal publications focusing on the particular legal problems of international law practice would fill an important void. Sections of bar associations would be devoted to international practice of law, while presently the American Bar Association (ABA) has a section on International Law but none on International Law Practice. Certification of skills in international practice of law would be possible, while currently there are ABA approved certification programmes in a variety of legal skills and specialties ranging from criminal law to estate planning but no programme for certification or recognition of specialty in international law practice. Continuing Legal Education programmes for the education of lawyers for international law practice would be developed. To the extent practicable, programmes focusing on study and analysis of actual transactions and case studies would provide maximum benefit here. International associations of law schools and legal academics which can address issues of internationalization of legal education as reciprocal recognition of credits, co-ordination of academic schedules, exchanges of professors and students, prerequisites for bar admission and the like, would become customary. Research centres, both at individual institutions and as joint ventures of leading law schools, leading law firms and international professional associations, for legal learning in international matters would become reality. Comparative studies and publications sponsored by international organizations such as the WTO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the internationalization of legal education would be produced.

Murray and Drolshammer mention the growing tendency of 'Americanization' of the international legal culture. This phenomenon seems to be a major driving force for the globalization of the economy. The internationalization of the actors in the practice of law appears to be running parallel to the hegemony of the US in matters of economics, foreign policy, defense, information technology and higher education. The role of the US has a significant influence on the activities of the actors in the 'international practice of law'. In economic and commercial matters, foreign legal education and in particular foreign legal professions, the influence of American management methods and the importance of the English language as a *lingua franca* cannot be overlooked. A moderate

European point of view may help to balance the dominant 'American perspective', and help to bring about a synthesized global orientation. As the world becomes smaller, according to Murray and Drolshammer, the need for individuals with the professional skills and international orientation to nurture transactions and mediate disputes among different national, economic, ethnic and cultural groups will be ever greater. In particular, the ability to take an informed global perspective to problems and issues will help overcome myopia, misunderstanding and localism from purely local or national perspectives. To the extent that an international approach is incorporated into the formation of lawyers, the bar in general will have the potential to serve its mediating and facilitating role based on the widest possible perspective. An informed and trained body of international legal practitioners will foster improved quality and reduced costs in international legal transactions. This means that lawyers with understanding of different legal systems and international perspectives will be able to deal with the differences in legal systems and create arrangements and resolutions of international transactions and disputes, of high quality. Murray and Drolshammer see the process of law harmonization and reform furthered by a more widespread knowledge of other legal systems and international legal orders. Comparative law, currently almost a legal backwater, can become an everyday tool in legal analysis, law development and law reform. Lawyers considering changes in their own legal systems can work with reference to the experiences of the nations of the world in solving similar problems.

The various paradigms which have changed were described in general by referring to the central and highlighting statements and thoughts of the contributors of this journal. For a detailed study, the reader is referred to the contributions themselves. The editors hope that by assembling this collection they have made a useful contribution toward the development of a conceptualization of the different aspects and conditions of the international practice of law. There is of course more than one approach and more than one strategy to cope with globalization in the area of the international practice of law. The various options have different consequences. It was not so much the goal in assembling this collection to arrive at a definite answer so much as to invite questions and to try to gain material that could then be used in the ongoing process of reacting to the challenges of the international practice of law in a globalized context.

The title of the introduction is 'On the way to a Globalized Practice of Law?!' and contains an exclamation – and a question mark. Both prove to be fully justified. Yes, today's practice of law or at least an important part of it is on its way to globalization. But, there remain questions: Is a globalized practice of law good for the law? Is it good for society? Is it good for the international community? How will a globalized practice of law deal with the case 'professionalism vs. commercialism'?