American Bar Association
Section of International Law
Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to THE YEAR IN REVIEW
by
Law Student Editorial Staff Members

The 2015 edition of THE YEAR IN REVIEW was published June 2016, under the leadership of co-general editors Brooke J. Bowman and Jason Scott Palmer of Stetson University College of Law; Marc. I. Steinberg, Patricia S. Heard and Beverly Caro Düréus of SMU Dedman School of Law and respectively Editor-in-Chief and Co-Executive Editors of THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER; and Section of International Law Publications Officer Patrick Del Duca, and with the benefit of editing by the editorial board of THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER. This team desired to recognize outstanding contributions of students at the SMU Dedman School of Law to the editorial process.

The selection process involved nominations being made by Justin D. Hanna, the outgoing Student Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER, along with Brandt Thomas Rossler, who served as the Managing Editor (ME). As members of the International Law Review Association at the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University, Hanna and Rossler had direct oversight responsibilities of the student editorial staff members who worked on THE YEAR IN REVIEW. THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER’s Editor-in-Chief, Marc I. Steinberg, and Co-Executive Editors Beverly Duréus and Patricia Heard made the final selection of the award recipients.

Co-Executive Editor Beverly Düréus, who oversees the production of THE YEAR IN REVIEW, applauds Patrick Del Duca, the Publications Officer for the ABA Section of International Law for creating this award. Dr. Düréus stated:

"Our student editors work very hard and are an integral part of the process. While they are already delighted to be working on such a prestigious journal, the announcement of this new award helped to boost their morale and affirmed that their efforts are truly appreciated. A lot of the limelight often goes to the student EIC and ME, because they get to interface with many contributing authors, but the other staff members are also an invaluable part of our process and are in the trenches helping to make the journal a great success. Thank you for recognizing their efforts and for creating this award."

Hanna, the EIC added:

"The new award not only provides an incentive for the student editors to work hard, but it provides much needed recognition for their efforts. On top of their responsibilities on the journal, these students juggle the rigors of law school classes with many other extracurricular, professional, and personal responsibilities all vying for their precious time. Yet, these students work hard to produce THE YEAR IN REVIEW. In particular, the students who were nominated for the award this year went far beyond their ‘job description’ and devoted many hours, without complaint, to ensure that this volume of THE YEAR IN REVIEW would be timely and a great issue."

The ABA/ SIL is very mindful of the cooperative team spirit and effort needed to make THE YEAR IN REVIEW a success each year. In addition to the great team at SMU, great editing assistance was provided by the new team of General Editors, Jason Palmer and Brooke Bowman and their team of deputy editors. Administrative expertise was also given tirelessly by Maria Chhabria of the ABA/ SIL and technical web assistance by Adam Vogel. As the new Publications Officer, I enjoyed working with and spearheading this great group of people. We are also thankful for the efforts of our student EIC, Justin Hanna. When asked what his reflections were for his service on The Year in Review this year he stated:
My tenure as EIC for this year’s Year in Review has been an extremely challenging, yet ultimately rewarding experience. It is a humbling responsibility to be entrusted with the works of the forty three contributing committees, each made up of leading experts in their respective fields. I found each contribution very interesting and many opened my eyes to legal issues around the world, about which I had not known. But, above all, the highlight of my time as EIC of The Year in Review was the support of the faculty and staff at SMU. I could not have properly served my position without the thankless work of Profs. Steinberg, Duréus, Heard, and Administrative Assistant, TaLibra Ferguson. I am particularly thankful, in regards to The Year in Review, to Prof. Duréus, whose door was always open to me. Without her guidance and passion, this volume of The Year in Review would not be the success that it is.

Thus, the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law is pleased to announce the 2016 and inaugural recipients of the Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to The Year in Review by Law Student Editorial Staff Member. The recipients are Matthew Stringer and Brooke Neal.

Award Recipient No. 1: Matthew Stringer.

Mr. Stringer was nominated because of the excellent job that he did as an Associate Managing Editor (AME) for Vol. 50 of The Year in Review. The quality of Matt’s work stood out, and he has superior monitoring and communication skills, and often took it upon himself to do extra work. It was stated of Matt that his “hard was greatly appreciated.”

Matt graduated from SMU Dedman School of Law on May 14, 2016. As a Staff Editor on SMU’s International Law Review, he received an honorable mention for his case note. He also served as an Associate Managing Editor during his second year on staff. When asked what he liked most about working on The YIR, Matt recounted that he “enjoyed learning about national security issues and improving his editing skills.”

Award Recipient No. 2: Brooke Neal.

Ms. Neal was nominated because she is a diligent worker, a great team player, and very dependable. She often went “above and beyond the responsibilities of her position as a Staff Editor,” and her selflessness, adaptability, and exceptional editing are all traits that distinguished her. Brooke’s “strong work ethic and meticulous attention to detail contributed greatly to the success of this publication.” She also consistently received praise and high marks from her supervising Articles Editors for her work product.

As a second year law student at SMU Dedman School of Law, Brooke served as a Staff Editor on SMU’s International Law Review. She won both the Best Case Note and Best Comment awards, as well as the Quill & Torch Award, given to a first year staff member for outstanding legal research and scholarship. As a second year staff member, she was also selected to serve on the editorial board as a Case Note & Comment Editor. “The staff of The International Lawyer is very grateful for Brooke’s service and team-oriented attitude that helped produce Vol. 50 of The Year in Review.”

When asked to share her fondest reflections about her experience with The Year in Review, Brooke stated, “Having the privilege to work with SMU’s International Law Review Association on The Year in Review was a fulfilling experience. I enjoyed reviewing articles from experts in a variety of subjects relating to international law and learning about the legal systems of many different countries.”

Congratulations Matt and Brooke!