

International Association of Judges

Marrakech, 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for the very kind words from Justice Julie Dutil (Canada), Mr Walter Barone (Brazil), the Hon. Elsie Ochoa D'Acosta (Puerto Rico), and Justice Glenn Martin (Australia). It is a great honour to have been elected president of the IAJ. The work of the IAJ is important in pursuing goals that are fundamental to an ordered society, to democratic freedoms and to individual liberty.

We know and understand the work that judges do, and we know and understand the vital importance of that work to freedom, safety and an orderly society. We know also about the vulnerability under which judges work and live, and therefore of the need to foster and preserve judicial impartiality and the rule of law. Many of us have seen colleagues harmed in their pursuit of those goals, and as judges we are limited in what we can do. Judges do not have armies to enforce their decisions and must remain neutral in disputes between those who are before them to have disputes resolved by an impartial application of the rule of law. This organisation is vital to the common task of maintaining the rule of law and the integrity of judicial impartiality. The many stories we hear from some of our colleagues of the conditions under which they sometimes work puts the reality of judicial work and vulnerability into sharp perspective. It is a useful reminder of the help we can give to our colleagues in various places when we hear of the conditions in places such as Yemen and Guatemala and of how we may be able to be of tangible help and support even if only a little.

Following in the footsteps of Christophe Regnard is no small task. He has been our voice in speaking out against arrests of judges without charge. He has been outspoken and courageous in his criticisms of the actions taken by the Turkish government against a number of its judges who, as far as we can see, were engaged in the loyal application of the law and the faithful discharge of their duty as judges. We owe Christophe a debt and our deepest thanks. I am personally pleased that he will not be

lost to the work of the IAJ through his continuing role as immediate past president on the presidency committee and as a member of the honorary presidents.

There continues to be much important work for the IAJ well into the future. Much is expected from the small secretariat which manages to perform beyond their limited resources. We owe much to the commitment of our Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto in particular, but also to the other members of the secretariat, Lucio Aschettino Galileo D'Agostino, Raffaele Gargiulo, and of course, Barbara Scolart and Daniela de Vincentiis.

This is a crucial organisation for the judiciary which has huge potential. It can provide support and material for the internal work and development of what judges do and how they do it. We all face what are broadly the same issues and problems, although we may deal with them differently. The work done in the study commissions, and in the conferences, enable us to learn from each other about what we do and how to do it better.

I wish also to express my personal sense of debt to the members of the ANAO group, including the members of the Australian delegation, but also to the presidents of the ANAO group who have preceded me in that position. I am the first member of the ANAO group to have been given the honour of leading the IAJ, but I am by no means the most deserving. I must mention in particular, and pay tribute to, Louise Mailhot and Robert Blair amongst the ANAO presidents who I have known, admire and feel some regret that it is me instead of them to have been elected president.

On a personal note, I would like to say how pleased I am to have here in Marrakech my daughter Clara. I say that not only from personal pleasure, but because her presence here is a reminder that the work that judges do is undertaken not for ourselves but for others and for future generations. It is important that we aim to leave the world better than we have found it.

Je voudrais profiter de cette opportunité pour remercier nos collègues marocains pour leur gentille hospitalité.

Le Maroc aura une place spéciale pour moi mais tout ça a été rendu encore plus spécial grâce à leur chaleureuse et gentille hospitalité.

International Association of Judges - Presidency
The Hon G Tony Pagone

J'espère vous allez me pardonner si je ne dis que quelques mots dans un français très simple.

It is now my pleasant first duty to propose that Christophe Regnard be appointed as an honorary president and ask the Secretary-General to read the citation in support of Christophe Regnard.

G.T. Pagone
Marrakech, October 2018