

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2007 MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION HENRI CAPITANT**

An annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association Henri Capitant (the "Association") was held on March 22, 2007 at 5pm in Room 304 of the Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

The following members were present: Alain Levasseur, Olivier Moréteau, John Randall Trahan, Christine Corcos, Alberto Zuppi, Andrea Carroll, Thomas Harrell, Ronald Scalise, Keith Vetter, Dominique Custos, H. Ward Fontenot, Cyrus Greco, David Painter, Berryl Gordon-Thompson, & Wendi Loup.

The President of the Association, Alain Levasseur, served as Chairman. A quorum being present, the President called the meeting to order.

I. March 2006 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the March 2006 Meeting of the Association were reviewed and approved.

II. Past Activities

a. 2006 Journées in Morocco

The membership discussed the 2006 Journées held in Morocco. Alain Levasseur served as a general reporter, *in absentia*, on the topic of *Unfair Competition*. Serban Vacarelu delivered a national report, and his report will be published in Columbia.

b. Translation Projects

The membership discussed a project undertaken by Professors Gruning and Levasseur who, at the request of the Association Henri Capitant, translated the new articles of the French Civil Code on Obligations.

c. Reply to the World Bank

The membership discussed the response of the Association Henri Capitant to the World Bank's report, *Doing Business Abroad*, in which the World Bank criticizes the civil law as being an impediment to economic development. The response is available at the following website:

<http://www.henricapitant.org/IMG/pdf/vol.2.pdf>

Professor Levasseur wrote the response on behalf of Louisiana. His contribution can be found on pages 77-84 of the report.

d. XVIIth Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law

The membership discussed the participation of various members of the Association at the XVIIth Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law. Professors Custos, Gruning, Moréteau, Levasseur, and Scalise presented national reports on a variety of topics at the Congress held in Utrecht in July of 2006.

e. Internet Resources

The membership discussed a project undertaken by the Association and Vicenç Feliu, LSU's Foreign, Comparative, and International Librarian, to compile a list of civil codes and links thereto. The link to the webpage is below:

<http://host.law.lsu.edu/ahclouisiane/documents/CivilCodes.pdf>

In addition, the website can be accessed from the Association's website below:

http://host.law.lsu.edu/ahclouisiane/association_henri_capitant_mission_statement.htm

Mr. Feliu has also begun preparing a dictionary of civil law terms which will be posted on the internet.

f. 2006 Henri Capitant Prize

The membership discussed and agreed to continue the past procedure of awarding a \$250.00 prize to the best student work on a civil law topic to be published in a forthcoming edition of the Louisiana Law Review. The 2006 Henri Capitant Prize was awarded jointly to Mr. Charlie Tabor and Ms. Kimberly Higginbotham.

g. Précis Series

The membership discussed the new Louisiana Civil Code Précis Series published by LexisNexis. The first précis in the series on "Obligations in General," written by Professor Levasseur, has already been published. Another précis on "Sales and Lease," written by Professors Levasseur and Gruning, is currently in production and will be published shortly. Additional précis on topics such as Successions, Property, and others will follow.

III. Future Activities

a. 2007 Journées in Bogota, Colombia

The 2007 Journées to be held in Bogota, Colombia were discussed. The date for the Journées has been postponed from May of 2007 to September of 2007. The topic of the Journées will be *The Consumer*. Professor Levasseur will attend and represent the Association.

b. International Association of Legal Methodology

The members discussed the International Association of Legal Methodology which will meet in October of 2007 in Sherbrooke, Canada. The topic of the conference will be *La Sécurité Juridique*.

c. 200th Anniversary of the French Commercial Code

The 200th Anniversary of the French Commercial Code was discussed. Professor Levasseur has been invited to present a paper on the Uniform Commercial Code at a conference to mark the occasion. The conference will be held in the Senate in Paris, France, on March 30, 2007.

IV. Financial Matters

The financial status of the Association was discussed. The Association currently has \$10,000 in its account. The President reported that dues collection for 2006 was down. The members discussed the best way to maximize collection of dues in the future. The membership agreed that dues bills would be sent via postal mail rather than email in an attempt to maximize collection.

V. 2008 Journées in Louisiana

The membership discussed the 2008 Journées which will be held in Louisiana.

a. Date

The membership agreed that holding the conference in early May would be preferable to later in May.

b. Louisiana General Reporter

The membership discussed the desirability of having a Louisiana representative serve as a General Reporter for the conference. Professors Levasseur, Corcos, and Zuppi were suggested as potential candidates for the role of General Reporter.

c. Venue

The membership discussed locations within Louisiana at which the Journées could be held. The membership expressed interest in spending two days of the conference in Baton Rouge and two days in New Orleans. Professor Vetter and Judge Painter agreed to help coordinate and investigate the participation of Loyola and Tulane Law Schools in the conference.

The membership also discussed suitable hotels in both cities for conference participants. The membership agreed that the Embassy Suites and the Homestead Suites in Baton Rouge would be appropriate and within an affordable price range for visiting participants. The Royal Sonesta and the Windsor court were suggested as possible hotels in New Orleans.

The membership expressed an interest in holding part of the conference at the Louisiana Supreme Court.

d. Cost and Fee

The membership discussed the cost of the conference and estimated that in addition to the \$10,000 in the Association's bank accounts, an additional \$10,000 would need to be raised. The membership agreed that the traditional fee of \$100 would be an appropriate fee for conference participants. The membership also discussed the desire to solicit contributions from the members, in addition to yearly dues, to help defray the cost of the conference. Moreover, Professor Harrell and Cyrus Greco agreed to assist in raising the necessary funds to support the conference.

e. Meals, Receptions, and Entertainment

The membership discussed the success of the Louisiana Journées in 1992 during which the Association hosted an event for all participants on a riverboat in New Orleans. The possibility of doing so again was discussed and the membership was enthusiastic about such an event, provided it is cost feasible.

The membership discussed other possible venues for dinners in both New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The Plimsoll Club was suggested as a venue for a New Orleans dinner. Mulatte's and Boutin's were suggested as possible venues for a Baton Rouge dinner. The membership agreed to continue the past tradition of holding "host dinners" at the homes of various members.

The membership discussed the use of LSU, Loyola, and Tulane as possible venues for evening receptions during the conference.

The membership agreed that a plantation or swamp tour would be a suitable activity to schedule during the conference. Various suggestions in this regard were made by members including visits to Rosedown Plantation, Laura Plantation, and the plantations of St. Francisville.

f. Transportation

The membership discussed the costs of hiring buses to transport the conference participants from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

g. Sponsorship

In addition to financial contributions, the membership discussed the desirability of seeking sponsorships from law firms, vendors, and retailers to help supply printing, equipment, and conference memorabilia.

VI. Election of Officers

The following individuals were elected as officers of the Association:

President:	Alain Levasseur
Vice President:	H. Ward Fontenot
Secretary/Treasurer:	Ronald Scalise

The following members were elected as At-Large Members:

Cyrus J. Greco
Keith Vetter
Berryl Gordon-Thompson

The following member was elected as Special Legal Counsel to the Association:

Wendi Loup

The dues for 2006-2007 were set at \$25.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ron Scalise, Secretary