This past year was a very productive one for the ALI. We launched seven important new projects. Two are Restatements in areas that are traditional to us: Conflict of Laws and Property. Two are Restatements in new areas: Children and the Law and Copyright. And three are Principles projects, which are designed primarily to provide guidance to institutions other than the courts: Compliance, Enforcement, and Risk Management for Corporations, Nonprofits, and Other Organizations; Police Investigations; and Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct on Campus: Procedural Frameworks and Analysis.

I am enormously heartened that the leading academics in the field have agreed to be the Reporters on these projects. All of the individuals I approached accepted when I raised with them the possibility that they might lead an ALI project. And I’m also very pleased that each Reporter has assembled a team of up to seven Associate Reporters. My hope is that these teams will work collaboratively and be able to advance the projects more quickly than the traditional model of a Reporter working on only a chapter at a time and not turning to the next chapter until after the prior one was completed. Now, several Associate Reporters, working closely with the Reporter, will be able to tackle multiple chapters at the same time. One clear benefit of this approach is that we will be able to complete projects before portions started years earlier become obsolete. And, we will also be able to provide guidance at the time at which it will be most useful, as opposed to years later.

Each of the new projects has gotten off to a very good start. They have a full complement of distinguished Advisers representing a variety of diverse perspectives. They also have large Members Consultative Groups—in some cases exceeding 100 members—that reflect the broad interest of our membership in these projects.

In particular, the new projects have brought new constituencies to the ALI’s work. For example, the Advisers to the Police Investigations project include five police chiefs or deputy chiefs, one current and one former mayor, and leaders from five civil rights organizations. General counsels and chief compliance officers of major entities contributed to a very productive first meeting of the Compliance project. Turning to our traditional constituencies, the Adviser group for Conflict of Laws includes some of our nation’s most distinguished judges, including six members of the federal courts of appeals, four of the state supreme courts, three of the federal district courts, and two of the state courts of appeals. I urge you to take a look at the roster of the Advisers to each of the projects. You can now do this on our website, which was significantly redesigned this past year to make it easier for our Advisers and members to participate in the ALI’s substantive work.

We also devoted considerable attention to editing and marketing the Restatement of Employment Law, which had been approved at the 2014 Annual Meeting. During the course of the subsequent year, the Reporters, several Council members, and the ALI staff collaborated effectively to get the text ready for publication, and the Restatement hit the stands in July 2015. Also, in the year leading to publication, we undertook significant efforts to bring attention to the Restatement, through programs at judicial conferences, scholarly seminars at law schools, and articles written by our project participants.

Significant progress was also made on the 13 projects that were in process when I became Director in May 2014. In particular one of them—Model Penal Code: Sentencing—had its last Advisers meeting. It is now slated for final approval in May 2016 assuming that the stars are well aligned. It is likely that three or four additional projects will be approved in May 2017. And we are already considering a number of potential projects to launch once we have space on our plate.

With 20 ongoing projects, the ALI’s calendar is very full. On average each project has an Advisers meeting and a Members Consultative Group meeting every year. Since we tend not to have meetings over the summer, almost every week of the academic year has us following the traditional routine of an Advisers meeting on Thursday and a Members Consultative Group meeting on Friday (though sometimes the two groups are merged).

The ALI’s success is dependent, to a very large extent, on the intellectual contribution of its members. Week in and week out, significant numbers of members get together and devote sustained attention to a draft, focusing on everything from deep conceptual issues to more technical matters of exposition. Detailed emails and memos—now all posted on our website, on the page for the particular project—precede and follow each meeting.

But we also depend on our members’ financial contributions. They will make it possible for us to work on 20 projects at the same time, with larger groups of Reporters to ensure that they get done in a timely way and diverse groups of Advisers designed to ensure that multiple perspectives are represented. This support also lets us undertake projects, such as the three new Principles projects, where the traditional sources of revenue from the sale of books and electronic searches are unlikely to be significant. And, very importantly, your contributions allow us to significantly subsidize the cost of attendance at the Annual Meeting, where our projects get approved. Your sustaining dues, annual gifts, Life Member class gifts, bequests, and other forms of support make an enormous difference to our work and are particularly important as we continue to expand the ALI’s ambition.

Director’s Message