AI & LAW NEWS

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Belgium Conference a First

JURIX 1999

by Marie-Francine Moens

The Twelfth International Conference on Legal Knowledge-Based Systems (JURIX '99) was hosted by the Faculty of Law of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. It was the first time that a JURIX conference was held outside the Netherlands, and we may proudly say that the participants as well as the organisers felt that the conference was a big success. The conference took place in the picturesque and beautifully restored setting of the beguinage (Groot Begijnhof) in the historic city of Leuven.

The conference was preceded by a tutorial on legal information retrieval given by Prof. Jon Bing and myself on December 9, 1999. The conference started on the same day with an afternoon of demonstrations of practical systems built by private companies or by academic research teams. The nine systems demonstrated included knowledge-based systems, information retrieval tools, and one drafting and one data mining system. Prof. Jaap van den Herik had the honour to open the demonstration session in a room that was too small to welcome an unexpected crowd of interested people.

Net Stadhuis, Leuven

The research papers were presented on December 10, 1999. The participants of the conference were welcomed by Prof. Jaap Hage, chairman of JURIX. The conference was officially opened by Mr. Frank Robben, Chairman and General Manager of the Crossroads Bank for Social Security, Belgium, who spoke about his instructive experiences on sharing information in the public sector. Prof. Jon Bing gave a very interesting lecture on factorisation of case law according to a rule-based paradigm. The themes addressed in the research papers ranged from legislative drafting and collaborative learning of legal argumentation to the evaluation of legal beliefs and the issue of rule consistency. Sixteen papers had been submitted. With the help of the many referees, the programme committee of JURIX '99 was able to offer a final programme of ten papers that met the high standards that JURIX nowadays attempts to attain. A number of clear and interesting presentations were given. The conference participants, who came from many different countries, enthusiastically joined the vivid discussions.

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Inside: ICAIL 2001 Call for Participation

JURIX Proceedings Now Available on the Web

JURIX, the foundation for Legal Knowledge-Based Systems, is a forum for research on applications of information technology in the legal domain in Belgium and the Netherlands. The universities and research institutes that participate in JURIX have built up research and education programmes focusing on the various aspects of legal knowledge systems. The JURIX researchers engaging in these programmes have backgrounds that vary from legal theory and philosophy to computer science and artificial intelligence, thus providing a broad and integrated perspective on legal knowledge-based systems.

In addition to its function as an active scientific forum with regular meetings, JURIX organizes an annual international conference in which current research results are reported. In the conferences there is ample attention for both theoretical results and practical legal knowledge systems.

The proceedings of the past 12 JURIX conferences, encompassing some 125 papers, are available on the new JURIX website: http://www.jurix.nl.

The JURIX website also provides information about the participating researchers and research groups and about current events in the field of legal knowledge based systems. It is a good place to start any search for information on legal knowledge-based systems. The JURIX website will also be used to publish information on new JURIX activities such as the common research programme on electronic government services and the joint postdoctoral education programme.

AI and Law Workshops in England in 2000

by Trevor Bench-Capon

As part of the AISB convention on "Time for AI and Society" (AISB 2000), a Symposium on AI and Legal Reasoning was held on 17 April at the University of Birmingham. AISB (Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour) is the leading UK AI organisation, so it is good that AI and Law received this recognition. The workshop, called a "Symposium on AI and Legal Reasoning," attracted speakers from all quarters of the globe, including Australia, Brazil and Israel as well as the UK. The convention itself was also full of interest: Marvin Minsky was among the invited speakers, and another symposium was on "Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and (Quasi-) Human Rights." The symposium chair was Donald Peterson. Full details can be found on http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~dmp/ai+law.html.

The Legal Information Systems and Applications (LISA) workshop will again be featured as part of the DEXA conference workshop programme. It will be in Greenwich on September 7, 2000. The aim of this workshop is to take stock of the progress in the application of advanced informatics techniques to the legal domain, and to identify a research agenda for the new century.

Major conference topics in LISA include legal information retrieval on the Internet, legal knowledge-based systems, conceptual information retrieval, representation of legal knowledge and legal reasoning, intelligent legal tutoring systems, and practical decision support system.

For more information, see http://www.univie.ac.at/RI/lisa2000.htm or contact Erich Schweighofer Institute of Public International Law Vienna University Universitaetsstrasse 2, A - 1090 Vienna - Austria Tel. +43 1 4277-35305, Fax +43 1 4277-9353, Email: Erich.Schweighofer@univie.ac.at

JURIX '99 Held in Belgium

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An animated lecture by Prof. John Zeleznikow on commercialisation of legal knowledge-based systems closed the conference. The reception and banquet were held in the elegant Faculty Club of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Our guest of honour was the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. F. Vanistendael.

We thank the JURIX '99 sponsors: COI, MRE Meesters in Expertsystemen, the City of Leuven, BBL, Café Plaza, Garage Pippo, De Lijn and last but not least the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. We also thank the members of the organising committee and the programme committee and especially their chairs, Prof. Jos Dumortier and Prof. Jaap van den Herik, who all did a wonderful job.

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AI & Law News is a publication of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law. Correspondence concerning *AI & Law News* should be directed to Karl Branting, IAAIL Newsletter Editor, Department of Computer Science, University of Wyoming, karl@uwyo.edu; Trevor Bench-Capon, European correspondent, tbc@csc.liv.ac.uk; or John Zeleznikow, Australian correspondent, johnz@cs.latrobe.edu.au.
For information on IAAIL membership, contact Carole Hafner, College of Computer Science, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, Tel: (617) 373-5116, Fax: (617) 373-5121, Internet: hafner@ccs.neu.edu

First Call for Papers

Eighth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence And Law (ICAIL-2001)

May 21-25, 2001 St. Louis, Missouri, USA
http://www.cs.wustl.edu/icail2001/

The field of AI and law is concerned with:

- Investigation of legal reasoning and argumentation using computational methods
- Applications of AI and advanced information technology to support tasks in regulated domains, especially for legal practice and education.
- Investigation of techniques from AI and advanced information technology using law as the example domain

ICAIL-2001 will be held under the auspices of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law (IAAIL), an organization devoted to promoting research and development in the field of AI and Law with members throughout the world. ICAIL provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of the latest research results and practical applications and stimulates interdisciplinary and international collaboration. Previous ICAIL conferences have taken place in Boston (1987), Vancouver (1989), Oxford (1991), Amsterdam (1993), College Park, Maryland (1995), Melbourne (1997), and Oslo (1999). As with these past conferences, the accepted papers will be published in a conference proceedings.

Authors are invited to submit papers on topics including but not restricted to:

- Legal Knowledge-Based Systems
- Advanced Judicial Support Systems
- Conceptual or Model-Based Legal Information Retrieval
- Case-Based Legal Reasoning
- Computational Models of Legal Reasoning and Argumentation
- Representation of Legal and Common Sense Knowledge
- Representation of other Norm-Governed Systems (e.g. business rules, organisation rules, security regulations, and rules of order)
- Applications of Machine Learning to Law
- Automated Extraction of Information from Legal Texts
- Intelligent Legal Tutoring Systems
- Advanced Legal Document Drafting Systems
- Legal Ontologies
- Reasoning with Uncertainty in Evidential Reasoning

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Call for Papers

A special session on Intelligent Decision Support for Legal Practice will be held at the International Congress on Intelligent Systems and Applications (ISA'2000) at the University of Wollongong (near Sydney), Australia from December 12-15, 2000 (http://www.icsc.ab.ca/isa2000.htm).

A tutorial on "Intelligent Decision Support For Legal Practice" will be given by John Zeleznikow, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Australia johnz@latcs1.cs.latrobe.edu.au

Topics to be covered in the tutorial and special session include:

- AI and Law - including Case Based Reasoning
- Knowledge Discovery from Databases
- Rule Based Reasoning
- Soft Computing
- DSS to Support Advice about Entitlements
- Jurisprudential Theories for Building Legal DSS
- Law and Information Retrieval
- Legal Drafting Systems
- WWW Resources for Legal Practice

However, any topic relevant to intelligent decision support systems will be considered for discussion.

Interested researchers should submit manuscripts of up to 5,000 words. Submission by electronic mail is strongly recommended to stranier@cs.latrobe.edu.au

Alternatively, two copies of manuscripts may be sent by fax or mail to the following address:

Dr. Andrew Stranieri, Donald Berman Laboratory for Information Technology and Law, Applied Computing Research Institute, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia 3083; Phone: ++61.3.9479 1549; Fax: ++61.3.9479 3060

Proceedings And Publications

All accepted and invited papers will be included in the congress proceedings, published in print and on CD-ROM by ICSC Academic Press, Canada/Switzerland.

A selected number of papers will be expanded and revised for possible inclusion in special issues of some prestigious journals.

Important Dates

- May 15, 2000: Submission deadline
- June 15, 2000: Notification of acceptance
- July 30, 2000: Delivery of full papers
- December 12-15, 2000: ISA'2000 congress

ICAIL Call for Papers

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Special encouragement is given to submissions concerning new topics such as:

- Legal Applications of Knowledge-based Electronic Commerce
- Advanced Internet Legal Research Aids
- Knowledge Discovery in Legal Databases
- Legal XML for Integration with Information Retrieval, Document Drafting, and Knowledge-Based Systems
- Advanced Tools for Legal Knowledge Management
- Models of Multi-Agent Systems with Legal Agents
- Modelling of Norms for Multi-Agent Interaction or Electronic Institutions

Papers on theoretical issues in AI and in jurisprudence or legal philosophy are invited provided that the relevance to AI and Law is clearly demonstrated. Papers on applications should include a description of the nature and purpose of the application, the techniques employed, and the current state of implementation.

Donald H. Berman Award for Best Student Paper

To encourage participation by students, IAAIL has created the Donald H. Berman Award for the best paper submitted to ICAIL by a student. The winner(s) of the award, which is presented at the conference banquet, receive a cash gift and free attendance at ICAIL-2001.

ICAIL Workshops And Tutorials

ICAIL-2001 will include a tutorial program on the first day, and one or more related workshops. Proposals for tutorials and workshops are also invited, and should be sent to the Program Chair. A workshop on "Advanced IT in Law Practice" is currently planned (see the ICAIL-2001 Web site for more information about workshops, including Calls for Papers).

Important Dates

- Submission of paper: January 12, 2001
- Notification of acceptance: March 12, 2001
- Camera-ready copies due: April 13, 2001
- Conference: May 21-25, 2001

Submission Details

Paper submissions must be received by the Program Chair by January 12, 2001. Style files for Word, WordPerfect and LaTeX are available at http://www.acm.org/sigs/pubs/proceed/template.html. Papers should not exceed 5000 words or, if one of the style files is used, 10 pages. Short papers not exceeding 2500 words (or five pages if a style file is used) are also invited, particularly in the area of "applications experience."

Electronic paper submissions are strongly preferred and should be sent to the Program Chair as an email attachment, using PDF or PostScript format. To submit by ordinary mail, send six (6) hard copies of the complete paper to the Program Chair at the address below.

Guidelines for authors, including downloadable style files and templates, are available at the conference WEB site.

Program Chair

Henry Prakken, Department of Computer Science
Utrecht University, P.O. Box 80089
3508 TB Utrecht, The Netherlands
email: henry@cs.uu.nl
phone: (+31 20) 253231; fax: (+31 20) 2513791

Conference Chair

Ronald P. Loui, Washington University
email: loui@ai.wustl.edu
phone: 314-935-6102; fax: 314-935-7302

Secretary/Treasurer

Carole D. Hafner, Northeastern University
email: hafner@ccs.neu.edu
phone: 617-373-5116; fax: 617-373-5121

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John Zeleznikow, La Trobe University, Australia

Book Reviewers Sought

The book review editor of *Artificial Intelligence and Law* invites reviews of books within the scope of the journal. Free review copies will be made available when possible.

Books recently received:

- Douglas Walton, *One-sided Arguments. A Dialectical Analysis of Bias*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 1999.
- Douglas Walton, *Ad Hominem Arguments*. The University of Alabama Press, 1999.
- Christopher W. Tindale, *Acts of Arguing. A Rhetorical Model of Argument*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 1999.

Some other suggestions for reviewing:

- Vincent Aleven, Teaching Case-Based Argumentation Through a Model and Examples. Ph.D. Dissertation University of Pittsburgh, 1997.
- L. Jean Camp, Trust and Risk in Internet Commerce. MIT Press, 2000.
- George C. Christie, The Notion of an Ideal Audience in Legal Argument. Kluwer's Law and Philosophy Library, Volume 45, 1999.
- Eveline Feteris, Fundamentals of Legal Argumentation. A Survey of Theories on the Justification of Judicial Decisions. Argumentation Library, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1999.
- Lamber M.M. Royakkers, Extending Deontic Logic for the Formalisation of Legal Rules. Law and Philosophy Library, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1998.

Reviews of other suitable books are also invited. For further information, please contact:

Henry Prakken Department of Computer Science, Utrecht University P.O. Box 80089, 3508 TB Utrecht, The Netherlands Tel: +31 30 2532313; Email: henry@cs.uu.nl, http://www.cs.uu.nl/staff/henry.html

Congratulations!

Aspassia Daskaloupu was awarded her Ph.D. late last year. She was a student of Marek Sergot at Imperial College, London. Her thesis title was "Logic Based Tools for the Analysis and Representation of Legal Contracts." She is now working at the Open University in the UK.

Karl Branting was selected as a 2000-2001 U.S. Supreme Court Judicial Fellow. He will spend his fellowship year at the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts studying the opportunities for technical innovation within the judiciary created by the U.S. federal court system's conversion to electronic filing.

New Books

Automatic Indexing and Abstracting of Document Texts

by Marie-Francine Moens, Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and Information Technology,
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
The Kluwer International Series on Information Retrieval Volume 6; Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston; Hardbound, ISBN 0-7923-7793-1, March 2000, 288 pp.; http://www.wkap.nl/book.htm/0-7923-7793-1

Automatic Indexing and Abstracting of Document Texts summarizes the latest techniques of automatic indexing and abstracting and the results of their application. It also places the techniques in the context of the study of text, manual indexing and abstracting, and the use of the indexing descriptions and abstracts in systems that select documents or information from large collections. Important sections of the book consider the development of new techniques for indexing and abstracting. The techniques involve the following: using text grammars, learning of the themes of the texts including the identification of representative sentences or paragraphs by means of adequate cluster algorithms, and learning of classification patterns of texts. In addition, the book is an attempt to illuminate new avenues for future research.

Reasoning with Rules and Precedents: A Computational Model of Legal Analysis

by L. Karl Branting, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Wyoming, Laramie, USA
Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht; Hardbound, ISBN 0-7923-6105-9, December 1999, 236 pp.; http://www.wkap.nl/book.htm/0-7923-6105-9

This book presents a computational framework for the integration of rules and cases for analytic tasks typified by legal analysis. The book uses the framework for integrating cases and rules as a basis for a new model of legal precedents. This model explains how the theory under which a case is decided controls the case's precedential effect. The framework for integrating rules and cases is implemented in GREBE, a system for legal analysis. The book presents techniques for representing, indexing, and comparing complex cases and for converting justification structures based on rules and case into natural-language text.