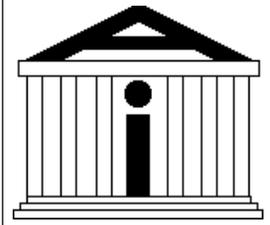


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NEWS



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Meet Me in St. Louis

ICAIL 2001 in Historic American City

By Ron Loui

St. Louis, site of ICAIL 2001, is an historic city, long representing the United States's expansion and progress. It is a city at the crossroads of the American South, the Eastern elite, the Great West, and the industrial Midwest. Not surprisingly, it is a city with as much national history as Philadelphia, New York, or Boston.

Today, it regularly hosts the presidential debates and Mark McGwire's home run records.

ICAIL 2001 will use some special locations: the Old Courthouse, which sits under the Gateway Arch as part of the National Westward Expansion Museum, will be the site of our reception and plenary session. Here Dred Scott, a slave who had traveled to a free state, argued his right to be a free man. And it is where a young Abe Lincoln argued the priority of rail traffic over the river barons. The Arch is the largest freestanding public sculpture in the world. It was built to commemorate Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase and westward expansion.

The main conference hotel will be the Chase Park Plaza Apartments, a newly renovated historic hotel, with good connections to Washington University and downtown St. Louis through campus shuttle and light rail.

The hotel is located in the Central West End, a romantic pedestrian area that is home to dozens of restaurants, pubs, and cafes. Almost all of the restaurants will have outdoor seating at this time of year. There is a Latin

dance club for all ages (Club Viva) and a new dance club strictly for upscale young people (Club Voodoo).

The main conference location will be the Hilltop Campus of Washington University. Washington University is a top-20 private school with an attractive campus of short Gothic buildings. The campus was designed by the Frederic

Olmstead Company, which also designed the Washington D.C., Capitol Mall, Central Park NYC, and the Stanford campus. The law school building, named for local beer baron Anheuser Busch, was built two years ago with a moot court room seating 217 persons plus jury, an auxiliary room seating 125 persons, and a courtyard that can hold 200 standing and 100 seated persons. There is a college town area, the University City "Loop," 10 minutes from the law school, where faculty and graduate students regularly lunch.

St. Louis has a world-class botanical garden and art museum. The St. Louis Zoo boasts two rare red pandas. The art museum was designed by Sanford White, who designed the U.S. Capitol. It contains five van Goghs, the largest Max Beckmann collection, and excellent Micronesian and early Central American collections. Cahokia Mounds is a nearby historical site where archaeologists have identified the first North American metropolis (essentially the northern arm of the Mayan culture).

Please Renew Your IAAIL Membership!

To continue supporting IAAIL (and receive its publications), fill out the enclosed form.

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Sleepless in Oslo: ICAIL-99 Report

By Tom Gordon

The Seventh ICAIL conference took place this past June (14-17) in the city in Norway once named after King Christian IV, for his restoration efforts after a major fire in 1624. Christiana didn't recover its original name, Oslo, until early in our century, in 1925.

In addition to our hosts from the University of Oslo at the Department of Philosophy and the Norwegian Research Center for Computers and Law, the conference was sponsored by the Lovdata Foundation and, as usual, the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law.

With the exception of the weekend before the conference, the weather in Oslo cooperated, allowing plentiful opportunities for pleasant walks through the beautiful downtown area or a chance to relax and chat with old and new acquaintances at one of the cafes along the waterfront.

The conference cochairs, Jon Bing and Andrew Jones, did a wonderful job, guided as always by the experience of our IAAIL Secretary-Treasurer, Carole Hafner, and with the diligent local assistance of Tone Brakke. Although Tone at times looked a bit concerned at times, any mishaps surely went unnoticed by anyone but her.

The conference began Monday with a day of tutorials and a workshop. The tutorials included a repeat performance by Kevin Ashley and Carole Hafner of their introduction to AI and Law. New this year were tutorials by Henry Prakken and Giovanni Sartor on formal models of argumentation and by Anja Oskamp and Peter Johnson on uses of expert systems in public administration. The Monday workshop, organized by Karl Branting, was on automated document drafting. A second workshop, a follow-up of the workshop on judicial decision support systems first held at ICAIL-97, took place on Friday, after the main conference program.

The technical program was divided into seven main sessions, entitled:

- Case-Based Reasoning
- Validation
- Argumentation
- Logical Models
- Applications
- Information Retrieval
- Legal Reasoning

There were also two sessions for the presentation of research abstracts.

An invited address was the highlight of each day of the technical program, beginning Tuesday with Marek Sergot's humorous, sovereign and very clear talk on computational theories of obligations and rights. Wednesday's inspiring and encouraging address was by Peter Johnson, the director of Softlaw in Australia, who revealed many of the secrets of Softlaw's success in developing commercial knowledge-based systems for government agencies in Australia. Thursday was philosophy day, with a very thoughtful and engaging talk on epistemological issues of legal reasoning by Aleksander Peczenik, who revealed a sincere interest in our field.

The conference banquet took place Wednesday evening, at the historic Norwegian Folk Museum, built in 1916. The food and conversation were wonderful, featuring for the first time at an ICAIL conference some spontaneous and spirited singing at one of the tables. But some of us were a bit disappointed that Andrew Jones failed to deliver on his promise to serve baby seal. The highlight of the evening was Jon Bing's remarkable speech, which revealed considerable literary talents not previously known to many of us.

Last but not least, the first Best Student Paper award, made possible by the fund created in memory of Donald Berman, was presented at the banquet by Anja Oskamp to Stefanie Brüninghaus for her paper, coauthored by Kevin Ashley, entitled "Toward Adding Knowledge to Learning Algorithms for Indexing Legal Cases".

Meet Me in St. Louis ... continued

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By May, the St. Louis Cardinals will have begun playing regular baseball games. The weather should be outstanding, though allergy sufferers are warned that St. Louis is nicknamed "tree city." There is plenty of vulgar entertainment in St. Louis, accessible with MetroLink or short cab ride: river boat casinos, breweries to tour, seedy night clubs (East St. Louis is both dangerous and exotic).

The Wash U faculty has two members of the Kluwer Law

and Philosophy book series, Stanley Paulson (constitutional law) who is known for his expertise on Kelsen, and Carl Wellman (ethics/philosophy) who is known for non-deductive patterns of argument in ethics, and who trained with Hart at Oxford. We are hoping to engage them in a Hart/Kelsen debate separately from our plenary speaker.

In keeping with an outstanding tradition for picking conference venues, the 2001 ICAIL will be worth the trip and will be the best place to present the best AI and law research.

Recent Events

LISA 99 - Legal Information Systems and Applications - Florence Italy, September '99

LISA 99, a workshop devoted to legal information systems and applications was held on 1 September in conjunction with the Database and Expert Systems Applications (DEXA) 1999 conference. The DEXA conference, for those who are unfamiliar with it, is an annual conference which presents a wide range of papers covering technologies of interest to those engaged in work on legal information systems: database, hypertext, distributed and heterogeneous systems, information retrieval, knowledge based systems, etc. After the conference a number of workshops on specific topics are held. Typically one of these addresses legal systems and 1999 was no exception.

The workshop was attended by a small but knowledgeable audience. Papers were presented by Trevor Bench-Capon, (on varieties of legal argument), Jos Lehman, (an ontology for legal causal reasoning), Fiorenza Soggi (searching the internet), Antonio Camelli (managing on-line legal information) and Erich Schweighofer (data mining legal texts). From the floor Jon Bing contributed several perceptive comments.

DEXA 2000 will be held in Greenwich with a workshop on legal information systems.

IAAIL Membership News

New Officers Elected for IAAIL; Terms Set to Begin in January

On June 15, 1999, the biannual Membership Meeting of the IAAIL was held in Oslo, Norway. An election was held for IAAIL officers, and the new officers are: Kevin Ashley, President; Trevor Bench-Capon, Vice-President, Carole Hafner, Secretary-Treasurer, and for the Executive Committee: Thorne McCarty, Tom Gordon (reelected), and Karl Branting (also reelected for a two-year term, replacing Trevor Bench-Capon). John Zeleznikow continues on the Executive Committee through 2001. The new officers will begin their terms January 1, 2000.

The IAAIL Executive Committee also held its biannual meeting in Oslo, on June 14, 1999. Henry Prakken was selected to be Program Chair for ICAIL-01. Issues discussed included more effective ways to promote IAAIL membership through the newsletter (volunteers to contribute articles to the newsletter are welcome!) and the possibility of changing the name of the biannual conference in order to broaden its appeal. The Executive Committee also voted to increase annual dues \$5 beginning in 2000, from \$65 to \$70 for regular membership, \$30 to \$35 for reduced membership, and from \$40 to \$5 for students.

Congratulations!

1999 AI & Law PhDs

January 7 - Ronald Leenes: "Hercules of Karneades" (Hercules or Karneades), Twente University Press, (in Dutch)

March 10 - Marnix Weusten: "De bouw van juridische kennissystemen. KRT: methodologie en gereedschap" (Building Legal Knowledge Systems. KRT: methodology and tool), Kluwer, Deventer. In Dutch.

April 9 - Luuk Matthijssen: "Interfacing between lawyers and computers. An architecture for Knowledge-based interfaces to legal databases," Kluwer Law International, Netherlands.

June 28 - Marie-Francine Moens: "Automatically indexing and abstracting the content of document texts," University of Leuven.

La Trobe Establishes New Don Berman Center

By John Zeleznikow

The Donald Berman Centre for Information Technology and Law is a newly established research centre in the Applied Computing Research Institute (ACRI) at La Trobe University. ACRI supports both basic and applied research at La Trobe.

Donald Berman was a pioneer in artificial intelligence in law. He was Richardson Professor of Law at Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, a founding editor of the Journal "Artificial Intelligence and Law," and a leading figure in the running of the International Conferences on Artificial Intelligence and Law. In July 1991, Professor Berman was a visiting professor at ACRI where he gave a forty hour course on artificial intelligence and law. His inspirational teaching and research led to many of the attendees developing careers of research in Artificial Intelligence and Law.

The research team at the Donald Berman Centre for Information Technology and Law includes Dr. John Zeleznikow (Head of Centre), Dr. Andrew Stranieri (Postdoctoral fellow and deputy Head of Centre), Ms. Jeanette

Auer (researcher), Ms. Emilia Bellucci (researcher), Mr. Vladimir Brusic (researcher - who also works at Kent Ridge Digital Laboratories, Singapore), Mr. Mark Gawler (researcher) and Mr. Bryn Lewis (researcher). As the centre was successful in obtaining SPIRT (Strategic Partnership in Research and Training) grants for collaborative projects on "developing and evaluating legal advice systems" we will have a lawyer join the research team in October 1999.

Dr. George Vossos, previously director of Information Technology, Anstat Legal Publishers is an associate at the centre, as is Mr. John MacMillan of Phillips and Wilkins, Barristers and Solicitors and president of the Victorian Society for Computers and Law. Dr. John Yearwood, senior lecturer in the School of Mathematics and Information Technology, University of Ballarat is also an associate of the centre.

For further information, please contact: Dr. John Zeleznikow, Head, The Donald Berman Centre for Information Technology and Law Applied Computing Research Institute, johnz@cs.latrobe.edu.au.

The CLIME Project: Legal Data on the Internet

By Radboud Winkels

CLIME is an international project, sponsored by the EC under the ESPRIT program (25.414) aimed at improving the access and understanding of large bodies of legal data through the internet. Ideas and techniques developed are demonstrated for the domain of ship classification, a multi-billion business area that is regulated by international conventions and large rule sets of classification societies. Partners in the project are: British Maritime Technology, University of Brighton (UK), TXT (Italy), Bureau Veritas (France), and the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands). It is a three year, 30 person years, and 3 million Euro project that started February 1st 1998. The University of Amsterdam is mainly responsible for the "legal reasoning" part of the CLIME architecture, the tools for modelling target regulations, and part of the modelling of demonstrator domain. We have reported on part of our work at the last ICAIL conference. After a short introduction, I will give an update of the present situation in the project.

Improving the access to large legal data bases is achieved by what we call "Legal Information Serving", a combination of (extended) conceptual retrieval, and artificial legal reasoning (normative assessment). Both functions operate on a representation of the content of the legal sources. This representation

not only covers the world the regulation is about (e.g. ships, machines, surveyors of ships, etc.), but also the normative content of the regulations. All this information in the "Legal Knowledge Repository" (LKR) is linked explicitly to the original sources.

Given the enormous size of the demonstrator domain - the BV rules of ship classification contain about 15,000 articles that in turn can contain one to several individual norms - and the fact that the tools to support modelling are being developed at the same time, we decided to adopt an incremental approach in modelling. We started with rather superficial modelling of the domain for conceptual retrieval. This means we represent all the concepts that are mentioned in the rules, and some relations between them (at present we use 13 relations like 'subtype-of' and 'part-of'). The tools that have been developed in the meantime support the import of structured legal sources (in HTML), the automatic recognition of concepts on the basis of the concepts already represented, and the editing of concepts (adding, removing, search, browsers, etc.). Using these tools we have modelled about 10% of the text of the demonstrator domain, resulting in more than 2,000 concepts with more than 6,000 relations between them. We (logically) expect the increase in the amount of concepts to drop when we continue

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Second International Workshop on Judicial Decision Support Systems

By Cyrus Tata

The Norwegian Research Centre for Computers & Law was the smart Oslo city-centre venue for the Second International Workshop on Judicial Decision Support Systems. The Second International Workshop was held under the auspices of ICAIL and we are grateful to ICAIL-99's organizers. We were delighted not only that the day-long session was well attended but also at the unflagging enthusiasm of all participants.

Presenting to a lively and diverse audience, eight academic speakers drew together some of the key questions in judicial decision support systems. Opening the meeting, Chief Judge Stein Schjolberg provided a brief overview of developments in the area. From his perspective as a judge embracing the benefits of IT, Stein also emphasized the need to emphasize judging as a human rather than a computational process.

The papers that followed concentrated on both civil and criminal processes and advocated a variety of approaches of decision support. Karl Branting (Wyoming) explained the thinking behind his Advisory System for Pro Se Petitioners: a Protection Order Advisor; while John Zeleznikow (La Trobe) examined issues in the use and Implementation of 'Split-Up' which provides advice on property division following divorce. Guiding the audience through the maze of legal-philosophical writings on discretion, Andrew Stranieri and John Yearwood (Ballarat) contextualized this work in refugee tribunals while David Person (LSE) animated the otherwise dry subject of Insurance Settlements in his work devising Expert Systems.

More than any other activity of judicial discretion over the

last 30 years, sentencing has presented scholars worldwide with major causes for concern. Aware of this background, Uri Schild (Bar-Ilan) candidly explained recent work in Israel. Ralph Henham (Nottingham Trent) focused attention on wider questions about the philosophical and theoretical implications. Picking up these questions, Cyrus Tata (Strathclyde) asked whether the formalized approach to modelling decision support for sentencing is a chimera.

Throughout the day members of the audience contributed lively and stimulating questions, ideas, and experiences. Papers, findings and approaches were debated rigorously yet nonetheless with humility and humanity! Perhaps one of the most striking images for us as the organizers came at the end of the Workshop: no one seemed to want to leave! Needless to say lively discussions continued at a nearby cafe.

This was the Second JDSS Workshop: the first JDSS Workshop was held under auspices of ICAIL-97 in Melbourne. Following the Melbourne Workshop, the Papers were published in a Special Issue of the International Journal of Law & Information Technology 1998 Vol.6, No.2. Continuing the momentum, the Papers from the Oslo Meeting will be published in a Special Issue edited by Cyrus Tata devoted to Judicial Decision Support Systems of 'The International Review of Law, Computers & Technology' Vol.14 (3) which will appear in late 2000.

For further information about the International JDSS Group, contact: Cyrus Tata, Law School, Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK. E-mail: Cyrus.Tata@strath.ac.uk

The CLIME Project ... continued

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modelling.

We have also implemented a conceptual retrieval (CR) algorithm that will return all rules that refer to concepts in a users query, or to related concepts. The output of the CR algorithm can be ranked according to relevancy and be filtered if desired (e.g., on date like only rules applicable after January 1 1990).

An integrated prototype of the entire CLIME architecture exists and has been demonstrated at the latest (very positive) external review by the EC. We are now planning experiments with the prototype to see what leverage our version of CR gives

in answering legal problems. Furthermore, we plan to model part of a different, but related domain (probably an international maritime convention) to see how much effort will be involved in covering such an additional area. These experiences will probably lead to extensions of the knowledge base, and possibly in the representation language. At the same time we are working on a tool to model the normative content of regulations.

We hope to be able to report on these and other findings in the near future.

More information on the CLIME project can be found at URL: <http://lri.jur.uva.nl/~winkels/clime.html>

Call for Papers

Special Memorial Issue of *AI and Law* in Memory of Don Berman

Carole D. Hafner and Edwina L. Rissland, Guest Editors

The *AI and Law* journal is soliciting contributions to a *Special Issue* to honor the legacy of our late colleague Donald Berman. The issue is scheduled to appear in late 2000 or early 2001. We invite submissions in two categories::

- Full research papers on any subject within the scope of the journal; however, papers related to subjects about which Don wrote or spoke will be preferred.
- Short articles or commentaries directly related to some aspect of Don's work.

Don's interests within the field of AI and law were wide-ranging, including case-based reasoning and argumentation; machine learning of legal concepts and rules; predictive models of legal decision-making; legal expert systems and their potential impact on society; and the interaction of artificial intelligence and cognitive science with the field of jurisprudence, especially with regard to the study of legal indeterminacy and open texture.

Submissions should be sent by March 1, 2000, to Prof. Carole Hafner, College of Computer Science, Northeastern University, Boston MA 02115 USA, hafner@ccs.neu.edu. Electronic submission are welcome (PostScript, PDF, MSWord).

Coming Event

Jurix '99 - Twelfth International Conference on Legal Knowledge-Based Systems

The Dutch foundation for Legal Knowledge Systems, JURIX, is a forum for research on artificial intelligence in the legal domain. Since 1988, JURIX has organized annual international conferences on current research in this field.

On December 9 and 10, 1999, the 12th conference will be hosted, for the first time outside the Netherlands, by the research units INFOSOC and ICRI of the K.U.Leuven, Belgium.

Research on legal knowledge systems addresses both the

theory of legal reasoning and the development of practical decision-support systems. Some traditional jurix themes are investigation in legal reasoning, representation of legal knowledge in intelligent systems (e.g., logics, ontologies), legal decision support systems, legal drafting systems, legal knowledge discovery systems, legal tutorial systems, storage and retrieval of legal information, and applications of machine learning to law.

For more information, please see

<http://www.law.kuleuven.ac.be/icri/>

New Book

Norms, Logics and Information Systems. New Studies in Deontic Logic and Computer Science, Volume: 49 in Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications.

Edited by: H. Prakken and P. McNamara
1998, 373 pp., hardcover ISBN: 90 5199 427 3

This book presents research in an interdisciplinary field, resulting from cross-pollination of traditional deontic logic and computer science. AI researchers have used deontic logic as one of the tools in modelling legal reasoning. Computer scientists have discovered that computer systems can often be productively modelled as norm-governed. So, for example, deontic logic has been applied by computer scientists for specifying bureaucratic systems, access and security policies, and soft design or integrity constraints, and for modelling fault tolerance. In turn, computer scientists and AI researchers also have discovered (and made it clear to the rest of us) that various formal tools (e.g., nonmonotonic, temporal and dynamic logics) developed in computer science and artificial intelligence have interesting applications to traditional issues in deontic logic.

This volume presents some of the best recent work done in this area, with the selection at once reflecting the general interdisciplinary (and international) character that this area of research has taken on, as well as reflecting the more specific recent interdisciplinary developments between traditional deontic logic and computer science.

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