

CONSULAR & DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS

FALL 2020 | Volume 1 Number 1



OPERATION NOT FORGOTTEN

26 Children Rescued, 9 Criminal Associates Arrested in Atlanta, Georgia (US)

I N S I D E

Legal Update

Consular College News

Country Initiatives

People and Events



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I N S I D E

Operation Not Forgotten

PAGE 12

Dean's Letter

PAGE 4

Legal

PAGE 6

UN Course Offering

PAGE 8

2020 Census

PAGE 11

Gala

PAGE 14

Farewell, Kit Moss

PAGE 19

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FROM DEAN VELLA

Warmest greetings and well wishes as I write my address during one of the most historically challenging and difficult times the entire world is currently enduring. It has been said that rough seas are what makes the best sailors. If this holds true, we should all come out of the COVID ordeal stronger, wiser and tougher. It'll be most fascinating to have a premonition at what the next generation of movers, shakers and leaders will be like.

I am truly honored and privileged to communicate with you as Dean of the Consular Corps College (CCC). I am looking forward towards many accomplishments and learning opportunities for all Consuls and Honorary Consuls posted in the USA from every nation in the world. I am excited to meet and get to know as many members of the consular community as possible. Towards the end of last year, we completed another successful consular training symposium in Washington DC. Kudos, and gratitude go especially to our former Director General, Ms. Katherine Moss who notwithstanding last-minute unplanned venue change, was nevertheless able to work her magic and coordinate an exciting and engaging program at a fantastic location. Applause and a huge thank you go to BMW Group, Washington DC who practically rolled out the red carpet for us. Thank you also to all Chancellors who rose to the occasion in a big way. Thank you as well to all members who attended and for sending their constructive comments which continue to fill us with energy and encouragement to implement the mission of the Consular Corps College to the best of our ability.

2019 was indeed a banner year for the Consular Corps College. During the entire year we commemorated the 50th Anniversary from the humble beginnings of the CCC in 1969. It was so fitting that we commemorated and celebrated this auspicious event with an elegant dinner. Once again congratulations to Ms. Kit Moss who worked tirelessly so every-

one present could enjoy and celebrate the significance of this historic golden anniversary moment with a fabulous gala dinner at the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Fifty years is a long time. Many of our members may not even be old enough to remember that far back. Luckily going that far back is not a pre-requisite for a successful future. Celebrating our past and learning from it while earnestly looking forward towards our future is indeed a solid foundation where we could continue to build upon and improve. It is wise to salute and utilize the good knowledge earned from yesterday's experiences but tomorrow is where we need to set our sights on.

We cannot rest on the laurels of our past. We do not live there anymore. Year 51 has indeed begun and I am excited to continue the good work of the Consular Corps College with an amazing team of Chancellors and members. New challenges and new opportunity are just around the corner and with everyone's participation we can grow the Consular Corps College to new heights and greater achievements. In early February we held our first Chancellors meeting of the new year. We met in San Antonio, Texas and we came out of that meeting full of energy, enthusiasm, big plans and big dreams. The reception we received from the City of San Antonio far exceeded our expectation. Little did we or anyone else anticipate that only a few short weeks later the entire country would face one of the most difficult life changes this nation has ever seen. Many of us were caught off-guard and we needed to adapt. CCC was no exception and it too needed to adjust. However, like a seasoned sailor, CCC quickly realized that since the ominous winds could not be re-directed, the sails needed to be adjusted. And that we did. Thanks to modern technology, chancellors continued to meet regularly by virtual means to take care of business, plan ahead and continue to move the organization forward.

The Consular Corps College is busy working on a transformation based on the times and situations we are presently faced with. CCC will focus more on virtual training and educational programs geared towards current consular work, expectations and responsibilities. Strengthen the ties and connection we have always enjoyed with US Government Agencies especially the US State Department and the Office of Foreign Missions. Restructure our website and social media platforms. Increase our membership. Invigorate and reinforce our friendship and collaboration with regional consular corps and other consular groups. Improve our visibility and accessibility to become a resource not only for individual consuls but also for other groups and bodies of consuls based in the US. We will also focus on the planning of our next symposium which is a highly sought-after event by many new and seasoned consuls.

As consuls our commission and our charge are more essential now than ever before. The countries we represent are realizing even more the increased importance of our work in the context of collaboration, cultural exchanges, trade, promotion, consular assistance, representation and more.

The Consular Corps College has the distinct advantage to have a group of Chancellors and members whose combined experience, knowledge and connections can provide the much-needed education and resources that can assist other consuls seek necessary information and solutions. This will in turn make for higher quality consular work and better representatives of foreign nations in the US.

Until the next time please remember that it is not what we take but what we give that will make us truly rich.

LOUIS J. VELLA

sponsored | DRIVING IS BELIEVING

BY ASTRID RUGGERI | ASTRID.SCHULTE@BMWNA.COM



It was a pleasure meeting many of you at the Consular Corps College Symposium back in November. As a new member to this group, it was a wonderful introduction and I was so pleased to have spoken on the panel entitled: “How International Industry Giants Identify and Support Innovative Ideas Globally and How Consuls Can Integrate with Their Programs.”

With our new membership, I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness on the special program incentives that we offer for BMW and MINI, and how members of the Consular Corps College can qualify for these programs.

The BMW Group Diplomatic Sales program offers special incentives to both foreign diplomats stationed in the US, returning US diplomats and

staff, and qualified members of international organizations. Approved participants can choose from a variety of BMW and MINI models, including our electric and plug-in electric hybrid vehicles, with exclusive savings off base MSRP. We also have special savings if your Embassy or Mission is looking to purchase or lease a vehicle for your official fleet. The second program is the BMW Group Corporate Sales Program, which is available to members of the Consular Corps College who do not qualify for the Diplomatic Sales program. Please go to <https://form.jotform.com/83125576463158> to redeem a customized certificate, enter NEPP4746 in Company Information, and print the attached eligibility letter, both required for your visit to one of our dealerships.

The BMW Group Diplomatic Sales program offers special incentives to both foreign diplomats stationed in the US, returning US diplomats and staff, and qualified members of international organizations.

Some challenges faced by non-U.S. litigants in U.S. court proceedings and how to deal with them

BY LAINA LOPEZ

I have represented clients in U.S. court proceedings for nearly two decades, and in those years, I've noticed that there are certain aspects of

upcoming motion to dismiss.

And speaking of a motion to dismiss – drafting a good one is time-consuming because it requires in-depth legal research,

fact-gathering, and carefully crafted language. Budgeting (and paying) for such briefing can be frustrating for clients new to the U.S. system.

Once the initial motion is filed and fully briefed, clients are also invariably surprised by the length of

The second common complaint I hear is about how burdensome U.S. discovery is. Yes, it is. I can't sugarcoat it – U.S. discovery is simply no fun for the client.

There are three main types of discovery in the U.S. system – (1) document production, (2) answering written questions (in interrogatories or requests for admission), and (3) witness depositions.

Document production can be incredibly time-consuming not only for the attorneys but also for key staff members of the client. Custodians of relevant documents need to be identified, IT staffers need to get involved for electronic data, and a vendor may be hired to help with data collection and management. Add foreign language barriers, restrictive privacy laws, and document retention policies to the mix and you are in for a difficult and cumbersome ride.

Answering the written questions also can pose challenges. Sometimes, gathering accurate information to formulate answers can be stymied where key employees no longer work for the client or where various interpretations of questions generate different answers. Even meeting deadlines to answer such questions can pose a challenge when time differences between client and attorney and witness are involved.

As difficult as document production can be, depositions are perhaps the most challenging where foreign clients are involved. When a witness does not know or is not comfortable testifying in English, translators must be

You may want a quick resolution because key witnesses are leaving your employ soon or the suit is affecting your public reputation due to media attention. Unfortunately, however, civil courts in the United States act according to no set schedules

U.S. litigation that always seem to cause consternation for my non-U.S. clients. (Of course, some of these same things cause anxiety for American clients, too.) This article discusses two common complaints I hear.

The first complaint I often hear is about “the time it takes.” By “the time it takes,” I mean both the billable attorney hours AND the long gaps between filings and court decisions.

Clients are often surprised that we attorneys spend many, many hours working on their cases. Some are hopeful that a quick phone call to the opposing side will do the trick to explain away the misunderstandings that led to the lawsuit. Alas, much of the time, that first phone call to the opposing attorney results only in an agreed upon briefing schedule for the

time it takes for the court to rule on it. You may want a quick resolution because key witnesses are leaving your employ soon or the suit is affecting your public reputation due to media attention. Unfortunately, however, civil courts in the United States act according to no set schedules except the schedules that they themselves set. Decisions could take months or even more than a year. Unless you can convince the court to rule quickly because waiting will cause substantial prejudice (for example, in the case of a temporary injunction), it is highly unlikely that even the best attorney will be able to convince a court to rule before the judge is good and ready. Of course, if you win, you should feel that the good decision was worth the wait.

Moreover, witnesses of foreign clients are often not in the United States and arrangements must be made to take their testimony. Sometimes this means that all the attorneys and the witnesses will travel to a jurisdiction where such depositions can be conducted (e.g., London), but it also can mean that witnesses will travel to the United States

hired. I've seen what should have been a 6 or 7-hour deposition take two full days because each question and answer had to be translated. Also, the parties – each of whom brought their own translator – at times objected to the official translator's translations of certain key words.

Moreover, witnesses of foreign clients are often not in the United States and arrangements must be made to take their testimony. Sometimes this means that all the attorneys and the witnesses will travel to a jurisdiction where such depositions can be conducted (e.g., London), but it also can mean that witnesses will travel to the United States. In both instances, visas and other legal arrangements may be needed, causing scheduling and logistics difficulties. Finally, witnesses may not be accustomed to U.S.-style questioning, which often times is aggressive and adversarial. Make sure your lawyer does a mock deposition

with key witnesses to ensure that they are well-prepared.

There are, however, several ways to help make discovery more manageable. First, if the lawyers representing the parties are reasonable and practical, they may be able to confer early in the process to narrow the scope of discovery. For example, the parties may be able to agree to run certain key word searches for the accounts of certain key custodians to keep email discovery somewhat contained. Second, the parties may be able to agree to produce documents on a rolling basis to avoid having to comply with demanding and at times unreasonable deadlines. And, third, it may be possible to arrange for telephone depositions and/or to agree on using one neutral translator and/or to hold all depositions in a one or two-week period in the same location to avoid multiple trips abroad. Finally, court intervention at an early stage (e.g., a Rule 16 conference) may help reign in certain discovery tactics before they even begin.

UNITAR Certification programs for Honorary Consuls

In this day and age, a country's weight in the global arena is no longer measured in terms of its size, but rather in its capacity and willingness to effectively contribute to the search for solutions to the growing number of challenges of a transnational nature besetting humanity. Our honorary consuls and consuls general symbolize the global reach of the foreign policy of one of the smallest countries in the world.

– Opening Remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs Honorary Consuls Conference Savoy Hotel, 24th October 2016

Honorary consuls have an important part to play in the international relations of many states, particularly smaller states and those unable to afford the extravagant costs associated with establishing conventional diplomatic and consular missions. While they cannot replace traditional diplomats, Honorary Consuls can facilitate multiple and deep engagements with political bodies, commercial organisations, nationals located abroad and citizens of receiving states. Their engagements can take place on multiple levels, including political, commercial and cultural. Especially in the recent Covid-19 crisis, Honorary Consuls played a vital role in citizen support, crisis intervention and repatriation. However, without a strong governance and reporting process, honorary consuls can become isolated and remote and their activities can be contrary to the interests of the sending state.

UNITAR has developed a new and comprehensive training programme focused on international diplomatic law for Honorary Consuls that will provide participants with the full range of skills and knowledge related to the post of Honorary Consul. The programme is made up of three components that are tailored to the specific target audience and include insights into the obligations, privileges, and immunities of honorary consuls under international law as well as several practical skills necessary to effectively fulfil their duties:

- Virtual Forum on the Role of Honorary Consuls in a time of crisis;
- Executive Diploma on International Law for Honorary Consuls;
- Diplomatic Law and Responsibilities for Honorary Consuls.

Inputs and cooperation with member states and all stakeholders received during the virtual forum will contribute to the progressive development of this important executive diploma and encourage a stronger and more effective honorary consul corps through training and capacity development.

METHODOLOGY

The first edition of the Executive Diploma on International Law for Honorary Consuls will run from 24th August to 18th December 2020. It will consist of four modules, each of which will be delivered online over the course of one month. The modules will consist of self-directed lessons that contain

a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, interactive activities and information forums. At the end of each module a two-day e-workshop will impart the necessary skills and allow for peer-to-peer learning. Before progressing to the next module, participants will need to complete a knowledge assessment.

The course will be delivered through UNITAR's e-learning platform and Zoom.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this online executive diploma, participants should be able to:

- Summarise the history and current importance of honorary consuls in contemporary diplomatic relations;
- Explain the legal framework governing honorary consuls;
- Describe the normal activities of an honorary consul and assess their responsibilities;
- Explain issues of practice and protocol;
- Describe and critically assess the important role of honorary consuls in the modern world;
- Discuss the future of the role of Honorary Consuls in particular in crisis situations such as evacuations, repatriations and other critical roles of the Honorary Consul in today's environment.

As a developing nation, we welcome and encourage the use of Honorary Consuls. Our nation can certainly benefit from an active and effective honorary consul corps and we will be looking for graduates from the UNITAR program to serve as Honorary Consuls.

CERTIFICATION

Participants who successfully complete the knowledge assessments of all four modules and participate in all e-workshops will obtain a UNITAR Executive Diploma.

Interested participants are invited to register via UNITAR's website: www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/executive-diploma-international-diplomatic-law-honorary-consuls-0

The course participation fee is 3500 USD for the whole executive diploma. A few fellowships for participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are available, reducing the fee to 2500 USD. To apply for the fellowship and reduced fee please provide UNITAR with a passport scan and a CV via info.ilp@unitar.org.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE FEE TARGET AUDIENCE

The Executive diploma will be designed for honorary consuls, as well as those who intend to serve as honorary consuls.

1. CODIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF HONORARY CONSULS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

During the first module participants will look at the following key aspects:

- Introduction to Multilateral Diplomacy;
- Introduction to International Law;
- Introduction to Law of International Organisations and the UN System;
- The role and historic development of honorary consuls in diplomatic relations.

The role and historic development of honorary consuls in diplomatic relations. The

first module introduces participants to the context of multilateral diplomacy before turning to the field of public international law. Participants

will deepen their knowledge of the fundamental principles of international law, focussing especially on the subjects,

sources and implementation of the law. Consideration will then be given to the actors of international law with focus on international organisations, including the United Nations.

Finally, the module will consider the historic development of the role of diplomatic representatives including honorary consuls.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will explore matters on the rule of law.

2. HONORARY CONSULS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS.

The second module will cover the core lessons below:

- The laws governing diplomatic relations;
- The privileges and immunities of honorary consuls;
- The relationship of honorary consuls with diplomatic and consular missions.

Building on the knowledge gained in the first module, this second module will consider in depth the law governing the work of honorary consuls. After an introduction on the laws governing diplomatic relations in general, the module will examine the privileges and immunities of state representatives and how they apply to honorary consuls. In doing so, the module will focus on the

relevant provision of the Vienna Convention on Consular

Relations 1963 that apply to, and regulate the work of, honorary consuls. Finally, participants will examine the relationship between diplomatic and consular missions and how honorary consuls contribute to

“UNITAR’s new program to support education and training for the Honorary Consul will have a great impact on the functionality of the Honorary consul in contemporary foreign policy. I am pleased to be a part of this effort.”

– Amina Mohammed
Minister of Sport Kenya, 2020

diplomacy and positive international relations.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will equip participants with the much needed negotiation skills.

3. THE CONTEMPORARY USE OF HONORARY CONSULS

In the third module participants will explore the key role honorary consuls can play:

- Introduction to the work of honorary consuls;
- The Roles and Responsibilities of honorary consuls;
- The work of honorary consuls during times of crisis;
- Honorary Consuls’ best practices.

This module will focus on the practicalities of serving as an honorary consul. After an

introduction to the nature of work expected of an honorary consul, the module will consider their roles and responsibilities.

The final section will focus on expectations placed on honorary consuls during times of crisis such as responding to natural disasters, civil unrest, or pandemics. Serving honorary consuls will engage with participants to explain their roles and highlight examples of best practice.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will provide participants with more insights on leadership especially in times of crisis.

4. DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL FOR HONORARY CONSULS

During final module participants will dive into matters of protocol:

- Introduction to diplomatic protocol;
- Protocol in ceremonies and social occasions;
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption.

The final modules looks at matters of diplomatic protocol, starting by examining protocol in the multilateral world of the United Nations and its related bodies. In the following participants will learn how representatives of governments and from other bodies such as international and non-governmental organizations professionally operate in a multilateral environment, whether for a work-related social or conference event setting. Finally, matters of good conduct such as anti-bribery and anti-corruption will be discussed.

The last two-day e-workshop will focus on matters of UN protocol.

DIPLOMATIC LAW AND RESPONSIBILITIES

METHODOLOGY

The first edition of the Intensive course on Diplomatic Law and Responsibilities will run from 24th August to 4th September 2020. It will consist of

self-directed lessons that contain a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, interactive activities and information forums and a final two-day workshop on UN Protocol.

This course promotes an interactive approach through lessons and multimedia material, stimulating critical thinking. Each part has its own learning objectives, as well as interactive online lessons, which guide participants through the contents. Contents and activities are practice-oriented and under a self-assessment approach, so participants will learn through practical examples and assignments associated with research and case scenarios.

The course will be delivered through UNITAR's e-learning platform and Zoom.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this online executive diploma, participants should be able to:

- Explain the legal framework governing honorary consuls;
- Describe the normal activities of an honorary consul and assess their responsibilities;
- Explain issues of practice and protocol.

CERTIFICATION

Participants who successfully complete the knowledge assessments and participate in the e-workshop will obtain a certificate of completion.

Interested participants are invited to register via UNITAR's website: www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/diplomatic-law-and-responsibilities-honorary-consuls

The course participation fee is 1300 USD for the whole executive diploma. A few fellowships for participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are available, reducing the fee to 800 USD. To

apply for the fellowship and reduced fee please provide UNITAR with a passport scan and a CV via info.ilp@unitar.org.

1. INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC LAW

In the first week participants will explore the key legal principles pertaining to honorary consuls:

- Introduction to International Law;
- The laws governing the work of honorary consuls;
- Introduction to the work of honorary consuls.

In this week participants will explore the core legal aspects of the work of honorary consuls, starting with lessons on public international law and the laws specifically addressing the work of honorary consuls.

In this week participants will be able to explore the topics with the help of self-paced online lessons via UNITAR's e-learning platform.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HONORARY CONSULS

During the second week participants will dive into practical matters of the work of honorary consul, including UN protocol:

- The Roles and Responsibilities of honorary consuls;
- Introduction to diplomatic protocol;
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption.

This week will commence by looking at the practicalities of serving as an honorary consul. After an introduction to the roles and responsibilities, matters of diplomatic protocol, will be addressed, starting by examining protocol in the multilateral world of the United Nations and its related bodies. Finally, matters of good conduct such as antibribery and anti-corruption will be discussed.

The last two-day workshop will focus on matters of UN protocol.

THE 2020 CENSUS and the Diplomatic and Consular Community

Who knew? It is in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2); every person residing in the United States on the official Census Date must complete the Census form. This includes all foreign citizens living in the US, whether they are here on a permanent basis, on temporary assignment, exchange or study program, or posted as diplomats and consular officers.

The information that the Census collects is completely confidential, and absolutely no personal information is ever released, even to other government agencies. The purpose of the census is to determine how many people, not how many citizens, live in the US and where they reside. From the data gathered by the census, the Federal Government can determine the correct representation in the House of Representatives as well as other important things, such as the appropriate allocation of Federal funding across the States and the various languages, in addition to English, that cities and states need to print ballots, forms, and emergency announcements in.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR DIPLOMATS, CONSULS, AND THEIR STAFFS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS?

Even though they are not citizens of the United States, diplomats, consuls, and their staffs have the right to use police, fire and rescue services, schools, roads, and other public services. If they do not participate in the census, the monies allocated for such services will not cover all the people

that may require or use them. State and Local governments depend upon the funds that they receive from the Federal Government to help them meet their residents' needs. Being counted means that your state and locality will have proper funding to meet your needs and those of your neighbors.

ARE DIPLOMATS AND CONSULAR OFFICERS AWARE OF THE REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS?

The Secretary of State has already issued a diplomatic note, informing all ambassadors and chiefs of mission that the 2020 census is coming up and that all members attached to a foreign mission are required to participate.

WHAT IS THE CENSUS DATE, AND WHEN IS IT?

This year, the official Census Date is April 1, 2020. Although people may complete their census forms earlier than April 1st, the official count for each person residing at a particular address should be as of April 1, 2020. Visitors, even those who stay for several months, do not qualify, unless they do not have a regular home to return to. If they do not have a home to go back to, they should be counted. Those who are away or traveling on that day, but who live at that residence most of the time should be counted, even if they are absent on April 1st.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE CENSUS?

Between March 12th and 20th, each residence will re-

ceive a letter, with an invitation to respond online. If you prefer not to do it online, you also have the option to fill out a census questionnaire, or to reply by phone. If you do not answer right away, you will receive reminder letters and postcards every 10 days through April. If the Census Bureau does not receive your response by the end of April, someone from the Census will come personally to your residence to obtain the information they need to count you and your family.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER CITIZENS FROM YOUR COUNTRY?

The Census Bureau asks all embassy and consulate staffs to inform all their citizens who reside anywhere in the US that they are legally required to participate in the census.

DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE CENSUS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS HELP THEIR COUNTRIES MISSIONS?

As a matter of fact, there is a big benefit for embassies and consulates. Once the data is collected and tabulated, the Census Bureau will produce reports on the demographics and trends in the United States. Foreign missions can access that information at <https://www.census.gov/data.html> to learn such helpful information as where their citizens are living, if the diaspora is moving into different states, and where population growth might justify new consulates.

Operation Not Forgotten



Operation Not Forgotten resulted in the rescue of 26 children, the safe location of 13 children and the arrest of nine criminal associates. The U.S. Marshals Service Missing Child Unit, in conjunction with the agency's Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Georgia state and local agencies, led a two-week operation in August in Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, to rescue endangered missing children. Additionally, investigators cleared 26 arrest warrants and filed additional charges for alleged crimes related to sex trafficking, parental kidnapping, registered sex offender violations, drugs and weapons possession, and custodial interference. This relatively new mission for the U.S. Marshals has seen two large scale operations recently and several smaller ones around the country. The future should see many similar operations throughout the United States as the Missing Child Unit ramps up operations using the man hunting skills, in which the Marshals specialize, to locate and rescue missing minors.



Photos by: Shane T. McCoy / US Marshals



INTRODUCING....USIAHT

The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking is working to end Human Trafficking in the United States through prevention, combating demand, rescuing victims, influencing government policy and providing safe refuge for the restoration of survivors. USIAHT is a nonprofit, faith-based organization fighting against human trafficking in America with truth and integrity, showing the love of Jesus Christ to all involved. With offices in Tampa, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Austin, we are addressing the national problem, and also doing so with on-the-ground services.

USIAHT's focus is on the prevention of human trafficking in the United States is being accomplished through combating demand in new and innovative ways, raising awareness, educating our youth, disruption of trafficking activities, advocating a consolidation within the industry to maximize efficiencies, and collaborating with organizations who are expert at rescuing abducted youth currently engaged in the sex trade. USIAHT's work is also done in conjunction with federal, state and local government officials who sit in a position to influence policy on ending trafficking in America.

As a non-profit organization, USIAHT is

committed to operating with utmost financial accountability to donors who provide the funding necessary to carry out these activities.

The U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking intends to end Human Trafficking in the United States through prevention, combating demand, rescuing victims, influencing government policy and providing safe refuge for the restoration of survivors. We seek new and innovative ways to combat demand, raise awareness to this issue, and provide safe environments for survivors. USIAHT efforts include...

- Creating financially stable and replicable Safe Homes for survivor restoration across the country
- Partnering with local law enforcement, governments, businesses, schools and community-based organizations to create TraffickingFree Zones
- Educating federal, state and local government officials about the problem and what more they can do to stop it
- Eliminating the "demand" by promoting legislative and law enforcement focus on the sex buyers instead of those being sold

Reflections on the 2019 Consular Corps College Symposium

BY SHERMAN BANKS, HONORARY CONSUL, GHANA

The 2019 Symposium, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the College, was excellent in terms of content and the atmosphere created to facilitate our training and networking. This was my third year in attendance, and I believe it was the best one I have experienced. The sessions were held at the well-appointed BMW Group offices on G Street in Washington, DC. The environment was comfortable and very conducive for interactive discussion.

We were treated to excellent presentations on topics that were very relevant to the effective execution of our roles as an Honorary Consuls. The State Department's promotion of Education and Cultural Affairs was full of good information about the breadth of opportunities available for foreign students. The case study presentations on how to put on effective cultural events by the Honorary Consuls of Japan in Las Vegas and the Czech Republic in Minnesota provided us with much food for thought on how to expose local communities to the value of cultural diversity. The support and clarification of expectations for the over 1600 Honorary Consuls around the Country facilitated by the Office of Foreign Missions in its presentation was much appreciated.

The highlight of the afternoon session on the first day was panel presentations by International and Government Affairs Managers from AMGEN, Google, and Oracle. They briefed us on the innovative programs their organizations have established to cultivate a truly global workforce, accessing the best available local and international talent through partnerships with universities and apprenticeships. This extremely informative and thought-provoking panel discussion was reinforced by a joint presentation by the Honorary Consuls of Lithuania in Philadelphia and Ohio, who reported on successful collaborations to access funding for scientific, technological and educational exchanges. The sponsorship

We were treated to excellent presentations on topics that were very relevant to the effective execution of our roles as Honorary Consuls

of studies by their graduate students at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy was noteworthy. Day 1 concluded with presentations by the Deputy Director of the Fogarty International Center at National Institute of Health and the Branch Chief for Fulbright Scholarship programs in Europe and Eurasia at the US Department of State.

The morning session of Day 2 was dedicated to enhancing our understanding of policy and regulation in the area of student and visitor visas. The Bureau of Consular Affairs Representative explained that applicants must be clear about what they intend to study and that this must be supported by the substance of the application and responses in the interview process. It was emphasized that the current Administration is particularly concerned about visitors who stay beyond the expiry of their visas, and we were provided with the names of about ten countries who tend to be the chief offenders. The Department of Homeland Security Customs and Immigration Office walked us through the regulations governing visas for exchange visitors with job offers and the conditions under which there can be a change of status. The Consular Notification and Access presentation highlighted the importance of reciprocity in the treatment of foreign nationals when arrested. We were briefed on the continuing work being done to train law enforcement

officers to respect the rights of foreigners who are detained and the need to inform their Consular Offices expeditiously. We were provided with the relevant contact details in the Bureau of Consular Affairs for questions and complaints. A highlight of the morning session was a most interesting presentation by the BMW Group Manager for Outreach and Diplomatic Engagement. BMW has dedicated resources to work with Technical Colleges and institutions like the University of California at Davis and Clemson University on apprenticeship programs and scholarships to help develop a workforce that is prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Our final session on Day 2 included an excellent presentation by the Honorary Consul of Ghana in Arkansas on the continuing value of the Sister Cities program and how this kind of collaboration may be relevant for some countries. Bruce Zagaris, Esq., of Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe took us through a very informative presentation on inheritance tax issues and the laws and regulations governing estates with foreign heirs and beneficiaries. The final presentations were made by the Honorary Consul of Brazil in South Texas, the Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Ohio and the Consul for the Embassy of Norway in Washington DC. They each shared examples of unexpected challenges in the execution of their official roles and how they were able to achieve resolution.

This symposium continues to be a valuable source of information and education that helps to make us more effective in our roles as Honorary Consuls. It provides us with unique interactive access to State Department officials who are responsible for policy matters pertaining to Foreign Nationals and Visitors. Our Dean, Director General and Chancellors deserve our gratitude and congratulations for the excellent 50th Anniversary program they organized.

FIFTIETH YEAR CONSULAR COLLEGE GALA

Every golden anniversary deserves a special celebration, and the 50th Anniversary of the Consular Corps College called for just such an exceptional affair. Even as the calendar year turned over from 2018 to 2019, plans for a memorable Gala Celebration in November got underway. The Gala had to offer the attendees an exceptional experience as well as reflect the importance of the duties performed by consular officers and the CCC's role in their work over the last 50 years.

In the recent past, the annual Consular Corps College symposia have opened with gala dinners in various embassies. These wonderful and prestigious events have reflected the international aspect of the CCC. The Ambassadors, DCM's, and Consuls General who addressed the attendees underscored the value that foreign countries put on their consular officers, recognizing them both for the work they do for their citizens in the US and for their critical roles in developing trade and promoting their countries.

For the CCC's 50th Anniversary, however, we wished to broaden the focus and recognize the value that the US puts on the work done by our foreign consular officer members, as well. What better and more impressive venue to showcase the multifaceted importance of consular work in the United States than on The Hill with a keynote address by a Senator?

The guest list included not only the 2019 Symposium attendees, but also spouses and guests, representatives of the diplomatic community, corporate members, and Symposium presenters. Several former Deans of the CCC and the former Director of OFM were there to fete the College's Half-Century milestone, as well. The elegant and stately marble room quickly filled with the warm camaraderie of old friends reuniting and new friendships being built.

The evening's program opened with a brief look back at the beginning of the Consular Corps College and how it has developed since its founding in October, 1969. It was with great pleasure that the College recognized its longest member and CCC Dean, Emeritus, Edward Fanucchi, former Honorary Vice Consul of Italy in Fresno, CA. Both he, and TH Ingrida Bublys, Honorary Consul General of Lithuania in Ohio, and the second longest CCC member, were not only in attendance, but they both continue to serve on

the Board of Chancellors.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) gave an address that resonated deeply with the attendees on both personal and professional levels. As the son of a career Foreign Service father, Senator Van Hollen knows from first hand experience the demands and rewards of serving one's country abroad. He articulated his deep, personal

“We wished to broaden the focus and recognize the value that the US puts on the work done by our foreign consular officer members, as well.”

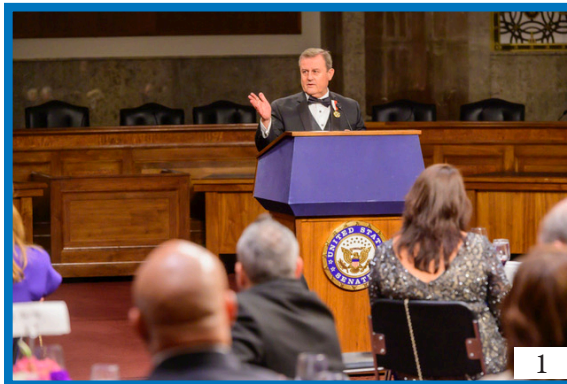
conviction of the importance of diplomacy and consular work and expressed his gratitude for all that consular officers do for their countries and nationals here in the US.

As the evening celebration drew to a close, the attendees toasted the first 50 years of the Consular Corps College's mission to promote consular excellence one last time before spilling back out into the winter cold. The Symposium attendees knew they had two full days of superior training ahead of them, which was exactly what the CCC had been founded a half a century earlier to provide.

The elegant and stately marble room quickly filled with the warm camaraderie of old friends reuniting and new friendships being built

CONSULAR CORPS COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

1 Interim Dean, L. Vella, Addresses Gala Attendees



2 K. Moss Addressing Gala Attendees



3 HC of Barbados, D. Cutting with Former Dean and CG of The Bahamas, P. Zonicle



4 Recognizing the Longest Member and CCC Dean, Emeritus, E. Fanucchi, (Back L-R) Former Director of OFM, G. Smith, Former CCC Dean and CG of The Bahamas, P. Zonicle, and Mr. O. Moss



5 Japanese HC, M. Jackson, Japanese DCM, Minister K. Aikawa, Japanese HCG K. Blakely, and Mr. K. Ichikawa



6 Representing Barbados - HC D. Cutting (L) and Consul M. Braithewait (R)

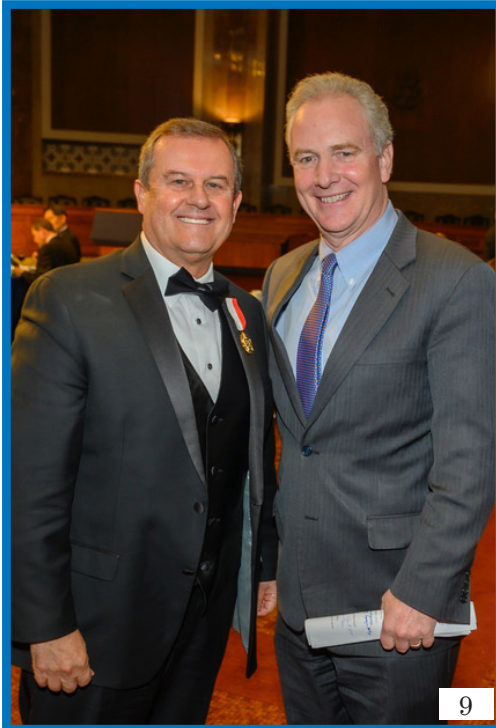




7 (L-R) Montenegrin HC, D. Ivancevic, Former Italian HVC and CCC Dean Emeritus, E. Fanucchi, and N. Cosenza of AMGEN
Photo L. Levin.jpeg



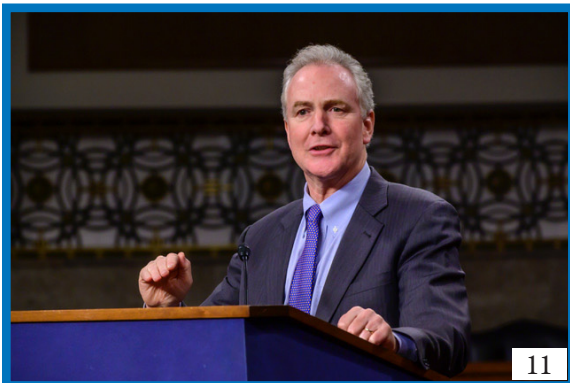
8 Interim Dean, L. Vella (R) Talking with Japanese DCM, Minister K. Aikawa



9 Interim Dean, L. Vella, with Sen. C. Van Hollen
Photo L. Levin.jpeg



10 Board Members at the Gala



11 Close Up of Sen Van Hollen



12 Former Deans, S. Frette Allsted (3rd from Left) and P. Zonicle (3rd from Right) Join Chancellors and Interim Dean, L. Vella (C)

PHOTOS BY L. LEVIN



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FAREWELL Friends and Colleagues

With this Final Word, I bid you farewell. It has been an honor and an extraordinary pleasure to know and work with you and to serve as your Director General.

Exactly seven years ago, then Director of Finances, Ingrid Richard-McKinnon, Consul at the Embassy of Austria, brought me on to develop and run the CCC's 2012 Convention, as it was called then. Two years later, the Board of Chancellors asked me to accept the new position of Director General. Over the next five years, I had the opportunity to work with three extraordinary Deans here in Washington, DC, Mauro Koloboric, Consul General of Australia, Paulette Zonicle, Consul General of The Bahamas, and Siri Frette Allsted, Head of Consular Affairs at the Embassy of Norway. During almost all of that time, John Wright, Honorary Consul of Senegal in St. Louis, served as Vice Dean and Interim Dean, bringing his incomparable vision, energy, professionalism, and commitment to the College. I have also had the pleasure of working with Chancellors from across the country and value the deep friendships we have developed.

We accomplished a great deal over these past five years. The CCC Convention has become a truly professional, educational annual Symposium. We have developed the Certificate in Consular Training Program, produced this Consular Diplomatic Forum publication, introduced webinar training, created an online Newsletter, and joined social media. We have deepened our relationship with the US Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, Commerce, and Health and Human Services. We have opened up Basic Membership to every foreign consular officer in the United States, and we have created Affinity Memberships for local consular corps. What an exciting and rewarding time it has been!

The Consular Corps College is a wonderful organization. Even now as I bid you farewell, I still feel the same passion for its mission and its members that has animated me for the last seven years. I wish each of you, Louis Vella, your new Dean, all the Chancellors, and CCC, itself, all the very best as you begin the second half of the Consular Corps College's century.

– Kit Moss

*Retiring Director General of
the Consular Corps College*



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